



*AEWA NORTHERN BALD IBIS
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP*



*Doc: NBI IWG Inf. 2.4
28 August 2017*

**2ND MEETING OF THE AEWA NORTHERN BALD IBIS
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP**

25-27 September 2017, Agadir, Morocco

**OVERVIEW ON THE STATUS OF PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF
AEWA ISSAPS, ISSMPS AND MSAPS 2015**

(Document UNEP/AEWA/MOP6.16/Rev.1)



Date: 3 November 2015

6th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES
9-14 November 2015, Bonn, Germany

“Making flyway conservation happen”

**OVERVIEW ON THE STATUS OF PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF
AEWA ISSAPS AND ISSMPS AS WELL AS
MULTI-SPECIES ACTION PLANS 2015**

Prepared by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat

Introduction

According to Paragraph 7.4 of the AEWA Action Plan the Agreement Secretariat, in coordination with the Technical Committee and the Parties, shall prepare a series of international reviews necessary for the implementation of the Action Plan, including, inter alia, a Review on the stage of preparation and implementation of Single Species Action Plans. The first such review was presented at MOP4 in 2008.

Due to lack of voluntary funding contributions, the compilation of a full review was not possible for MOP6. The AEWA Secretariat has, however, conducted a limited review of the implementation of eight of the 20 International Single Species Action and Management Plans adopted under the Agreement to date. Information from Range States on the implementation of plans was collected through questionnaires prepared and distributed by the AEWA International Species Working and Expert Group Coordinators. The main conclusions and recommendations are further reflected in the Draft Resolution on the Adoption and Implementation of International Single species and Multi-species Action and Management Plans (AEWA/MOP6 DR6.8).

In addition to the review on the status of implementation of Action and Management Plans, the Secretariat has compiled an overview of the current action- and management planning process under the Agreement, including the AEWA International Species Working and Expert Group framework developed to coordinate their international implementation.

Action requested from the Meeting of the Parties

The Meeting of the Parties is invited to take note of the review and to take its conclusions and recommendations into account in the decision-making process.

**OVERVIEW ON THE STATUS OF PREPARATION AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF AEWA INTERNATIONAL SINGLE SPECIES
ACTION AND MANAGEMENT PLANS AS WELL AS MULTI-SPECIES
ACTION PLANS**

Report to the 6th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA

Prepared by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat

(September 2015)

CONTENTS

Preface and Acknowledgments	4
Executive Summary and Recommendations	5
1. Definition and legal status of Action and Management Plans under AEWA.....	9
2. The AEWA International Species Action and Management Planning Process	11
3. AEWA International Species Working and Expert Groups	16
4. National Species Action Plans and Working Groups.....	20
5. Current status of preparation of AEWA Action and Management plans	21
6. Review of the status of implementation of AEWA International Action and Management Plans .	23
7. Conclusion.....	28
8. Annexes.....	31
Annex I. – Individual reviews of implementation of AEWA International Species Action and Management Plans:	
- A. Northern Bald Ibis (<i>Geronticus eremita</i>).....	32
- B. Lesser Flamingo (<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>).....	41
- C. Bewick’s Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>)	49
- D. Pink-footed Goose (<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>)	57
- E. Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>)	63
- F. Lesser White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser erythropus</i>)	70
- G. Red-breasted Goose (<i>Branta ruficollis</i>).....	78
- H. Sociable Lapwing (<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>)	88
Annex II. – Overview of questionnaires submitted for review	95
Annex III. - Terms of Reference for AEWA International Species Working Groups	96
Annex IV. - Terms of Reference for AEWA International Species Expert Groups	98
Annex V. - Guidance on the Coordination of AEWA International Species Working Groups ...	100
Annex VI. - List of species prioritized by the Technical Committee for Action Planning	106

Preface

According to Paragraph 7.4 of the AEWA Action Plan the Agreement Secretariat, in coordination with the Technical Committee and the Parties, shall prepare a series of international reviews necessary for the implementation of the Action Plan, including, *inter alia*, a Review on the stage of preparation and implementation of Single Species Action Plans. The first such review was presented at MOP4 in 2008 (http://www.unep-aewa.org/sites/default/files/document/mop4_10_ssap_review_0.pdf).

In preparation for MOP6, the AEWA Secretariat conducted a review of the implementation progress of 8 of the 20 International Single Species Action and Management Plans adopted under the Agreement to date. Information from Range States on the implementation of the plans was collected through questionnaires prepared and distributed by the AEWA International Species Working and Expert Group Coordinators.

In addition to the review on the status of implementation of Action Plans, the Secretariat has compiled an overview of the current action- and management planning process under the Agreement, including the AEWA International Species Working and Expert Group framework developed to coordinate their international implementation.

The draft review was submitted to the AEWA Technical Committee and the AEWA Standing Committee for consultation and approval for submission to the 6th Meeting of the AEWA Parties in September 2015.

Acknowledgements

The AEWA Secretariat would in particular like to thank the AEWA International Species Working and Expert Group Coordinators for modifying and distributing the questionnaires for their respective Action and Management Plans as well as all the AEWA Focal Points, Working and Expert Group members and national experts who provided information for their countries. Valuable detailed information was provided for many range states, which will be of great use for future work even though all of the information could not be included in this review. A full overview of the questionnaires submitted can be found in Annex 2.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AEWA International Species Action and Management Plans are one of most vital and practical tools under the Agreement for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory waterbirds that have been prioritized for coordinated international measures. These Plans represent the quintessence of AEWA: cooperation across borders for a common defined goal. However, we are far from using this tool to its full capacity.

International Species Action & Management Plans are a vital tool for the conservation & sustainable use of migratory waterbirds under AEWA.

This overview on the status of preparation and implementation of AEWA International Species Action and Management Plans consists of two parts: 1) an overview of the current action- and management planning process under AEWA as well as international and national mechanisms developed to facilitate the implementation of adopted plans – collating all the available information on the various processes and frameworks; and 2) a limited review of the implementation progress of eight of the 20 plans adopted under the Agreement to date.

The key to any successful international action- or management planning process is the involvement of all critical stakeholders from the onset, and ensuring that the process is clearly structured and transparent. Attempting, in particular, to ensure the ‘buy-in’ of range state governments is a crucial factor not only for the successful production and adoption of an Action or Management Plan, but especially for the ultimate purpose of such Plans: their successful implementation as a means to improving or maintaining the conservation status of a species. This hinges on broad support and requires the long-term commitment of all stakeholders far beyond the process of negotiation and adoption.

International action- and management-planning processes need to be inter-governmental, inclusive, structured and transparent.

To this end a stringent international action- and management-planning process has been developed under the Agreement over time, which forms a robust framework for the further prioritization, development, adoption and revision or retirement of AEWA International Species Action and Management Plans.

In contrast, the implementation of adopted Action Plans is still lacking and urgent measures need to be undertaken to revitalize and step-up their implementation. Of the 19 International Action Plans and one Management Plan adopted under the Agreement to date, only eight could be included in the review. Over half of the current plans were excluded because not enough information regarding their implementation could be obtained – either due to lack of established international coordination

Increase in the implementation of Action Plans urgently needed.

mechanisms or to low range state response rates. Based on the responses submitted by the range states, the overall percentage of activities implemented for the eight plans reviewed was 38% – although it should be noted that not all range states submitted reports and that five of the Plans reviewed were only adopted at MOP5 in 2012. Although a long way still remains to achieving the overall goals of the assessed AEWA Action Plans, it can be concluded that progress on reaching the short term goals has been made for some of the plans.

The lack of adequate funding was the number one obstacle reported as hindering the successful implementation of Action Plans as well as the lack of human and technical capacity. Clearly efforts to fill these gaps need to be increased, in particular for those species categorized as globally threatened.

The reported lack of government interest in, commitment to and capacity for the implementation of adopted AEWA Action Plans is one of the most serious issues standing in the way of achieving Action Plan goals and objectives. This stands in contravention with obligations under paragraph 2.2.1 of the AEWA Action Plan as well as under other MEAs including CBD. It should be stressed that although

Lack of funding, lack of technical and human capacity as well as lack of government commitment reported as three main obstacles hindering implementation.

the implementation of such Species Action Plans requires input from a variety of stakeholders both nationally and internationally, the main responsibility for implementing Action Plans lies with the governments of the Principal Range States.

As many crucial activities – particularly for the globally threatened species – need to be implemented in range states that are currently not yet Parties to AEWA, there is also an urgent need to increase efforts to promote their accession to the Agreement by all stakeholders involved. Donor governments and their development agencies as well as other UN agencies could increasingly play an important role

Active international coordination is another key issue for successful implementation. Efforts have been made to establish as many International Species Working and Expert Groups as possible with Coordinators providing facilitation for adopted Action and Management Plans. However, the Species Working and Expert Groups as well as their Coordinators need to step up their work - supported and mentored by the AEWA Secretariat and the AEWA Technical Committee as necessary.

Active international coordination of Action/Management Plan implementation is crucial for successful implementation.

There is also still scope for improvement of the AEWA action- and management planning process itself, which in turn will hopefully lead to better implementation. There is – for example - a clear need to revise the current AEWA International Single Species Action Plan format in order to make future Action Plans more streamlined and to accommodate for multi-species action and management plans as well as to make them more implementable, accessible and practical for policy-makers and implementing agencies. Action Plan activities need to be more targeted and to correspond better with the set objectives and goals.

The main recommendations following the outcomes and conclusions based on the overview and subsequent review are presented below.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Essential priorities:

- Urgently **step-up the implementation of existing Action Plans** – with an emphasis on the need for much **stronger government involvement and commitment** including the establishment of **National Working Groups** and the adoption of **National Action Plans** in key Principal Range States;
- Urgently **source more funding, human capacity and technical know-how** for the implementation of critical and high priority Action Plan activities with a focus on globally threatened species;
- Urgently **step-up the work of the existing AEWA International Species Working and Expert Groups and their coordination** for example by:
 - **re-launching currently inactive Working Groups**;
 - ensuring **Working/Expert Group membership of all Principal Range States** (in particular of appropriate government representatives);
 - providing **sufficient and active international coordination**;
 - facilitating **increased cooperation and exchange with other relevant government and economic sectors**, in particular with regard to hunting, agriculture and the extraction of natural resources;
 - ensuring that **sufficient guidance and mentoring** regarding the implementation of Action/Management Plans under AEWA is provided by the Secretariat and the Technical Committee, as necessary;
 - Ensure **conclusive monitoring of implementation progress** by undertaking in-depth reviews of Action and Management Plans on the basis of the indicators and sources of (independent) verification listed therein - in addition to information provided by the range states - within the framework of the Working/Expert Groups;
- Urgently **step-up the recruitment of new Contracting Parties to AEWA** - particularly from Central Asia and the Middle East – in order to further enhance implementation.

High priorities:

- Continue the establishment of **AEWA International Species Working and Expert Groups** for new and revised Plans;
- Undertake an **assessment of the existing AEWA Action Plans currently without international coordination mechanisms and suggest their revision or retirement**;
- **Continue the development of the action- and management planning process** under the Agreement, for example by:
 - **revising the current AEWA Action Plan format** in an attempt to ensure that Action Plans have the potential to deliver on their goals, are more targeted and implementable and more practical especially for implementing agencies and policy-makers – including a better correspondence between Action Plan goals and activities and by restricting the number of included Principal Range States;

- developing **format(s) for AEWA Management as well as AEWA Multi-Species Action and Management Plans;**
- **revising the AEWA Guidelines for the development of National Action Plans,** including guidance on the establishment of National Working Groups;
- **Promote the development of further International Management Plans** under the Agreement on the basis of the example of the AEWA International Management Plan for the Pink-footed Goose and the revised AEWA Guidelines on the Sustainable Harvest of Migratory Waterbirds;
- Ensure that **adopted AEWA guidelines are also taken into account** during the preparation of Action Plans as well as during their implementation, as appropriate.

1. Definition and Legal Status of International Species Action and Management Plans under AEWA

1.1. Definitions and scope

The Agreement foresees both the conservation and sustainable use of migratory waterbirds by Parties and subsequently provides for the development and adoption of International Species Action and Management Plans for prioritized species/populations. The appropriate tool for each species/population depends on its listing status under the Agreement.

1.1.1. *International Species Action Plans*

International Species Action Plans are recovery plans aimed at the conservation of the most threatened species listed under the Agreement with the goal to restore them to a favorable conservation status.

Paragraph 2.2.1 of the AEWA Action Plan outlines that Parties shall develop and implement Action Plans for populations listed in Category 1 on Column A of Table 1 as well as for those populations marked with an asterisk as a priority. In addition, target 1.4 of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 specifies that Action Plans shall be developed and implemented for most threatened species listed in category 1 and categories 2 and 3, marked with an asterisk on Column A of Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan.

As an exception, outlined in paragraph 2.1.1 of the AEWA Action Plan, Species Action Plans can also include elements of sustainable use. This applies to populations listed in Categories 2 and 3 in Column A and which are marked with an asterisk, and to populations listed in Category 4 in Column A. For these populations, hunting may continue on a sustainable use basis - but only within the framework of an International Species Action Plan. Despite the possible sustainable use element, as the species/population is listed in Column A of Table 1, the appropriate tool is still a recovery plan within which the possibilities and modalities for a continued sustainable use of the population in question need to be determined.

1.1.2. *International Species Management Plans*

International Species Management Plans are plans which either provide for the sustainable use of populations listed under the Agreement on flyway-level on the basis of adaptive harvest management *or* which deal with populations which are causing significant damage that may or may not be open for hunting.

The management of waterbird populations is required under paragraph 4.3.4 of the AEWA Action Plan whereby Parties shall cooperate with a view to developing action plans for populations which cause significant damage, in particular to crops and fisheries. In addition, target 2.5 of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 states that international harvest management plans should be developed and implemented for at least two quarry populations.

1.2. Legal status

AEWA International Species Action Plans adopted by the AEWA Meetings of the Parties are operative documents derived from the legal text of the Agreement (paragraphs 2.2.1 and 4.3.4 AEWA Action Plan) and shall therefore by extension be implemented by the Parties.

Unlike the AEWA Action Plan, these species (or population) specific plans are not directly binding. That said, these plans are not merely recommendations. Parties have an obligation to cooperate with a view to implementing International Single Species Action Plans. Should a Party to which an International Single Species Action Plan applies make no efforts towards implementing such plan, the Party will thus be in breach of its AEWA commitments, as will a Party which permits hunting to occur outside the framework of an action plan, in contravention of paragraph 2.1.1.

Within the lifetime of an adopted Action or Management Plan, there can be a need for adjustment of the priority actions depending on the development of the species/population as well as the availability of new scientific knowledge. Such adjustments may not warrant a full revision of a Plan. Any changes to the actions should, however, be discussed and agreed within the framework of the respective AEWA International Species Working or Expert Groups in order to ensure international consensus. In the case of contentious issues, the Action or Management Plan adopted by the MOP remains the international framework for the conservation or sustainable use of a species/population.

2. The AEWA International Action and Management Planning Process

AEWA International Species Action and Management Plans are adopted by the Meeting of the AEWA Parties. But before a Plan reaches the stage of being presented for adoption, it has gone through a long development process beginning with the prioritization of the species/population in question to an internationally negotiated plan ready for presentation to the AEWA governing bodies and adoption by the Parties. The action and management planning process as described below has been developed under the Agreement in an effort to ensure a transparent process that includes all relevant stakeholders and brings together the best available scientific knowledge. As mentioned above, action and management planning under AEWA is an evolving process and the facilitation and timetable may vary. What should be clear, however, are the roles and responsibilities of each of the various actors in the process.

2.1. Prioritization of species/populations for Action plans

The first step in the AEWA action planning process is a prioritization of which species/populations are most urgently in need of an international conservation and/or management framework. The AEWA Technical Committee is charged with the prioritization of species/populations for the development of Species Action Plans under the Agreement, as requested by MOP5 in Resolution 5.8. As outlined in the Resolution, the Technical Committee is to revise the priority list for Action Plans at its first meeting after each Meeting of the Parties to reflect possible changes to Table 1 of the Action Plan.

As agreed at the Technical Committee's 11th meeting, the following criteria are applied for the selection and prioritization of populations for action planning (to be applied consecutively):

- 1) **IUCN Red List status** – in descending order: Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU), Near-threatened (NT) and Least Concern (LC);
- 2) **Population size estimate** – in descending order from lowest to highest estimate. The estimates are to be taken from the latest Conservation Status Review (CSR). Where the population size estimate has been given by a range (e.g. 1-10,000) the geometrical mean has been used for the ranking (i.e. 5,000). Populations with exact size estimates (e.g. 5,000) have been ranked higher than populations whose size estimates are presented by a range and the geometrical mean is equal to the size of the populations with an exact estimate (e.g. 5,000 as an exact population estimate is ranked higher than 5,000 as a geometrical mean of the estimate from 1-10,000). When two or more populations have the same population estimate, those belonging to less numerous species within the Agreement area have been ranked higher.
- 3) **Population trend estimate** – in descending order: Declining, Fluctuating, Unknown, Stable and Increasing, and with estimates taken from the latest Conservation Status Report.
- 4) **Vulnerability to climate change** - classified as high, moderate or low, according to the report on the effects of climate change on migratory waterbirds within the African-Eurasian flyways presented to MOP4 (AEWA/MOP 4.27).

In future, there is a need for the Technical Committee to also prioritize populations for management planning. MOP6 is subsequently expected to request the Technical Committee to develop and adopt criteria for the prioritization of species/populations for the development of management plans and to undertake such a prioritization after each MOP.

2.2. The action/management planning process following prioritization

2.2.1. Establishing the process

Following the prioritization of species/populations under the Agreement most urgently in need of an international Action or Management Plan, the Secretariat liaises with the various stakeholders to see

which plans can be developed within which timeframe. The successful development of new plans is dependent on many factors such as the support of range state governments and the availability of species' experts. Sufficient resources - both in the form of personnel time of experts and funding - are key. The capacity of the Secretariat to organize, fundraise for and to run the process within a given time is also a crucial factor.

Nearly all action and management planning processes under AEWA require fundraising efforts by the Secretariat. The main costs are linked to the personnel time needed for the actual compilation of the draft Action/Management Plan and to the action/management planning workshop to which all relevant range states are invited. First steps to establish the action/management plan development process are therefore to secure sponsors which are typically governments or international conservation organizations as well as a chief compiler/compiling organization.

In the case of financial support from a government, the Secretariat usually requires a letter from the respective government, with a) a request to the Secretariat to initiate the action/management planning process and b) a commitment to fund the process (i.e. provide resources for the drafting of the plan and for the action/management planning workshop as well as for possible printing/translation of the plan if desired). Depending on the type of arrangement with the compiler (hired consultant or pro-bono) the Secretariat signs a contract or more informal agreement outlining the work to be delivered as well as the timeframe.

The Secretariat also informs and liaises with possible other relevant multi-lateral agreements and other legal frameworks on the development of new Action Plans under the AEWA process, such as the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Bern Convention and the European Commission.

2.2.2. Action/management planning workshops

A crucial component in ensuring the early involvement of all range states and possible other relevant stakeholders in any action or management planning process, is the organization of an inter-governmental workshop.

Once a lead compiler/compiling organization as well as sufficient funding have been secured the Secretariat therefore convenes a planning workshop to which all principal range states (regardless of whether they are a Contracting Party to AEWA or not) as well as possible additional international experts for the species are invited. A letter is sent to the respective AEWA Focal Points and Contact Points inviting them to send one government representative charged with the implementation of AEWA as well as one national expert on the species in question to the workshop. This allows for national policy considerations as well as biological, conservation and sustainable use aspects to be reflected in the Plan at an early stage. The active involvement of range state governments is particularly important, as they will be responsible for the implementation of the Action/Management Plan after adoption. The Secretariat may recommend the attendance of a known national species expert in the workshop invitation letter. This, however, is merely a recommendation and the final decision on who participates in the workshop lies with the respective government. In addition, invitations are sent to the organizations represented in the AEWA Technical Committee.

The agenda for the workshops is prepared by the Secretariat, the lead compiler and the host government, if applicable. If capacity allows, a biological assessment as well as an initial threat assessment are also prepared before the workshop. The facilitation is done by the Secretariat and/or another international expert of species action/management planning in cooperation with the lead compiler. Workshops may include an introductory presentation on the international status of the species followed by brief presentations by the national representatives on the current status, main threats, and/or use of the species in their country. This is usually followed by brainstorming sessions on the threats, objectives, results and activities with their associated indicators as well as knowledge gaps. Discussions are also held on possible urgent activities that may need to be implemented immediately before a formal adoption of the Plan.

It should be noted that Species Action and Management Plans are international frameworks for the coordinated conservation and management of species/populations – not scientific papers for peer-review. Although Action and Management Plans should include the best scientific knowledge available at the time of development, gaps in scientific knowledge should not be seen as a reason for delaying the development and subsequent adoption of a Plan. Instead such knowledge gaps and assumptions made in the absence of hard data should be duly noted in the Plan and activities to close such gaps in cooperation amongst all relevant range states should be added.

2.2.3. Consultations of the draft Action/Management Plan

After the action/management planning workshop the lead compiler has the task of drafting the action plan based on the workshop outcomes in cooperation with the Secretariat. Action Plans are developed on the basis of the revised format for AEWA Single Species Action Plans adopted at MOP4 (document AEWA/MOP 4.36 Corr. 1). Depending on the time available, this usually takes between two and four months. This first draft is then circulated to the workshop participants as well as those government representatives and national experts that were invited but not able to attend. This first consultation round is meant to ensure that all the necessary substantive details as well as actions for the species are reflected as discussed at the workshop. Following the feedback from the workshop participants, the lead compiler prepares a new draft which is submitted to the AEWA Technical Committee for comments by the Secretariat.

A revised draft is then again prepared by the lead compiler and submitted by the Secretariat to all Focal Points and Contact Points in the relevant range states for official government consultation. The timeframe for the official consultation is ideally three months. Within the framework of the official consultation the Focal Points and Contact Points are expected to circulate the draft to all relevant national bodies and stakeholders for comments in accordance with their respective established national procedures and to submit the consolidated national comments to the Secretariat by the given deadline. If no comments are submitted by the deadline, the Secretariat assumes that range states are in agreement with the Plan. Possible extensions of the deadline for submitting national comments can be requested of the Secretariat.

The Secretariat is responsible for the overall final editing (both language and layout) of the draft plan. In order to avoid unnecessary delays throughout the drafting process, this task is usually carried out towards the end of the consultation process.

2.2.4. Review by the AEWA bodies and adoption

Following the formal national consultation, a final draft is prepared and submitted to the Technical Committee and, following their consent, to the Standing Committee for approval for submission to the next Meeting of the Parties. Following the positive recommendations from both the Technical and the Standing Committee, the Meeting of the Parties is then requested to adopt the Plan at its next session.

Following the adoption of new Action and Management Plans by the Meeting of the Parties, the Secretariat prepares final versions of the Plans, and makes them available on the AEWA website. Only Plans for which additional funding has been made available are printed. Once Plans are available in their final form the Secretariat informs all Focal Points and Contact Points in the relevant range states.

In some cases, Action Plans may be ready for approval between Sessions of the Meetings of the Parties. MOP3 gave the Standing Committee the mandate to approve Action Plans on an interim basis in Resolution 3.12. Following approval by the Standing Committee on an interim basis, range states can already start implementing the approved Plan inter-sessionally, and do not have to wait for the final adoption by the Meeting of the Parties.

Table 1: The various main steps of the AEWA Action/Management Planning Process. Note that no action/management planning process is the same and that both the facilitation and the timetable may

be adapted by the Secretariat depending in particular on the resources available as well as the meeting schedules of the AEWA governing bodies.

Action/Management Planning Process under AEWA	
STEPS	LEAD & MAIN PLAYERS
Prioritization of species in urgent need of coordinated international conservation and/or management efforts	AEWA Technical Committee
Start and facilitation of the action/management planning process (i.e. identifying a lead compiler or drafting team; sourcing funding for compilation and workshop etc.)	AEWA Secretariat
Inter-governmental workshop for all range states and relevant stakeholders	AEWA Secretariat together with lead compiler/drafting team and possible host government, National Focal points and Contact Points
Workshop participants provide comments on 1 st draft	Lead compiler, AEWA Secretariat, workshop participants
AEWA Technical Committee provides technical evaluation/clearance on 2 nd draft	Lead compiler, AEWA Secretariat, AEWA Technical Committee
Formal government consultation of 3 rd draft with all species range states	Lead compiler, AEWA Secretariat, National Focal Points and Contact Points
4 th draft is submitted to the AEWA Technical Committee for sign-off before approval by the Parties	AEWA Technical Committee
Final draft is submitted to the AEWA Standing Committee for preliminary approval OR approval for submission to the Meeting of the Parties	AEWA Standing Committee
Final consulted draft is adopted at the next Session of the Meeting of the Parties	Meeting of the Parties
Final Action/Management Plan is prepared by the Secretariat together with the chief compiler and posted online (printed only if funding is available). Link to (or copy of) the plan is sent to all Focal Points and Contact points in the relevant range states with the invitation to implement the plan.	AEWA Secretariat

2.3. Revision of Action/Management Plans

The lifespan of an Action or Management Plan is indicated as a certain number of years after its adoption by the MOP. The customary validity of an AEWA Action or Management Plan is ten years, after which a revision is usually foreseen. The revision process should be led by the AEWA International Species Working or Expert Group established to coordinate the international implementation of the Plan in cooperation with the AEWA Secretariat. If no international coordinating mechanism has been established, the Technical Committee can assess Plans that are due to be revised and recommend whether a revision is necessary or not (see suggested process for the retirement of plans below).

Revisions of Action and Management Plans are adopted by the Meeting of the Parties. It should therefore be noted that the procedure to revise a Plan closely follows the process described above with regard to

the necessary official steps to be taken with regard to the consultation. The inter-governmental workshop described above is merely replaced by a meeting or consultation amongst the members of the AEWA International Species Working or Expert Group.

2.4. Retirement of Action Plans

Thus far the action planning process under AEWA does not foresee a procedure for the retirement of Action Plans from implementation by Parties. The changed status of species populations and/or the successful implementation of Action Plans may, however, warrant the retirement of selected Plans. There is also a need for the Technical Committee to re-assess the prioritization of species populations for which Action Plans exist that are not actively being implemented or that have expired. Should such species/populations still rank high on the priority list for action planning when re-evaluated, a revision of the Action Plan should be considered. If the re-assessment determines that the species/population is no longer a priority, the Technical Committee could consider retiring the Plan in question.

It is therefore proposed that the 6th Meeting of the Parties adopt a process on the basis of which the AEWA Technical Committee can assess the status of Action Plans and potentially recommend to the AEWA Meeting of the Parties to retire them. Retired plans will be removed from the list of Action Plans to be implemented by Parties under the Agreement

3. Guiding implementation - Coordination of international conservation and management activities

3.1. Introduction

MOP3 instructed the Secretariat in Resolution 3.12 to establish mechanisms, resources permitting, to coordinate the international implementation of existing and future Action Plans. Much progress has been made in this regard through the development of so-called AEWA International Species Working and Expert Groups.

3.2. AEWA International Species Working Groups

AEWA International Species Working Groups are established as a priority to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of Action Plans adopted for globally threatened and Near Threatened species. Working Groups are also established as a priority for Management Plans as well as Action Plans which include elements of adaptive harvest management. The Working Groups are guided by the generic Terms of Reference for AEWA International Species Working Groups adopted by the Technical Committee at its 9th Meeting in 2009 (Annex 3).

3.2.1. *Composition*

AEWA International Species Working Groups are inter-governmental, and are composed of national government representatives as well as national experts designated by the governments of the respective Principal Range States included in an Action or Management Plan. Working Groups are also inclusive of all range states along the flyways of a species/population covered by an Action/Management Plan, regardless of whether they have yet become a Contracting Party to AEWA or not. Working Groups represent the more formal international framework for Action and Management Plan coordination established under AEWA.

The work of the Group is guided by a Coordinator or coordinating organization secured by the Secretariat. It is becoming increasingly clear that in addition to engaged (champion) range states and sufficient resources, the active and regular coordination of Working Group activities is a key element in ensuring the successful implementation of Action and Management Plans. As such, the Secretariat increasingly attempts to secure the future coordination of an Action or Management Plan already during the drafting and consultation phase. To inform and support Working Group Coordinators, the Secretariat has prepared a rolling guidance document outlining their various tasks and responsibilities (Annex 5).

In addition, the organizations represented in the AEWA Technical Committee as well as other international conservation and/or sustainable use organizations may be invited to join the Working Group as observers if appropriate. Additional experts may also be invited to join meetings of the Working Group in the capacity of temporary observers as necessary. All observers must however, be admitted by the members of the Working Group. The Secretariat is in the process of preparing additional guidance regarding the membership of Working Groups.

The composition of the Working Groups highlights the need not only for a strong government engagement in the international coordination of Action and Management Plan implementation, but also for a much stronger link between government representatives and the species' expert networks in order to ensure the long-term implementation of conservation and/or sustainable use measures.

3.2.2. *Establishment procedure*

Following the adoption of an AEWA Species Action or Management Plan and once a coordinating organization has been identified; the Secretariat convenes the Working Group by sending official letters to all the AEWA Focal Points and Contact Points in the range states covered by the Action Plan. The letters introduce the selected Species Working Group Coordinator (including contact details) and request Focal/Contact Points to nominate two representatives to the group as outlined above. If a particular

government representative or national expert for the species is already known, the Secretariat can recommend that they be nominated to represent their country in the Working Group. The final selection and designation of national representatives remains, of course, with the respective national government.

In addition to the letters, Focal/Contact Points will receive Working Group Terms of Reference as developed by the AEWA Technical Committee and customized for the Working Group in question. Once the formal letters convening the Working Group have been sent, the Coordinator is responsible for collecting the designations of representatives and maintaining a contact list of the Working Group members. Once a critical mass of designated Working Group members has been established and funds are available, planning usually starts for a first meeting of the Working Group.

3.2.3. *Working Group role and tasks:*

As outlined in the generic Terms of Reference adopted by the AEWA Technical Committee for Species Working Groups, the role of the Working Groups is to:

- 1) coordinate and catalyse the implementation of the International Single Species Action Plan (SSAP) approved by the AEWA Meeting of the Parties;
- 2) stimulate and support Range States in the implementation of the SSAP; and
- 3) monitor and report on the implementation and the effectiveness of the SSAP.

The main tasks of the Working Group are further to:

- set priorities for action and implement them;
- coordinate the overall international implementation;
- raise funds for implementation;
- assist Range States in producing national action plans;
- ensure regular and thorough monitoring of the species populations;
- stimulate and support scientific research in the species necessary for conservation;
- promote the protection of the network of critical sites for the species;
- facilitate internal and external communication and exchange of scientific, technical, legal and other required information;
- assist with information in determination of the red list status and population size and trends of the species;
- regularly monitor the effectiveness of implementation of the SSAP and take appropriate action according to the findings of this monitoring;
- regularly report on the implementation of the SSAP to the AEWA Meeting of the Parties through the National Focal Points; and
- update the international SSAP in as required.

Not mentioned in the Working Group Terms of Reference, but nonetheless **a core task of each designated government representative is the responsibility to coordinate or to organize/provide for the coordination of the national implementation of the respective Action or Management Plan and to function as the link between the International Working Group and the National Working Group** (or other national body dealing with the implementation of the Plan – for more details see chapter 4 below). This includes but is not limited to guiding national implementation activities according to decisions taken under the Working Group and also consulting with relevant national stakeholders before reporting back to the Working Group on national implementation progress. This is a key task which perhaps has not been stressed enough to date.

3.2.4. *AEWA International Species Working Group branding*

As the Working Groups are functioning under the framework of AEWA, the Secretariat has made efforts to ensure that a common - albeit not very strict – branding is applied to all groups identifying them as

AEWA International Species Working Groups. This “corporate identity” of the Working Groups is still under development, but the following tools currently adhere to a similar format:

- Working Group logos
- Working Group letterhead
- Meeting document format
- Promotional materials (banners, stickers etc.)
- Websites

The AEWa Secretariat has developed a Drupal content management template for International Species Working Group websites. The templates include an external website to present the Plan, the Working Group and the species as well as an internal workspace area open to Working Group members and observers only. The websites are currently all being hosted by the Secretariat.

3.3. AEWa International Species Expert Groups

AEWA International Species Expert Groups are established to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of Species Action Plans not prioritized for a full inter-governmental Working Group. The Expert Groups are guided by generic Terms of Reference for AEWa International Species Expert Groups adopted by the Technical Committee at its 11th Meeting in 2012 (Annex 4).

Although the ties of the Expert Groups to the Agreement are not as close as is the case for the Working Groups, the formal affiliation with AEWa can nonetheless bring much added value to the international status and work of a species group or expert network, such as enhanced support by governments and the international conservation community, access to AEWa contacts and guidance of the AEWa bodies such as the Technical Committee as well as possible access to new sources of funding.

3.3.1. Composition and establishment

As opposed to the more formal AEWa International Species Working Groups, the AEWa International Species Expert Groups are largely based on already existing expert cooperation networks and are more flexible in nature - also requiring less guidance and input from the Secretariat in their day-to-day work. The Expert Groups are therefore also much more flexible with regard to membership. As outlined on the generic Terms of Reference Expert Groups are open to 1) representatives of Governmental bodies of all key Range States relevant to the implementation of AEWa, 2) representatives of national expert and conservation organisations from all key Range States, 3) representatives of international organisations, and 4) other experts as required.

The Secretariat establishes Species Expert Groups either by requesting an organization to establish an Expert Group or by contacting an already existing Expert Group and requesting them to become affiliated with the Agreement. Although the link between the Agreement and the Expert Groups is more informal Expert Groups working under the AEWa banner are expected to adhere to the mandate and duties as defined in the above mentioned Terms of Reference.

The conditions under which the affiliation of Species Expert Groups with AEWa is granted are:

- A Memorandum of Understanding is signed between the UNEP/AEWa Secretariat and the leading organization/institution defining – amongst other issues - the role and mandate of the coordinating organization;
- As set out in the Terms of Reference for the International Species Expert Group, the main focus of the group shall be the implementation of the respective AEWa Action Plan;
- Membership shall be inclusive;

- Possible disputes between different groups/organizations wishing to lead on coordinating the implementation of an AEWA Action Plan and subsequent Expert Group are settled – to the extent possible - before a formal affiliation with AEWA.

The association of the Species Expert Group with AEWA can be terminated by the Secretariat at any time should the above conditions not be met.

3.3.2 Expert Group role and tasks

The role and tasks of AEWA International Species Expert Groups as outlined in the generic Terms of Reference adopted by the AEWA Technical Committee for Species Expert Groups are almost identical to that of the Species Working Groups as described above. However, due to the strong expert nature of these groups and possible limited government involvement, members are perhaps not expected to fulfill the same function with regard to the organization and guidance of the national implementation of the Action Plan in question.

4. Coordinating National Implementation – National Action Plans and National Working Groups

4.1. Introduction

Principal Range States charged with the implementation of AEWA International Action and Management Plans – in particular those crucial to the recovery or management of a species – are encouraged to adopt National Action Plans where appropriate based on the respective agreed international framework and to establish National Working Groups to coordinate the implementation of activities nationally. It should be noted, however, that many countries within the AEWA Agreement area already have sufficient national frameworks in place to cater for the effective implementation of International Action and Management Plans, rendering the need for the establishment of new coordination mechanisms unnecessary.

4.2. National Species Action Plans

AEWA International Species Action and Management Plans are the guiding international frameworks for the conservation, recovery and/or sustainable management of a species. They are the result of an agreement between all the relevant range states and stakeholders and as such the overall goals, results and activities therein are usually formulated in a general nature. These thus often require some adaptation in order to take into account specific national circumstances and legislative as well as management frameworks to ensure their direct relevance and subsequent implementation. Priorities often also vary between countries depending for example on the prevailing main threats to a species as well as previously implemented conservation/management actions etc.

National Species Action Plans should thus aim to “translate” the International Plan to national level, including the establishment of national species goals and targets as well as the formulation of more concrete national activities with specific details on the implementing national organizations, timeframes and available human and financial resources. National Action Plans should also, of course, be produced and made available in the respective national language(s).

When establishing National Action Plans, range states are encouraged to consult the AEWA Guidelines on the preparation of National Single Species Action Plans for migratory waterbirds¹.

4.3. National Species Working Groups

National Species Working Groups should, in turn, be established to coordinate the development and implementation of National Action/Management Plans. Such groups should also be inter-governmental and inclusive: including representatives from all national stakeholders involved in the conservation or management of a species. The task of coordinating implementation can, of course, also be facilitated in another form, depending on what the national governmental practice foresees for such processes.

4.4. Linking between national implementation and the International Species Working Groups

As mentioned above under the role and tasks of the International Working Groups (paragraph 3.2.2.), one of the core tasks of each designated government representative is the responsibility to coordinate the national implementation of the respective International Action or Management Plan and to function as the link between the International Working Group and the National Working Group (or other national body dealing with the implementation of the Plan). This includes but is not limited to guiding national implementation activities according to decisions taken under the Working Group and also consulting with the National Working Group before reporting back to the Working Group on national implementation progress.

¹ <http://www.unep-awa.org/en/publication/awa-conservation-guidelines-no-1-guidelines-preparation-national-single-species-action>

5. Current status of preparation of AEWA Action and Management plans

5.1. Introduction

A total of 19 International Single Species Action Plans and one International Single Species Management Plan have been adopted under the Agreement by the MOP to date. The 6th Session of the Meeting of the Parties is expected to adopt another five new Action Plans as well as one revised Action Plans and the first International Multi-Species Action Plan under AEWA.

5.2. Action/Management Plans adopted under AEWA 2002-2012

The following table includes all International Single Species Action and Management Plans adopted under AEWA 2002-2012.

Table 2: AEWA International Single Species Action and Management Plans adopted under the Agreement to date.

Species	Adopted
Great Snipe (<i>Gallinago media</i>)	MOP2 in 2002
Black-winged Pratincole (<i>Glareola nordmanni</i>)	MOP2 in 2002
White-headed Duck (<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>)	MOP3 in 2005
Corncrake (<i>Crex crex</i>)	MOP3 in 2005
Ferruginous Duck (<i>Aythya nyroca</i>)	MOP3 in 2005
Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>)	MOP3 in 2005
Northern Bald Ibis (<i>Geronticus eremita</i>) (Revision to be adopted by MOP6)	MOP3 in 2005
Lesser Flamingo (<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>)	MOP4 in 2008
Eurasian Spoonbill (<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>)	MOP4 in 2008
Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>)	MOP4 in 2008
Lesser White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser erythropus</i>)	MOP4 in 2008
Maccoa Duck (<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>)	MOP4 in 2008
White-winged Flufftail (<i>Sarothrura ayresi</i>)	MOP4 in 2008
Madagascar Pond Heron (<i>Ardeola idae</i>)	MOP4 in 2008
Slaty Egret (<i>Egretta vinaceigula</i>)	MOP5 in 2012
Bewick's Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>)	MOP5 in 2012
Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>)	MOP5 in 2012
Red-breasted Goose (<i>Branta ruficollis</i>)	MOP5 in 2012
Sociable Lapwing (<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>) (Revision of the 2002 ISSAP)	MOP5 in 2012
Management Plan for the Svalbard Population of the Pink-footed Goose (<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>)	MOP5 in 2012

5.3. Action Plans expected to be adopted at MOP6

The following table includes all International Single Species Action Plans suggested to be adopted at the 6th Session of the Meeting of the Parties in November 2015.

Table 3: AEWA International Single Species Action Plans proposed for adoption at MOP6.

Species
Shoebill <i>Balaeniceps rex</i>

Grey Crowned Crane <i>Balearica regulorum</i>
Taiga Bean Goose <i>Anser f. fabalis</i>
Long-tailed Duck <i>Clangula hyemalis</i>
Eurasian Curlew <i>Numenius a. arquata</i> , <i>N. a. orientalis</i> and <i>N. a. suschkini</i>
Northern Bald Ibis <i>Geronticus eremita</i> (revision of the 2005 ISSAP)

In addition, MOP6 is expected to adopt the International Multi-Species Action Plan for Benguela Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds (Bank Cormorant *Phalacrocorax neglectus*, African Penguin *Spheniscus demersus*, Cape Gannet *Sula (Morus) capensis*, Cape Cormorant *Phalacrocorax capensis*, Crowned Cormorant *Phalacrocorax coronatus*, Damara Tern *Sterna balaenarum*, Swift Tern *Sterna bergii*, Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia caspia*, African Oystercatcher *Haematopus moquini*).

5.4. Action Plans for consideration for revision and/or retirement with no established international coordination mechanism

The following table 4 includes all AEWA International Single Species Action Plans which are currently not being actively implemented as reported by the Range States through their national reports *or* as assessed by the AEWA Review of the stage of preparation and implementation of International Single Species Action and Management Plans, *or* for which no mechanism for coordinated international implementation has been established.

Table 4: AEWA International Single Species Action Plans with no established international coordination mechanism.

Species	Adopted	Revision foreseen	IUCN status	NOTE
Maccoa Duck (<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>)	MOP4 in 2008	2018	NT	AEWA ISSAP
White-headed Duck (<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>)	MOP3 in 2005	2015	EN	joint AEWA/CMS/EU ISSAP
Corncrake (<i>Crex crex</i>)	MOP3 in 2005	2015	LC	joint AEWA/CMS/EU ISSAP
Ferruginous Duck (<i>Aythya nyroca</i>)	MOP3 in 2005	2015	NT	joint AEWA/CMS ISSAP
Great Snipe (<i>Gallinago media</i>)	MOP2 in 2002	2005	NT	joint AEWA/Bern Convention ISSAP
Black-winged Pratincole (<i>Glareola nordmanni</i>)	MOP2 in 2002	2005	NT	joint AEWA/Bern Convention ISSAP

5.5. Current plans for new AEWA International Species Action and Management Plans

Further species have been prioritized by the AEWA Technical Committee (see current list in Annex 6) for the development of Action Plans (for example the Black Crowned Crane *Balearica pavonina*) and the Secretariat has received inquiries regarding the development of new Management Plans.

However, at the time of writing concrete plans for additional Action Plans to be developed during the next triennium only exist for the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*), Velvet Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*) as well as for a revision of the current AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*). These three Plans will be developed under the auspices of the EU LIFE EuroSAP project funded by the European Commission and coordinated by BirdLife.

6. Review of the current status of implementation of AEWA International Action and Management Plans

6.1. Introduction

In preparation for the 6th Meeting of the AEWA Parties the AEWA Secretariat undertook a limited review on the stage of implementation of AEWA International Single Species Action and Management Plans as outlined in paragraph 7.4 of the Action Plan of the Agreement. Due to lack of voluntary funding contributions, the compilation of a full review was not possible. This limited review covers eight of the 20 International Single Species Action and Management Plans adopted under AEWA to date.

A letter was sent by the Secretariat to all AEWA National Focal Points and Contact Points of range states covered by one or more of the Species Action and/or Management Plans for which the implementation was envisaged to be reviewed, informing them of the process as well as of the designated national Working Group representatives and experts.

A first review of this kind was submitted to the 4th Session Meeting of the Parties to AEWA in 2008 (document AEWA/MOP 4.10). Hence this review covers implementation progress made during the timeframe 2008-2015.

6.2. Methodology and Scope

6.2.1. Methodology

The Secretariat drafted a questionnaire in consultation with the AEWA Technical Committee, which was modified and customized for each Plan to reflect the specific goals, results and activities therein by the respective AEWA Species Working and Expert Group Coordinators and sent out to their Working/Expert Group members to complete in English or French. In the event that no Working or Expert Group members had been designated for a particular country, the questionnaire was sent to the National AEWA Focal Point or Contact Point for further action.

The timeframe for the review is 2008-2015. Implementation progress of plans adopted in 2008 and after, was reviewed against the starting point in each plan. For plans adopted before 2008, which were already evaluated in the 2008 review submitted to MOP4 (document AEWA/MOP 4.10), implementation progress was measured against the 2008 review.

In addition to the results specified in the Action/Management Plans, range states were requested to report on the status and trend of the species in their country as well as progress made in establishing national structures to enhance and coordinate implementation (National Action Plans and National Working Groups). Range states were also asked to report on the three main factors contributing to as well as hampering the implementation of the respective Action/Management Plan.

In calculating the indicative average implementation rate for each Action and Management Plan, only range states responding with “yes” were considered to have fully implemented each activity/result. The answers “no” and “partially” as well as when no information was provided, were considered as non-implementation of an activity/result. Range states that did not submit questionnaires were taken into account as “no information provided”. The average implementation rate for each activity/result was calculated on the basis of the total number of range states to which the respective activity/result applied as identified in the plan. In some cases, range states reported that certain individual activities did not apply to them although indicated differently in the plan. If justification was provided these range states were omitted from the total number of range states on the basis of which the implementation rate was calculated for that particular activity/result.

It should be noted that this review and the conclusions regarding implementation progress are based solely on information provided by the various range states – an approach which substantially limits the assessments which can be made. It was beyond the scope of this paper to undertake a further verification

of the achievement of the Action and Management Plan results by consulting the various other (external/independent) sources of verification listed in the Plans or by consulting other international and national stakeholders possibly implementing Action or Management Plan activities in various countries. This task should, however, be undertaken by the Working Group Coordinators and presented to the respective International Species Working and Expert Groups as a matter of priority.

6.2.2. Scope

The original target was for the review to cover 13 of the 20 AEWA Plans adopted to date (12 Action Plans as well as the AEWA International Management Plan for the Pink-footed Goose), for which AEWA International Species Working or Expert Groups have been established or are being established. However, due to the extremely low response rate for some Action Plans, these could not be included in the review. All Action Plans with a response from less than 30% of the identified Principal Range States by the extended deadline were thus excluded. In addition, the questionnaire for the Light-bellied Brent Goose was not distributed due to lack of capacity in the expert network. For an overview of all responses received per Plan, please see Annex 2.

The review thus covers the following eight Action/Management Plans:

- Northern Bald Ibis (*Geronticus eremita*)
- Lesser Flamingo (*Phoeniconaias minor*)
- Bewick's Swan (*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*)
- Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)
- Greenland White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*)
- Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*)
- Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*)
- Sociable Lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*)

Action Plans excluded from the review on the basis of poor response rates/non-submission:

- Madagascar Pond Heron (*Ardeola idae*)
- Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)
- Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*)
- White-winged Flufftail (*Sarothrura ayresi*)
- Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)

6.2.3. AEWA Action Plans omitted from the review

The following Action Plans were omitted from the review from the onset, on the basis that there are currently no international coordination mechanisms for the species within the AEWA framework and thus no immediate network through which information could be easily gathered:

- White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*)
- Maccoa Duck (*Oxyura maccoa*)
- Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*)
- Corncrake (*Crex crex*)
- Black-winged Pratincole (*Glareola nordmanni*)
- Great Snipe (*Gallinago media*)

The International Single Species Action Plan for the Slaty Egret (*Egretta vinaceigula*), which was adopted at the 5th Meeting of the AEWA Parties in 2012 was also omitted, as the respective International Working Group and the arrangements for its coordination were only established in 2014.

6.3. Overview of review outcomes

An overview of the progress made in implementing the seven International Species Action Plans and one International Species Management Plan included in the review is presented in Table 5 below. Included therein are:

- a) The **overall response rate**, i.e. how many Principal Range States out of the total number identified in the Action/Management Plan submitted responses in the required format by the deadline;
- b) **How many years the Action/Management Plan has been in force** following adoption by the MOP;
- c) Whether there has been a change of status in the IUCN Red List categorization of the species since implementation of the Action/Management Plan started – whereby it should be noted, that changes in conservation status are the result of a very slow process;
- d) Action/Management Plans for which **AEWA International Species Working or Expert Groups** have been established and/or for which international coordination in the form of a Coordinator is currently provided;
- e) The percentage of range states that have adopted **National Action/Management Plans** for the species;
- f) The percentage of range states that have established **National Working Groups** for the species;
- g) The **overall percentage of activities implemented**, based on the questionnaires received under the assumption that “yes”-responses equal full implementation of an activity (for a full explanation of the methodology used, please see *6.2.1. Methodology* above);
- h) The **percentage of activities implemented which were ranked as having “Critical” or “High”** implementation priority in the Action/Management Plan, based on the questionnaires received under the assumption that “yes”-responses equal full implementation of an activity (for a full explanation of the methodology used, please see *6.2.1. Methodology* above).

A more detailed account of the results and conclusions for each individual Action/Management Plan is provided in Annex 1.

Table 5: Overview of Action/Management Plan Implementation Progress

Species	a) Response rate	b) Years in force	c) Change in IUCN status	d) IWG/IEG with Coordinator	e) % of range states with NAPs*	f) % of range states with NWGs*	g) Overall % of activities implemented	h) % of critical and high priority activities implemented
Northern Bald Ibis ISSAP (<i>Geronticus eremita</i>)	100% (3/3)	10	NO	IWG/YES	33%	0%	66%	69%
Lesser Flamingo ISSAP (<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>)	58% (7/12)	7	NO	IWG/NO	17%	17%	26%	23%
Bewick's Swan ISSAP (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>)	67% (10/15)	3	NO	IEG/YES	20%	0%	14%	24%
Pink-footed Goose ISSMP (<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>)	100% (4/4)	3	NO	IWG/YES	100%	50%	45%	n/a
Greenland White-fronted Goose ISSAP (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>)	75% (3/4)	3	NO	NO/NO	0%	25%	27%	45%
Lesser White-fronted Goose ISSAP (<i>Anser erythropus</i>)	68% (15/22)	7	NO	IWG/YES	36%	45%	43%	36%
Red-breasted Goose ISSAP (<i>Branta ruficollis</i>)	100% (5/5)	3	NO	IWG/YES	0%	0%	56%	50%
Sociable Lapwing ISSAP (<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>)	38% (5/13)	3**	NO	IWG/YES	8%	0%	27%	28%

*Based on the responses received from range states

**Revision of the 2002 AEWISSAP

6.4. Main activities promoting and obstacles hindering effective Action/Management Plan implementation

In addition to reporting on the implementation of the various Action/Management Plan activities, range states were requested to name the three main activities/issues promoting as well as three main obstacles obstructing the effective implementation of the respective Plans. A summary of the five replies most frequently given in both categories is provided in figures 1 and 2 below. The full answers for each individual Plan can be found in the detailed individual accounts in Annex 1.

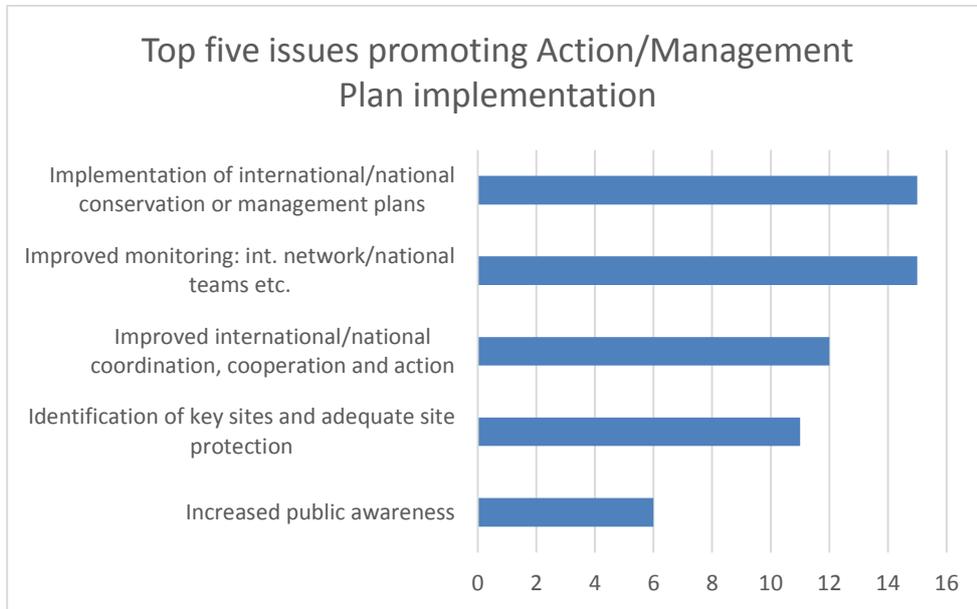


Figure 1: Overview of five most frequent activities/issues reported as promoting the effective implementation of AEWA International Species Action and Management Plans.

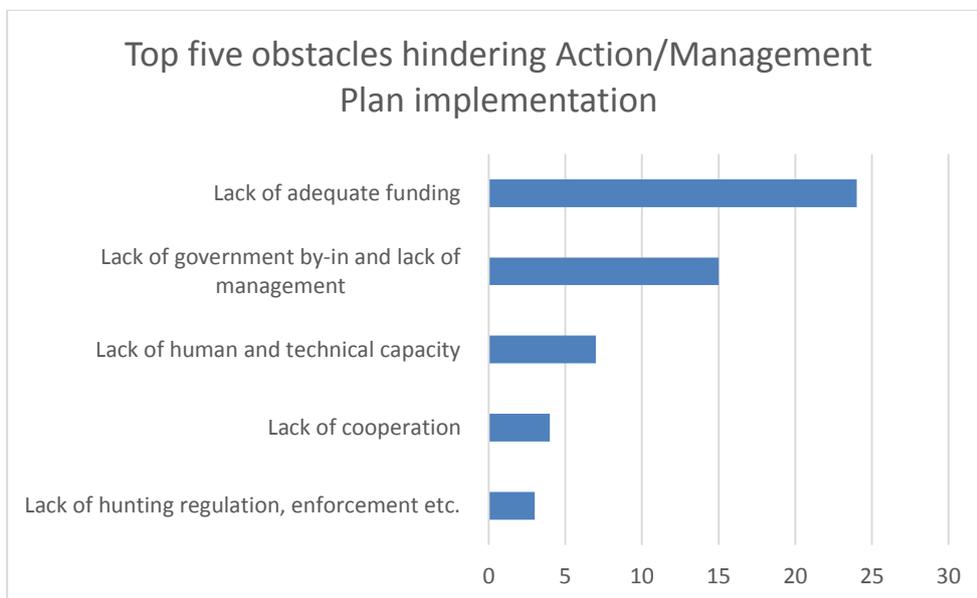


Figure 2: Overview of five most frequent obstacles/issues reported as hindering the effective implementation of AEWA International Species Action and Management Plans.

7. CONCLUSIONS

AEWA International Single Species Action and Management Plans have the potential to serve as vital tools for the coordinated conservation and sustainable use of migratory waterbirds under the Agreement. The establishment of both international and national plans as well as the associated improvement of international and national cooperation were highlighted by range states as being of particular value for the implementation of species conservation and management activities. However, as shown below, we are far from using these tools to their full capacity. Although Action Plans in particular are good for triggering action, their full potential is often not realized due to lack of funding and government buy-in.

As described above in the overview (chapters 1-4), a **stringent action- and management-planning process** has been developed under the Agreement over time. Each step of the process – from the drafting and consultation procedures to the establishment of International Species Working or Expert Groups to the suggested establishment of National Action Plans and Working Groups where appropriate – aims to be transparent, inclusive and most importantly inter-governmental to promote government buy-in. Although some modifications to these processes are certainly necessary, they form a robust framework for the further prioritization, development and revision or retirement of AEWA International Species Action and Management Plans.

In contrast, **the implementation of adopted Action Plans is clearly lacking** (chapters 5-6, annex 1-2), and **urgent measures need to be undertaken to revitalize and step-up their implementation.** As mentioned previously, the review of implementation undertaken in this paper was very limited and is based on the responses submitted by range states only. It was beyond scope of the review and the capacity of the Secretariat to take into consideration other (independent) means of verification as listed in the Action/Management Plans in the analysis. Although therefore not conclusive, the running of the review process itself as well as the information submitted do permit certain conclusions to be made.

Of the 19 International Action Plans and one Management Plan adopted under the Agreement to date, only eight could be included in the review: seven were omitted from the outset due to lack of ongoing implementation and/or lack of established international coordination mechanisms. A further five were later omitted on the basis of poor response rates and non-submission of questionnaires. The quality of the information submitted was often lacking and incomplete.

Based on the responses submitted by the range states, the overall percentage of activities implemented for the eight plans reviewed was 38% – although it should be noted that not all range states submitted reports (see table 5 above). For the five plans adopted at MOP5 (Bewick's Swan, Pink-footed Goose, Greenland White-fronted Goose, Red-breasted Goose and the revision of the 2002 Sociable Lapwing Action Plan), this is hardly surprising as they have only been in force for three years. Some progress was made with regard to the implementation of two of the older plans adopted at MOP4 (Lesser Flamingo and Lesser White-fronted Goose), whilst relatively good progress was made in the implementation of the Action Plan for the Northern Bald Ibis adopted at MOP3.

Assessing the actual impact of the adopted Action and Management Plans on the status of the species' in question is difficult and is not possible on the basis of the percentage of activities implemented. **The implementation of Species Action and Management Plans as well as achieving changes in the conservation status of species' targeted with such Plans are long-term and slow processes.** If we consider whether progress has been on the basis of the short term goals of the Plans in question, however - i.e. whether the rate of decline has been halted or reduced and whether recovery or management of the populations in question has started – the answer could be considered positive for the Northern Bald Ibis, Lesser White-fronted Goose, Pink-footed Goose, Red-breasted Goose and Sociable Lapwing; either for all or some of the populations subject to the respective Action/Management Plans. Hence, it can be concluded that **progress on reaching the short term goals has been made for some Plans**, although a long way still remains to achieving the overall goals and objectives.

Not surprisingly, the **lack of adequate funding** was the number one obstacle reported as hindering the successful **implementation of Action Plans** (across the AEWA range – not limited to a specific region), followed by the **lack of human and technical capacity** in third place. It should be noted that the reported lack of funding mostly referred to a lack of national funding available for implementation. Many countries within the EU have, for example, been able to increase their implementation of Action Plan activities through EU LIFE+ projects. However, similar targeted financial tools are missing outside of the EU. Clearly **efforts to fill these gaps need to be increased, in particular for those species categorized as globally threatened**. Strengthened cooperation between some of the various International Species Working and Expert Groups with overlaps in range could, for example, also be considered in an effort to pool limited resources as well as technical know-how and expertise.

The reported **lack of government interest in, commitment to and capacity for the implementation of several of the adopted AEWA Action Plans** is one of the most serious issues standing in the way of achieving Action Plan goals and objectives. This links directly to the reported lack of funding as well as of appropriate human and technical capacity mentioned above, as government support and commitment to implementation processes should ideally to some national resources being made available. Issues related to the lack of government support for implementation were stressed repeatedly in the submitted questionnaires by government officials and conservation practitioners alike and it ranked as the number two obstacle hindering implementation.

The translation of the activities and goals from adopted International Species Action and Management Plans into national policies and strategies is another key step in ensuring both government buy-in and longer term implementation. Many of the current AEWA Action Plans have a very strong focus on the adoption of National Action Plans to this end, and this is one of the factors considered to be an indicator for implementation progress. The relatively low number of adopted National Action Plans reported does not, however, take into consideration that many countries have existing adequate national frameworks in place rendering the additional adoption of National Action Plans obsolete. This said, the National Action Plans and Working Groups remain a key tool for those countries without such frameworks in place and there is a need to revise the AEWA Conservation Guidelines for the development of National Action Plans to ensure that countries receive adequate and up-to-date guidance in the establishment thereof.

The main responsibility of implementing Action Plans lies with the governments of the Principal Range States. It should therefore be reiterated that AEWA Contracting Parties are obligated to implement these plans adopted under the Agreement (chapter 1). Although conducting invaluable work, NGOs and other international and national conservation organizations and stakeholders are not able to shoulder the full burden of long-term Action Plan implementation.

The situation for the Pink-footed Goose International Management Plan is slightly different, where range state governments play a more active role in the implementation of the established adaptive harvest management system. There are perhaps lessons to be learnt from this process regarding the engagement of government authorities that could be applied to the implementation of Species Action Plans. There is certainly scope for the development of further Species Management Plans on the basis of the Pink-footed Goose example as well as on the revised AEWA Guidelines on the Sustainable Harvest of Migratory Waterbirds, following a prioritization of species for management-planning by the AEWA Technical Committee.

It is also very encouraging to see several **non-Party Range States** participating actively in the implementation of the plans through the International Working Groups, albeit almost exclusively only at species expert level. As many crucial activities – particularly for the globally threatened species – need to be implemented in range states that are currently not yet Parties to AEWA, there is an **urgent need to increase efforts to promote their accession to the Agreement** by all stakeholders involved (i.e. through bilateral government channels of AEWA Contracting Parties, international and national aid agencies, other international meetings and fora, the AEWA International Species Working and Expert Groups, the AEWA Secretariat etc.). This applies, in particular, to **countries in Central Asia and the Middle East**.

Active international coordination is another key issue for successful implementation. Efforts have been made since MOP4 to establish as many International Species Working and Expert Groups as possible with Coordinators providing facilitation of implementation for adopted Action and Management Plans, as recommended in the first review of this kind presented to MOP4. These groups – paired with active coordination – can serve as catalysts for implementation, with range states regularly exchanging resources and information. The high number of responses for Action Plans and the Management Plan adopted at MOP5 show that we are making good progress in establishing these arrangements, although there is still work to be done in providing for stable long-term international coordination for previously several AEWA Species Working and Expert Groups.

Issues that need to be tackled in this respect include: re-launching Working Groups that are currently in-active due to lacking coordination; working towards engaging all Principal Range State in each group to ensure full flyway coverage; providing sufficient and active coordination to the groups as well as; increasing cooperation and exchange with other relevant government and economic sectors (outside of the ‘conservation bubble’). As mentioned above, the International Species Working and Expert Groups have the potential to keep the implementation momentum going – also with regard to building capacity and generating resources as well as support and interest amongst the range states within the respective flyways.

In addition – although certainly of lesser importance and urgency - further guidance and mentoring from the Secretariat still seems to be needed, in particular on various issues such as Working Group membership, reporting processes, the setting up and running of meetings and dedicated websites etc.. With reference to the limited scope of this review, Coordinators should ensure conclusive monitoring of the implementation progress by undertaking in-depth reviews of their respective Action/Management Plans on the basis of the indicators and sources of (independent) verification listed therein.

As mentioned above, there is still scope for improvement of the AEWA action- and management planning process itself, which in turn will hopefully lead to better implementation. There is a clear need to **revise the current AEWA International Single Species Action Plan format** in order to make future Action Plans more streamlined and implementable as well as more accessible and practical for implementing agencies and policy-makers. **Action Plan activities need to be more targeted and to correspond more stringently with the set objectives and goals** based on the identified threats. Better planning and prioritization during the action-planning process itself will help to ensure that the implementation of the actions and results set out in the Plans will actually lead to the achievement of the medium and long-term conservation goals.

In addition, there is a need to **restrict the number of Principal Range States** in new and revised Plans to those most critical for the conservation of a species. As indicated by the low response rate for the Eurasian Spoonbill and Black-tailed Godwit Action Plans, international coordination and subsequently effective implementation of plans with 50-60 range states is not very feasible. Action Plans with a smaller number of range states are often more focused, easier to coordinate and have better chances of engaging all range states in the International Working and Expert Groups. Other range states would, of course, still be welcome to implement the respective plans and to join the international conservation efforts but implementation would not be mandatory. In addition, **adopted AEWA Conservation Guidelines need to be taken into consideration** during the preparation, and in particular during the implementation of Action and Management Plans.

Considering the pending implementation of the first **Multi-Species Action Plan** under AEWA at MOP6 as well as the possible preparation of **Multi-Species Management Plans** in future, there is also a need to develop a format(s) for such plans.

8. ANNEXES

Annex I. Individual reviews of implementation of AEWA International Species Action and Management Plans:

- A. Northern Bald Ibis (<i>Geronticus eremita</i>).....	32
- B. Lesser Flamingo (<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>).....	41
- C. Bewick's Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>)	49
- D. Pink-footed Goose (<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>)	57
- E. Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>)	63
- F. Lesser White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser erythropus</i>)	70
- G. Red-breasted Goose (<i>Branta ruficollis</i>).....	78
- H. Sociable Lapwing (<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>).....	88

Annex II. Overview of questionnaires submitted for review	95
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Annex III. Terms of Reference for AEWA International Species Working Groups	96
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Annex IV. Terms of Reference for AEWA International Species Expert Groups.....	98
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Annex V. Guidance for Coordination of AEWA International Species Working Groups.....	100
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Annex VI. List of species prioritized by the Technical Committee for Action Planning	106
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A. Implementation of the AEWA Northern Bald Ibis ISSAP

1. Introduction

The Northern Bald Ibis (*Geronticus eremita*) is recognized as Critically Endangered by the IUCN and both Moroccan and Syrian populations are listed as 1a 1b 1c in Column A Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan. The AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Northern Bald Ibis was adopted at the 3rd Session of the Meeting of the AEWA Parties in 2005².

The goal of the Action Plan is to increase the number of Northern Bald Ibis colonies with the purpose to conserve the Northern Bald Ibis by securing the wild colonies, increasing the number of birds and improving our understanding of their needs.

The inter-governmental AEWA Northern Bald Ibis International Working Group (NBI IWG) was convened by the AEWA Secretariat in 2011, and has had one face-to-face meeting in 2012, in Jazan, Saudi Arabia. Working Group coordination is provided by Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). A revision of the Action Plan is foreseen to be adopted at the 6th Session of the Meeting of the AEWA Parties in November 2015.

2. Response rate

All three Principal Range States identified in the Action Plan responded to the questionnaire (100%).

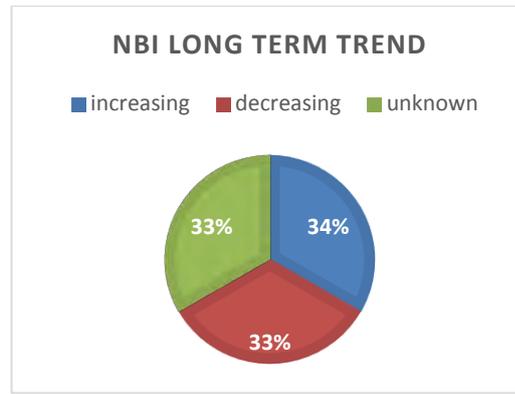
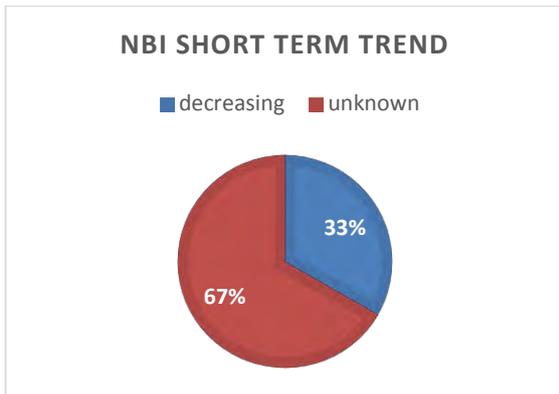
<i>Response received</i>	<i>AEWA CP</i>
Morocco	Yes
Syria	Yes
Turkey	No

3. Species trend and estimate

Morocco and Turkey reported the short term trend of the species as unknown, with Syria reporting the short term trend as decreasing. Morocco reported the long term trend as increasing, whilst Syria reported the long term trend as decreasing and Turkey as unknown.

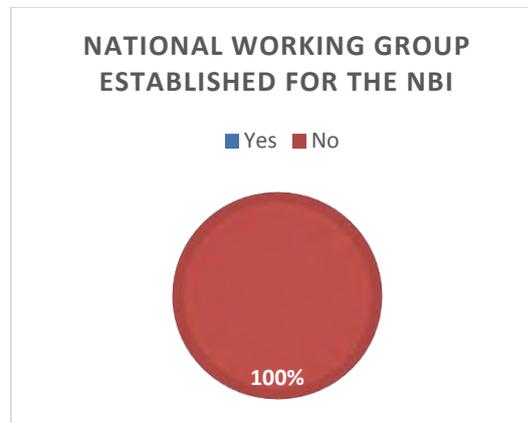
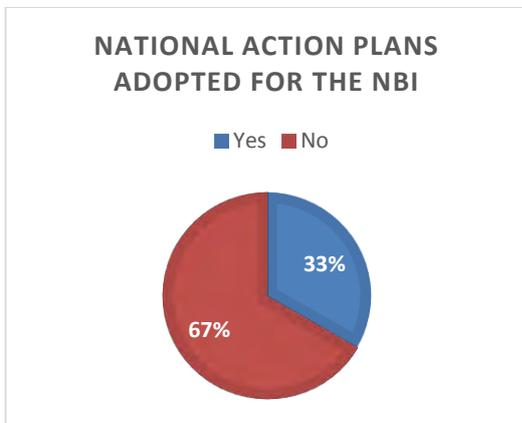
<i>Reporting range state</i>	<i>Total minimum estimate</i>	<i>Total maximum estimate</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Baseline population</i>
Morocco	300	500	Individuals	2008	700 (1980)
		115	Pairs (breeding)	2014	65 (1994)
Syria	3	4	Individuals (breeding)	2015	11 (2005)
Turkey	42	189	Individuals	2014	no information

² The AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Northern Bald Ibis is available on the AEWA website: http://www.unep-aewa.org/sites/default/files/publication/ts10_ssap_nbi_complete_0.pdf.



4. National implementation structures

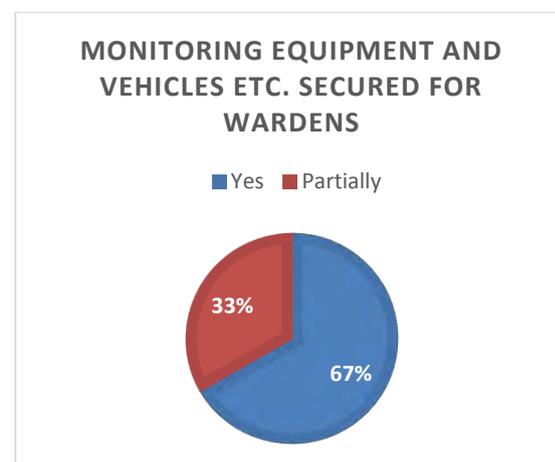
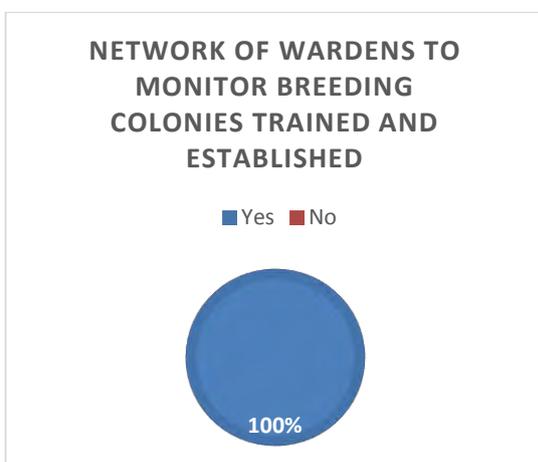
Morocco is the only range state to have adopted a National Action Plan for the species. None of the range states have established National Working Groups for the NBI.



5. Implementation of Action Plan activities

5.1. Result 1 – Breeding success, inter- and intra-specific competition and predation monitored at all key sites (high priority)

This high priority result consists of three activities which apply to all range states: All range states reported having set-up and trained networks of wardens to monitor the breeding colonies (activity 1.1) and two range states have also provided these teams with adequate equipment such as binoculars, telescopes, vehicles etc. (activity 1.2).

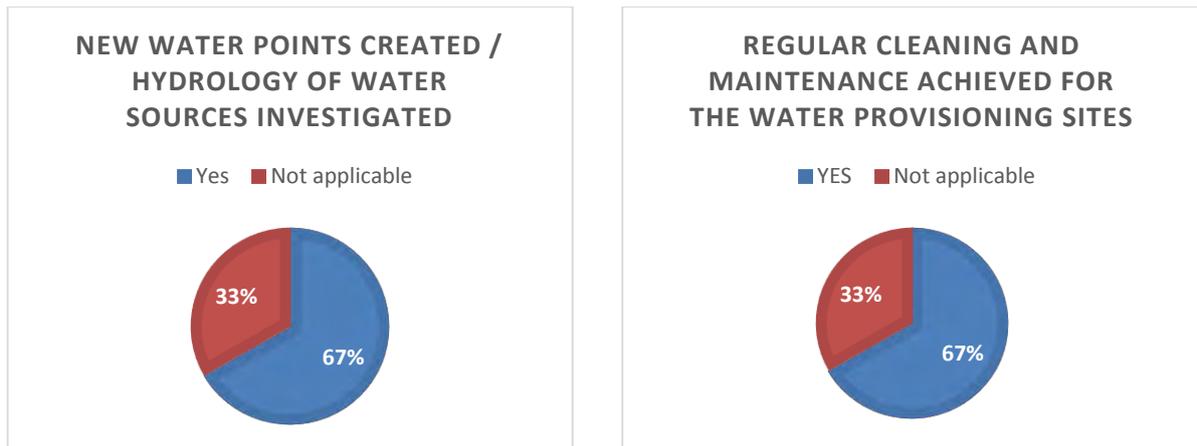


In addition, all range states (100%) reported having established a uniform scientific protocol for monitoring breeding colonies (activity 1.3).

Average implementation rate: 89%

5.2. Result 2 – Provision of uncontaminated fresh water sources close to breeding sites maintained and approved. Managing existing reservoirs in accordance with ibis needs. (high priority)

This high priority result and the two corresponding actions (2.1 and 2.2) only apply to Syria and Morocco. Both countries reported having implemented the actions.



Average implementation rate: 100%

5.3. Result 3 – The impact of the introduction of new birds to existing breeding colonies is studied in captivity during the breeding season (low priority)

Suitable institutions and research partners were identified to manipulate captive colonies (activity 3.1) in Syria and Morocco, but not in Turkey (67%). No research was carried out to investigate the impact of the introduction of new birds to existing breeding colonies (activity 3.2) in Morocco or Turkey. But Syria (33%) conducted such research and reported back that the birds in captivity tried to breed but did not manage to raise any chicks due to nest disturbance from a second male. Monitoring their behavior in the cage has resulted in a success of pairing after two years but no egg has hatched. In 2015 the pairing and excluding the pairs from disturbance has led to a successful breeding and a chick has recently hatched.

Average implementation rate: 50%

5.4. Result 4 – The level of genetic variation within the captive, semi-wild and wild populations is assessed (medium priority)

No country reported having developed protocols for assessing genetic variations in the Northern Bald Ibis (activity 4.1). Syria reported partial implementation of activity 4.2, the identification of suitable institutions and collection of appropriate samples. Activity 4.3 regarding the evaluation of any existing data on colony interference by introduced birds e.g. Birecik, was not included in the questionnaire.

Average implementation rate: 0%

5.5. Result 5 – A comprehensive health screening conducted on all birds prior to reintroduction (high priority)

As release or reintroduction activities were only undertaken in Turkey, in practice the activities in this result did not apply to the other range states. Turkey reported having established a protocol of health screening for the Northern Bald Ibis prior to reintroduction (activity 5.1 / 100%). The conducting of a disease risk analysis as part of a feasibility study prior to reintroduction (activity 5.2) was to be carried out by the IUCN SSC Reintroduction SG and IAGNBI, and was therefore reported as not being applicable to Turkey.

Turkey also reported having built capacity on health screening techniques (activity 5.3 / 100%) and that equipment and materials have been provided to conduct health assessments of birds (activity 5.4 / 100%).

Average implementation rate: 100%

5.6. Result 6 – Discarded fishing line and other potentially dangerous debris to be collected and disposed of safely (low priority)

This result only applied to Morocco, which reported implementation of both activities therein: ensuring that wardens include fishing line and debris removal as part of their daily activities (6.1 / 100%) and well as educating fishermen by informal meetings of the hazards posed by lost and discarded fishing debris (6.2 / 100%).

Average implementation rate: 100%

5.7. Result 7 – A captive population maintained with health, inbreeding and age structure managed (high priority)

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Implementation rate</i>
7.1. Separate captive Eastern and Western populations been developed and maintained until further research clarifies their relationship.	0%
7.2 Genetic research carried out to clarify the relationships between the Eastern and Western populations.	0%
7.3 The number of the captive Eastern population risen to 200 – 250 birds. (<i>applies to Syria and Turkey</i>)	0%
[7.4. n/a to range states]	n/a
7.5 Investigate the origin of all Eastern population birds held in captivity (<i>applies to Syria and Turkey</i>).	50%
7.6 Increase the capacity at Birecik to support and increase their population to 150 birds (e.g. removing trees, expanding cages and promote good husbandry). (<i>applies to Turkey</i>)	100%

Average implementation rate: 30%

5.8. Result 8 – The conservation of the Northern Bald Ibis through international coordination and cooperation promoted by the International Advisory Group for the Northern Bald Ibis (IAGNBI) (critical priority)

The implementation of activities to achieve this result has solely been assigned to IAGNBI itself as well as to other international organizations, conservation NGOs and international expert groups. Therefore the implementation cannot be assessed based on the responses given by the range states. In addition, with the establishment of the inter-governmental AEWAN Northern Bald Ibis International Working Group, some of the functions originally facilitated by IAGNBI have been taken over by the IWG.

Nonetheless, IAGNBI still plays a crucial expert role in providing scientific and conservation guidance for the species.

5.9. Result 9 – Techniques for the establishment of new colonies by reintroduction investigated (medium priority)

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Implementation rate</i>
9.1 Establish protocols for creating both sedentary and migratory NBI populations in suitable habitat.	0%
9.2 Develop techniques (model) for assessing suitability of release sites.	33%
9.3 Investigate splitting of captive colony splitting as a potential reintroduction technique.	0%
9.4 Ensure that reintroduction planning of projects take place with full consultation with IAGNBI and the IUCN SSC Reintroduction Specialist Group.	33%

Average implementation rate: 17%

5.10. Result 10 – Risk of infection disease reduced (high priority)

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Implementation rate</i>
10.1 Establish veterinary / post-mortem protocol for any sick or dead bird.	67%
10.2 Develop veterinary capacity in Morocco, Syria and Turkey for post-mortem work.	33%
10.3 Ensure availability of necessary equipment and materials to conduct veterinary / post-mortem work.	67%
10.4 Make standardised assessment of disease risks in each country (domestic and wildlife).	33%
10.5 Introduce appropriate waste protocol at intensive poultry units in Souss-Massa NP (and as interim at Douaira) and assured it is implemented in all known feeding areas. (Morocco)	100%
10.6 Relocate Douira poultry unit away from main roost site. (Morocco)	100%

Average implementation rate: 67%

5.11. Result 11 – Risk of intoxication reduced (high priority)

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Implementation rate</i>
11.1 Question local farmers about use of pesticides.	33%
11.2 Conduct meetings with farmers, teachers, etc. to raise awareness of risks of pesticides used.	67%
11.3 Key foraging areas well defined through scientific documentation.	100%
11.4 Maintain water-provisioning points near colonies (Morocco).	100%
11.5 Veterinary / post-mortem protocol assured for any sick or dead bird (Morocco).	100%
11.6 Veterinary capacity developed in Morocco, Syria and Turkey for post-mortem work.	67%

11.7 Provide equipment and materials to conduct veterinary / post-mortem work.	0%
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Average implementation rate: 67%

5.12. Result 12 – Reduce impact of predators (low priority)

Morocco and Syria reported having implemented surveillance of any predation events (activity 12.1 / 100%) as well as having implemented control measures as necessary (12.2 / 100%). Syria noted in addition, that predation is not considered to be a serious issue in the country. Turkey reported predation not to be an issue, hence no measures have been undertaken in this respect.

Average implementation rate: 100%

5.13. Result 13 – Hunting stopped (critical priority)

All three countries reported having implemented activity 13.1 which foresees the placing and maintaining of signboards in all feeding areas as well as carrying out awareness work (100%). All countries also reported having implemented a media campaign (TV, etc.) promoting the importance of the Northern Bald Ibis and hunting laws (Syria & Morocco) as well as having produced posters and calendars (Turkey) (activity 13.5 / 100%).

Activities 13.2) Sensitization meetings with hunters and schools, 13.3) an official statement prepared by Syrian enforcement Syrian authorities stating the strict forbiddance of hunting of the Ibis in the breeding area, 13.4) surveillance of any potential hunting and define all feeding areas, 13.6) identification and closure of all trophy shops, 13.7) improvement of hunting law enforcement and 13.8) the recruitment and training of local hunters in wardening, ecotourism etc. all applied only to Syria. Syria reported full implementation of all activities (100%), apart from 13.6. which related to the closure of trophy shops (0%). The area near the breeding site does not have any trophy shops. However, in the big cities, these shops still operate but do not have any relevant birds and are still under the control of the national CITES regulation and the new hunting laws which are been implemented.

Average implementation rate: 88%

5.14. Result 14 – Risks reduced related to electric wires and collision (low priority)

Activities 14.1 and 14.2 applied to Morocco and Turkey. Both countries reported that poles in the vicinity of Northern Bald Ibis breeding and feeding areas are not yet of low-risk electrocution design (0%). Both countries also reported that no progress has been made on increasing the visibility of electric wires in feeding areas (0%). Turkey reported, however, that contact has been established with the electricity company in Birecik in order to tackle these issues. An additional activity 14.3 regarding the consideration of the Northern Bald Ibis during any new construction of wind generators and roads in feeding areas only applied to Turkey. The country reported implementation of the activity stating that the species must be taken into consideration during Environmental Impact Assessments (100%).

Average implementation rate: 33%

5.15. Result 15 – Building on or near Northern Bald Ibis breeding and feeding sites restricted (critical priority)

Activity 15.1 regarding halting the illegal construction of grottoes at or near breeding and roosting sites was reported as implemented by Morocco and Syria (activity not applicable for Turkey / 100%). All countries reported having achieved protected area status for all breeding and feeding areas in partnership with local communities (activity 15.2 / 100%). Both Morocco and Syria also reported having developed management plans for Tamri and Palmyra in partnership with local communities (activity 15.3 / 100%). Activity 15.4 regarding the initiation of training and provision of equipment for staff to implement

management plans only applied to Morocco, which reported that the activity has been implemented (100%).

Average implementation rate: 100%

5.16. Result 16 – Reservoir construction affecting feeding and breeding sites controlled (low priority)

This activity only applied to Syria, which reported full implementation stating that no direct beneficiary from the dam in Palmyra is allowed to act in any area near the PA. In addition, close monitoring was conducted during the breeding season to ensure that the birds are not disturbed.

Average implementation rate: 100%

5.17. Result 17 – Agriculture and grazing regimes maintained/altered to provide suitable feeding areas (critical priority)

All three countries reported full implementation of this activity.

Average implementation rate: 100%

5.18. Result 18 – Collection of firewood controlled to prevent destruction or degradation of Northern Bald Ibis feeding areas (critical priority)

This activity was only applicable for Morocco and Syria, whereby Morocco reported full implementation and Syria partial implementation stating that there has been a slight change in the firewood collection practices of nomadic people.

Average implementation rate: 50%

5.19. Result 19 – Socio-economic factors driving land use changes investigated and addressed in partnership with local communities and stakeholders (critical priority)

Syria and Turkey both reported partial implementation of the activity. Syria reported in particular that since the discovery of the colony, all national partners have made attempts to convince locals to reduce land use with negative effects and to switch to alternate sources of income such as eco-tourism. Turkey reported that such studies are being carried out by an NGO (Doga Dernegi).

Average implementation rate: 0%

5.20. Result 20 – Habitat requirements, food availability and foraging ecology in the current range and release trial sites researched and compared (high priority)

Syria reported this activity as implemented, whereas Morocco and Turkey only reported partial implementation.

Average implementation rate: 33%

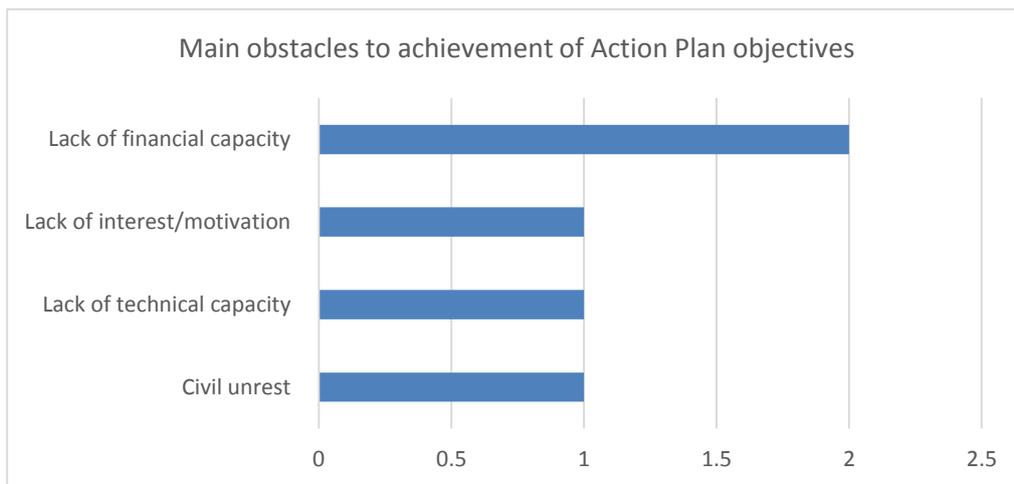
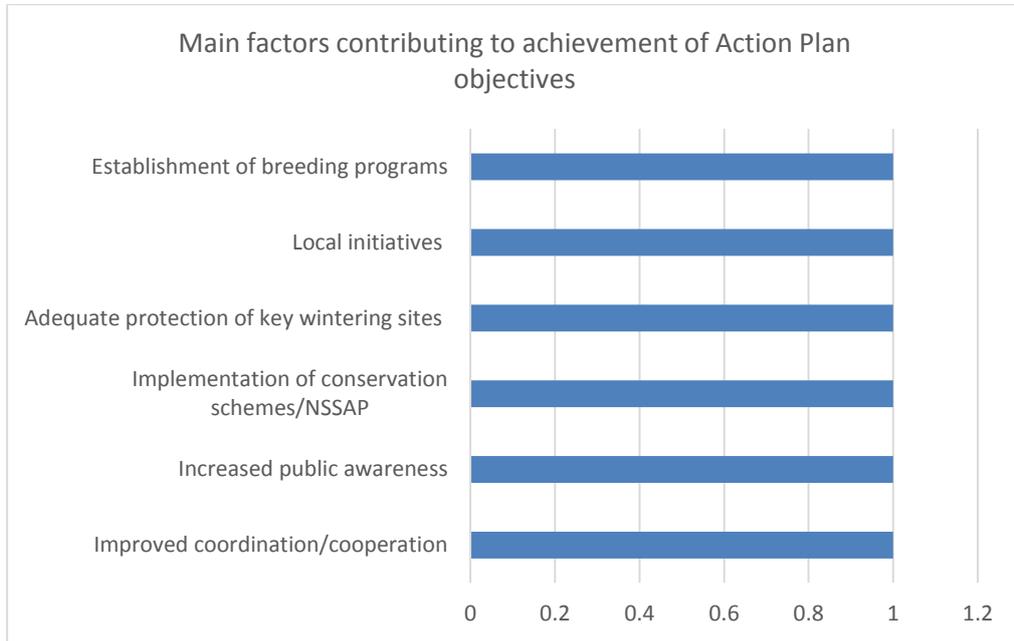
5.21. Result 21 – Disturbance by military firing range reduced (suggested for the Souss-Massa in Morocco) (low priority)

This activity only applied to Morocco, which reported that the firing range is no longer considered cause any disturbance to the birds.

Average implementation rate: 100%

6. Main actions promoting and obstacles hindering implementation

Range states were also requested to name the top three actions promoting as well as hindering effective implementation of the Action Plan. These are summarized in the tables below.



7. Conclusions

Ten years following the adoption of the AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Northern Bald Ibis Action Plan it can be concluded that overall very good progress has been made in its implementation in the Principal Range States. Only one range state - Syria - reported the short and long term species trend as declining, with Morocco even reporting a long term increasing trend.

Overall average implementation rate for 20 results*: 66%
Average implementation rate for critical and high priority results (12)*: 69%

**out of a total of 21: omitting Result 8, for which the responsibility for implementation does not lie with the range states.*

However, the Northern Bald Ibis remains categorized as ‘Critically Endangered’ by the IUCN and much work is still needed in order to reach the long-term goal of the Action Plan to increase the number of Northern Bald Ibis colonies in the three Principal Range States. High priority activities to achieve this goal, such as raising the number of the captive Eastern population risen to 200-250 birds, remain to be implemented. Lacking funding and resources as well as ongoing conflicts in the region are certainly serious obstacles hampering further implementation progress.

With regard to the overall average implementation rates presented above, it should also be noted that the actors identified in the Action Plan to carry out many of the listed activities are in fact international institutions and conservation organizations such as EAZA, IAGNBI, RSPB and IUCN. Therefore an overview of the activities implemented outside of the immediate remit of the range states would be very useful and would make the overall assessment of implementation more complete.

A revitalization of the Northern Bald Ibis International Working Group is clearly necessary. A revision of the 2005 Action Plan is expected to be adopted at the 6th Session of the Meeting of the AEWPA Parties in November 2015 and will hopefully bring new impetus and resources urgently needed for implementation.

B. AEWA Lesser Flamingo ISSAP

1. Introduction

The Lesser Flamingo (*Phoeniconaias minor*) is classified as ‘Near-Threatened’ by the IUCN and is listed in Column A categories 2 (West Africa), 4 (Eastern Africa) and 3a (Southern Africa to Madagascar) on Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan. The CMS/AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Lesser Flamingo was adopted at the 4th Session of the Meeting of the AEWA Parties in 2008³.

The aim of the Action Plan is to improve the conservation status of the Lesser Flamingo from “Near-Threatened” to “Least Concern” globally and in each of its four regional populations, by stabilizing the size and distribution of the regional populations at current levels by 2020.

The AEWA Lesser Flamingo International Working Group (LF IWG) was convened by the AEWA Secretariat in 2011, and has had one face-to-face meeting in May 2012 in the margins of AEWA MOP5. Working Group coordination was initially provided by BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat with short-term funding provided via the AEWA Secretariat, but due to lack of funding there is currently no active coordination of this Working Group.

2. Response rate

A total of 7 of the 12 Principal Range States identified in the Action Plan responded to the questionnaire (58% response rate). The countries that did not submit reports are included in the analysis below and are considered as not having implemented the foreseen activities.

<i>Response received</i>	<i>AEWA CP</i>	<i>No response by deadline</i>	<i>AEWA CP</i>
Botswana	No	Guinea-Bissau	Yes
Ethiopia	Yes	India	No*
Guinea	Yes	Mauritania	Yes
Kenya	Yes	South Africa	Yes
Namibia	No	Uganda	Yes
Tanzania	Yes		
Senegal	Yes		

*outside AEWA range

3. Species trend and estimate

Only two countries - Botswana and Namibia - reported on the current national trend of the Lesser Flamingo: Botswana reported the short term trend as unknown and the long term trend as declining. Namibia reported the short term trend as increasing and the long term trend as stable. The national population estimates given by individual countries are presented in the table below.

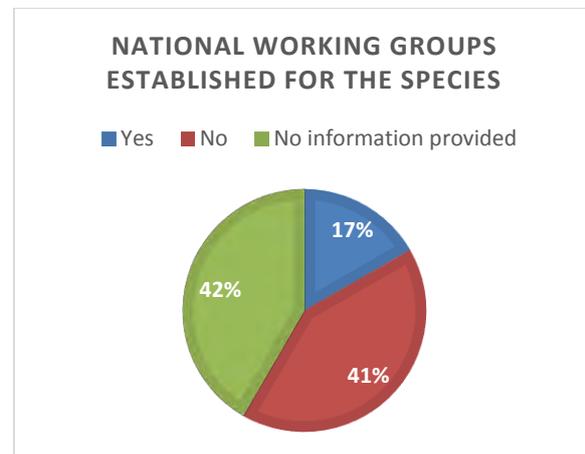
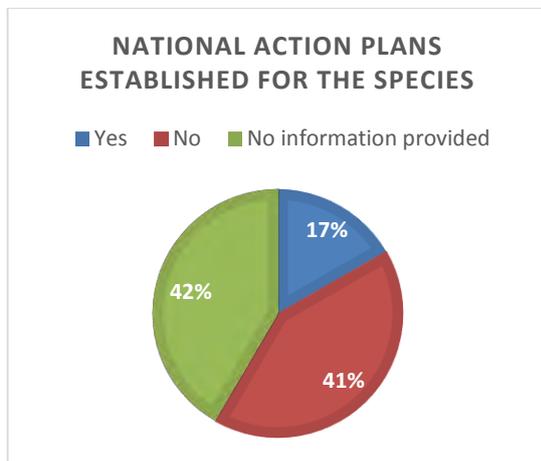
<i>Reporting range state</i>	<i>Total minimum estimate</i>	<i>Total maximum estimate</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Baseline population</i>
Botswana	16.430	64.287	Pairs (breeding)	min from 1998/2000, max from 1999/2000	42.000 (1988)
	18	412	Individuals	2008	412 (2008)

³ The AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Lesser Flamingo is available on the AEWA website: <http://www.unep-aewa.org/en/publication/international-single-species-action-plan-conservation-lesser-flamingo>.

			<i>(non-breeding)</i>		
Ethiopia	160.000	170.000	Individuals <i>(non-breeding)</i>	2015	146.000 (1990)
Guinea	300	5.000	Individuals <i>(non-breeding)</i>	2010-2015	5.000 (2015)
Kenya	1028	1028	Individuals <i>(non-breeding)</i>	2014	32.9433 (2008)
Namibia	5000	10000	Individuals <i>(breeding)</i>	2013-2015	No information provided
	20.000	50.000	Individuals <i>(non-breeding)</i>	2013-2015	No information provided
Senegal	<i>no information provided</i>				
Tanzania	<i>no information provided</i>				

4. National implementation structures

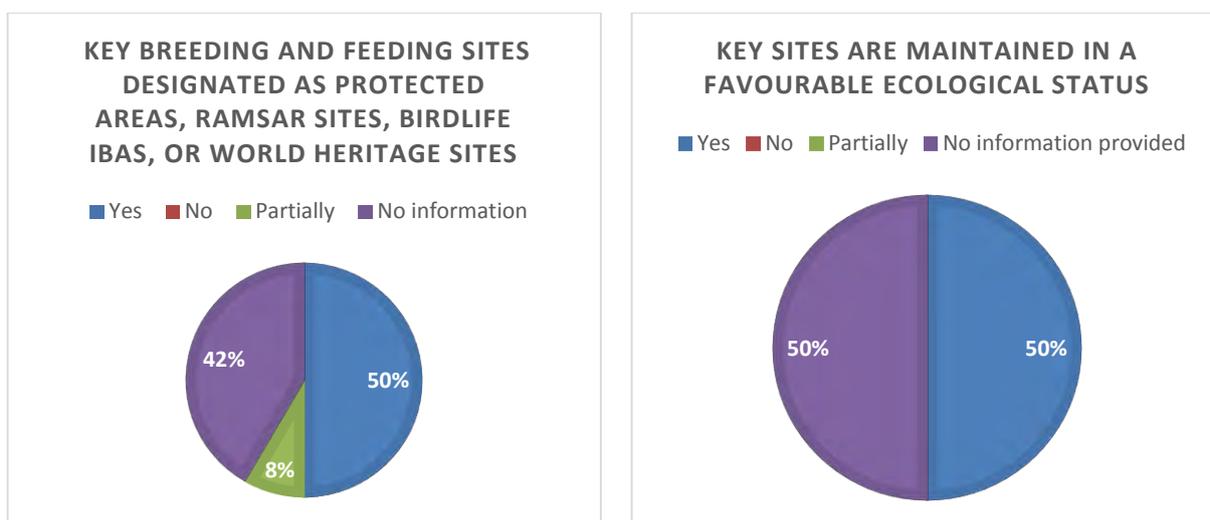
Only two countries reported having established National Action Plans for the Lesser Flamingo (Guinea and Tanzania) and two reported having established National Working Groups for the species (Guinea and Namibia).



5. Implementation of Action Plan activities

5.1. Action Plan Result 1 – Ensuring that all key breeding and feeding sites are maintained in good ecological condition

Six countries reported that all key breeding and feeding sites have been afforded official protection status, either as national protected areas, Ramsar sites, BirdLife IBAs, World Heritage sites or a combination thereof (activity 1.1 / critical / 50%). Five countries reported also having identified baseline conditions of habitat suitability for Lesser Flamingos and having ensured that key sites are maintained in a favourable ecological status (activity 1.2 / high / 50%). Measures reported as being implemented include the designation of breeding sites as protected areas as well as the surveillance, protection and management of key sites.



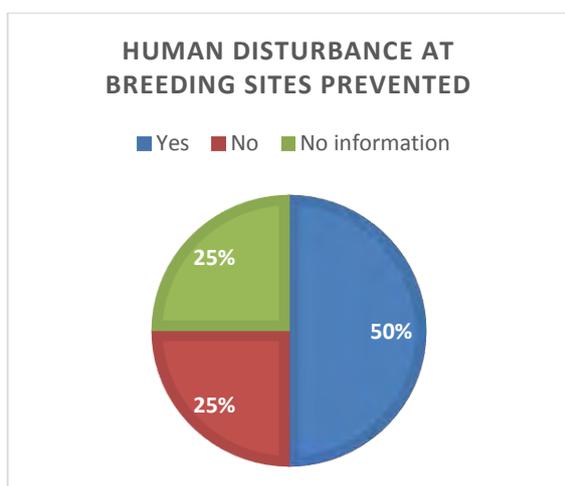
An overview of the rate of implementation of the other activities under this result are presented in the table:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Implementation rate</i>
1.3 Conduct environmental impact assessments and audits of existing operations at all key sites	Medium	8%
1.4 Identify management needs of Lesser Flamingo habitat at key sites and implement necessary management actions	Medium	33%
1.5 Develop and maintain integrated (catchments/coastal zone) management plans for the key sites	Medium	42%
1.6 Maintain, or restore where necessary, favourable hydrological conditions and water quality for the species	Medium	17%
1.7 Enhance the habitat at suitable sites (e.g. creation of breeding islands, rehabilitate/create wetlands) where necessary	Low	25%

Average implementation rate: 32%

5.2. Action Plan Result 2 – Ensuring that breeding colonies are not disturbed by human activity

Of the countries that submitted reports Botswana, Namibia and Tanzania host breeding Lesser Flamingos according to the Action Plan (out of a total of four countries where breeding occurs regularly). Of these, Botswana and Namibia reported having taken measures to prevent human disturbance through legislation, planning, zoning and through the enforcement of these where necessary (activity 2.1 / 50%). This activity was listed as critical and to be implemented in the short term – particularly with regard to the extraction of soda ash – but no additional information was provided on the extent or focus of the measures. Tanzania reported that this activity has not yet been implemented as wetland reserve regulations have not yet been implemented by the government.

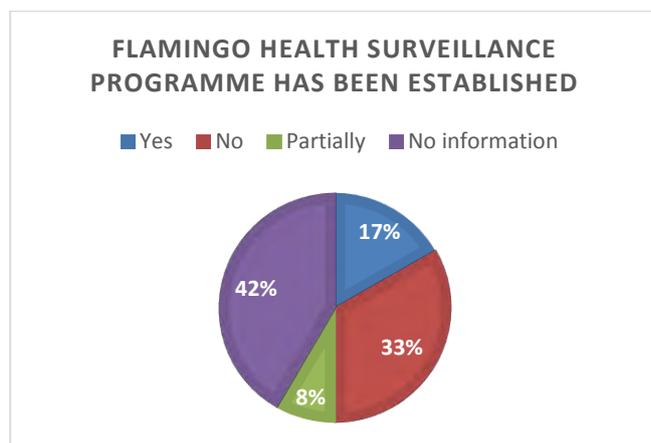


<i>Activity</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Implementation rate</i>
2.2 Raise awareness about the conservation needs of the species at national and local level	Medium	75%
2.3 Help local communities in India and Mauritania to develop alternative livelihood practices to reduce disturbance	Medium	0%

Average implementation rate: 42%

5.3. Action Plan Result 3 – Reducing the effects of regional populations of toxicological and/or infectious diseases

Activities under this result were all ranked as having medium priority. Ethiopia and Kenya reported having established integrated flamingo health surveillance programmes – in the form of annual/seasonal surveillance programs - to assess the effect of mass die-offs on Lesser Flamingo populations, whilst Namibia reported partial implementation of the activity with scientists working on cyano bacteria in collaboration with the government (activity 3.1 / 17%).



An overview of the rate of implementation of the other activities under this result are presented in the table below:

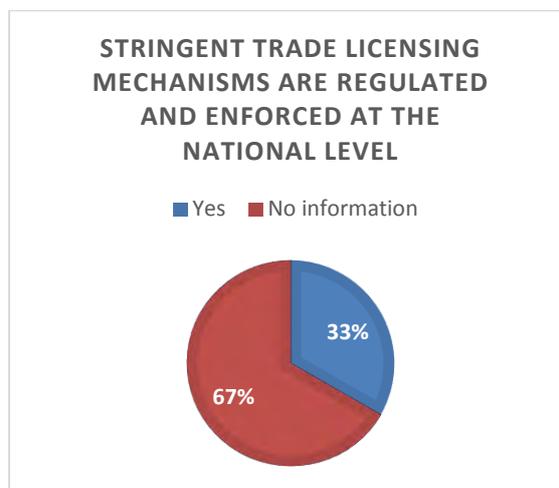
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Implementation rate</i>
3.2 Raise awareness amongst decision makers and industry about the risk of pollution to the Lesser Flamingo	Medium	42%

3.3 Ensure that pollution guidelines/legislation at key sites reflect the sensitivity of the species	Medium	33%
3.4 Ensure that pollution guidelines/legislation are developed and enforced, especially with reference to industrial chemicals and heavy metals	Medium	33%

Average implementation rate: 31%

5.4. Action Plan Result 4 – Ensuring that harvesting of eggs and trade in live specimens has no effect on the regional Lesser Flamingo populations

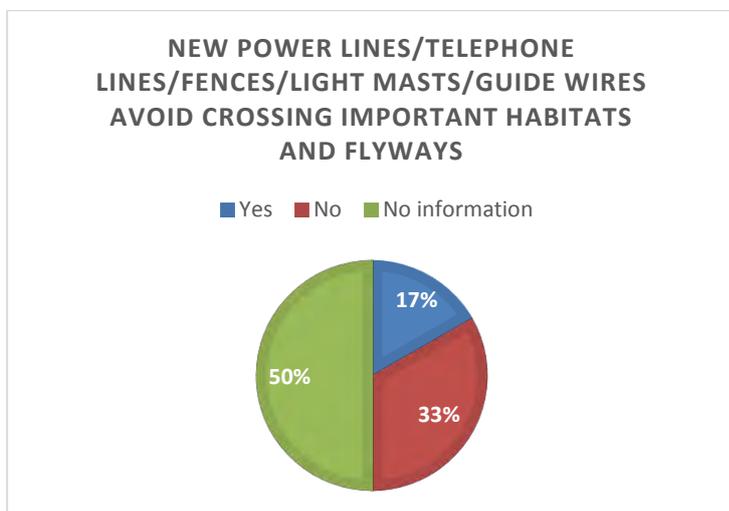
Both maintaining existing bans on the trade in Lesser Flamingo specimens, body parts and eggs (activity 4.1) as well as regulating and enforcing a stringent trade licensing mechanism at national level based on assessments of trade on regional Lesser Flamingo populations were ranked as high priority activities in the Action Plan (activity 4.2). Both were reported as implemented by four countries respectively.



Average implementation rate: 33%

5.5. Action Plan Result 5 – Minimising collisions with man-made structures

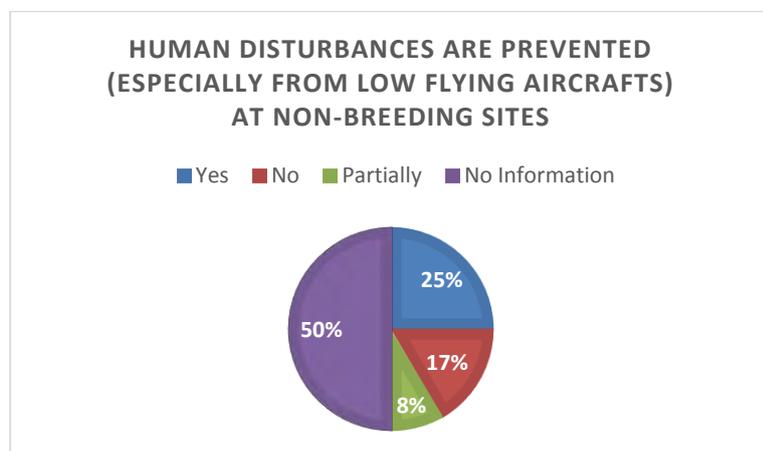
This result only included one activity (5.1) marked as a medium priority: to avoid crossing important Lesser Flamingo habitats and flyways when routing new power lines, telephone line, fences, light masts and guide wires. Only Guinea and Tanzania reported having implemented the activity.



Average implementation rate: 17%

5.6. Action Plan Result 6 – Minimising human disturbance at non-breeding sites

Another high priority activity, Guinea, Kenya and Tanzania reported having taken measures to prevent human disturbance (especially from low flying aircraft) through legislation, planning, zoning and through the enforcement of these rules (activity 6.1 / 25%).



An overview of the rate of implementation of the other activities under this result are presented in the table below:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Implementation rate</i>
6.2 Raise awareness about the conservation needs of the species at national and local level	Medium	33%
6.3 Help local communities in India and Mauritania to develop alternative livelihood practices to reduce disturbance	Medium	0%

Average implementation rate: 19%

5.7. Action Plan Result 7 – Filling knowledge gaps

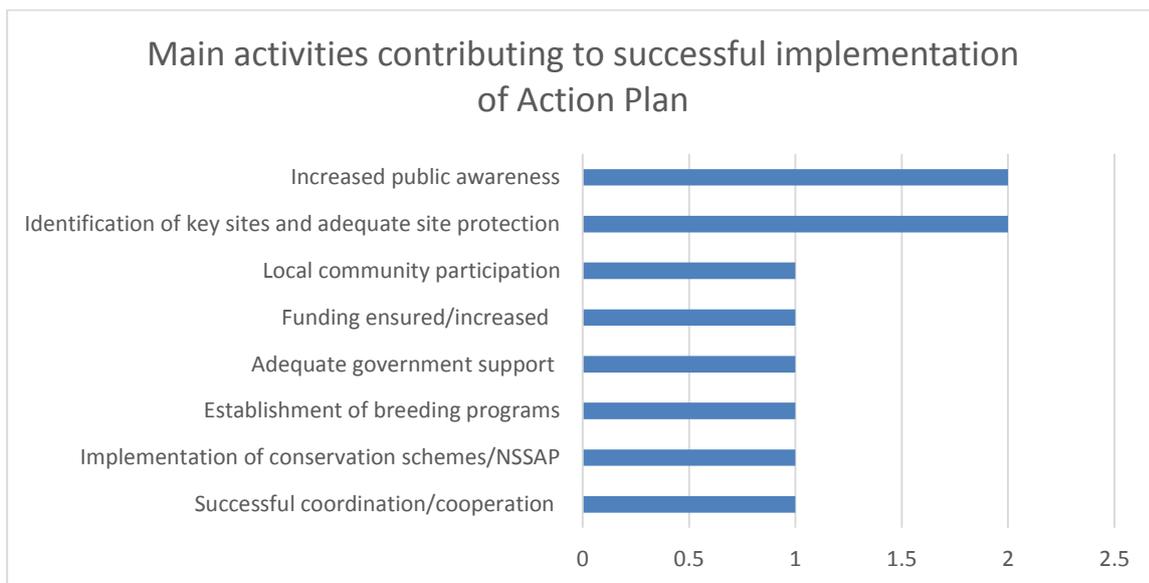
A total of fifteen activities related to knowledge gaps are identified in the Action Plan, of which six are ranked as having high priority with an implementation time scale indicated as “ongoing” or “medium”, i.e. which should have been completed in 1-5 years following the adoption of the Plan (by the end of 2013).

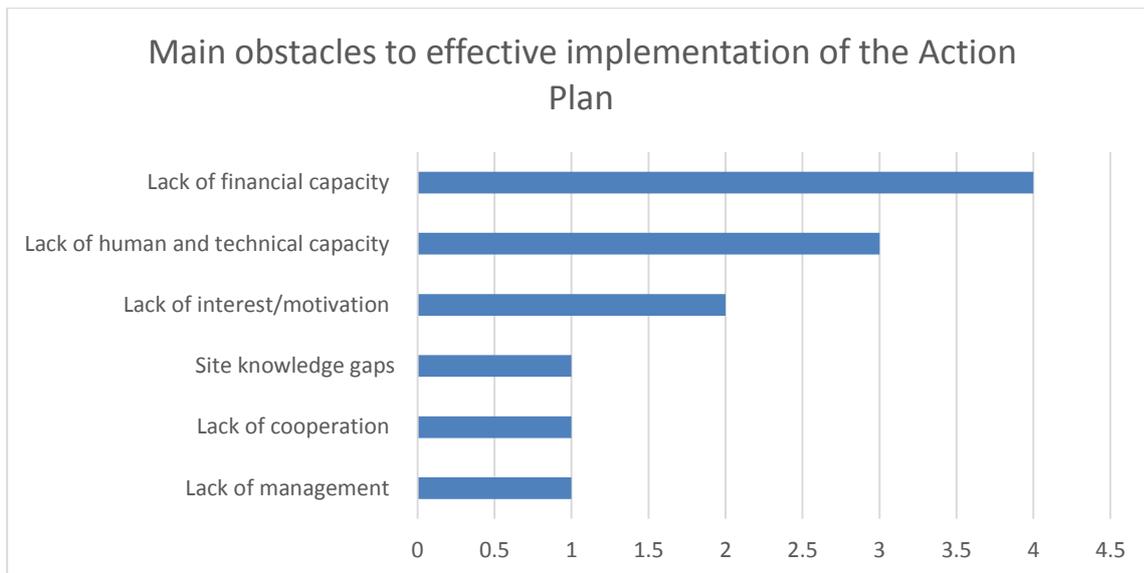
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Implementation rate</i>
7.1 Determine population sizes and trends by developing a monitoring strategy and protocols, conducting regular coordinated aerial population surveys at non-breeding sites, monitoring breeding populations and breeding success annually at all primary breeding sites, and identifying potentially unknown breeding and non-breeding sites.	High	0%
7.2 Determine population delineation and movements by conducting satellite tracking and ringing studies	High	25%
7.3 Establish a health surveillance strategy and conduct an integrated flamingo health surveillance programme to assess the effect of mass die-offs on Lesser Flamingo populations	Medium	0%
7.4 Systematically collect data on breeding success and recruitment	Medium	0%

7.5 Systematically collect data on breeding habitat requirements, including the role of rainfall in determining breeding success	High	0%
7.6 Systematically collect data on feeding habitat requirements	High	8%
7.7 Understanding catchment processes	Medium	8%
7.8 Systematically collect data on the role of diseases and poisons in population regulation, including the effects of infectious and non-infectious diseases.	High	0%
7.9 Model long-term effects of climate change and diseases	High	0%
7.10 Evaluate the importance of different threats	Medium	17%
7.11 Systematically collect data on the genetic relatedness within regional populations and genetic exchange between regional populations in order to detect genetic bottlenecks	Medium	0%
7.12 Understand the cultural importance of Lesser Flamingos from South Africa to India	Medium	0%
7.13 Calculate the economic value of Lesser Flamingos to nations and local communities	Medium	33%
7.14 Assemble a Lesser Flamingo bibliography	Medium	0%
7.15 Assemble a database of funding sources	Medium	0%

Average implementation rate: 6%

6. Main activities contributing to and hindering Action Plan implementation





7. Conclusion

Seven years after the adoption of the AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Lesser Flamingo, based on the range state responses received, it can be concluded that some implementation progress has been made – in particular with regard to the implementation of key activities such as the designation, formal protection and management of key sites.

Overall, however, implementation is clearly lagging behind the goals and timeframes set out in the Action Plan. Large implementation gaps remain in particular with regard to closing identified key knowledge gaps. The over-arching goal of bring the Lesser Flamingo to “Least Concern” status globally and in each of its four regional populations has not yet been reached.

Overall average implementation rate for all 7 results: 26%

Implementation rate for critical and high priority activities (12): 23%

It should be noted that the average implementation rates presented above should only be considered indicative. Unfortunately the quality/consistency of some of the submitted questionnaires was lacking, with many questions left unanswered, for example. More external support and coordination in preparing responses would perhaps have been useful. Several key countries for the species – some with well-established conservation activities such as South Africa - did not submit reports.

This Action Plan has good potential for increased implementation: relatively small group of range states, an iconic and well-known species etc., clearly structured activities etc. However, the lack of overall international coordination of activities, the lack of sufficient funding as well as sufficient human and technical capacity continue to hamper progress.

There is therefore an urgent need to reactivate the AEWA Lesser Flamingo International Working Group and to re-establish a Working Group Coordinator. This is particularly important in light of the fact that the Action Plan is foreseen to be reviewed in three-years-time.

C. AEWA Bewick's Swan ISSAP

1. Introduction

The Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) of which the Bewick's Swan (*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*) is the Palearctic subspecies, has a global conservation status of 'Least Concern'. However, the status of the species is listed as 'Endangered' in Europe according to the 2015 European Red List. The Bewick's Swan Western Siberian and North-East/North-Western European population is listed as Category 2 in Column A Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan. The AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Bewick's Swan was adopted at the 5th Session of the Meeting of the AEWA Parties in May 2012⁴.

The goal of the Action Plan is to maintain the population minimally at its 2000 level (i.e. 23.000 birds) in the long-term with the purpose of halting the ongoing decline and, if necessary, begin recovery of the population to its 2000 level.

The AEWA Bewick's Swan International Expert Group (BS IEG) was convened by the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) in 2014, and WWT also provide a Coordinator to the Expert Group.

2. Response rate

A total of 10 of the 15 Principal Range States identified in the Action Plan responded to the questionnaire (67% response rate). Although listed as a range state (making the actual total 16 countries), Norway reported that the species only occurs very rarely in the country and therefore did not to submit a questionnaire. The other countries that did not submit reports are included in the analysis below and are considered as not having implemented the foreseen activities.

<i>Response received</i>	<i>AEWA CP</i>	<i>No response by deadline</i>	<i>AEWA CP</i>
Belgium	Yes	Denmark	Yes
Estonia	Yes	Greece	No
France	Yes	Russia	No
Ireland	Yes		
Latvia	Yes		
Lithuania	Yes		
Netherlands	Yes		
Poland	No		
Sweden	Yes		
UK	Yes		

In addition, the information from Germany and Finland was unfortunately not submitted in the required format and could therefore not be taken into consideration.

3. Species trend and estimate

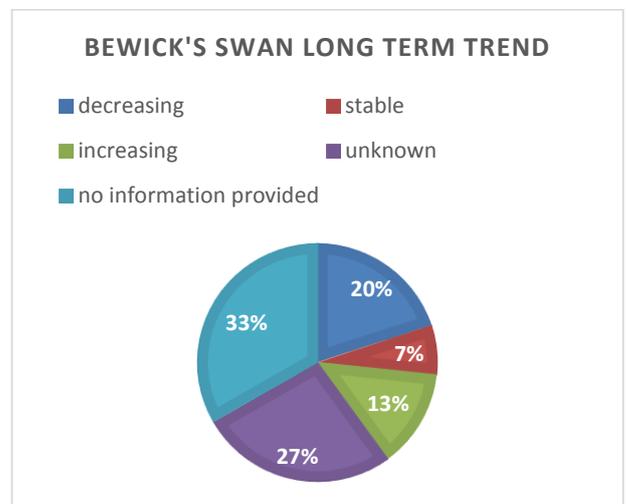
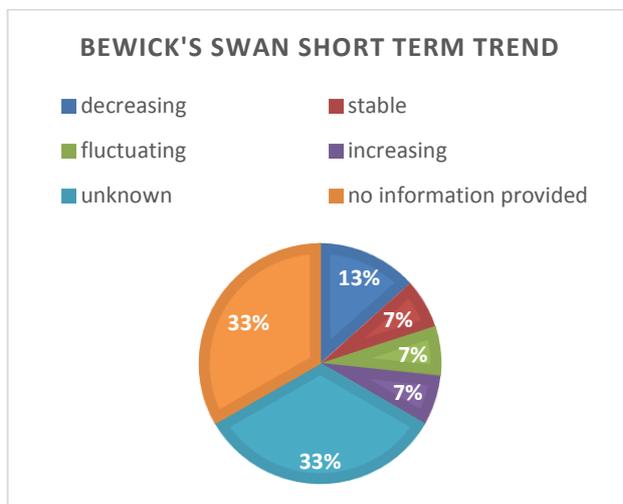
The national population estimates provided by individual countries are presented in the table below.

<i>Reporting range state</i>	<i>Total minimum estimate</i>	<i>Total maximum estimate</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Baseline population</i>
Belgium	390	954	Individuals (wintering)	2008-2012	
Estonia	10000	17000	Individuals	2010-2014	20000 (1995)

⁴ The AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the XX population of the Bewick's Swan can be accessed on the AEWA website: <http://www.unep-aewa.org/en/publication/international-single-species-action-plan-conservation-northwest-european-population>.

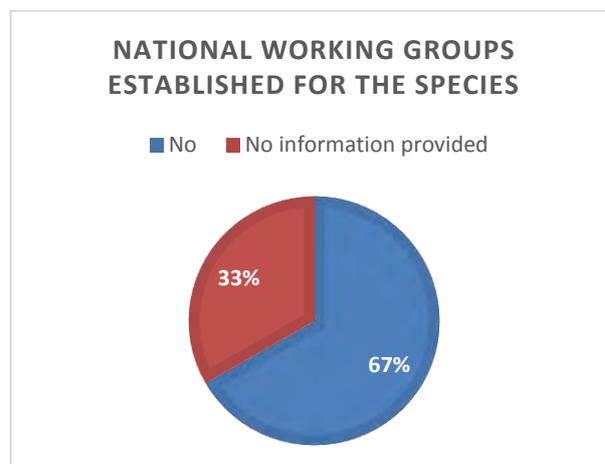
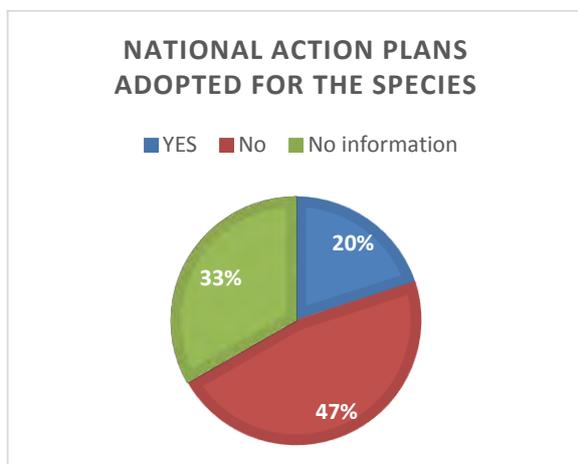
			(<i>passage</i>)		
	5	30	Individuals (<i>wintering</i>)	2001-2012	10-50 (1991-2002)
France	<i>No clear information provided</i>				
Ireland		<20	Individuals (<i>wintering</i>)	2015	
Latvia	0	0	Pairs (<i>breeding</i>)	2014	
	1500	4000	Individuals (<i>passage</i>)	2014	
	0	50	Individuals (<i>wintering</i>)	2014	
Lithuania	<i>No information provided</i>				
Netherlands	10000	11000	Individuals (<i>wintering</i>)	2005/06- 2009/10 av.	5000 (1975); 20000 (1995)
		11000	Individuals (<i>wintering</i>)	2008/2009	5000 (1975); 20000 (1995)
		9600	Individuals (<i>wintering</i>)	2009/2010	5000 (1975); 20000 (1995)
		7100	Individuals (<i>wintering</i>)	2010/2011	5000 (1975); 20000 (1995)
		7500	Individuals (<i>wintering</i>)	2011/2012	5000 (1975); 20000 (1995)
		10000	Individuals (<i>wintering</i>)	2012/2013	5000 (1975); 20000 (1995)
Poland	1200	2000	Individuals (<i>passage/spring</i>)	2010	c 400 (1975-79); 600-1300 (early 1980s)
	100	200	Individuals (<i>wintering</i>)	2011-2014	12-80 (1988- 2005)
Sweden	1500	3000	Individuals (<i>passage</i>)	2012	
UK			Individuals (<i>wintering</i>)		
	7000	7000		2005	6239 (1984)

Two countries reported the national short term trend as decreasing (Netherlands, UK), one as stable (Estonia), one as fluctuating (Poland), one as increasing (Latvia) and five as unknown (Belgium, France, Ireland, Lithuania, Sweden). The long term trend was reported by three countries as decreasing (Estonia, Ireland, UK), by one as stable (Latvia), by two as increasing (Netherlands, Poland) and by four as unknown (Belgium, France, Lithuania, Sweden).



4. National implementation structures

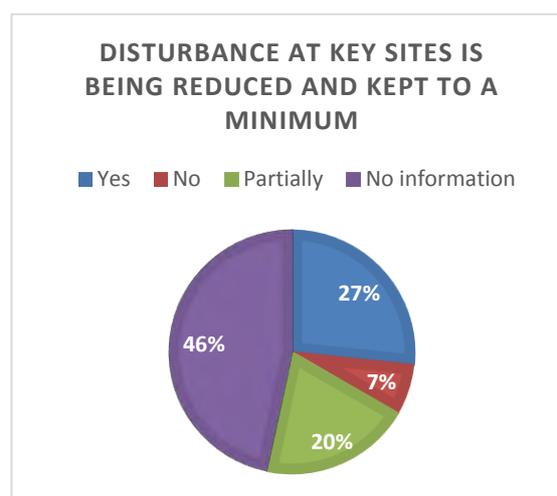
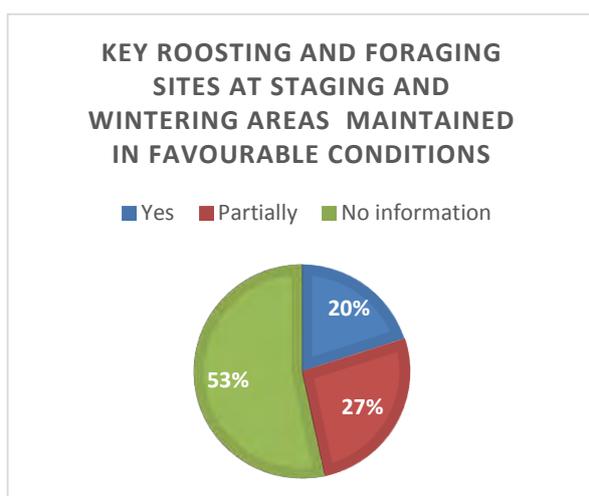
Three countries (Estonia Ireland, UK) countries reported having established National Action Plans for the Bewick's Swan. None of the range states reported having established National Working Groups for the species to date.



5. Implementation of Action Plan activities

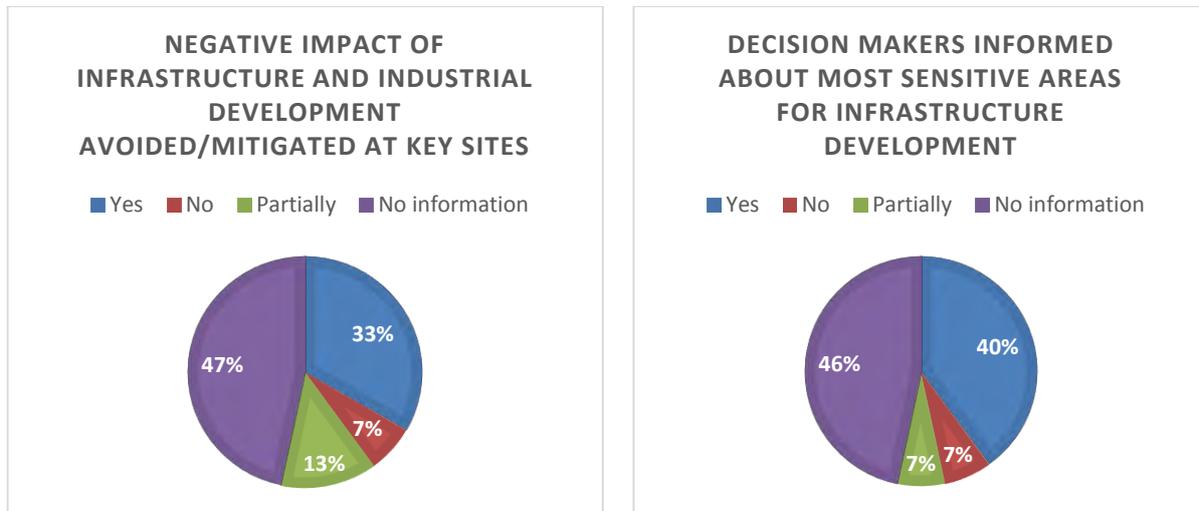
5.1. Action Plan Result 1 – A chain of key sites, sufficient to support the population throughout its annual cycle, is sustained across its flyway

Activity 1.1 which foresees steps to be taken to ensure that areas important for breeding and moulting birds are protected only applies only to Russia, from which no response was received (*high priority* / 0%). Three range states (Belgium, Estonia, Netherlands / 20%) reported fully implementing activity 1.2 (maintaining key roosting and foraging sites at staging and wintering areas in favourable conditions / *high priority*). Activity 1.3 regarding the maintenance/restoration of aquatic macrophyte availability at key stop over and wintering sites through managing water level and water quality applies to Estonia and the Netherlands, of which Estonia reported full and the Netherlands partial implementation (50% / *essential priority*). Four countries (Belgium, France, Lithuania, UK / 27%) reported that disturbance at key sites is being reduced and kept to a minimum (activity 1.4 / *high priority*).



Five range states (Belgium, France, Ireland, Netherlands, UK / 33% / *essential priority*) reported full implementation of activity 1.5 regarding the avoidance or mitigation of negative impacts of infrastructure and industrial development at key sites. None of the range states reported full implementation of activity 1.6 regarding the conduction of site-based Before-After/Control-Impact

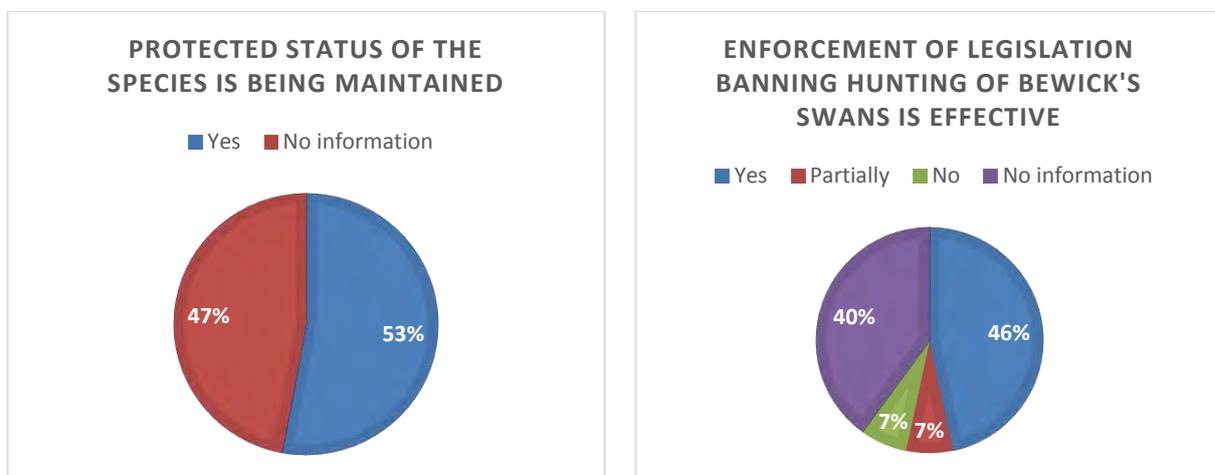
(BACI) studies in relation to infrastructure development, to understand impacts and assess mitigation (0% / medium priority). A total of six range states (40% / high priority) reported that decision-makers are being informed about the most sensitive areas for infrastructure development in relation to Bewick's Swan conservation (activity 1.7).



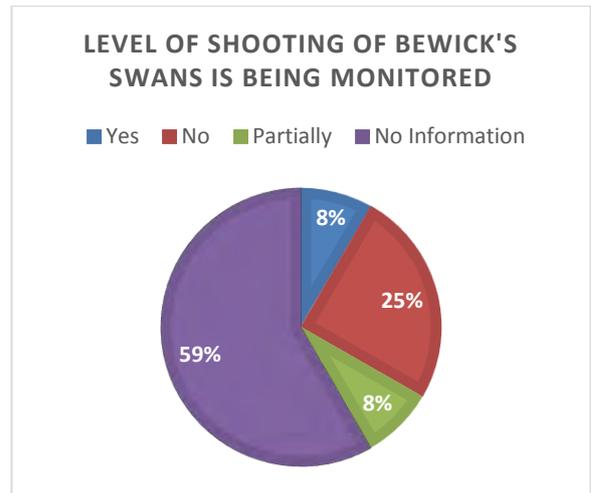
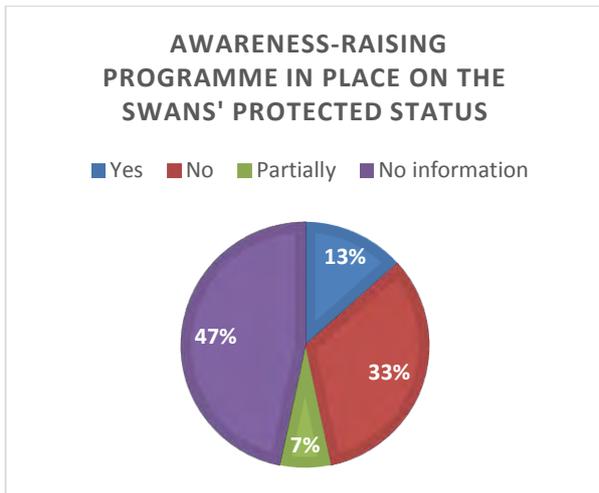
Average implementation rate: 24%

5.2. Result 2 - Mortality caused by shooting is reduced

Over half of the range states (53%) reported that the protected status of the species is being maintained (activity 2.1 / essential priority). Seven range states (46%) reported the enforcement of legislation banning hunting of Bewick's Swans as being effective (activity 2.2 / high priority).



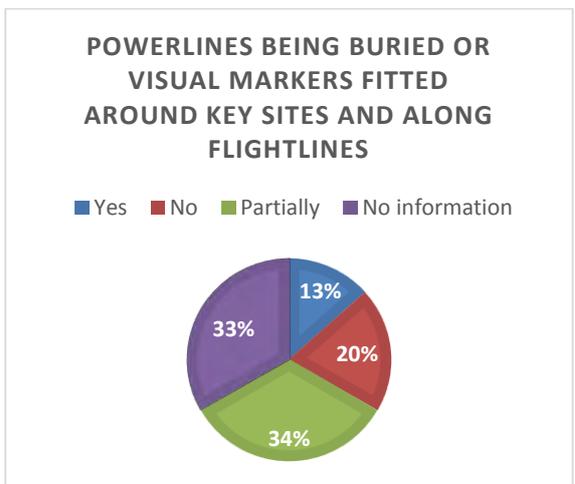
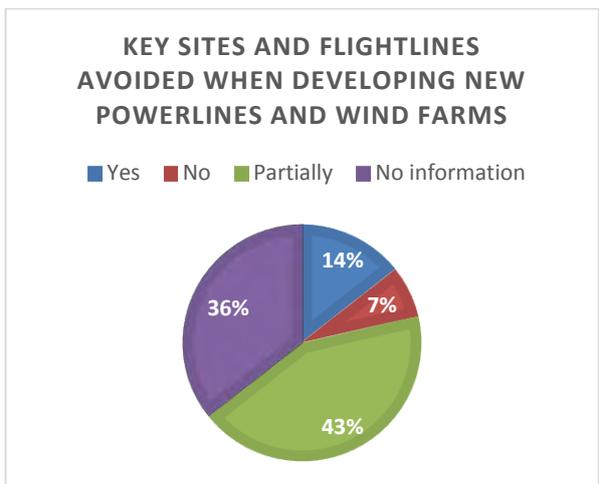
Only Estonia and France (13%) reported having an awareness-raising programme in place on the swans' protected status (activity 2.3 / high priority). Only Sweden (8%) reported monitoring the level of shooting of Bewick's Swans. However, Belgium, Ireland, Latvia and Poland reported the activity as not being applicable (activity 2.4 / medium priority).



Average implementation rate: 30%

5.3. Result 3 - Mortality caused by infrastructure is reduced

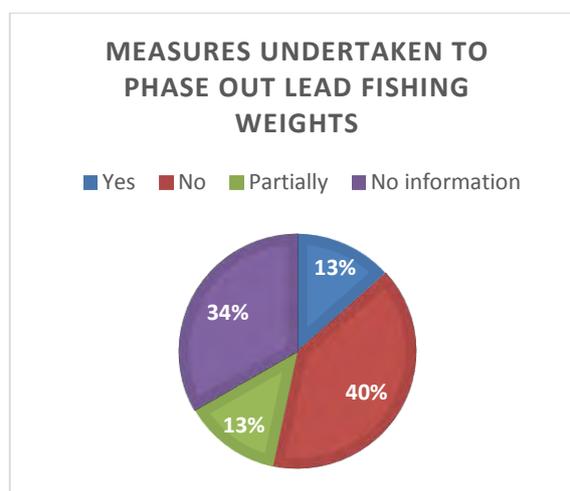
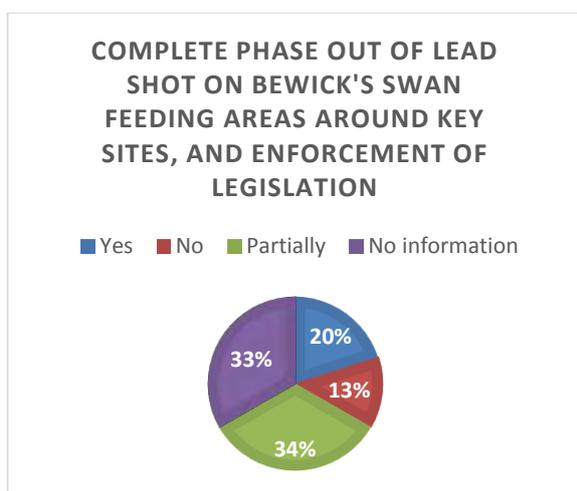
Latvia and the Netherlands (14%) reported that key sites and flight-lines are avoided when developing new powerlines and wind farms, with a total of six range states reporting at least partial implementation (activity 3.1 / *high priority*). Belgium reported that the activity was not applicable, and was thus excluded from the total number of range states. A further two range states (France, Ireland 13%) reported that powerlines are being buried or visual markers fitted around key sites and along flight-lines (activity 3.2 / *high priority*).



Average implementation rate: 14%

5.4. Result 4 - Risk of lead poisoning reduced

Belgium, Estonia and the Netherlands (20%) reported having implemented activity 4.1 whereby measures are being undertaken to phase out lead shot completely on all Bewick's Swan feeding areas around key sites, and to enforce legislation where use of lead shot is already banned (*medium priority*). Another five range states reported partial implementation. Estonia and the UK also reported undertaking measures being to phase out lead as anglers' weights (activity 4.2 / 13% / *medium priority*).



Average implementation rate: 17%

5.5. Result 5 – Risk of mass mortality caused by oil spills reduced

The only activity (5.1 Companies involved in petrochemical exploitation and transport on the Bewick's Swan flyway implement emergency plans to reduce swan mortality in case of accidents.) listed under this result applies mainly to Russia. As no response was received from Russia, no implementation progress could be noted (*essential priority*).

Average implementation rate: 0%

5.6. Result 6 - Changes in population size, trend, distribution and demographic parameters detected

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Implementation rate</i>
6.1. Monitoring of changes in population size are maintained and results reported. (applies to wintering range states: the Netherlands, Belgium, France, UK, Ireland, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Greece) (<i>essential priority</i>)	44%
6.2. Internationally-coordinated demographic monitoring (ring re-sightings and age structure) continued and analysed. (applies to wintering range states: the Netherlands, Belgium, France, UK, Ireland, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Greece) (<i>essential priority</i>)	33%
6.3. Programme monitoring breeding distribution, breeding success and habitat changes is implemented. (Russia) (<i>high priority</i>)	0%
6.4. Development and implementation of programme monitoring numbers, site use and timing of use, at key moulting and staging sites (including pre-migratory sites). (UK reported this activity as not applicable) (<i>high priority</i>)	21%

Average implementation rate: 25%

5.7. Result 7 - Interchange with other populations, and influence on trend for NW European Population, better understood

Only the UK reported having implemented activity 7.1 regarding the continuation/initiation of studies such as remote-tracking of swan migration, with a view to describing population interchange (7% / *low priority*).

Average implementation rate: 7%

5.8. Result 8 - Changes in relative importance of human-induced mortality factors better understood, and emerging threats detected

Only the Netherlands reported having put into place measures to improve the monitoring of dead bird surveillance (activity 1.8 / 7% / *high priority*), although Belgium, France and the UK did report partial implementation. No countries reported having implemented activity 8.2 regarding the putting of measures in place to develop an international database of dead birds, recording cause of death for Bewick's Swans (0% / *medium priority*).

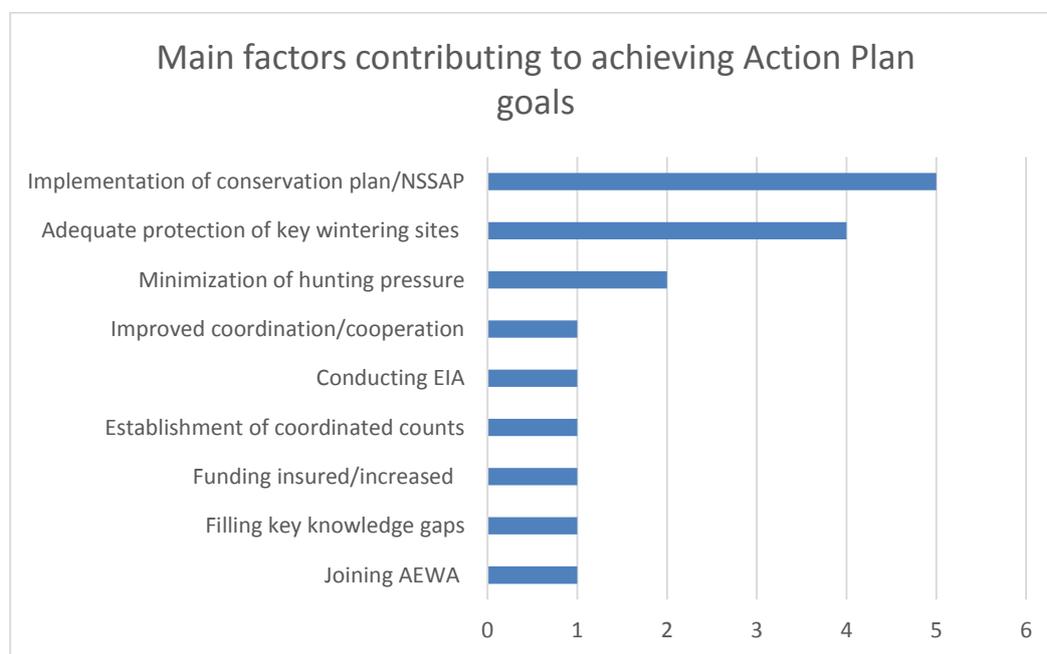
Average implementation rate: 4%

5.9. Result 9 - Influence of individual sites on population development better understood

Activity	Implementation rate
9.1. Measures have been put in place to determine turnover and carrying capacity of critical sites. (<i>Latvia reported this activity as not applicable</i>) (<i>high priority</i>)	14%
9.2. Surveys undertaken of food resources at key sites over time. (<i>Latvia reported this activity as not applicable</i>) (<i>medium priority</i>)	7%
9.3. Measures in place to monitor habitat changes at breeding sites in relation to breeding surveys in a standardised manner. (<i>Russia</i>) (<i>medium priority</i>)	0%
9.4. Measures being developed to determine the source of nutrients required for egg production. (<i>Ireland, Latvia and UK reported this activity as not applicable</i>) (<i>medium priority</i>)	0%

Average implementation rate: 5%

6. Main factors contributing to and obstacles hindering Action Plan implementation





7. Conclusions

Although the AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Bewick’s Swan (Northwest European Population) has only been in force three years, some progress has already been made – in particular on the implementation of the activities ranked as ‘essential’ or ‘high activities’. As almost all of the range states are also EU member states, implementation is certain to benefit from relevant EU regulations as well.

Overall average implementation rate for all 9 results: 14%

Average implementation rate for essential and high priority activities (18): 24%

Despite the restriction of this plan to Northern and Eastern European countries including Russia, lack of sufficient financial capacity was still mentioned as one of the main obstacles to effective Action Plan implementation. In addition, range states highlighted increased human disturbance to be an issue, which is perhaps not addressed sufficiently within the plan.

The lack of adopted National Action Plans and established National Working Groups for the species, as well as the reported lack of management and government support indicate that this might not be a high priority species for some countries. Should this be the case, the AEWA Bewick’s Swan International Working Group could consider measures to increase support for implementation within the range states.

A crucial task in order to ensure the effective long-term implementation of the Action Plan will be the active engagement of Russia - both at governmental and at expert levels. This should include promoting Russia to accede to AEWA.

D. Implementation of the AEWA Pink-footed Goose ISSMP

1. Introduction

The Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) is listed as ‘Least Concern’ by the IUCN. The species is listed in Column B Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan. The AEWA International Single Species Management Plan for the Svalbard Population of the Pink-footed Goose was adopted at the 5th Session of the Meeting of the AEWA Parties in 2012⁵.

The goal of the Management Plan is to maintain the favourable conservation status of the Svalbard Pink-footed Goose population at flyway level, while taking into account economic and recreational interests.

The AEWA Pink-footed Goose International Working Group (PfG IWG) was convened by the AEWA Secretariat in 2010, and has had several meetings since (for more information, visit the Working Group website: <http://pinkfootedgoose.aewa.info/>). Working Group coordination is provided by Aarhus University.

2. Response rate

All four of Principal Range States (100%) identified in the Management Plan responded to the questionnaire.

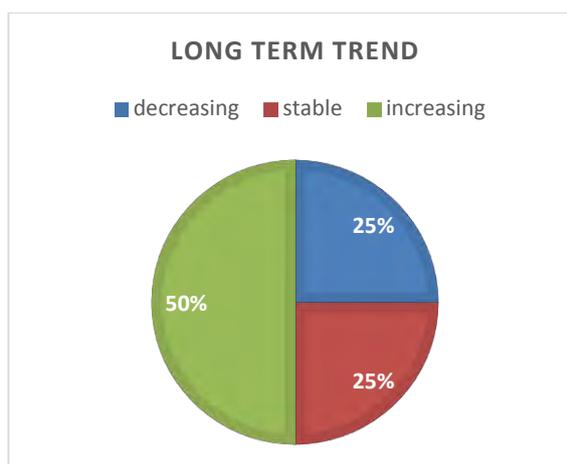
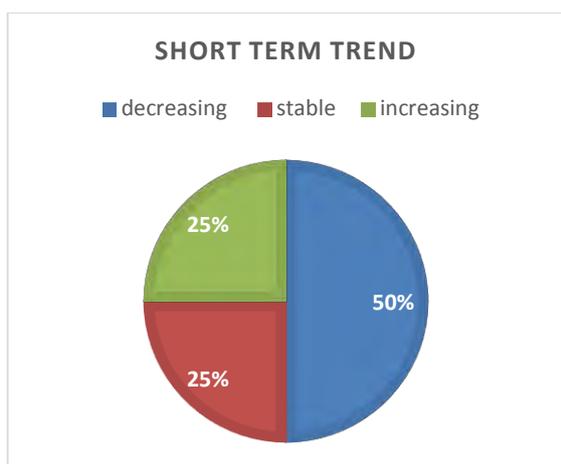
<i>Response received</i>	<i>AEWA CP</i>
Belgium	Yes
Denmark	Yes
Netherlands	Yes
Norway	Yes

3. Species trend and estimate

Netherlands and Norway reported the short term trend as decreasing, whilst Denmark reported an increasing and Belgium a stable trend. Denmark and Norway reported the long term trend as increasing, with Belgium reporting a decreasing and the Netherlands a stable trend. The population estimates reported by each range state are presented in the table below.

<i>Reporting range state</i>	<i>Total minimum estimate</i>	<i>Total maximum estimate</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Baseline population</i>
Belgium		27.140	Individuals (wintering)	2014/15	33000 (1994/95-2014/15)
Denmark	70000	80000	Individuals (passage)	2013	30000 (1990)
	40000	60000	Individuals (wintering)	2013	25000 (1990)
Netherlands		ca 15000	Individuals (wintering)	2014/2015	<100 (1955); 18800 (1971); 60300 (2007)
Norway		76.000	Individuals (breeding)	2014	
		76.000	Individuals (passage)	2014	

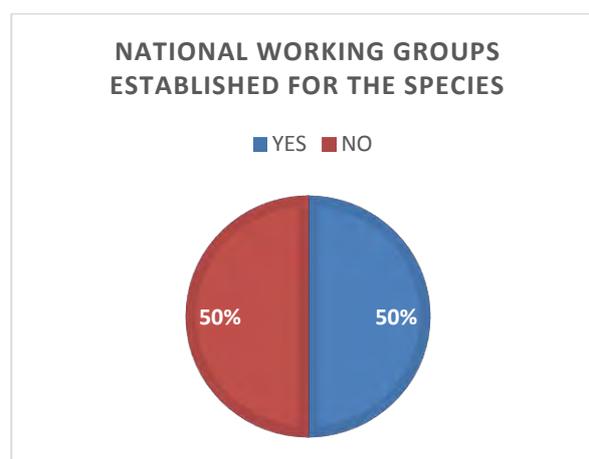
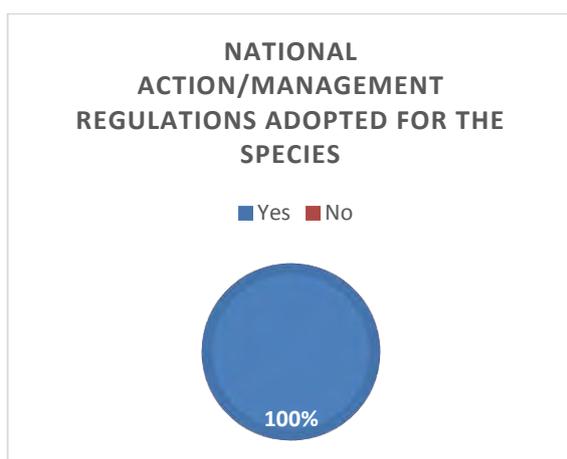
⁵ The AEWA International Single Species Management Plan for the Pink-footed Goose is available on the AEWA website: <http://www.unep-aewa.org/en/publication/international-species-management-plan-svalbard-population-pink-footed-goose-0>.



4. National implementation structures

None of the range states reported having adopted National Action Plans for the species. However, all countries reported that the Pink-footed Goose is adequately covered by other national and EU schemes, such as regional management schemes implemented in Norway. (100%)

Additional Action Plans were therefore not deemed necessary. Belgium and Norway reported having established National Working Groups for the species. (50%)



5. Implementation of Action Plan activities

5.1. Objective 1 - Maintain a sustainable and stable Pink-footed Goose population and its range

Activity	Implementation rate
1.1 Overall management of the population is effective across the flyway to maintain a stable and sustainable population at the agreed population target.	100%
1.2 Ensure that the current Adaptive Harvest Management strategy provides clear guidance (e.g. an optimal harvest quota) to achieve the agreed population target.	75%
1.3 Diminish influence of human activities on overall natural migration pattern, behaviour and seasonal distribution of the Pink-footed Goose.	25%

1.4 Key sites for the Pink-footed Goose are afforded appropriate protected area status at national and international levels.	75%
1.5 Key sites for the Pink-footed Goose have management plans that address their conservation requirements.	75%
1.6 No key sites, historically used by Pink-footed Geese in your country, are lost as a result of agricultural, industrial, urban, conservation or other land developments.	75%
1.7 No specific national or regional land use or agricultural policies / practices that have a negative impact / influence the ecological requirements of Pink-footed Geese.	50%
1.8 Measures are being taken to restore and/or rehabilitate Pink-footed Goose roosting and / or feeding habitats.	33%
1.9 Have there been any management actions taken to prevent pink-footed geese breeding on the mainland of Norway?	0%
1.10 Sufficient human and financial resources have been allocated for monitoring, reporting of harvest levels and continued implementation of the Adaptive Harvest Management strategy.	50%

Average implementation rate: 56%

5.2. Objective 2 - Keep agricultural conflicts to an acceptable level

Action 2.1 with regard to keeping agricultural conflicts related to Pink-footed Geese (e.g. crop damage) at an acceptable level was reported as achieved by Belgium and the Netherlands and as partially achieved by Denmark and Norway. Norway further reported the defining of an "acceptable level" as difficult. The degree of damage caused by geese, and hence the conflict, also varies significantly between years. The subsidy scheme has reduced the conflicts. (50%)

Action 2.2 foresees the implementation of national or regional management actions for the effective management of agricultural conflicts related to Pink-footed Geese. All range states reported implementing various management measures to manage conflicts with farmers. (100%)

Action 2.3 foresees the implementation of measures or monitoring to determine the level of agricultural conflict with Pink-footed Geese, either national or regionally (e.g. through the collation of compensation payments etc.). Belgium and the Netherlands reported having such monitoring in place, whereas the Denmark and Norway reported partial implementation of the action. (50%)

Average implementation rate: 67%

5.3. Objective 3 - Avoid increase in tundra vegetation degradation in the breeding range

The actions under this objective applied only to Norway, which reported partial implementation of all activities.

Action 3.1 concerns the gathering of sufficient knowledge on the extent and impact of arctic tundra degradation caused by Pink-footed Geese. Norway detailed that a monitoring programme has been established in the western part of Spitsbergen but that information from eastern and northern Svalbard is currently lacking.

With respect to **Action 3.2**, Norway reported the level of arctic tundra degradation to partially be at an acceptable level. Norway further reported that in the breeding colonies at western Spitsbergen the grubbing consequences are increasing, yet at the spring staging sites the trend apparently varies with the yearly spring conditions (delayed snow cover can protect the tundra from early grubbing). Information from east and north of Svalbard is currently lacking.

Regarding **action 3.3**, Norway reported that sufficient human and financial resources have been allocated for monitoring the extent and impact of arctic tundra degradation by Pink-footed Geese, but not for the implementation of preemptive/remedial action. Until now, funding for monitoring has been raised by The Svalbard Environmental Protection Fund, Aarhus University and The Fram Centre in Tromsø ("The Terrestrial Flagship"). Funding has been raised on a yearly basis, and future funding will depend on new applications from researchers and funding from various sources. In general, there is strong competition for research funding and these activities have not been prioritized for funding by the responsible managing institutions on Svalbard.

Average implementation rate: 0%

5.4. Objective 4 - Allow for recreational use that does not jeopardize the population

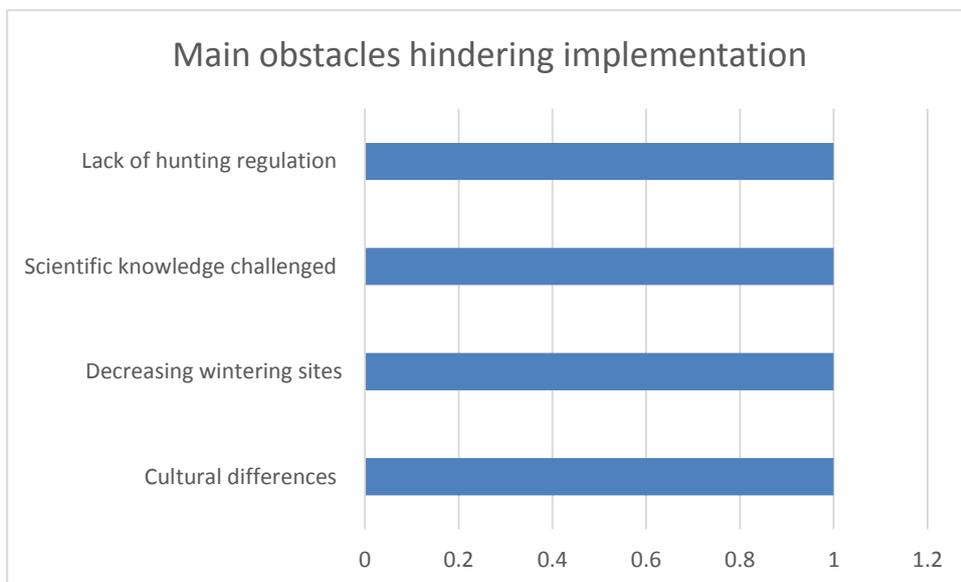
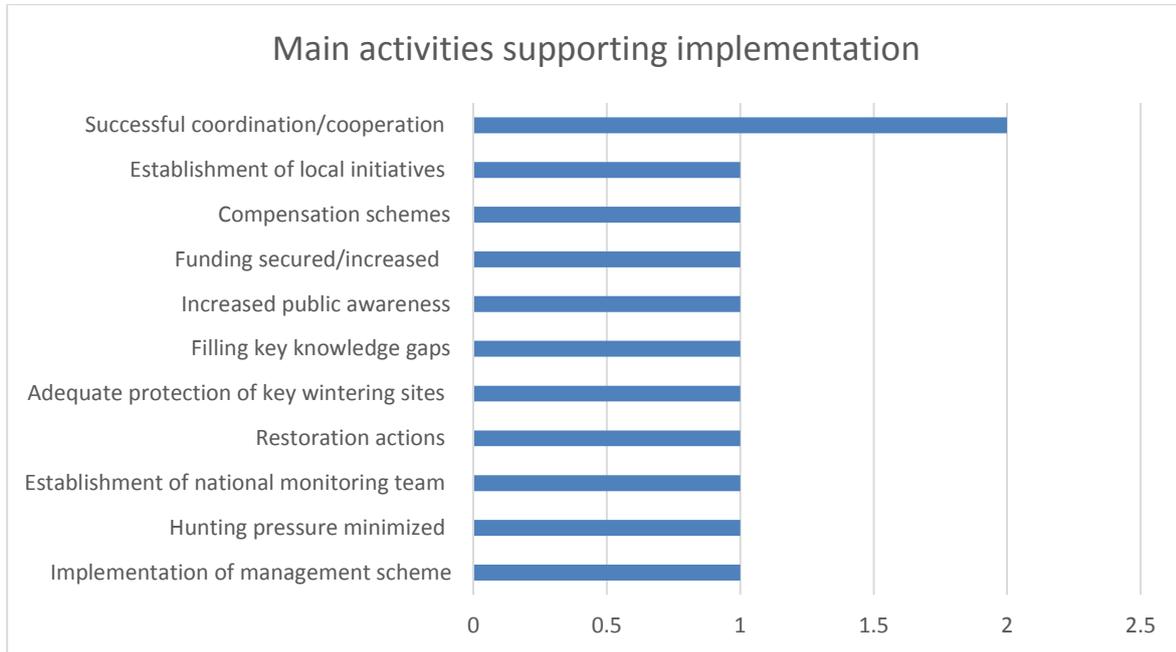
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Implementation rate</i>
4.1 The harvest level of Pink-footed Geese is sufficient to achieve the required harvest quota, in order to maintain the population at the agreed target. (Denmark, Norway)	100%*
4.2 The hunting of Pink-footed Geese is sustainable. (Denmark, Norway)	100%
4.3 An ‘Emergency Hunting Season Closure’ contingency plan has been adopted and distributed amongst relevant organizations. (Denmark, Norway)	0%
4.4 National or regional campaigns / training programmes / management activities carried out to promote wise use hunting practices, information on how to lower the crippling rates etc. (Denmark, Norway)	50%
4.5 Current trend for the ‘crippling rate’ considered acceptable.	0%
4.6. Management actions implemented either nationally or regionally to promote recreational activities, related to Pink-footed Geese that benefit local communities e.g. wildlife tourism.	25%
4.7 Sufficient human and financial resources been allocated for a) Training programmes / awareness campaigns amongst hunters to promote ‘wise use’ hunting practices? b) Monitoring and publication of the ‘crippling rate’? c) Developing new / alternative recreational uses that benefit local communities, whilst helping to reduce goose-agricultural conflicts?	0%

**following the submission of the questionnaires for this review, the agreed population level was reached.*

Average implementation rate: 39%

6. Main actions promoting and obstacles hindering implementation

Range states were also requested to name the top three actions promoting as well as hindering effective implementation of the Management Plan. These are summarized in the tables below.



7. Conclusions

Three years following the adoption of the first ever AEWA International Single Species Management Plan for Pink-footed Goose, very good progress has been made. The main first task of developing an agreed Adaptive Harvest Management strategy has been carried out and now the strategy is being implemented. Due to the nature of the adaptive harvest management system – which requires close yearly monitoring of the population and regular adjustment of hunting quotas and other implemented measures - the active engagement and commitment of all stakeholders appears to be high, which in turn is crucial for successful implementation.

Overall average implementation rate for 23 activities: 45%

Although the adaptive harvest management process is still only at the beginning and conflicts with regard to the large size of the population remain (i.e. with regard to agriculture, arctic habitats etc.), the Management Plan goal of maintaining the favourable conservation status of the Svalbard Pink-footed Goose population at flyway level whilst taking into account at least the recreational interests has been achieved.

E. Implementation of the AEWA Greenland White-fronted Goose ISSAP

1. Introduction

The Greenland White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) is a sub-species of the Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) which is categorized as 'Least Concern' by the IUCN. Although no formal separate categorization for the sub-species exists, it would be recognized as 'Endangered' using the IUCN's global Red List criteria. The AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Greenland White-fronted Goose was adopted at the 5th Session of the Meeting of the AEWA Parties in 2012⁶.

The long-term goal of the Action Plan is to establish and then maintain the favourable conservation status of the international population of the Greenland White-fronted Geese throughout its global range. In the short term (by 2015), the aim is to identify the causes of current low productivity which is leading to a rapid decline of the population.

The international coordination of the Greenland White-fronted Goose Action Plan was not prioritized for a full-fledged inter-governmental AEWA International Species Working Group. It was instead decided to establish an AEWA International Species Expert Group for this purpose based on the already existing expert network for the species. Despite attempts made by the Secretariat to establish such an Expert Group and to secure its coordination, none of the range states or organizations involved have thus far agreed to take the lead.

2. Response rate

Three of the four Principal Range States identified in the Action Plan responded to the questionnaire (75%).

<i>Response received</i>	<i>AEWA CP</i>	<i>No response received by the deadline</i>	<i>AEWA CP</i>
Iceland	Yes	Greenland	No
Ireland	Yes		
UK	Yes		

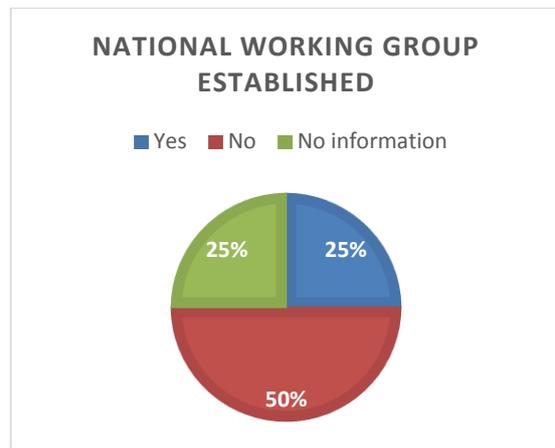
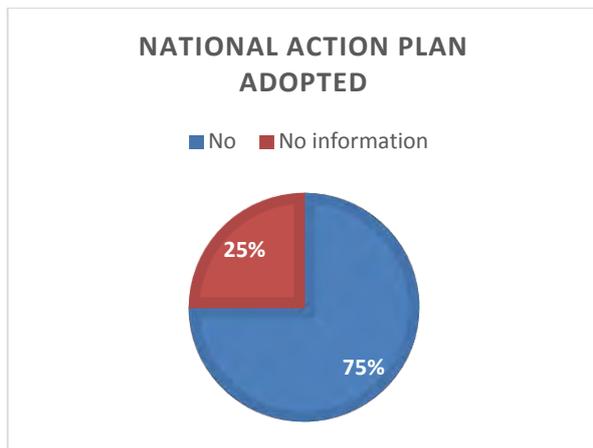
3. Species trend and estimate

[data not provided]

4. National implementation structures

None of the range states reported having adopted National Action Plans for the species. Only Ireland reported having a National Working Group for the species.

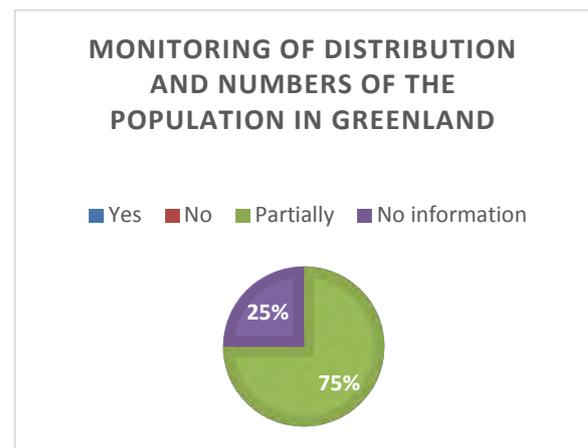
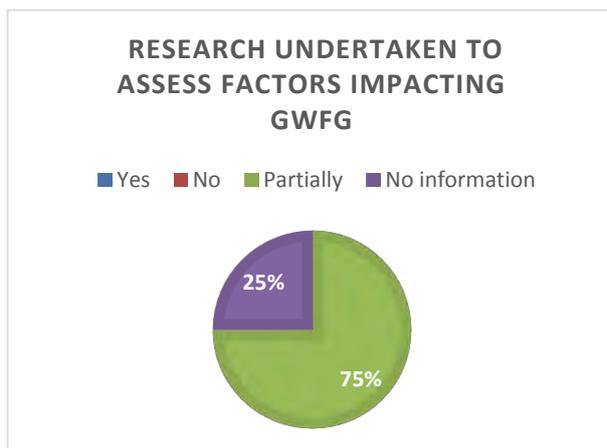
⁶ The AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Greenland White-fronted Goose is available on the AEWA website: <http://www.unep-aewa.org/en/publication/international-single-species-action-plan-conservation-greenland-white-fronted-geese>.



5. Implementation of Action Plan activities

5.1. Result 1 – Understanding of current drivers of population decline increased

Actions 1.1 regarding the investigation and assessment of factors impacting on productivity as well as (0%) **1.2** regarding the continued periodical monitoring of the distribution and relative abundance of goose species in west Greenland (0%), were ranked as critical and “other” respectively. Although Greenland was marked as the leading range state, implementation was to follow in cooperation with the range states. Iceland, Ireland and the UK all reported partial implementation.



Average implementation rate: 0%

5.2. Result 2 – Annual productivity maximized

Action 2.1 regarding the attempt to limit and avoid disturbance in the prelude to migration at spring staging areas so as to optimize the condition of potentially breeding geese was marked as a critical priority and applied to all range states. Only the UK reported partial implementation of the action. (0%)

Action 2.2 on the identification and protection of critical sites used in the staging and pre-breeding period was also ranked as critical and applied to Iceland and Greenland, of which Iceland reported implementation of the activity. (50%)

Action 2.3 regarding the management of sites used in the pre-breeding period to optimize the quality and quantity of food for potentially breeding geese, was also ranked as critical and applied again to Iceland and Greenland. No range state reported having implemented the action. (0%)

Average implementation rate: 17%

5.3. Result 3 – Mortality minimized

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Implementation rate</i>
3.1. Introduce and/or maintain protection from hunting throughout the year whilst the population has its currently unfavourable status.	Critical	25%
3.2. Work through relevant hunter’s organizations to promote knowledge of relevant hunting regulations.	Critical	50%
3.3. Quantify the scale of illegal hunting by undertaking X-ray studies of captured birds as opportunities allow.	Medium	0%
3.4. Enforce legislation on hunting e.g. especially action against illegal spring shooting.	Critical	50%
3.5. Ensure that any wind-farm and similar infrastructure developments where there is collision risk are subject to EIAs.	High	75%

Average implementation rate: 40%

5.3. Result 3 – Mortality minimized

5.4. Result 4 – Extent of range maintained

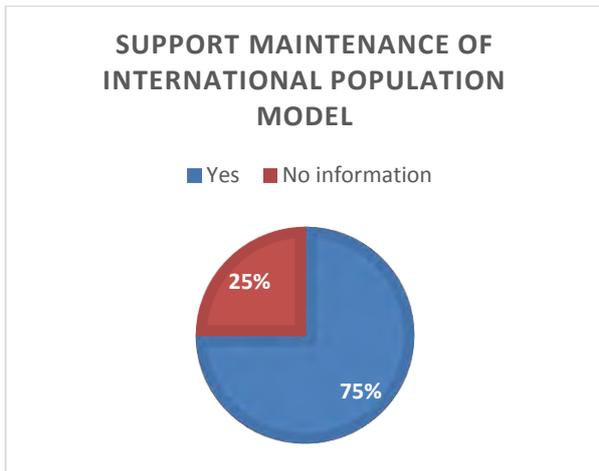
This result only foresees one activity (4.1) to seek agreements with land managers at key sites as well as within the locale of smaller flocks important to maintaining range, for example by using agri-environment measures to secure and optimize the quality of agricultural feeding areas. The action was marked as “other” in priority and applied to Iceland, Ireland and the UK. Although Ireland reported implementation to be in progress, none of the range states reported full implementation of the action. (0%)

Average implementation rate: 0%

5.5. Result 5 – Necessary data for conservation management of population and key sites collected annually

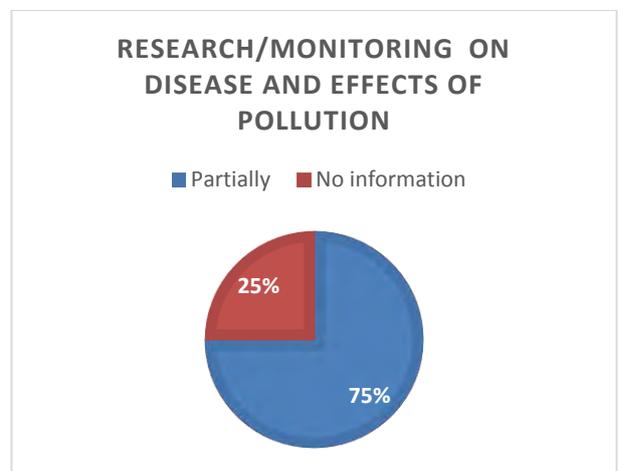
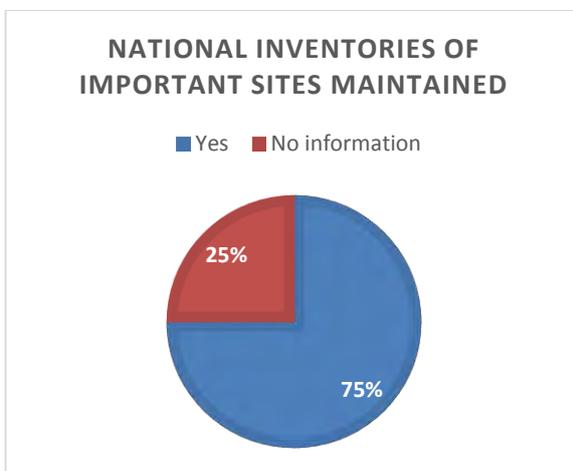
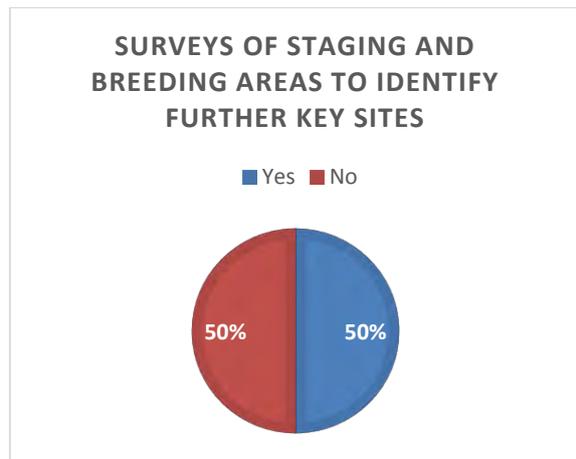
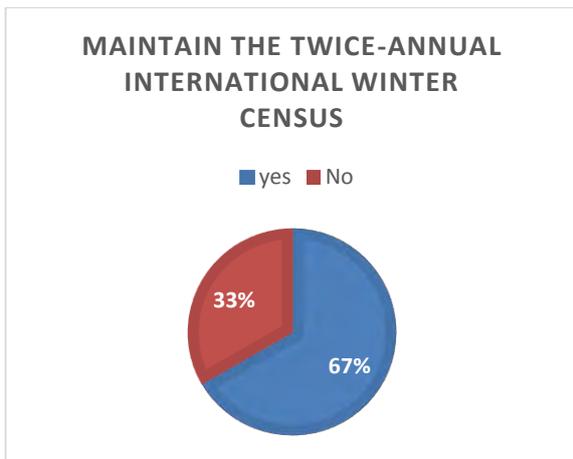
Action 5.1 to support the maintenance of an international population model for the species was ranked as critical and was reported as implemented by Iceland, Ireland and the UK. (75%)

Action 5.2 regarding the monitoring of survival rates and productivity by supporting continued ringing, ring reporting, studies of individually marked birds and maintenance of necessary databases was ranked as critical and was also reported as implemented by Iceland, Ireland and the UK. (75%)



Action 5.3 to maintain the twice-annual international census at all known wintering resorts was marked as critical and applied to the wintering range states. The activity was reported as implemented by Ireland and the UK. (67%) **Action 5.4** regarding the conducting of surveys of staging and breeding areas to identify further key sites was marked as a critical priority and applied to Iceland and Greenland, of which Iceland reported implementation. (50%)

Actions 5.5 and **5.6** applied to all range states and were marked as “other”. Iceland, Ireland and the UK all reported maintaining and further developing national inventories of sites. (75%). Iceland, Ireland and the UK all reported partial implementation of the action to undertake research to assess the levels of disease and impacts of pollutants (including lead shot). (0%)



Average implementation rate: 57%

5.6. Result 6 – Favourable conservation status of important sites established and maintained

Action 6.1 regarding the designation of all wetlands of international importance for Greenland White-fronted Geese under the Ramsar Convention and/or the EU Birds Directive as appropriate was marked as a medium priority. The action was reported as implemented by Iceland. (25%)

Action 6.2 on informing governments and user-groups about the importance and location of designated sites was ranked as a medium priority and was reported as implemented by Iceland, Ireland and the UK. (75%)

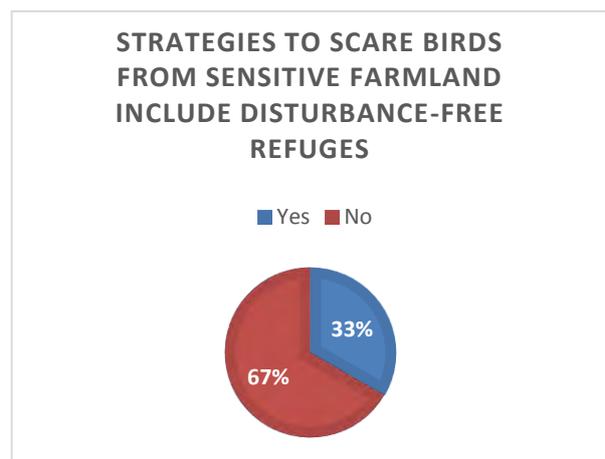
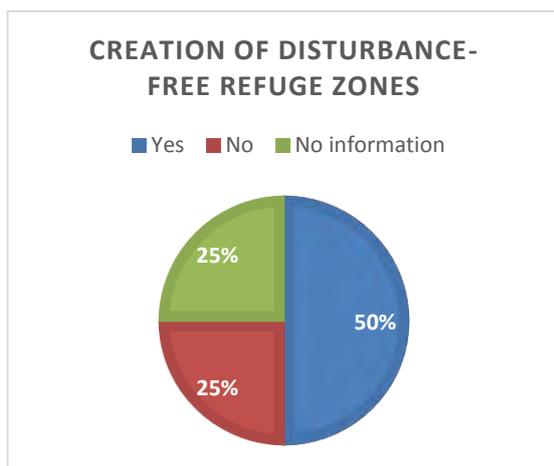
Action 6.3 to ensure that policies for development (e.g. tourism) avoid areas where, or periods when, Greenland White-fronted Geese are sensitive to disturbance was ranked as a high priority and applied to Greenland. (0%)

Average implementation rate: 33%

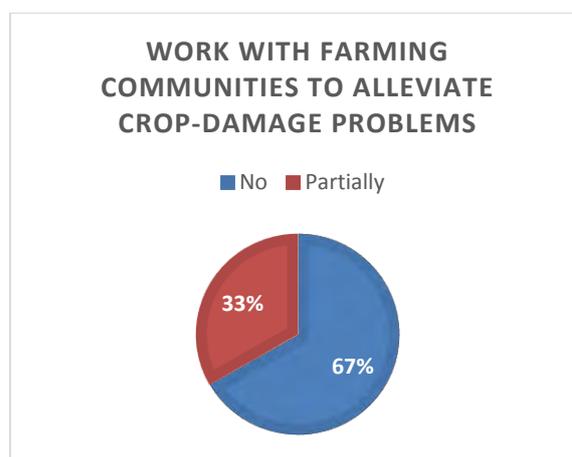
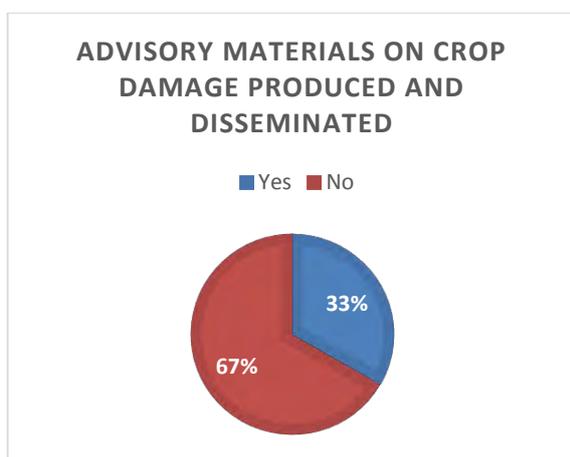
5.7. Result 7 – Avoidance of conflict with land managers

Action 7.1 regarding the creation of disturbance-free refuge zones in areas of international importance was marked as high and reported as implemented by Ireland and the UK. (50%)

Action 7.2 on ensuring that strategies to scare birds from sensitive farmland always include disturbance-free refuges was marked as a high priority and applied to Iceland, Ireland and the UK. The action was reported as implemented by the UK. (33%)



Action 7.3 regarding the production and dissemination of advisory materials on crop damage was ranked as a medium priority and applied again to Iceland, Ireland and the UK. The action was reported as implemented by the UK. (33%) **Action 7.4** on working with local farming communities to maintain or establish local management strategies for the alleviation of crop-damage problems was ranked as “other” and also only applied to Iceland, Ireland and the UK. None of the range states reported full implementation of the activity. (0%)



Average implementation rate: 29%

All actions under this result were indicated as “other” regarding the priority setting and applied to all range states.

Action 8.1 to inform the public, farmers and hunters of the International Action Plan for Greenland White-fronted Geese, was reported as implemented by Ireland. (25%) **Action 8.2** on disseminating knowledge of important sites and their management needs within government and relevant land-use advisory bodies was reported as implemented by Iceland and the UK. (50%)

Action 8.3 regarding the consideration of the needs of Greenland White-fronted Geese when developing land-use policies away from protected areas was reported as implemented by Ireland and the UK. (50%) **Action 8.4** on the encouragement and promotion of educational and public awareness programmes amongst communities living in areas holding important concentrations of geese was reported as implemented by the UK. (25%)

Average implementation rate: 38%

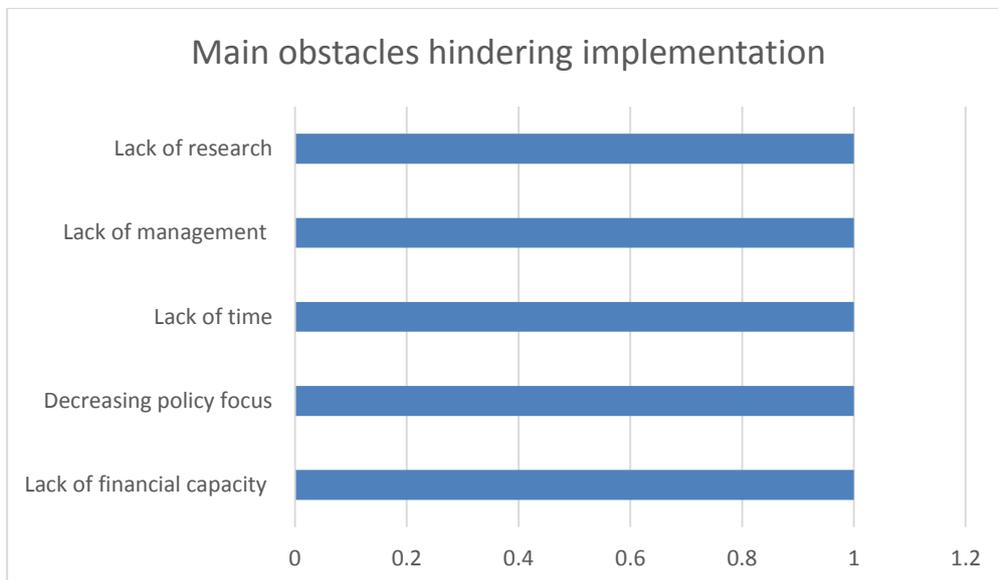
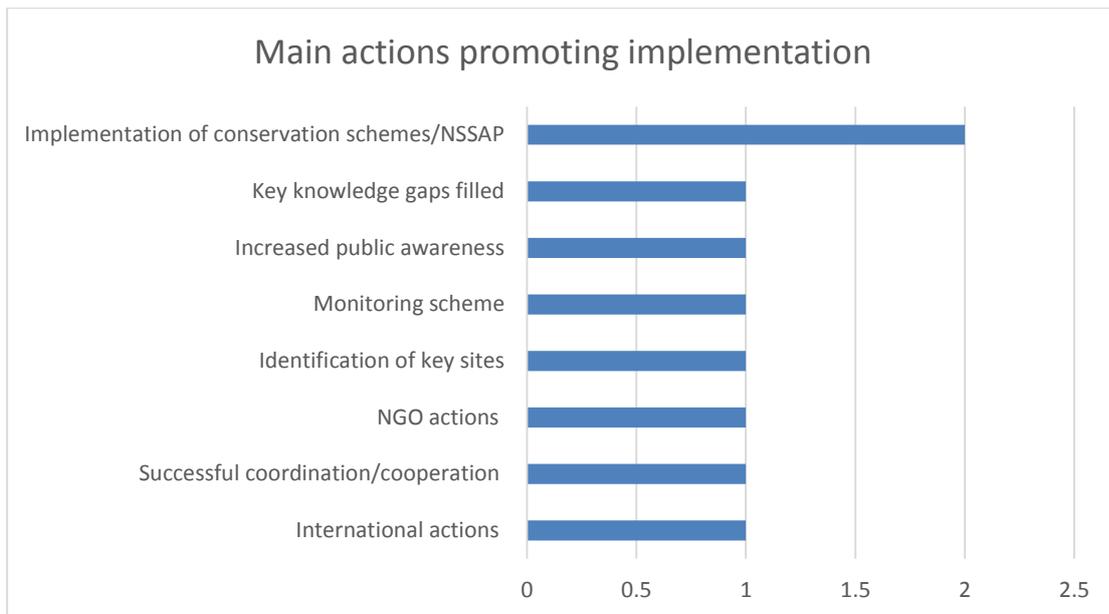
5.9. Result 9 – Effective international cooperation and liaison for benefit of the population

Activity	Priority	Implementation rate
9.1. Implementation, development and review of the action plan have been supported.	Other	25%
9.2. Knowledge relevant to the objectives of the action plan have been shared between Range States.	Other	0%
9.3. Encourage formal and informal twinning initiatives.	Other	0%
9.4 Collaboration in international research (including population monitoring) undertaken.	Critical	75%
9.5. Training of staff at key sites undertaken.	Other	50%
9.6. Participation in emergency reviews of Action Plan as necessary	As necessary	n/a

Average implementation rate: 30% (excluding 9.6. as not yet applicable)

6. Main actions promoting and obstacles hindering implementation

Range states were also requested to name the top three actions promoting as well as hindering effective implementation of the Action Plan. These are summarized in the tables below.



7. Conclusions

Three years following the 2012 adoption of the revised AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Greenland White-fronted Goose, countries reported having made solid progress with regard to the implementation of Action Plan activities – particularly with regard to activities identified as critical and related to the monitoring of the species.

Overall average implementation rate for 9 results: 27%
Average implementation rate for critical and high priority activities (15): 45%

There is obviously a well-established network of government and non-government species experts working on the implementation of the Action Plan. The establishment of the Species Expert group could - for example - bring further impetus to the implementation process, including the engagement of experts and government officials from other sectors possibly missing from the network.

F. Implementation of the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose ISSAP

1. Introduction

The Lesser White-fronted Goose is globally threatened and listed as ‘Vulnerable’ by the IUCN and as Critically Endangered within the European Union according to the 2015 European Red List Assessment. The species is listed in Column A Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan. The AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Lesser White-fronted Goose (Western Palearctic populations) was adopted at the 4th Meeting of the AEWA Parties in 2008⁷.

The goal of the Action Plan is to restore the Lesser White-fronted Goose to a favorable conservation status within the AEWA Agreement area, i.e. neither of the wild populations within the Agreement area should be classified as threatened according to the IUCN Red List, with neither population declining and the Western main population exceeding 25.000 individuals and the Fennoscandian population exceeding 1.000 individuals.

The AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group (LWfG IWG) was convened by the AEWA Secretariat in 2009, and has had two face-to-face meetings in November 2010 (Helsinki, Finland) and November 2012 (Lake Kerkini, Greece). A Working Group Coordinator is funded by the Norwegian Environment Agency and is currently situated at the AEWA Secretariat.

2. Response rate

A total of 15 of the 22 Principal Range States (68%) identified in the Action Plan responded to the questionnaire. Of the six countries which did not submit any information Azerbaijan, Iraq and Lithuania are particularly considered to be of crucial importance to the species. The countries that did not submit reports are taken into account in parts of the implementation summary below and are identified as having provided “no information”.

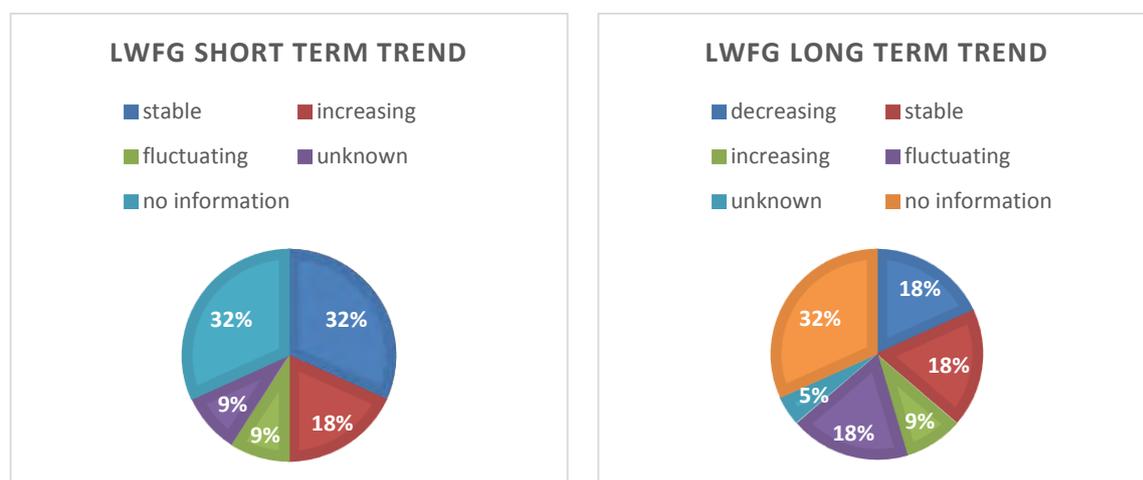
<i>Response received</i>	<i>AEWA CP</i>	<i>No response by deadline</i>	<i>AEWA CP</i>
Bulgaria	Yes	Azerbaijan	No
Estonia	Yes	Iraq, Islamic Republic of	No
Finland	Yes	Lithuania	Yes
Greece	No	Poland	No
Hungary	Yes	Syria, Islamic Republic of	Yes
Iran, Islamic Republic of	No	Turkey	No
Kazakhstan	No	Germany*	Yes
Netherlands	Yes		
Norway	Yes		
Romania	Yes		
Russian Federation	No		
Sweden	Yes		
Turkmenistan	No		
Ukraine	Yes		
Uzbekistan	Yes		

*Information submitted by Germany was not provided in the correct format and could therefore not be included in the review.

⁷ The AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Lesser White-fronted Goose is available in English and Russian on the AEWA website: <http://www.unep-awea.org/en/publication/international-single-species-action-plan-conservation-lesser-white-fronted-geese-western>.

3. Species trend and estimate

No country reported a short-term decreasing trend with 50% of responding countries reporting the short-term trend to be either stable or increasing. In the case of the small Fennoscandian population, which is very closely monitored, a stabilization and (slight) increase in numbers since 2009 is well documented. However, a robust overall population estimate for the Western main population is still lacking, and its actual status remains uncertain. The long term species trend still paints a different picture with only six countries reporting the populations as stable or increasing. The species estimates reported by the individual range states are presented in the table below.

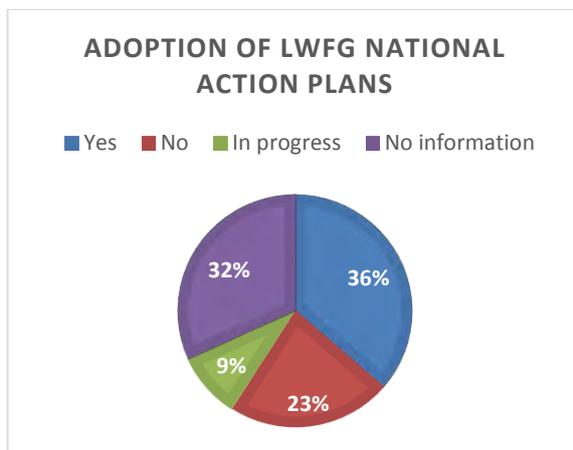


<i>Reporting range state</i>	<i>Total minimum estimate</i>	<i>Total maximum estimate</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Baseline population</i>
Bulgaria	2	100	Individuals (wintering)	-	-
Estonia	29	33	Individuals (passage)	2014	10 000 (1964)
Finland	0	5	Pairs (breeding)	2009	-
	-	58	Individuals (passage)	2014	-
Greece	53	53	Individuals (wintering)	2015	40 (1974)
Hungary	1	82	Individuals (passage)	2008-2014	Fennoscandian pop. ca. 80 ind.
	1	40	Individuals (wintering)	2008-2014	Mainly Western Main Pop. 8-13000 ind.
Iran	2750	3000	Individuals	2014	Unknown
Kazakhstan	-	19,963	Individuals (passage)	2014	-
Netherlands		ca 10 birds of feral origin	Individuals (breeding <i>has been reported</i>)	2005-2009	n/a
	46	67	Individuals (wintering)	2012/2013 - 2014/2015	>20 (1989/1990, 120-127 (2003/2004))
Norway	20	25	Pairs (breeding)	2014	-
Romania	10	30	Individuals (passage)	2014	31-50 (1990-2000)

	20	30	Individuals (wintering)	2015	31-50 (1990-2000)
Russia	20.000	30.000	Individuals (breeding)	2014	6.000 (2004)
	35.000	40.000	Individuals (passage)	2014	25.000 (2004)
	4	220	Individuals (wintering)	2010/2011	n/a
Sweden	51	66	Individuals (breeding)	2014	n/a
Turkmenistan	4	63	Individuals (wintering)	2012, 2015	590 (1976)
Ukraine	0	100	Individuals (passage)		
	0	1000	Individuals (wintering)	2015	0-1000 (2010)
Uzbekistan	50	9.000	Individuals (passage)	2005-2011	1000 (2011)
	30	300	Individuals (wintering)	2005-2014	100 (2012)

4. National implementation structures

Eight range states reported having adopted National Action Plans whilst two range states are in the process of drafting and/or adopting such plans. Good progress has also been made in the establishment of National Working Groups, with almost half of the range states reporting that National Working Groups for the LWfG are in place.



5. Implementation of Action Plan activities

5.1. Result 1 – Mortality rates are reduced

This implementation of this result was rated as **essential**.

Activity	Implementation rate
1.1. Hunting legislation, in principle, affords adequate protection to Lesser White-fronted Geese.	59%

1.2. Sufficient human and financial resources allocated for enforcement of hunting legislation and resources are deployed to control hunting effectively.	23%
1.3. Sufficient human and financial resources have been allocated for identification of the traditional flyway and stop-over sites, and making that flyway safe for the geese.	45%
1.4. Goose hunting has been banned at all key sites for the Lesser White-fronted Goose during the period when they are usually present. <i>Reported as non-applicable by Sweden.</i>	33%
1.5. Adequate no-hunting zones (covering both roosting and feeding sites) have been established at all Lesser White-fronted Goose IBAs, SPAs and Ramsar sites. <i>Reported as non-applicable by Sweden.</i>	29%
1.6. Lure crops have been planted to direct Lesser White-fronted Geese away from areas where hunting pressure is known to be high.	0%
1.7. Efforts have been made to redirect hunting from adults to juveniles where Greater and Lesser White-fronted Geese occur together. (Kazakhstan and Russia)	0%
1.8. Obligatory training for goose hunting as outlined by the Hunting Charter of the Bern Convention (Nov 2007) has been implemented for hunters particularly in Eastern European countries. (signatories to the Bern Convention, European Commission) <i>Reported as non-applicable by four range states</i>	28%
1.9. Information campaign has been carried out to engage local and European hunting organizations and conservation NGOs. (question applies to Norway and the EU Member States) <i>Reported as non-applicable by six range states</i>	25%

Average implementation rate: 27%

5.2. Result 2 – Result 2 – Further habitat loss and degradation is prevented

This implementation of this result was rated as **high**.

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Implementation rate</i>
2.1. All key sites for the Lesser White-fronted Goose have been afforded appropriate protected area status at national and international levels.	32%
2.2. All key sites for the Lesser White-fronted Goose have management plans that address the conservation requirements of the species.	9%
2.3. Habitat quality in the breeding range is being monitored to ensure that anthropogenic pressures - including potential impacts of climate change - are identified as early as possible? (Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden)	0%
2.4. Measures are being taken to restore and/or rehabilitate Lesser White-fronted Goose roosting and feeding habitat. <i>(Two range states reported the activity as not-applicable)</i>	25%

Average implementation rate: 17%

5.3. Result 3 – Reproductive success is maximized

This implementation of this result was rated as **medium**.

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Implementation rate</i>
3.1. Measures are being undertaken to avoid infrastructure development and other sources of human disturbance. (Finland, Norway, Russia, Sweden) <i>(reported by Russia as non-applicable)</i>	100%
3.2. Measures are being undertaken to avoid overgrazing and nest trampling if/where this is known to be a problem. (Finland, Norway, Russia, Sweden) <i>(reported by Russia and Sweden as non-applicable)</i>	50%
3.3. Measures are being undertaken, where feasible, to minimise predation, where this is shown to be a significant limiting factor. (Finland, Norway, Russia, Sweden) <i>(reported by Russia as non-applicable)</i>	67%
3.4. Measures being taken to eliminate waterbird hunting on the breeding grounds and in all staging areas close to the breeding grounds. (Finland, Norway, Russia, Sweden)	100%

Average implementation rate: 79%

5.4. Result 4 – No introgression of DNA from other goose species into the wild population occurs as a result of further releases and DNA introgression from already released birds from captive breeding programmes is minimised

This implementation of this result was rated as **high**.

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Implementation rate</i>
4.1. Steps have been taken to ensure that releases of captive-bred birds have only involved individuals from wild-caught stock. (question applies to Finland, Norway, Sweden) <i>(Finland reported the action as non-applicable).</i>	100%
4.2. Apparent hybrid geese been removed from the existing Swedish sub-population, subject to findings of a feasibility study. (question applies to Sweden)	0%
4.3. Has the long-term future of all captive breeding programmes been reviewed. (question applies to Finland, Norway, Sweden) <i>(Finland reported the action as non-applicable).</i>	100%

Average implementation rate: 67%

5.5. Result 5 – Key knowledge gaps filled

This implementation of this result was rated as **essential**.

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Implementation rate</i>
5.1. Undertake efforts to locate sources of possible financial support for further conservation-orientated research.	23%
5.2. Use satellite-tracking and/or field surveys to locate the breeding grounds for the bulk of the Western main population. (Russia)	100%
5.3. Assess the hunting pressure at key sites.	40%
5.4. Use combination of satellite-tracking and/or field surveys to locate the key breeding, staging and wintering sites for the Fennoscandian population. (applies to range states of the Fennoscandian population)	31%

5.5. Carry out a Population Viability Study (PVA) for the remaining wild Fennoscandian population. (applies to range states of the Fennoscandian population)	0%
5.6. Use satellite-tracking and/or field surveys to locate the key staging and wintering grounds for the Western main population.	27%
5.7. Undertake further field surveys of suitable breeding habitat and staging areas on the Kola Peninsula been undertaken to update the estimate for the Fennoscandian population (applies to range states of the Fennoscandian population)	0%
5.8. Participation in coordinated counts of Lesser White-fronted Geese.	55%
5.9. Evaluate spatial use patterns at habitat level to identify areas where hunting directly threatens Lesser White-fronted Geese.	14%
5.10. Undertake efforts to refine genetic knowledge and the techniques deployed for genetic assessments.	0%
5.11. Develop a strategy for the genetic management of the species both in the wild and in captivity. (applies to range states of the Fennoscandian population)	9%
5.12. Assess current status of key sites for Lesser White-fronted Geese with regard to the species' ecological requirements.	32%
5.13. Undertake efforts to increase knowledge of breeding site fidelity for males and females and exchange with other populations. (applies to Finland, Norway, Russia, Sweden)	0%
5.14. Undertake studies on predation by White-tailed Eagles. (applies to Finland, Norway, Russia, Sweden)	50%
5.15. Investigate the importance of small mammal cycles on the reproduction of the Lesser White-fronted Goose been investigated. (applies to Finland, Norway, Russia, Sweden)	25%

Average implementation rate: 27%

5.6. Result 6 – International cooperation maximized

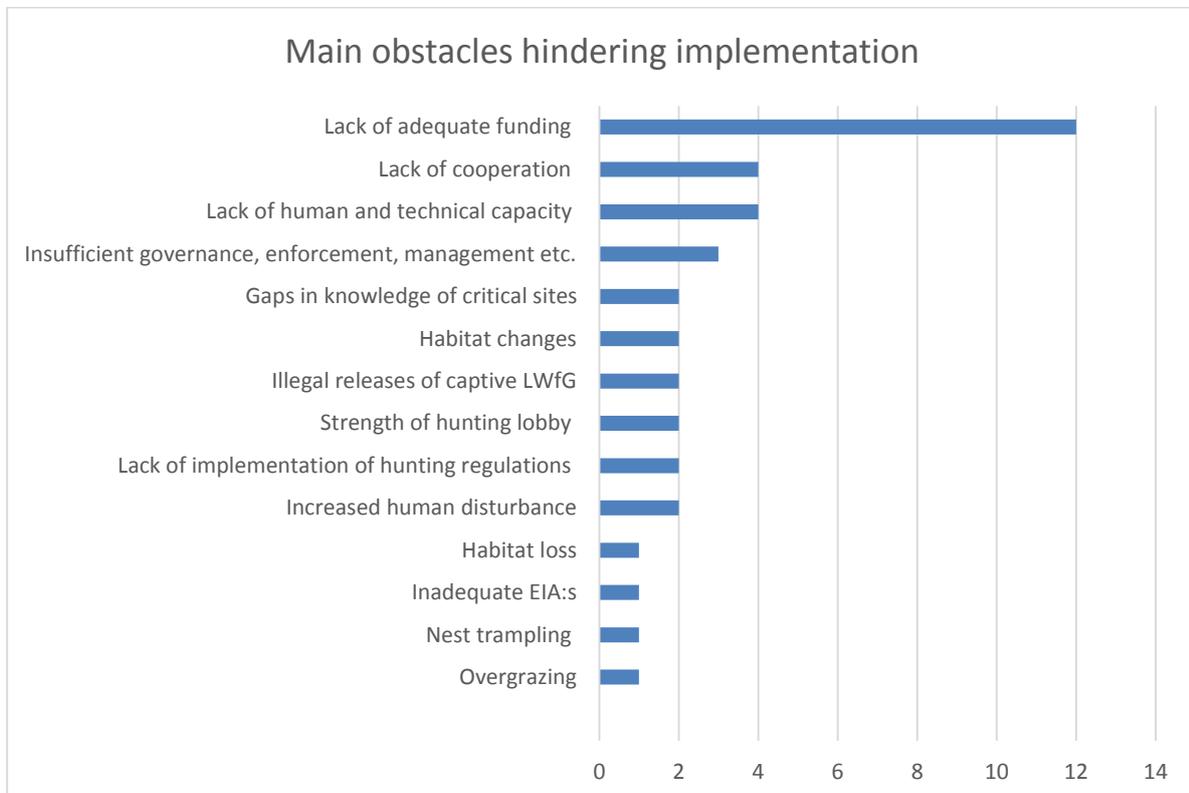
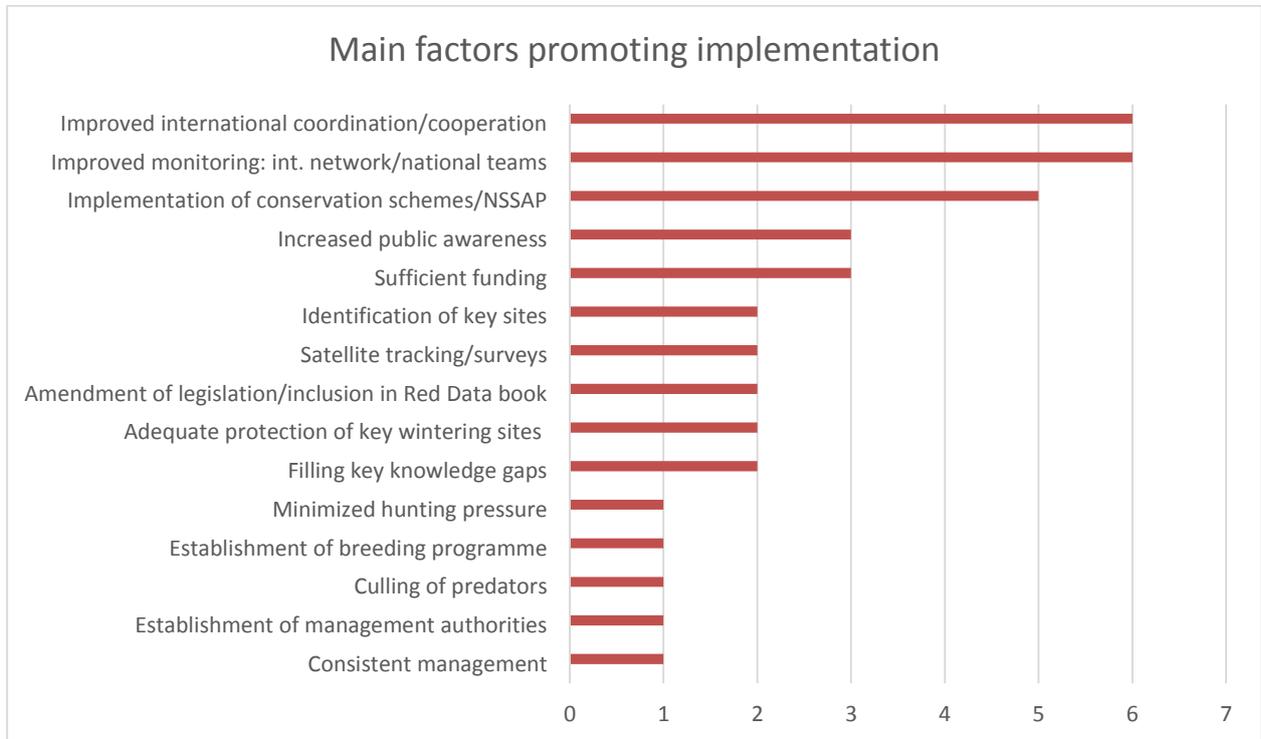
The implementation of this result was rated as **essential**.

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Implementation rate</i>
6.1. Has your country become a Contracting Party to AEWA? (Azerbaijan, Estonia, Greece, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Turkey, Turkmenistan)	11%
6.2. Has your country become a Party to CMS? (Azerbaijan, Iraq, Russian Federation, Turkey, Turkmenistan)	0%
6.3. Has your country become a Party to the Bern Convention? (Russian Federation)	0%
6.4. Has your country become a Party to CBD? (Iraq)	100%
6.5. Has your country become a Party to the Ramsar Convention? (Turkmenistan)	100%

Average implementation rate: 42%

6. Main actions promoting and obstacles hindering implementation

Range states were also requested to name the top three actions promoting as well as hindering effective implementation of the Action Plan. These are summarized in the tables below.



7. Conclusions

Seven years following the 2008 adoption of the AEWI International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Lesser White-fronted Goose, countries reported having made solid progress with regard to the implementation of Action Plan activities.

Overall average implementation rate for 6 results: 43%
Average implementation rate for essential and high priority results (5): 36%

It should be noted that at the meetings of the Working Group in 2010 and 2012 as well as within the context of preparing a revised version of the AEWI Lesser White-fronted Goose Action Plan (2012-2015), many of the actions listed within the old plan have been given a lower priority or omitted completely after determining their potential effect on the conservation of the species as low. This revision exercise also does not capture the progress made under the Working Group with regard to the establishment of a network of critical sites and a common monitoring scheme for the species. The 2008 Action Plan is still also very much focused on activities to be implemented in Europe, whereas progress has in recent years also been made with regard to planning and executing activities along the flyways of the Western main population.

Despite these positive steps, serious gaps still remain. Illegal killing is still the most crucial threat to the species and a better engagement with the hunting community is urgently needed. In addition, key gaps in knowledge such as regarding the wintering sites of the Western main population remain, hampering effective conservation.

G. Implementation of the AEWA Red-breasted Goose ISSAP

1. Introduction

The Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*) is categorized as ‘Endangered’ by the IUCN and is listed as 1a 1b 3a 3c in Column A Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan. The AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Red-breasted Goose was adopted at the 5th Session of the Meeting of the AEWA Parties in 2012⁸.

The aim of the Action Plan is to restore the Red-breasted Goose to a favourable conservation status and to remove it from the threatened categories of the IUCN Red List. The objective is to down-list the Red-breasted Goose from Endangered to Vulnerable within the ten-year lifetime of the plan.

The inter-governmental AEWA Red-breasted Goose International Working Group (RbG IWG) was convened by the AEWA Secretariat in 2011, and has had one face-to-face meeting in 2014, in Kavarna, Bulgaria. Working Group coordination is provided by the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) and is currently being carried out by the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds (BirdLife Bulgaria/BSPB).

2. Response rate

All five Principal Range States identified in the Action Plan responded to the questionnaire (100%).

<i>Response received</i>	<i>AEWA CP</i>
Bulgaria	Yes
Kazakhstan	No
Romania	Yes
Russia	No
Ukraine	Yes

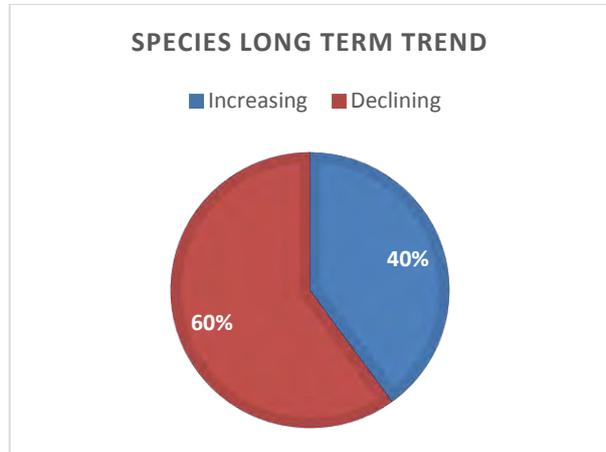
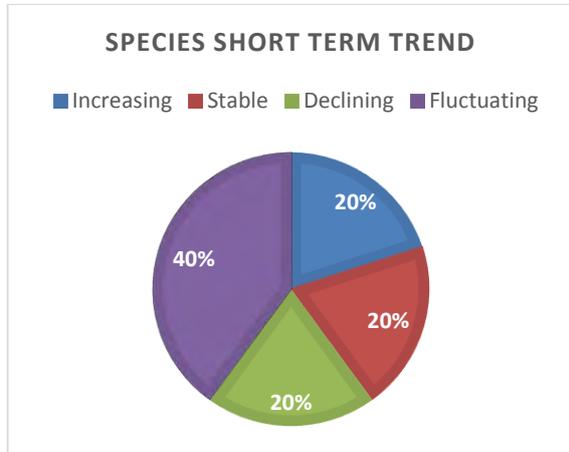
3. Species trend and estimate

Kazakhstan reported the short term trend as increasing, Russia as stable, Bulgaria and Ukraine as fluctuating and Romania as declining. Both Kazakhstan and Russia reported the long term trend as increasing, whereas the three other range states reported the long term trend for the species as declining. The reported national population estimates are presented in the table below.

<i>Reporting range state</i>	<i>Total minimum estimate</i>	<i>Total maximum estimate</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Baseline population</i>
Bulgaria	100	4.000	<i>Individuals (passage)</i>	2010-2015	No information
	7.000	54.000	<i>Individuals (wintering)</i>	2010-2015	No information
Kazakhstan	97.800	100.380	<i>Individuals (passage)</i>	2014	No information
Romania	8.000	17.000	<i>Individuals (passage)</i>	2012	n/a
	9.000	20.000	<i>Individuals (wintering)</i>	2012	4.300-21.500 (1990-2000)
Russia	45.600	50.000	<i>Pairs (breeding)</i>	2014	25560 (1999)

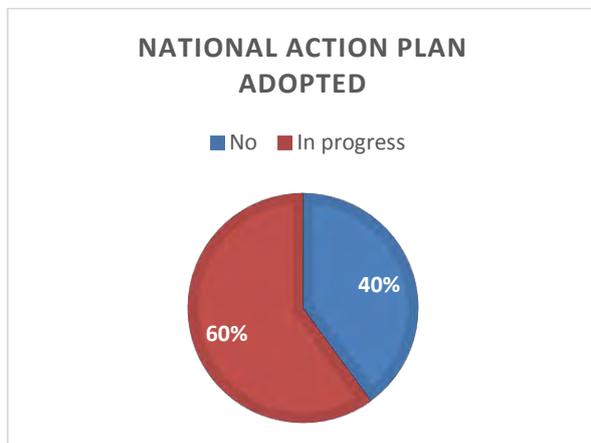
⁸ The AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Red-breasted Goose is available on the AEWA website: <http://www.unep-aewa.org/en/publication/international-single-species-action-plan-conservation-red-breasted-geese>.

	98.000	130.000	<i>Individuals (passage)</i>	2014	88000 (1996)
	200	5000	<i>Individuals (wintering)</i>	2014	1800 (2010)
Ukraine	977	1849	<i>Individuals (wintering)</i>	2013	4394 (2003)



4. National implementation structures

None of the range states reported having adopted National Action Plans for the species. However, Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine reported that draft plans have been developed but not yet formally adopted. Although there is clearly an active expert network across range and informal national groups exist, none of the range states have established formal National Working Groups. Kazakhstan reported, for example, that Red-breasted Goose conservation issues are dealt with under the National Working Group for the Lesser White-fronted Goose.



5. Implementation of Action Plan activities

5.1. Result 1 – Sufficient feeding opportunity available in staging and wintering areas

Activity	Priority	Implementation rate
1.1. Steps have been taken to model habitat requirements for feeding, based on choice of different crops and habitats, intensity of use and the location of feeding areas in relation to roost.	High	60%
1.2. Steps have been taken to determine nature and extent of potential conflict with agriculture, by assessing crop damage and predicted agricultural changes in the short and medium-term. (reported by Kazakhstan and Russia as not applicable)	High	100%
1.3. An agri-environmental scheme that encourages sympathetic farming for RbG through incentives to adopt appropriate practices has been established. (reported by Kazakhstan and Russia as not applicable)	High	100%
1.4. Steps have been taken to hold awareness-raising meetings and training workshops to ensure farmers apply appropriate farming practices for RbGs and to enhance access subsidies. (reported by Kazakhstan and Russia as not applicable)	High	67%
1.5. Steps have been taken to directly manage through purchase or long-term lease to create alternative feeding areas for RbGs. (reported by Kazakhstan and Russia as not applicable)	Medium	67%

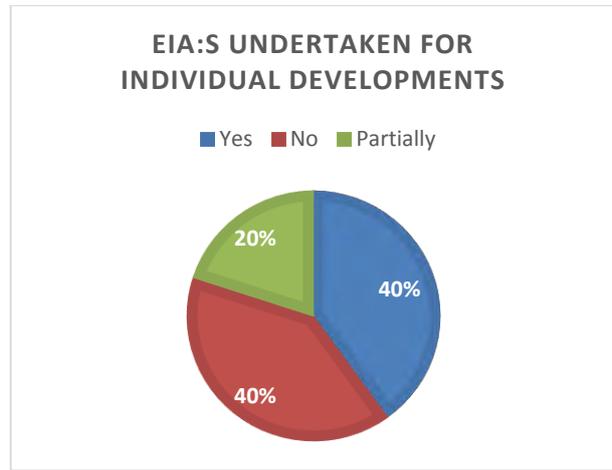
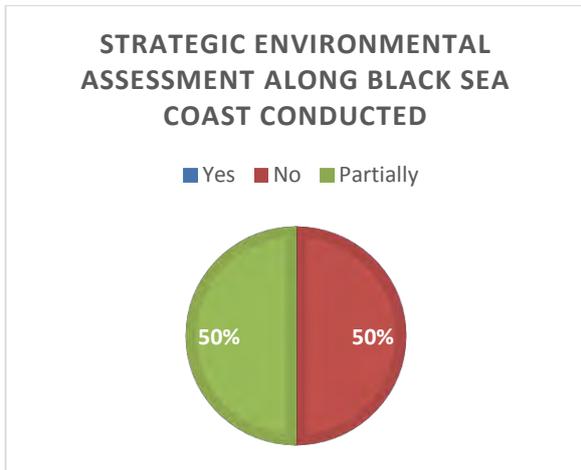
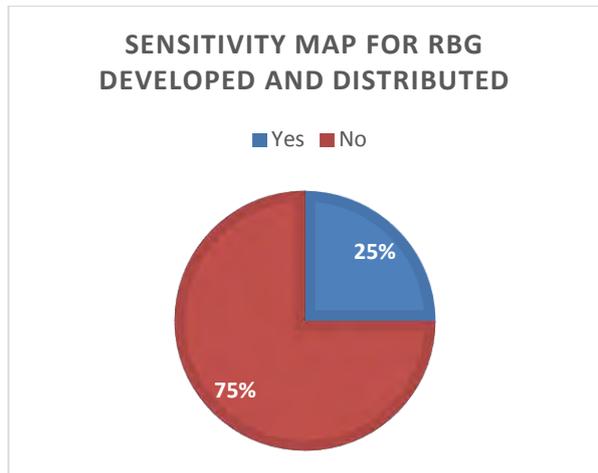
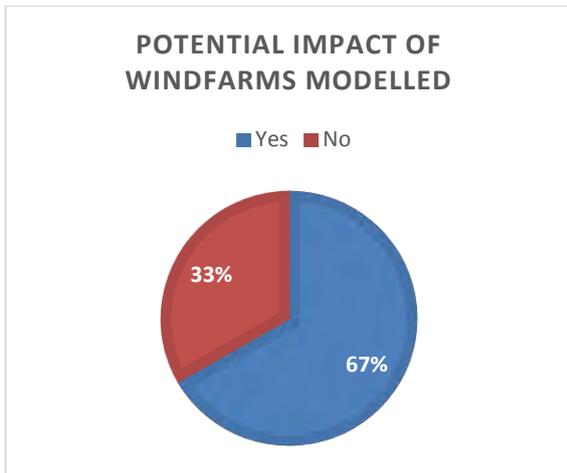
Average implementation rate: 79%

5.2. Result 2 – Impact of development in the wintering and staging areas minimised through strategic planning

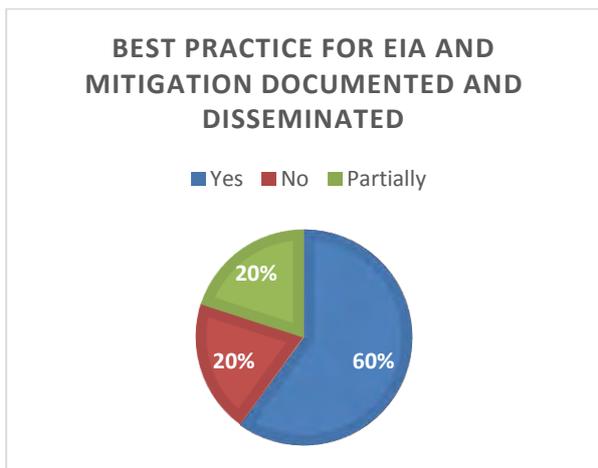
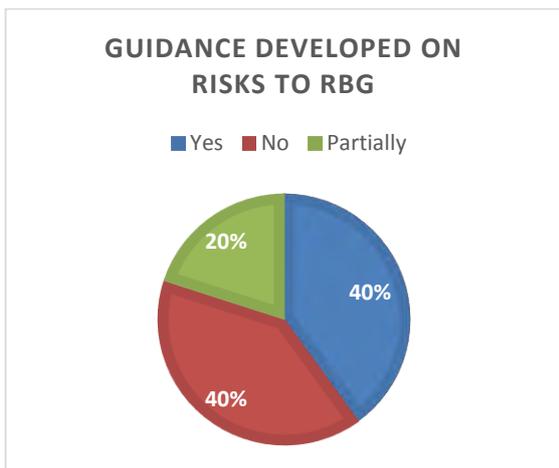
Action 2.1 regarding the modelling of the potential impact of proposed windfarms on Red-breasted Geese as a result of collision and loss of feeding areas was ranked as a high priority and was reported as implemented by Bulgaria and Ukraine. Kazakhstan and Russia reported the action as not-applicable, due to the fact that no windfarms are currently being planned in the vicinity of Red-breasted Goose sites. (67%).

Action 2.2 regarding the development of a sensitivity map for Red-breasted Geese, in order to provide an appropriate spatial framework for land-use planning (including the distribution of a GIS-version to developers and authorities) was also ranked as a high priority and was only reported as implemented by Bulgaria. Russia reported this action as not-applicable. Kazakhstan further reported that although a sensitivity map has not yet been developed, a map of IBAs which includes all key Red-breasted Goose stop-over sites in Northern and North-west Kazakhstan has been developed and distributed to land owners/users. (25%).

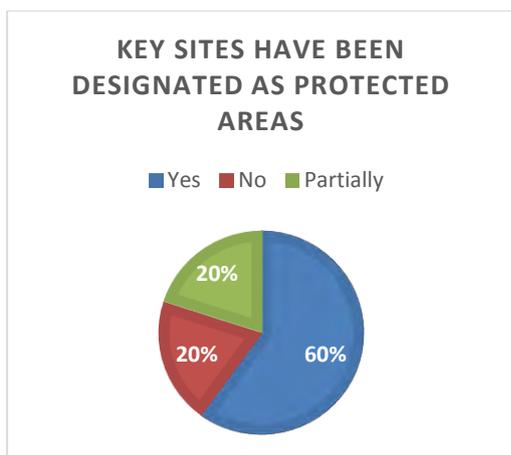
Action 2.3 regarding the production of a Strategic Environmental Assessment for developments along the Black Sea coast to guide strategic planning in the region, was ranked as high and applied to Russia, Ukraine, Romania and Bulgaria of which only Bulgaria and Ukraine reported partial implementation. (0%) **Action 2.4** regarding the undertaking of Environmental Impact Assessments for individual developments and within the context of strategic spatial planning regionally, was ranked as a further high priority. The action was reported as implemented by Romania and Ukraine with Bulgaria reporting partial implementation. (40%)



Action 2.5 on the development of guidance for authorities and developers on the risks to the Red-breasted Goose as well as **action 2.6** on the documentation and disseminating of best practice case studies for Environmental Impact Assessments and mitigation were ranked as medium priorities. Bulgaria and Russia reported implementation of action 2.5 with Ukraine reporting partial implementation. (40%) Both Bulgaria and Russia also reported implementation of action 2.6. (40%)



Action 2.7 regarding the designation of key sites (roosts, their immediate hinterland and key semi-natural feeding areas) as protected sites to prevent development within their boundaries and raise awareness among developers of the importance of protected sites was ranked as a high priority. This action was reported as implemented by Bulgaria, Kazakhstan and Romania with Ukraine reporting partial implementation. (60%)



Average implementation rate: 39%

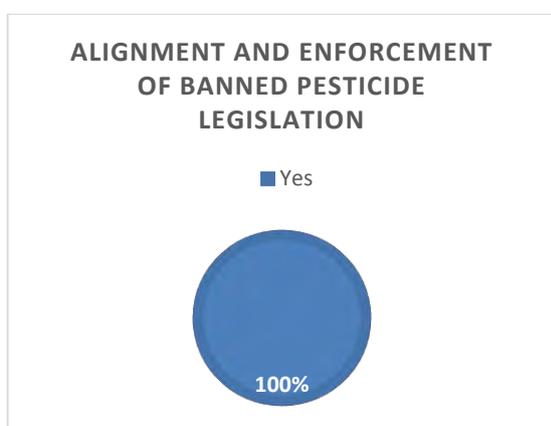
5.3. Result 3 – Detrimental development in breeding grounds is minimised

All actions under this result applied to Russia only. **Action 3.1** on conducting a Strategic Environmental Assessment for developments for oil and gas exploration within the breeding and moulting areas to identify areas of potential conflict with Red-breasted Geese as well as **action 3.2** on undertaking measures to provide guidance to authorities and developers to mitigate development threats, were both ranked as high priority activities. **Action 3.3** regarding the conducting of studies to identify drivers for the recent expansion of the Red-breasted Goose breeding range was ranked as a low priority. Russia reported having implemented all three actions.

Average implementation rate: 100%

5.4. Result 4 – Risk of poisoning by rodenticides significantly reduced

Kazakhstan and Russia both reported the use of rodenticides not to be an issue and these activities therefore not to be applicable to them. **Action 4.1** on the alignment of legislation in the range states concerning banned pesticides and ensuring that legislation is enforced was ranked as a high priority activity and reported as implemented by all three remaining range states. In addition, Ukraine reported the launch of a large-scaled public campaign by the environmental NGOs to stop the use of zinc phosphide as a pesticide. The state registration of the zinc phosphide was cancelled by the order of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine in 2013. Bulgaria reported that EC legislation ensures the non-use of problematic rodenticides. However some flaws in the application of agricultural chemicals could still endanger Red-breasted Geese. (100%)



Action 4.2 on the development and dissemination of guidelines for farmers on the appropriate use of toxic substances and risks to Red-breasted Geese was ranked as a medium priority and was reported as implemented by Bulgaria and Romania. (67%)

Average implementation rate: 84%

5.5. Result 5 – Direct and indirect mortality from hunting significantly reduced

Activity	Priority	Implementation rate
5.1. Align hunting season for wildfowl in all countries throughout the flyway, avoiding long hunting seasons and spring shooting.	High	80%
5.2. Improve national hunting legislation and ensure sufficient capacity for enforcement particularly patrols at key sites.	High	50%
5.3. Raise awareness amongst hunters of Red-breasted Goose conservation, including tourist hunters from outside range states.	High	100%
5.4. Create hunting-free refuge zones at key roost sites and in feeding areas*.	High	0%
5.5. Conduct monitoring to determine levels of hunting.	High	20%
5.6. Monitor survival to determine impact of shooting on Red-breasted Goose population.	High	20%
5.7. Determine demographic structure of hunters and drivers for hunting.	Low	20%
5.8. Ensure that Red-breasted Geese are not killed for avian influenza sampling. (Uzbekistan)	High	0%

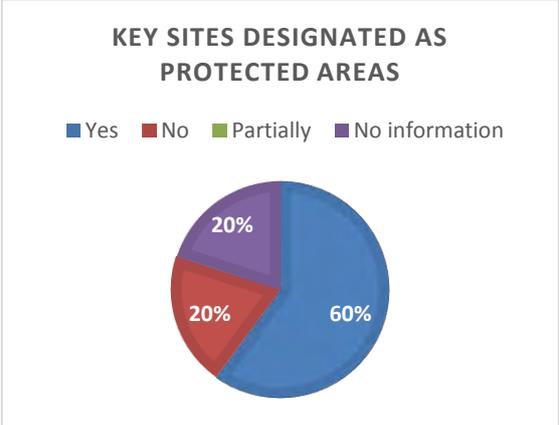
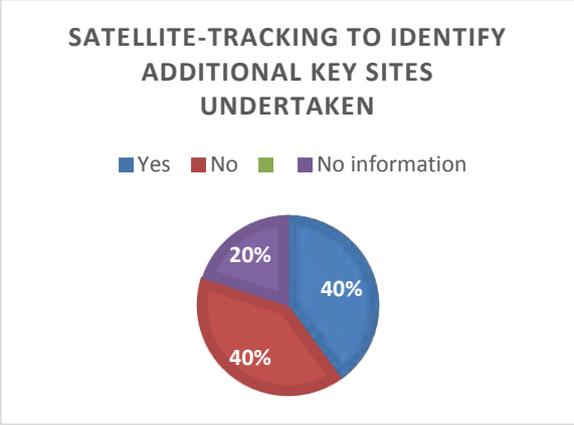
*It should be noted that all range states except Bulgaria reported partial implementation with hunting-free zones created at a number of sites.

Average implementation rate: 36%

5.6. Result 6 – A site network of protected areas is functioning effectively

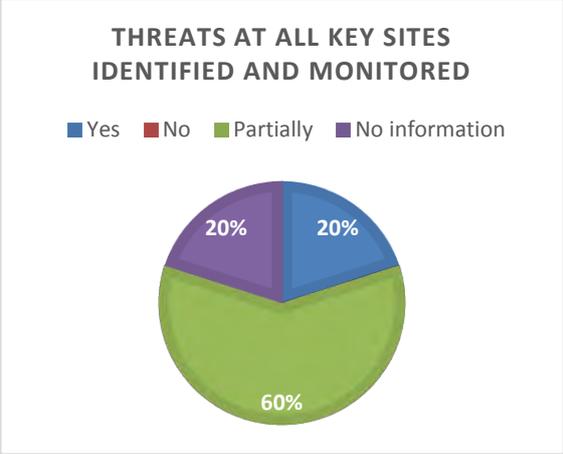
Action 6.1 regarding the undertaking of satellite-tracking to identify additional key sites in areas where coverage is relatively poor was ranked as a high priority and was implemented by Bulgaria and Romania. (40%)

Action 6.2 regarding the designation of all key roost sites and key natural/semi-natural feeding areas as protected areas under appropriate legislation was also ranked as a high priority and was reported as implemented by Bulgaria and Romania. (40%)



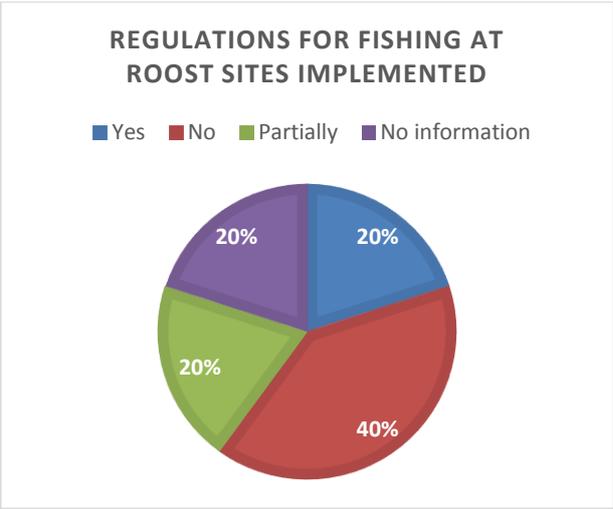
Action 6.3 regarding the identification and monitoring of threats at all key sites was ranked as a high priority and was reported as implemented by Kazakhstan. Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine all reported partial implementation. (20%)

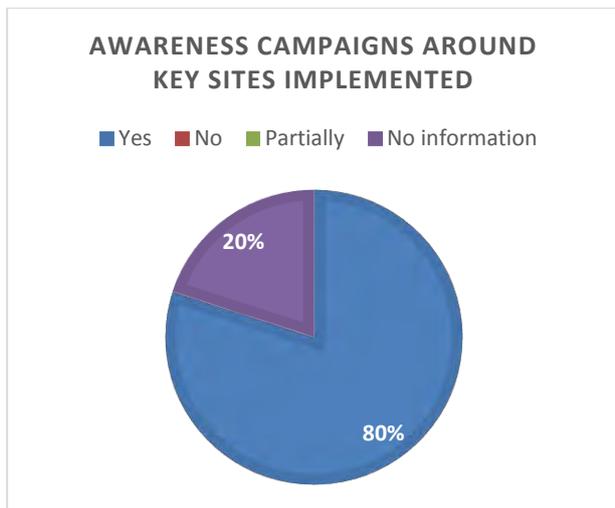
Action 6.4 on the preparation and implementation of management plans for all key sites, incorporating specific recommendations was ranked as a high priority and was not reported as fully implemented by any range state. (0%)



Action 6.5 regarding the implementation of fishing regulations at roost sites to limit the disturbance of roosting and resting birds and ensuring their enforcement was ranked as a high priority and was only reported as implemented by Bulgaria. (20%)

The final two actions under this result were ranked as having medium priority. **Action 6.6** on reviewing the need for land/lease purchase at key sites and immediately adjacent feeding areas was only reported as implemented by Romania. (20%) **Action 6.7** regarding the implementation of awareness campaigns among local communities, including schools, around key sites was reported as implemented by Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Romania and Ukraine. (80%)





Average implementation rate: 31%

5.7. Result 7 – The species' status and the effect of action plan implementation, is assessed by monitoring numbers and demography

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Implementation rate</i>
7.1 Conduct synchronized surveys of all key roosts in the wintering grounds, extending coverage to east Ukraine and southwest Russia.	High	60%
7.2 Monitor breeding productivity using standardized techniques.	High	40%
7.3 Conduct ringing studies and follow-up fieldwork to monitor survival.	High	40%

Average implementation rate: 47%

5.8. Result 8 – The severity of the threat from lead poisoning is evaluated

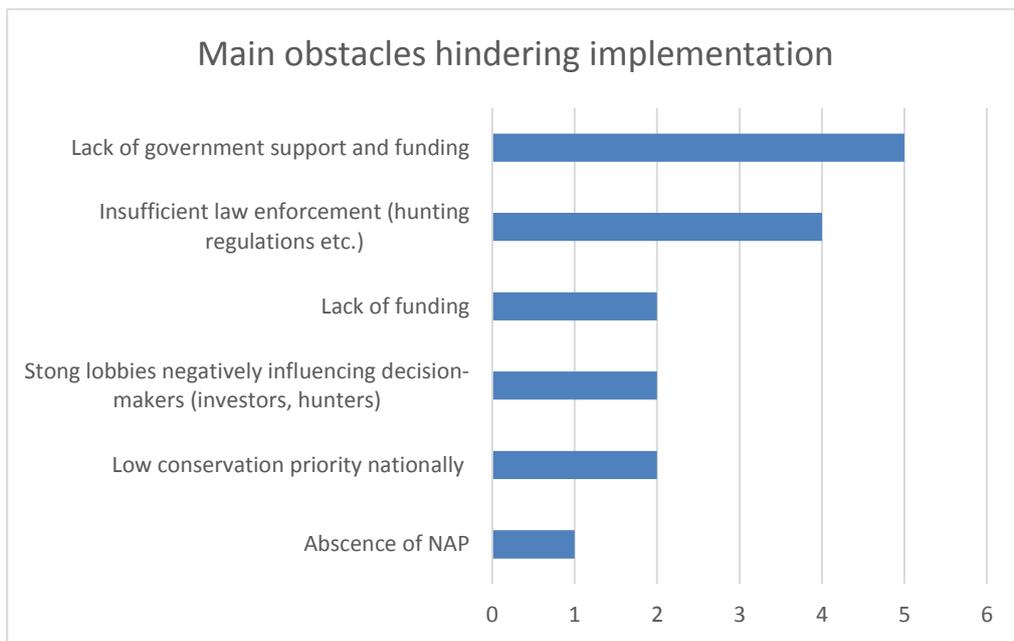
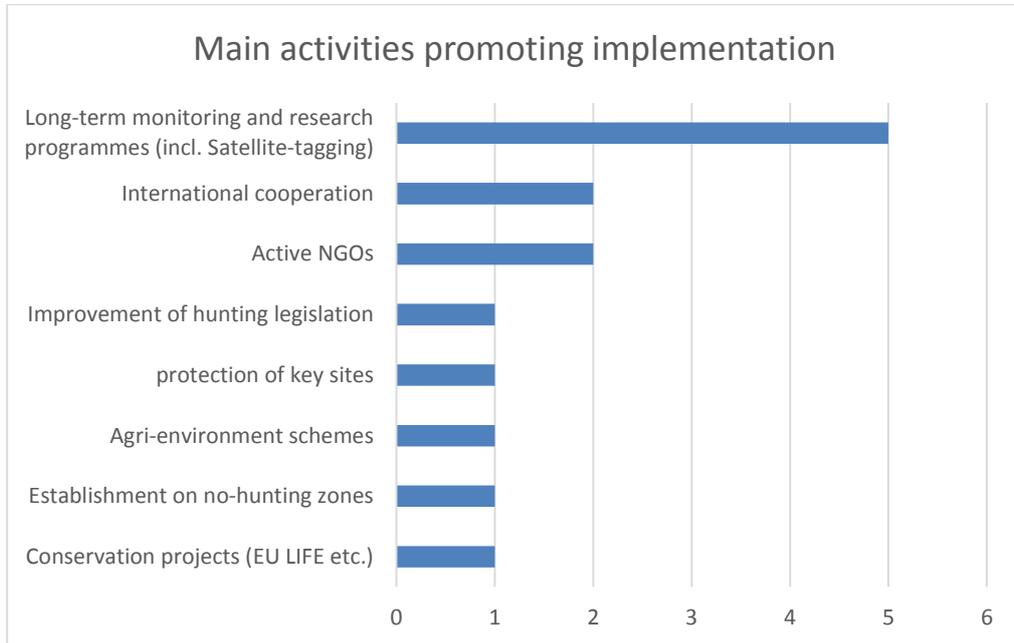
This result only contained one medium priority activity (**8.1**) on determining the lead levels in Red-breasted Geese and, if these are significant, identify where and how Red-breasted Geese ingest lead. Only Bulgaria reported having implemented the activity.

Kazakhstan and Russia reported this action as not applicable for their countries. Kazakhstan further reported that at key stop-over sites for geese in areas with water (also along shores), hunting is forbidden. In addition, fields used for feeding are plowed every spring and any lead shot is buried in the ground. Therefore, there is no noticeable accumulation of lead shot in areas used by Red-breasted Geese.

Average implementation rate: 33%

6. Main actions promoting and obstacles hindering implementation

Range states were also requested to name the top three actions promoting as well as hindering effective implementation of the Action Plan. These are summarized in the tables below.



7. Conclusions

Three years following the 2012 adoption of the revised AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Red-breasted, countries reported having made quite good progress with regard to the implementation of Action Plan activities. This is surely largely due to the long-standing and well-established network of Red-breasted Goose experts in the various countries as well as the availability of funding for activities within the EU range states during recent years through an EU-LIFE+ project.

Overall average implementation rate for 8 results: 56%
Average implementation rate for high priority activities (27): 50%

More resources are, however, urgently needed to carry out many of the high priority activities – especially outside of the EU in Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine.

Although government representatives from Bulgaria and Ukraine in particular remain engaged in the process, increased government involvement (including from other sectors) is still urgently needed in order to tackle issues related to the non-enforcement of legislation, land management and development planning as well as the overall low conservation priority of the species. This is particularly the case for Kazakhstan and Russia, for which efforts to promote their accession to AEWA need to be stepped-up.

Considering the discrepancy in species population trends and numbers reported by the various range states (declining versus increasing) - which could potentially have an effect on the conservation status of the species - activities to better understand the global population size and trend should also urgently be implemented.

The AEWA Red-breasted Goose International Working Group needs to step-up efforts and take a stronger role in coordinating and leading on these issues as well as on the coordination of implementation as a whole.

H. Implementation of the AEWA Sociable Lapwing ISSAP

1. Introduction

The Sociable Lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*) is recognized as ‘Critically Endangered’ by the IUCN with the South-East European and Western Asian/North-East African population listed as 1a 1b 2, and the Central Asian/North-West Indian population as 1a 1b 1c in Column A Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan and in Annex 1 of the Convention on Migratory Species. A revision of the 2002 AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Sociable Lapwing was adopted at the 5th Session of the Meeting of the AEWA Parties in 2012⁹.

The goal of the Action Plan is to restore the Sociable Lapwing to a favourable conservation status and to remove it from the threatened categories of the IUCN Red List, CMS Annex 1 and Column A of Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan. The objective is to reverse the negative population trend leading to a population increase of 8.000-10.000 breeding pairs by 2022.

The inter-governmental AEWA Sociable Lapwing International Working Group (SoLa IWG) was convened by the AEWA Secretariat in 2010, and has had one face-to-face meeting also in 2011, in Palmyra, Syria. Working Group coordination is provided by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

2. Response rate

Of the 13 Principal Range States identified in the Action Plan five countries responded to the questionnaire (38%).

<i>Response received</i>	<i>AEWA CP</i>		<i>AEWA CP</i>
Ethiopia	Yes	Eritrea	No
Kazakhstan	No	India*	CMS
Russia	No	Iraq	No
Sudan	Yes	Oman	No
Turkey	No	Pakistan*	CMS
		Saudi Arabia	No
		Syria	Yes
		Uzbekistan	Yes

*Outside of AEWA range, but are Contracting Parties to CMS

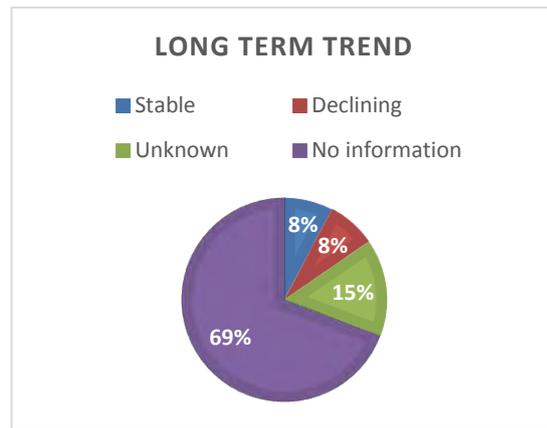
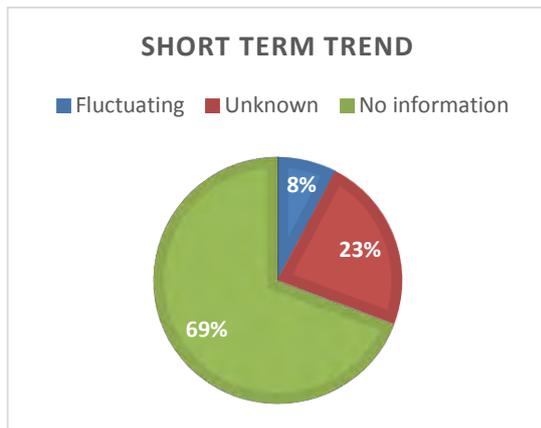
3. Species trend and estimate

Russia reported the short term trend of the species as fluctuating, whilst Ethiopia, Kazakhstan and Turkey reported the short term trend as unknown. Kazakhstan reported the long term trend as stable, but with a slight decline, whilst Russia reported the long term trend as declining. Ethiopia and Turkey reported the long term trend as unknown. The reported national population estimates are presented in the table below.

<i>Reporting range state</i>	<i>Total minimum estimate</i>	<i>Total maximum estimate</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Baseline population</i>
Ethiopia	<i>No information provided</i>				
Kazakhstan	2.000	10.640	<i>Individuals (breeding)</i>	2014	No information
	2.000	10.640	<i>Individuals</i>	2014	No information

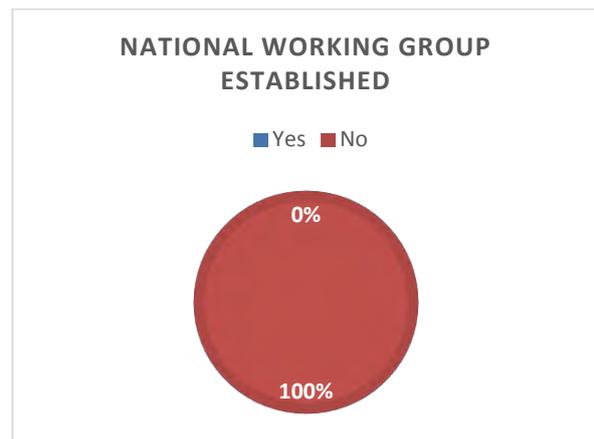
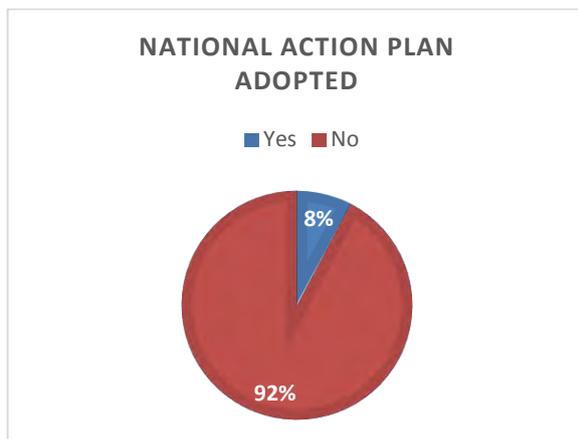
⁹ The AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Sociable Lapwing is available on the AEWA website: <http://www.unep-aewa.org/en/publication/international-single-species-action-plan-conservation-sociable-lapwing-new-version>.

			<i>(passage)</i>		
Russia	0	50	<i>Breeding pairs</i>	2014	11.000 (1994)
	156	4.949	<i>Individuals (passage)</i>	2013, 2010	
Sudan	63	84	<i>Individuals (wintering)</i>	2009	No information
	232	234	<i>Individuals (wintering)</i>	2013	
Turkey	1.500	3.200	<i>Individuals (passage)</i>	2011	None



4. National implementation structures

Sudan is the only range state to have adopted a process similar to a National Action Plan for the species, reporting that conservation measures for the Sociable Lapwing have been included in the 2013 "Stocktaking and National Biodiversity Targets Setting Report" produced under the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. None of the range states have established National Working Groups for the Sociable Lapwing.



5. Implementation of Action Plan activities

5.1. Result 1 – Baseline annual survival rate identified and increased by 2022

Action 1.1 regarding the analysis of data from the color-ringing project in Kazakhstan was marked as essential and only applied to Kazakhstan which reported that the activity has been implemented (100%).

Action 1.2 regarding the minimization of loss of Sociable Lapwings due to hunting along the flyways through the creation and efficient enforcement of legislation was also marked as an essential activity, applying to Syria, Iraq, Turkey and Pakistan. As the only responding range state, Turkey reported partial implementation of the activity by the national NGO Doga Dernegi. Full implementation was not achieved as the species has not been prioritized for conservation action nationally (0%).

Average implementation rate:50%

5.2. Result 2 – Reproductive success is maximized through maintained nest survival rates higher than 35% (5-year rolling mean) and mean chick survival is higher than 0.75 fledged chicks per female (5-year rolling mean)

Action 2.1 to reduce the number of nest trampling incidents during breeding season through improved livestock management, was marked as a high priority activity and applied to Kazakhstan and Russia. Kazakhstan reported not having enough capacity to implement the activity due to the large number of shepherds in Kazakhstan. Russia reported that no studies or activities have been undertaken regarding the reproductive success of Sociable Lapwings in the Russian breeding grounds during the period 2008-2014, due to the fact that there are no permanent breeding sites of the species in the country. Social Lapwings breed in Russia irregularly (not every year) (0%).

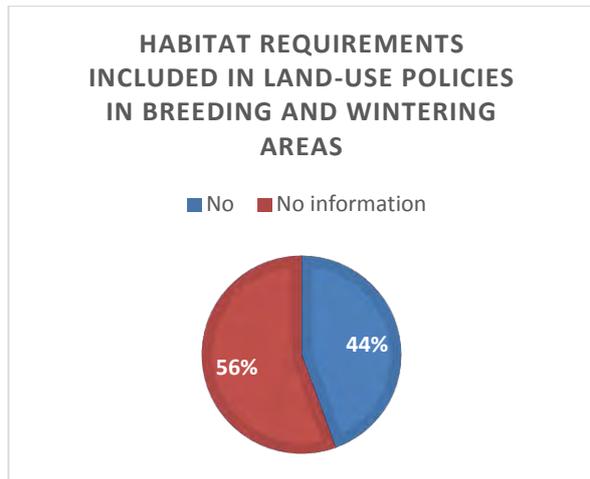
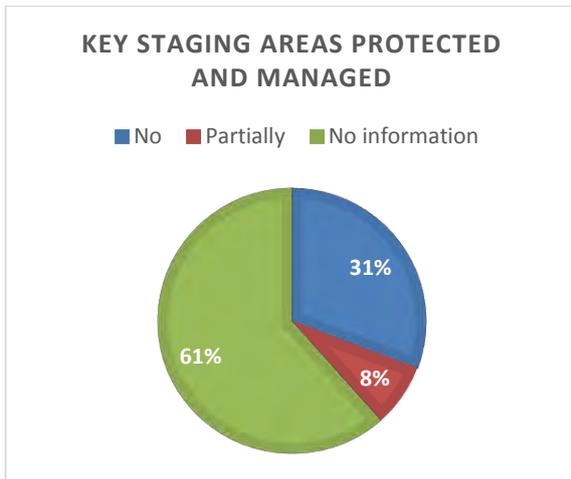
Action 2.2 regarding the identification of key breeding sites across the breeding range was also ranked as a high priority and, again, only applied to Kazakhstan and Russia. Kazakhstan reported implementation of the action: a coordinated survey of the entire steppe zone in Kazakhstan was conducted in 2013 to this end. Russia also reported implementation of the action: a new breeding site consisting of five pairs was discovered in Saratov Oblast in 2014 (100%).

Average implementation rate:50%

5.3. Result 3 – All key sites along the flyways are protected and adequately managed

Action 3.1 to protect and manage known key staging areas applied to all range states and was ranked as a high priority. None of the countries reported having implemented the action fully. Kazakhstan reported that as the staging sites are located in intensively grazed areas, it is not possible to establish protected areas there. Turkey also reported not having implemented the action as there are almost no protected areas targeting grassland and steppe species – although Sociable Lapwings occur on large state farms which are managed actively and have restricted access regulations. Russia reported partial implementation with one protected area (Chograi Local Zoological Refuge) established which is used by the species as a stop-over site. [0%]

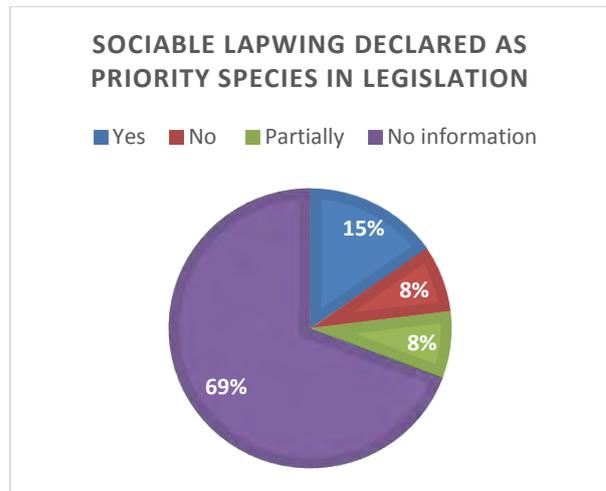
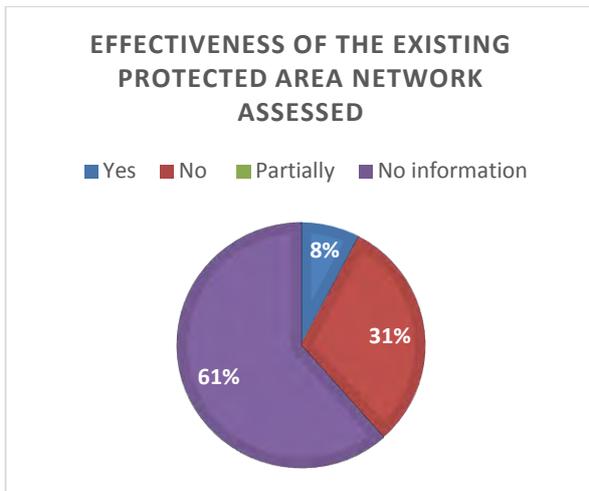
Action 3.2 to ensure that Sociable Lapwing habitat requirements are included in relevant government land-use policies in breeding and wintering areas applied to nine countries (Kazakhstan, Russia, India, Sudan, Syria, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Oman and Pakistan) and was ranked as a high priority. None of the countries to which this action applied reported having implemented the activity. [0%]



The following two actions applied to all range states and were ranked as high and medium priorities respectively:

Action 3.3 to assess the effectiveness of the existing protected area network across the range states was reported as implemented only by Turkey, which noted, that the key staging sites of the species are inadequately protected. It should further be noted that RSPB was actually indicated as the overall responsible organization for this action in the Action Plan. [8%]

Action 3.4 to ensure that the Sociable Lapwing is declared a priority conservation species in the relevant legislation of all the range states for enhanced protection was reported as implemented Kazakhstan and Russia, with the species entered into the respective national Red Data Books. [15%]



Average implementation rate: 6%

5.4. Result 4 – All identified knowledge gaps are filled by 2022

The Action Plan further foresees the implementation 12 actions to fill identified knowledge gaps by 2022. An overview of the average implementation rate for each action is presented in the table below:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Implementation rate</i>
4.1. Additional staging areas and stop-over sites have been identified on the western flyway. (Iraq, Kazakhstan, Russia, Syria, Turkey)	High	20%

4.2. The route and the key staging areas have been identified on the eastern flyway. (India, Kazakhstan, Pakistan)	High	0%
4.3. The extent of hunting pressure has been evaluated. (Syria, Iraq, Turkey)	Essential	0%
4.4. Further wintering sites in Sudan and elsewhere in north-east Africa, the Middle East and India have been identified. (Eritrea, Ethiopia, India, Sudan)	High	0%
4.5. Further research on demographic parameters has been undertaken.	Medium	8%
4.6. Has there been research on the migration strategy through satellite tracking and colour-ringing birds on the breeding grounds. (question applies to Kazakhstan)	Essential	100%
4.7. New breeding areas have been identified through satellite tracking of birds caught on the wintering grounds (India, Sudan)	Medium	0%
4.8. Coordinated counts of breeding areas have been conducted to improve the world population estimate. (Kazakhstan, Russia)	High	50%
4.9. The effects of possible land-use changes on breeding numbers and distribution has been determined. (Kazakhstan, Russia)	Medium	0%
4.10. The effects of possible land-use changes in the wintering grounds has been determined. (Eritrea, Ethiopia, India, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan)	Low	0%
4.11. The current climate space of the Sociable Lapwing has been identified to predict the potential impacts of climate change on future distribution. (Kazakhstan, Russia)	Low	50%
4.12. The ecological requirements on stop-over and wintering grounds have been identified.	n/a	15%

Average implementation rate: 20%

5.5. Result 5 – International cooperation is maximized through full engagement of all Principal Range States in the framework of the Single Species Action Plan and AEWA

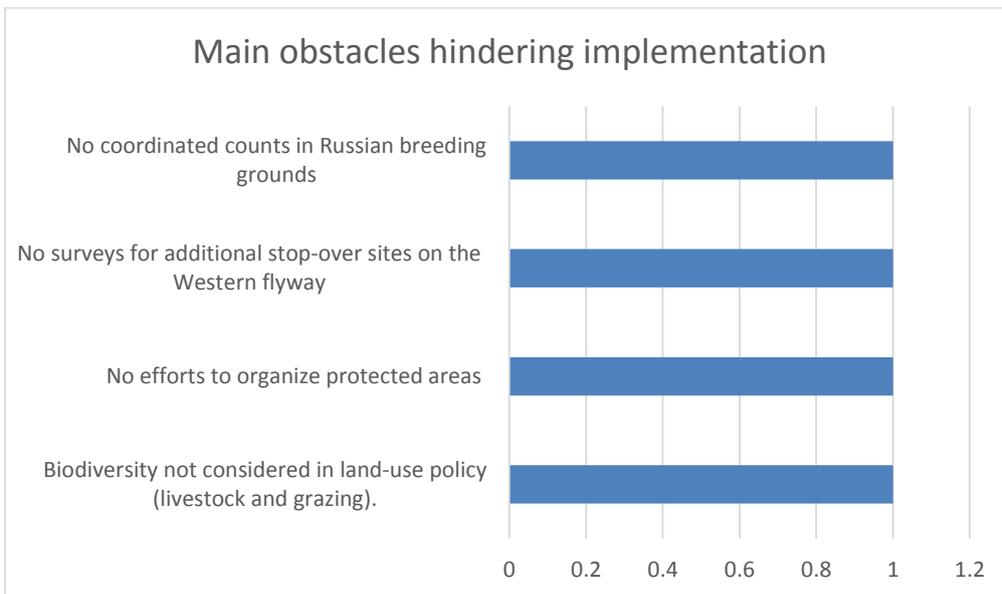
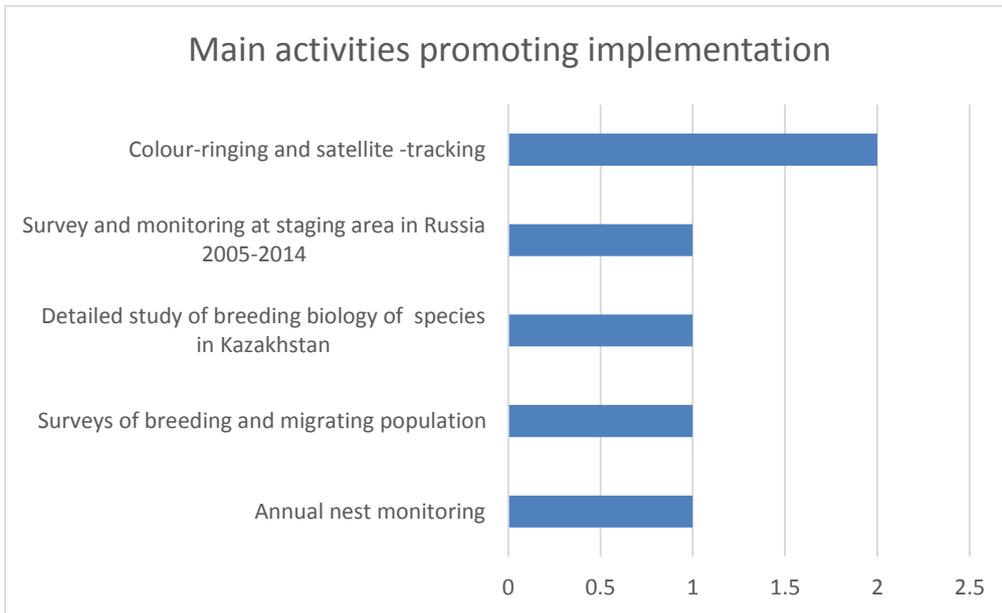
Action 5.1 regarding the accession to AEWA of all Principal Range States was marked as high and applied to Iraq, Kazakhstan, Russia, Turkey, Eritrea, Oman and Saudi Arabia. This action was to be implemented by the government institutions in charge of nature conservation in cooperation with the AEWA Secretariat. Unfortunately, none of the countries have acceded to the Agreement to date. [0%]

Action 5.2 called for all range states to maintain the active work of the AEWA Sociable Lapwing International Working Group to coordinate the implementation of the Action Plan and was marked as essential. Although Kazakhstan, Sudan and Turkey all responded with “yes” and Russia with “partially”, they mainly reported having contributed with monitoring activities. Although certainly important, coordination of monitoring does not constitute the main or only task of the International Working Groups. According to feedback from the Coordinator the Working Groups is currently actually quite dormant and there have been difficulties to engage the range states – particularly on government level. [19%]

Average implementation rate: 10%

6. Main actions promoting and obstacles hindering implementation

Range states were also requested to name the top three actions promoting as well as hindering effective implementation of the Action Plan. Only Kazakhstan and Russia provided answers. These are summarized in the tables below.



7. Conclusions

Three years following the 2012 adoption of the revised AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Sociable Lapwing, some progress has been made with regard to the implementation of Action Plan activities.

It should be noted, however, that the average implementation rates listed below do not reflect the actual status of implementation across the range. Several activities only applied to the breeding range states and Kazakhstan, in particular, reported having implemented a relatively high number of the foreseen activities. If these actions were discounted from the overall score, the average implementation rate would be significantly lower. So the actual situation, is even less rosy.

Overall average implementation rate for 5 results: 27%
Average implementation rate for essential and high priority activities (14): 28%

Although the revised plan was only adopted in 2012, the Sociable Lapwing was amongst the first species for which an Action Plan was adopted under the Agreement (in 2002). On the basis of this, it could have been expected that more progress would have been made to date, for example regarding the adoption of National Action Plans (8%) and the establishment of National Working Groups (0%).

The AEWA Sociable Lapwing International Working was established as early as 2010 – potentially providing range states an international inter-governmental foundation on the basis of which to increase their engagement and implementation. The Working Group is, however, clearly not being used to its full potential, indicated amongst other things by the low response rate to this review and no response having been compiled by a government representative. A revitalization of the Working Group is hence urgently necessary – in particular with regard to increasing active range state government membership.

The Sociable Lapwing conservation network – both within the Working Group any beyond – remains very much based on national and international NGOs as well as international conservation organizations. Although these organizations perform invaluable work, long-term successful conservation of the species will only be possible with the active engagement of range state governments.

Unfortunately, the Sociable Lapwing – although ‘Critically Endangered’ – does not appear to be a conservation priority for any of the Principal Range State governments. The species has not even been afforded protected status across its range.

In addition to increasing the number of range state governments represented in the International Working Group, efforts to encourage the accession of the seven Principal Range States within the range of the Agreement to AEWA must also urgently be increased.

Annex II - Overview of questionnaires submitted for the review

Species Action/Management Plan	Principal Range States per Plan	Principal Range States from which responses were received	Response rate	Comments
Madagascar Pond Heron ISSAP (<i>Ardeola idae</i>)	19	5 (Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Seychelles, Zimbabwe)	26%	No analysis undertaken due to poor response rate
Northern Bald Ibis ISSAP (<i>Geronticus eremita</i>)	3	3 (Morocco, Syria, Turkey)	100%	-
Eurasian Spoonbill ISSAP (<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>)	54	3 (Belgium, Senegal, Spain)	6%	No analysis undertaken due to poor response rate
Lesser Flamingo ISSAP (<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>)	12	7 (Botswana, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Namibia, Senegal, Tanzania)	58%	-
Bewick's Swan ISSAP (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>)	15*	10 (Belgium, Estonia, France, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, UK)	67%	The information provided by Finland and Germany was not submitted in the required format, and could therefore not be taken into account in the review.
Pink-footed Goose ISSMP (<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>)	4	4 (Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway)	100%	-
Greenland Greater White-fronted Goose ISSAP (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>)	4	3 (Iceland, Ireland, UK)	75%	-
Lesser White-fronted Goose ISSAP (<i>Anser erythropus</i>)	22	15 (Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iran, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Russia, Sweden, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan)	68%	The information provided by Germany was not submitted in the required format, and could therefore not be taken into account in the review.
Red-breasted Goose ISSAP (<i>Branta ruficollis</i>)	5	5 (Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Romania, Russia, Ukraine)	100%	-
White-winged Flufftail ISSAP (<i>Sarothrura ayresi</i>)	4	1 (Zimbabwe)	25%	No analysis undertaken due to poor response rate
Sociable Lapwing ISSAP (<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>)	13	5 (Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Russia, Sudan, Turkey)	38%	-
Black-tailed Godwit ISSAP (<i>Limosa limosa</i>)	62	3 (Albania, Estonia, Mali)	5%	No analysis undertaken due to poor response rate

*Although listed as a Principal Range State in the Action Plan, Norway reported the Bewick's Swan to be very rare species in the country and therefore did not submit a questionnaire, bringing the total number of range states to 15.

AEWA INTERNATIONAL Species Working Group

Terms of Reference

Goals [usually as per the SSAP, see four example bullet points]

- To restore the species populations to a favourable conservation status.
- To move the species population(s) from Column A to Column B or C of Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan.
- To remove the species from the IUCN Red List of threatened animals.
- In the short-term, to maintain the current population size and distribution of the species throughout its range, and in the medium to long term to promote increase in population size and range.

Role

The role of the AEWA Species Working Group will be to:

- 1) coordinate and catalyse the implementation of the International Single Species Action Plan (SSAP) approved by the AEWA Meeting of the Parties;
- 2) stimulate and support Range States in the implementation of the SSAP; and
- 3) monitor and report on the implementation and the effectiveness of the SSAP.

Remit

The AEWA Species Working Group will:

- set priorities for action and implement them;
- coordinate the overall international implementation;
- raise funds for implementation;
- assist Range States in producing national action plans;
- ensure regular and thorough monitoring of the species populations;
- stimulate and support scientific research in the species necessary for conservation;
- promote the protection of the network of critical sites for the species;
- facilitate internal and external communication and exchange of scientific, technical, legal and other required information;
- assist with information in determination of the red list status and population size and trends of the species;
- regularly monitor the effectiveness of implementation of the SSAP and take appropriate action according to the findings of this monitoring;
- regularly report on the implementation of the SSAP to the AEWA Meeting of the Parties through the National Focal Points; and
- update the international SSAP in [year when the SSAP is due for revision] or as required.

Membership

The AEWA Species Working Group will comprise (1) designated representatives of national state authorities in charge of the implementation of AEWA and (2) representatives of national expert and conservation organisations as invited to the national delegations by the state authorities from all major Range States.

Countries regularly supporting the species: *[list of the core Range States as per the SSAP]*

The Chair of the AEWA Species Working Group may invite and admit international expert and conservation organisations as well as individual experts as observers to the Species Working Group, as necessary.

Officers

A Chairperson of the Species Working Group will be elected amongst its members.

A full-time or part-time Coordinator post will be based in an institution or an organization, ideally from one of the major Range States. The Coordinator will be in charge of the day-to-day operations of the Species Working Group and shall act in close cooperation with the Chairperson and the AEWA Secretariat.

The designated representatives of national state authorities will act as National Focal Points for the SSAP and will be the main contact persons for the Chairperson and the Coordinator.

Meetings

The Species Working Group should aim to hold face-to-face meetings once every three years. Other face-to-face meetings may be arranged as circumstances allow (e.g. back-to-back meetings with other international fora). Between meetings, business will be conducted electronically via Species Working Group's website and list server.

Reporting

A thorough report on the implementation of the SSAP will be produced according to a standard format with contributions from all Range States and submitted for inclusion into the general International Review on the Stage of Preparation and Implementation of Single Species Action Plans to the AEWA Meeting of the Parties. Reports shall also be prepared by each Range State to a format agreed by the Species Working Group and presented at each face-to-face meeting of the Species Working Group. Other reports will be produced as required by the AEWA Technical Committee or the AEWA Secretariat.

Financing

The operations of the Species Working Group, including the coordinator post, are to be financed primarily by its members and, if applicable, by its observers; the AEWA Secretariat cannot commit regular financial support and may only provide such if possible. Funding for SSAP activities of the Species Working Group or its members is to be sought from various sources.

AEWA International Species Expert Group

Terms of Reference

Goal

(as defined in the International Single Species Action Plan for the [SPECIES / POPULATION NAME])

e.g. To maintain the [SPECIES / POPULATION NAME] at its [YEAR] level (i.e. #,000 birds) in the long-term. *Indicator:* Five year minimum of counts exceeds #,000 individuals.

Purpose

- e.g. Halt ongoing decline, and if possible, begin recovery of the population to its [YEAR] level. *Indicator:* Average population size by [YEAR] exceeds ##,000 individuals (i.e. the [YEAR] levels).

Role

The role of the AEWA [SPECIES / POPULATION NAME] International Expert Group will be to:

1. coordinate and catalyse the implementation of the AEWA [SPECIES / POPULATION NAME] Single Species Action Plan (SSAP);
2. stimulate and support Range States in the implementation of the SSAP; and
3. monitor and report on the implementation and the effectiveness of the SSAP.

Remit

The AEWA [SPECIES / POPULATION NAME] International Expert Group will:

- Develop an International Single Species Action Plan for the [SPECIES/POPULATION NAME] if not already developed, in liaison with the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and in accordance with the AEWA Action Planning Guidelines and consistent with the agreed process;
- Set priorities for action and implement them (this step and later steps can happen while an SSAP is still under development or awaiting formal approval);
- Coordinate the overall international implementation;
- Raise funds for implementation;
- Assist Range States in producing national action plans;
- Ensure regular and thorough monitoring of the species populations;
- Stimulate and support scientific research in the species necessary for conservation;
- Promote the protection of the network of critical sites for the species;
- Facilitate internal and external communication and exchange of scientific, technical, legal and other required information, including with other specialists and interested parties;
- Assist with information in determination of the population size and trends of the species;
- Regularly monitor the effectiveness of implementation of the SSAP and take appropriate action according to the findings of this monitoring;

- Regularly report on the implementation of the SSAP to the AEWA Meeting of the Parties by submitting reports to the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat; and
- Revise the international SSAP by [DATE] and update it in [DATE] or as required.

Membership

- The AEWA [SPECIES / POPULATION NAME] International Expert Group will be open to (1) representatives of Governmental bodies of all key Range States relevant to the implementation of AEWA, (2) representatives of national expert and conservation organisations from all key Range States, (3) representatives of international organisations, and (4) other experts as required.

Countries forming the International Expert Group

[LIST KEY RANGE STATES]

Officers

A full-time or part-time Coordinator post will ideally be based in an institution or an organisation, ideally from one of the major Range States. The Coordinator will be in charge of the day-to-day operations of the International Expert Group and shall act in close consultation with the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat.

Meetings

The AEWA [SPECIES / POPULATION NAME] International Expert Group should aim to hold face-to-face meetings once every three years. Other face-to-face meetings may be arranged as circumstances allow (e.g. back-to-back meetings with other international fora). Between meetings, business will be conducted electronically via the Expert Group's website and list server/intranet.

Reporting

A thorough report on the implementation of the SSAP will be produced according to a standard format with contributions from all Range States and submitted for inclusion into the general International Review on the Stage of Preparation and Implementation of Single Species Action Plans to the AEWA Meeting of the Parties. Reports shall also be prepared by each Range State to a format agreed by the Expert Group and presented at each face-to-face meeting of the Expert Group. Other reports will be produced as requested by the AEWA Technical Committee or the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat.

Financing

AEWA [SPECIES / POPULATION NAME] International Expert Group activities will be funded by its members.

AEWA International Species Working Group Coordinators

FACT SHEET

1. INTRODUCTION

The establishment of inter-governmental AEWA International Species Working Groups (ISWGs) is foreseen for prioritized AEWA International Single Species Action (ISAPs) and Management Plans (ISMPs). The purpose of these Working Groups is to coordinate the implementation of the plans amongst range states. A coordinating organization and a subsequent Species Working Group Coordinator are identified by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat to organize and facilitate the work of the ISWGs.

In addition to the general responsibilities outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and the coordinating organization, this fact sheet provides further information on how Working Group coordination is set up, the main tasks of AEWA Species Working Group Coordinators, as well as on the role of the Secretariat.

2. ORGANIZATION AND FUNDING OF THE COORDINATION

The commitment of an organization to take over the task of coordinating an AEWA Species Working Group is in most cases formalized through the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and the institution/organization in question. Basic Terms of Reference outlining the role and responsibilities of the coordinator are attached to the MoU. The coordinators are expected to work in close cooperation and consultation with the Secretariat and the elected Chair of the respective Working Group.

The main responsibility of funding the coordinator position falls on the selected coordinating organization and coordinator. The Secretariat has very limited means to assist in fundraising for the Working Groups. The coordination will therefore in most cases be handed over to organizations or government institutions that can either provide the coordination as part of the regular work of their staff or via a voluntary contribution or secondment. The respective Working Group range states might also be willing to contribute towards the funding of a coordinator.

The more time a coordinator has to spend on his or her ISWG the better – but almost none of the Working Groups currently in place have a full-time coordinator. Coordination is rather provided as part of - or in addition to - the selected person's main work.

3. MAIN OBJECTIVES OF AEWA ISWG COORDINATION

The main objective of setting up and providing coordination for the AEWA International Species Working Groups is to ensure their smooth functioning with the ultimate goal of implementing the Action or Management Plan for the species in question.

Past experience has shown that in the absence of a Working Group with both links to range state governments as well as to relevant national species experts, combined with active coordination of its' activities, adopted Plans often lay dormant and the rate of implementation as well as the coordination of conservation activities along the flyway, remains low.

4. MAIN TASKS

The main tasks of AEWA International Species Working Group Coordinators are as follows:

- 4.1. Assisting the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat in convening the International Working Group (*essential*);
- 4.2. Organizing and servicing the meetings of the International Working Group (*essential*);
- 4.3. Establishing and facilitating a website and internal workspace for the Working Group (*essential*);
- 4.4. Assisting the range states in preparing National Species Action/Management Plans;
- 4.5. Assisting the range states and other stakeholders in implementing the Plans, including fundraising (*essential*);
- 4.6. Preparing regular updates on the progress in implementation and achieving the goals of the ISAP/ISMP (*essential*);
- 4.7. Organizing updates or revisions of the ISAP/ISMP, as necessary (*essential*);
- 4.8. Establishing and maintaining an information resource base for the species, if necessary.

These tasks are briefly outlined below. Core tasks have been marked as essential. The implementation of tasks will very much depend on the capacity of the coordinating organization and the designated coordinator as well as on the needs and wishes of the Working Group.

4.1 Assisting the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat in convening the ISWG (*essential*)

Following the adoption of an AEWA Species Action or Management Plan and once a coordinating organization has been identified; the Secretariat will convene the Working Group by sending official letters to all the AEWA Focal Points in the range states covered by the Action Plan. The letters introduce the selected Species Working Group Coordinator (including contact details etc.) and request Focal Points to nominate two representatives to the group:

- a) one **government representative** from the institution responsible for the implementation of AEWA and;
- b) one **national expert** with in-depth knowledge and experience on the scientific, technical, conservation and/or management issues regarding the species.

The two designated people will be in charge of facilitating the implementation of the Plan in their country and will also act as the link between the ISWG and national stakeholders. In this regard, coordinators should encourage the establishment of National Working Groups which in turn should involve and engage all relevant national stakeholders. Additional national representatives and experts are welcome to attend Working Group meetings as part of their national delegation in agreement with the designated government representative.

If a particular government representative or national expert for the species is already known, the Secretariat can recommend that they be nominated to represent their country in the Working Group. If this is the case, coordinators should supply the Secretariat with a list of candidates including their institutions/job titles and email addresses during the preparation of the letters to convene the Working Group.

In addition to national representatives:

- c) observer organizations are also invited to join the ISWG.

Their role is to assist the ISWG in its tasks and to provide expert guidance. Invited organizations usually include the international expert organizations represented in the AEWA Technical Committee (such as Wetlands International, the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, BirdLife International, FACE, CIC, OMPO etc.).

In addition, other organizations can apply for observer status to the group. All organizations that would like to be granted an observer status to the Working Group must be approved by the ISWG members.

In addition to the letters, Focal Points will receive Working Group Terms of Reference as developed by the AEWA Technical Committee and customized for the Working Group in question. The Terms of Reference are revised by the coordinator following instructions from the Secretariat.

Once the formal letters convening the Working Group have been sent, the coordinator will be responsible for collecting the designations of representatives and maintaining a contact list of the Working Group members. The coordinator shall communicate this list as well as any changes to the Secretariat (E-mail to Ms Dunia Sforzin: dsforzin@unep.de with copy to Ms Nina Mikander: nmikander@unep.de). In addition, the coordinator will attempt to follow-up with countries that have not yet designated representatives to the group by the communicated deadline.

MAIN STEPS:

*supply the Secretariat with a list of key experts in the range states (if known);
provide the Secretariat with customized Terms of Reference for the Working Group;
receive nominations for the Working Group and maintain up-to-date contact list;
remind range states of designations after expiration of the designation deadline;
facilitate the process of observers being invited and confirmed to the Working Group (see guidance for the Admission of Observers to AEWA ISWGs).*

4.2 Organizing and servicing the meetings of the ISWG (essential)

The coordinator is responsible for facilitating the work of the ISWG between meetings and also for organizing the meetings of the Working Group in cooperation with the AEWA Secretariat. Organizing meetings of the Working Group includes, but is not limited to:

- Meeting logistics (venue, invitations, assistance with visa applications etc.) and fundraising for meetings (as necessary);
- Meeting documents (Note: in addition to sharing the meeting documents via the Working Group website, the Secretariat will set up a page on the AEWA website for the documents. Documents should be ready and online four weeks in advance of the meeting, at the latest);
- Facilitation of national reporting using the CMS Family Online Reporting System (if the Working Group decides to establish a national reporting practice);
- Meeting report and follow-up.

Dates for Working Group meetings should be coordinated with the Secretariat in order to ensure Secretariat availability to assist with meeting preparations as well as availability to attend meetings (as necessary).

The Working Group will decide at its first meeting at what intervals meetings should take place. Meeting frequency is mostly dependent on available funding. Most Working Groups aim to have face-to-face meetings every two to three years. In an effort to limit meeting costs (particularly in the case of very large Working Groups), coordinators can explore the option of having regional meetings with a smaller number of range states as well as the possibility of organizing Working Group meetings online, where appropriate.

MAIN STEPS:

*Once a critical mass of range states has appointed representatives to the group, liaise with the Secretariat regarding the holding of a first ISWG meeting and start fundraising (if applicable), including contacting possible host countries;
Undertake meeting preparations as described above;*

*Facilitate the ISWG meeting together with the elected Chair (and the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat if applicable);
Follow-up on meeting decisions and tasks.*

4.3 Establishing and Facilitating a Website and Internal Workspace *(essential)*

The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat has developed a Drupal content management template for ISWG websites. The templates include an external website to present the Plan, the Working Group and the species as well as an internal workspace area open to Working Group members and observers only. The websites are currently all being hosted by the Secretariat.

Coordinators are requested to populate their Working Group websites and workspaces with content and to update the websites regularly. In addition, coordinators are expected to moderate the discussion on the workspace.

Coordinators will be provided with administrator rights (including password and login) for their website as well a user guide on how to use and manage the website. The coordinator may then - in turn – provide others from within the coordinating organization with administrator rights for the purposes of populating the website. However, administrator rights should be limited to a select few in order to avoid difficulties with the website. The Secretariat will also maintain administrator rights for all websites/workspaces.

The Secretariat will, in turn, promote the work of the Working Groups on the AEWA website. Coordinators are therefore requested to forward any interesting stories posted on their news page (for example from Working Group meetings or project results) to the Secretariat.

MAIN STEPS:

Gather content for the website (text, pictures, publications etc.);
Request template and login details from the Secretariat and proceed with populating the site and creating workspace accounts for all ISWG members and confirmed observers;
Facilitate all ISWG correspondence via the internal workspace.

4.4 Assisting the range states in preparing national species action/management plans

One of the main means of implementing international species action and management plans is the development of national action/management plans which take into account the situation in the individual range state and also define national implementation priorities and responsibilities. Coordinators should encourage the development and adoption of national action/management plans (at least in key range states). The AEWA guidelines on the development of national action plans¹⁰ provide some guidance.

4.5 Assisting the range states and other stakeholders in implementing the ISAP/ISMP, including fundraising *(essential)*

Coordinators shall provide assistance to range states as well as other stakeholders in the implementation of the plans where necessary. This can include providing expertise and know-how as well as assisting in fundraising for prioritized implementation activities and projects.

MAIN STEPS:

Request range states to provide a list of urgent priority actions for their country based on the ISAP/ISMP to be prioritized for fundraising;
Pass on information on possible funding opportunities to ISWG members;
Assist range states in setting up possible larger cross-border, regional or flyway conservation projects;

¹⁰ <http://www.unep-aewa.org/en/publication/aewa-conservation-guidelines-no-1-guidelines-preparation-national-single-species-action>

Facilitate knowledge transfer and capacity building (such as field training) if necessary;
Liaise with other projects, partners etc. to explore possibilities to collaborate.

4.6 Preparing regular updates on the progress in implementation and achieving the goals of the ISAP/ISMP (essential)

The Coordinator will be requested by the Secretariat to prepare updates on progress made with the Working Group and the implementation of the Plan. Updates are particularly needed for meetings of the AEWA Technical Committee, AEWA Standing Committee and the sessions of the AEWA Meetings of the Parties.

As mentioned above under task three, coordinators are also encouraged to share information on progress made within the framework of the Plan with the Secretariat (for example submitting stories on successful projects/meetings etc. to be posted on the AEWA website or to be featured on the AEWA e-newsletter) and of course the wider conservation community.

MAIN STEPS:

Provide updates to the Secretariat as requested;
Inform the Secretariat of particular achievements/projects/implementation progress for wider distribution.

4.7 Organizing updates or revisions of the ISAP/ISMP (essential)

The coordinator is also responsible for organizing updates or revisions of AEWA Species/Management Plans in cooperation with the AEWA Secretariat - as necessary. A revision of the Plan is usually foreseen after a certain period of validity (i.e. 10 years) which is specified in the Plan itself. An emergency review of the Plan can also be undertaken should there be any sudden major changes liable to affect the species/population in question.

MAIN STEPS:

Plan and execute the revision together with the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat (timeline, possible need for external assistance and subsequent fundraising etc.) as well as the ISWG (organize National Reporting for latest data, circulate drafts to all ISWG members for comments etc.).

4.8 Establishing and Maintaining an Information Resource Base

Coordinators are further encouraged to establish and maintain an information resource base for the species in question, if no such information resource base already exists. This could include - but not be limited to – national reports to the Working Group, scientific articles, popular articles, images, maps, observation records, etc. Linking to the tasks described under 4.2 (National reports to ISWG meetings), 4.6 (Progress reports on implementation) and 4.7 (Revisions of the ISAPs or ISMPs), coordinators should particularly encourage the collection and collation of data and information linked to the goals and objectives of any ISAP/ISMP.

The Working Group websites can function as a platform to store information related to the species – in particular within the internal workspace area under the heading “Resource Documents” which allows the sharing of documents and information within the closed circle of the Working Group members.

5. “CORPORATE IDENTITY” OF THE AEWA SPECIES WORKING GROUPS

As the Working Groups are functioning under the framework of AEWA, the Secretariat has made efforts to ensure that a common - albeit not very strict – branding is applied to all groups identifying them as AEWA Species Working Groups. This “corporate identity” of the Working Groups is still under development, but the following tools currently adhere to a similar format:

- Working Group logos
- Websites/workspaces
- Working Group letterhead
- Meeting document format
- Promotional materials (banners, stickers etc.)

For more information and guidance as well as templates, please contact the Secretariat.

6. SECRETARIAT ROLE & CONTACTS

As mentioned throughout this fact sheet, the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat works in close cooperation with the ISWGs and selected coordinators providing guidance and assuring that the ISWGs are functioning consistently. The main Secretariat tasks include the following:

- Identification of a coordinating organization/institution, negotiation of modalities regarding coordination (drafting Memorandum of Understanding, Terms of Reference etc.);
- Convening of the ISWG;
- Involvement in ISWG meeting preparations and execution: i.e. in putting together the meeting agenda, providing guidance as well as templates for more formal agenda points (election of Chair country, etc.), providing guidance on national reporting (including access to the CMS Family online reporting system), attending ISWG meetings to assist with their facilitation;
- Providing a customized website/workspace template for each prioritized ISWG including technical support as feasible;
- Providing general guidance on national action planning processes, including best practice examples;
- Passing on any relevant information regarding funding opportunities to the coordinators as well as fundraising for ISWG species conservation activities through the CMS Family Champions Programme;
- Requesting coordinators to provide updates and reports on ISWG activities and ISAP/ISMP implementation as necessary;
- Prompting coordinators to organize updates/revisions of their respective ISAP/ISMPs as necessary, including providing guidance throughout the revision and adoption process.

In addition, the Secretariat can also provide guidance in cases where disputes occur amongst ISWG members or between the ISWG and third parties.

For more information, please contact the Secretariat:

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PRIORITY LIST OF WATERBIRD POPULATIONS FOR WHICH TO DEVELOP SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLANS OR SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLANS: 2012-2015

Approved by the AEWA Technical Committee at its 11th meeting on 27-30 August 2012, Accra, Ghana

Background

In 2008 the first edition of the *AEWA Review of the stage of preparation and implementation of Single Species Action Plans (SSAPs)* was compiled and submitted to the 4th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP4). This review, amongst other things, suggested a priority list of populations for which SSAPs should be elaborated; this priority list was endorsed by MOP4 through [Resolution 4.4](#). The approved list has been used by the Secretariat and other stakeholders as guidance for the development of new SSAPs between the 4th and 5th Sessions (MOP5) of the Meeting of the Parties in 2012.

At MOP5 the Secretariat presented a summary of the current state of SSAP and Species Management Plan (SMP) production and coordination (see document [AEWA/MOP 5.24](#)). MOP5 also adopted amendments to the AEWA Table 1 on the basis of updated population size and trend estimates presented in the 5th edition of the *AEWA Conservation Status Report (CSR5)*. Paragraph 2.2.1 of the AEWA Action Plan sets the priority range of populations for species action planning (AEWA Table 1: Column A, category 1 and Column A, Categories 2 and 3 asterisk-marked), therefore with the amendments to Table 1, it will be necessary to revise the priority list endorsed by MOP4. Following this necessity, MOP5 requested the Technical Committee through [Resolution 5.8](#) to revise the priority list for SSAPs at its first meeting after each Meeting of the Parties in the light of approved changes to Table 1.

MOP5 added a new category, Category 4, to Column A of AEWA Table 1, which covers populations belonging to species listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List, but which do not fulfil the conditions in respect of Category 1, 2 or 3 of Column A. The amended paragraph 2.1.1 of the AEWA Action Plan requires the development of an international species action plan as a prerequisite for the continuation of hunting (on a sustainable use basis) for any population listed in Category 4.

Revised Priority List

The revised list has been compiled following the approach and criteria used in the *Review of the stage of preparation and implementation of SSAPs* produced for MOP4 in 2008, while adding an additional criterion on climate change vulnerability and taking into account the developments since MOP4, such as the addition of a new Category 4 to Column A, as well as adding further considerations for fine-tuning of the ranking.

In the first place, all populations in Categories 1 and 4 of Column A and populations on Column A marked with an asterisk as well as remaining populations belonging to globally threatened species, were extracted from the MOP5-adopted AEWA Table 1. In principle all globally threatened species are listed in Category 1, but we applied the latest IUCN Red List released two weeks after MOP5 in which some AEWA species have been uplisted to globally threatened categories, therefore there are some discrepancies. From this initial list all populations/species for which AEWA SSAPs are adopted, or for which these are currently being developed, were excluded, as well as those for which Memoranda of Understanding under the Convention on Migratory Species (accompanied by Action Plans), were concluded. These species/populations are listed in table 1 to this document.

Seven populations of seven different species are the subject of species action plans under instruments other than AEWA, but these plans do not cover the entire population flyways and/or are outdated (older than 10 years) and to our knowledge are not to be updated/revised by the framework under which they have been previously developed and implemented. These seven populations were kept in the list to which to apply ranking criteria. In table 2 to this document they are marked with three red exclamation marks and further information is provided in the related footnotes.

The resulting list of 88 populations belonging to 63 species has been ranked by applying the following four criteria consecutively:

- 1) **IUCN Red List status** – in descending order: Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU), Near-threatened (NT) and Least Concern (LC);
- 2) **Population size estimate** – in descending order from lowest to highest estimate. The estimates have been taken from CSR5. Where the population size estimate has been given by a range (e.g. 1-10,000) for the ranking the average (i.e. 5,000) has been used. Populations with exact size estimates (e.g. 5,000) have been ranked higher than populations whose size estimates are presented by a range and the average is equal to the size of the populations with exact estimate (e.g. 1-10,000). When two or more populations have had equal population estimates, those belonging to less numerous species within the Agreement area have been ranked higher.
- 3) **Population trend estimate** – in descending order: Declining (DEC), Fluctuating (FLU), Unknown (UNK), Stable (STA) and Increasing (INC). The estimates have been taken from CSR5.
- 4) **Vulnerability to climate change effects** – in descending order: Critical, High, Moderate and Some. The vulnerability scores were taken from the *AEWA Report on the Effects of Climate Change on Migratory Waterbirds within the African-Eurasian Flyways* presented to MOP4.

A total of 82 of the 88 populations are listed in table 2 below presenting the revised priority list for single species action planning in the period 2012-2015. The remaining six populations, which are huntable and listed on Column A, category 4 or Column B and C of the AEWA Table 1, were split into a different list defining priority for species management planning. They are presented in table 3 below.

TABLE 1

Populations/species qualifying for priority action planning, but for which there are AEWAs already adopted or currently being developed, as well as those for which there are Memoranda of Understanding accompanied by Action Plans, concluded under the Convention on Migratory Species (colour code: red – CR, pink – EN, orange – VU, yellow – NT, white – LC).

Populations	Col A	Red List	SSAP
<i>Egretta vinaceigula</i>		VU	AEWA 2012
- South-central Africa	1b 1c		
<i>Ardeola idae</i>		EN	AEWA & CMS 2008
- Madagascar & Aldabra/Central & Eastern Africa	1b 1c		
<i>Balaeniceps rex</i>		VU	AEWA under preparation
- Central Tropical Africa	1b 1c		
<i>Geronticus eremita</i>		CR	AEWA 2005
- Morocco	1a 1b 1c		
- South-west Asia	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Platalea leucorodia archeri</i>		LC	AEWA 2008
- Red Sea & Somalia	1c		
<i>Platalea leucorodia balsaci</i>		LC	AEWA 2008
- Coastal West Africa (Mauritania)	1c		
<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>		NT	AEWA & CMS 2008
- West Africa	2		
- Eastern Africa	4		
- Southern Africa (to Madagascar)	3a		
<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>		EN	AEWA, CMS and EU 2005
- West Mediterranean (Spain & Morocco)	1a 1b 1c		
- Algeria & Tunisia	1a 1b 1c		
- East Mediterranean, Turkey & South-west Asia	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>		NT	AEWA 2008
- Eastern Africa	1c		
- Southern Africa	1c		
<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>		LC	AEWA 2012
- Greenland/Ireland & UK	2*		
<i>Anser erythropus</i>		VU	AEWA 2008
- NE Europe & W Siberia/Black Sea & Caspian	1a 1b 2		
- Fennoscandia	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Branta ruficollis</i>		EN	AEWA & EU 2012
- Northern Siberia/Black Sea & Caspian	1a 1b 3a 3c		
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>		NT	AEWA & CMS 2005
- West Mediterranean/North & West Africa	1a 1c		
- Eastern Europe/E Mediterranean & Sahelian Africa	1a 3c		
- Western Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa	1a 3c		
<i>Balearica regulorum regulorum</i>		EN	AEWA under preparation
- Southern Africa (N to Angola & S Zimbabwe)	1b 1c		
<i>Balearica regulorum gibbericeps</i>		EN	AEWA under preparation
- Eastern Africa (Kenya to Mozambique)	1b 3c		

<i>Grus leucogeranus</i>		CR	CMS MoU
- Iran (win)	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Sarothrura ayresi</i>		EN	AEWA & CMS 2008
- Ethiopia	1a 1b 1c		
- Southern Africa	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Glareola nordmanni</i>		NT	AEWA & Bern 2002
- SE Europe & Western Asia/Southern Africa	4		
<i>Vanelhus gregarius</i>		CR	AEWA & Bern 2002; AEWA & CMS 2012
- SE Europe & Western Asia/North-east Africa	1a 1b 2		
- Central Asian Republics/NW India	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Gallinago media</i>		NT	AEWA & Bern 2002
- Scandinavia/probably West Africa	4		
- Western Siberia & NE Europe/South-east Africa	4		
<i>Limosa limosa limosa</i>		NT	AEWA & EU 2008
- Western Europe/NW & West Africa	4		
- Eastern Europe/Central & Eastern Africa	4		
- West-central Asia/SW Asia & Eastern Africa	4		
<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>		NT	AEWA & EU 2008
- Iceland/Western Europe	4		
<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i> ¹¹		CR	CMS MoU
- Central Siberia/Mediterranean & SW Asia	1a 1b 1c		

¹¹ The 2008 Review of the stage of preparation and implementation of Single Species Action Plans recommended finalisation of the Action Plan under the CMS Slender-billed Curlew MoU, but the SbC Working Group decided at its meeting in 2009 not to embark on finalising the Action Plan unless the species is observed again (last documented sightings in the late 1990s).

TABLE 2

Priority list of waterbird populations for development of SSAPs 2012-2015 (colour code: pink – EN, orange – VU, yellow – NT, white – LC).

No.	Populations	Column A	Column B	Column C	Red List	Pop size	Pop trend	Climate Change
	<i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i>				EN			
1	- Coastal South-west Africa	1b 2				11,100	DEC	High
	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>				EN			
2	- Southern Africa	1b	2a 2c			180,000	DEC	Moderate
	<i>Melanitta fusca fusca</i> ¹²				EN			
3	- Black Sea & Caspian	1c				1,500	UNK	High
	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>				VU			
4	- East Mediterranean	1a 1b 1c				1,000	DEC	High
	<i>Glareola ocularis</i>				VU			
5	- Madagascar/East Africa	1c				5,000-10,000	DEC	High
	<i>Sula (Morus) capensis</i>				VU			
6	- Southern Africa	1b	2a 2c			468,000	DEC	High
	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>				VU			
7	- South-west Asia & South Asia (win)	1a 1b 1c				6,000-9,000	DEC	Moderate
	<i>Phalacrocorax nigrogularis</i>				VU			
8	- Arabian Coast	1b	2a 2c			270,000	DEC	Moderate
	<i>Grus carunculatus</i>				VU			
9	- Central & Southern Africa	1b 1c				1-7,550	DEC	Some
	<i>Balearica pavonina pavonina</i>				VU			
10	- West Africa (Senegal to Chad)	1b 1c				5,000-10,000	DEC	Some
	<i>Polysticta stelleri</i> !!! ¹³				VU			

¹² Uplisted to Endangered after MOP5, therefore not listed under Column A, category 1b; Resolution 5.6 urges Parties to support the development of a SSAP for *Melanitta fusca*. There is an EU Management Plan 2007-2009 for the species.

¹³ EU Species Action Plan 2001; CAFF Circumpolar Eider Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 1997.

No.	Populations	Column A	Column B	Column C	Red List	Pop size	Pop trend	Climate Change
11	- Western Siberia/North-east Europe	1a 1b 2				10,000-15,000	DEC	Some
	<i>Balearica pavonina ceciliae</i>				VU			
12	- Eastern Africa (Sudan to Uganda)	1b 3c				28,000-55,000	DEC	Some
	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>				VU			
13	- South-west Asia	1a 1b 2				46,000-50,000	DEC	Some
	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i> !!! ¹⁴				VU			
14	- West Mediterranean/West Medit. & West Africa	1a 1b 1c				3,000-5,000	FLU	High
	<i>Grus paradisea</i>				VU			
15	- Extreme Southern Africa	1b	1			25,500	STA	Moderate
	<i>Phalacrocorax nigrogularis</i>				VU			
16	- Gulf of Aden, Socotra, Arabian Sea	1b	1			60,000	STA/INC	Moderate
	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i> !!! ¹⁵				VU			
17	- Black Sea & Mediterranean (win)	1a 1b 1c				4,350-4,800	INC	Moderate
	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>				NT			
18	- Coastal Southern Africa	4				300,000	DEC	Moderate
	<i>Numenius arquata suschkini</i> ¹⁶				NT			
19	- South-east Europe & South-west Asia (bre)	1c				1-10,000	DEC	
	<i>Rynchops flavirostris</i>				NT			
20	- Coastal West Africa & Central Africa	2				7,000-13,000	DEC	
	<i>Rynchops flavirostris</i>				NT			

¹⁴ Bern, CMS and EU Species Action Plan 1996; EU Species Action Plan 2008. The 2008 Review of the stage of preparation and implementation of Single Species Action Plans recommended update/revision of the *Marmaronetta angustirostris* SSAP.

¹⁵ Bern, CMS and EU Species Action Plan 1996. The 2008 Review of the stage of preparation and implementation of Single Species Action Plans recommended update/revision of the *Pelecanus crispus* SSAP.

¹⁶ Resolution 5.6 urges Parties to support the development of an SSAP for *Numenius arquata*.

No.	Populations	Column A	Column B	Column C	Red List	Pop size	Pop trend	Climate Change
21	- Eastern & Southern Africa	2				8,000-12,000	DEC	
	<i>Numenius arquata orientalis</i> ¹⁷				NT			
22	- Western Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa	3c				25,000-100,000	DEC?	
	<i>Gavia adamsii</i>				NT			
23	- Northern Europe (win)	1c				1-10,000	UNK	High
	<i>Charadrius pallidus venustus</i>				NT			
24	- Eastern Africa	1c				6,500	STA	Critical
	<i>Phalacrocorax coronatus</i>				NT			
25	- Coastal South-west Africa	1c				8,700	STA	High
	<i>Sterna balaenarum</i>				NT			
26	- Namibia & South Africa/Atlantic coast to Ghana	2				14,000	STA	High
	<i>Charadrius pallidus pallidus</i>				NT			
27	- Southern Africa	2				11,000-16,000	STA	Moderate
	<i>Larus leucophthalmus</i>				NT			
28	- Red Sea & nearby coasts	1a	1			37,000-44,000	STA	Some
	<i>Haematopus moquini</i>				NT			
29	- Coastal Southern Africa	1c				5,000-6,000	INC	Moderate
	<i>Larus audouinii</i> !!! ¹⁸				NT			
30	- Mediterranean/N & W coasts of Africa	1a 3a				57,600	INC	Moderate
	<i>Grus virgo</i>				LC			
31	- Turkey (bre)	1c				30-60	DEC	Critical
	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus aethiopicus</i>				LC			
32	- Iraq & Iran	1c				200	DEC	Critical

¹⁷ Resolution 5.6 urges Parties to support the development of a SSAP for *Numenius arquata*.

¹⁸ Bern, CMS and EU Species Action Plan 1996; Barcelona Convention Action Plan for Annex-II-listed bird species 2003. The 2008 Review of the stage of preparation and implementation of Single Species Action Plans recommended update/revision of the *Larus audouinii* SSAP.

No.	Populations	Column A	Column B	Column C	Red List	Pop size	Pop trend	Climate Change
	<i>Anas capensis</i>				LC			
33	- Lake Chad basin	1c				1-500	DEC	Critical
	<i>Grus grus</i>				LC			
34	- Turkey & Georgia (bre)	1c				200-500	DEC	Critical
	<i>Anas hottentota</i>				LC			
35	- Lake Chad Basin	1c				1-1,000	DEC	High
	<i>Vanellus melanopterus minor</i>				LC			
36	- Southern Africa	1c				2,000-3,000	DEC	High
	<i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i>				LC			
37	- Baltic/SW Europe & NW Africa	1c				3,300-4,100	DEC	High
	<i>Botaurus stellaris capensis</i>				LC			
38	- Southern Africa	1c				5,000	DEC	High
	<i>Fulica cristata</i> !!! ¹⁹				LC			
39	- Spain & Morocco	1c				5,000	DEC	High
	<i>Sarothrura boehmi</i>				LC			
40	- Central Africa	1c				1-10,000	DEC	Moderate
	<i>Thalassornis leuconotus leuconotus</i>				LC			
41	- West Africa	1c				1-500	DEC	
	<i>Podiceps cristatus infuscatus</i>				LC			
42	- Eastern Africa (Ethiopia to N Zambia)	1c				1-1,000	DEC	
	<i>Sterna anaethetus melanopterus</i>				LC			
43	- W Africa	1c				1,500	DEC	
	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>				LC			
44	- North-west Africa	1c				3,000	DEC	
	<i>Anser fabalis fabalis</i>				LC			
45	- West & Central Siberia/Turkmenistan to W China	1c				5,000	DEC?	
	<i>Nettapus auritus</i>				LC			
46	- West Africa	1c				1-10,000	DEC	
	<i>Numenius phaeopus alboaxillaris</i>				LC			

¹⁹ EU Species Action Plan 1999.

No.	Populations	Column A	Column B	Column C	Red List	Pop size	Pop trend	Climate Change
47	- South-west Asia/Eastern Africa <i>Botaurus stellaris stellaris</i> !!! ²⁰	1c			LC	1-10,000	DEC	
48	W Europe, NW Africa (bre) <i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>	1c			LC	5,850-6,700	DEC	
49	- West Africa <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	1c			LC	5,000-10,000	DEC	
50	- Europe & Western Asia (bre) <i>Grus virgo</i>	1a 3c			LC	20,000-33,000	DEC	
51	- Black Sea (Ukraine)/North-east Africa <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>	1c			LC	600-750	UNK	Critical
52	- Northern Siberia/Caspian <i>Sterna vittata tristanensis</i>	1c			LC	1,000	UNK	High
53	- Tristan da Cunha & Gough/South Africa <i>Sterna vittata vittata</i>	1c			LC	2,400-4,500	UNK	Moderate
54	- P.Edward, Marion, Crozet & Kerguelen/South Africa <i>Sterna dougallii bangsi</i>	1c			LC	6,700-8,000	UNK	Moderate
55	- North Arabian Sea (Oman) <i>Sterna bergii thalassina</i>	1c			LC	1-600	UNK	Some
56	- Eastern Africa & Seychelles <i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	1c			LC	1,300-1,700	UNK	Some
57	- Eastern Siberia/SW Asia & W Southern Asia <i>Charadrius leschenaultii columbinus</i>	1b 1c			LC	2,000-5,000	UNK	Some
58	- Turkey & SW Asia/E. Mediterranean & Red Sea <i>Porzana pusilla intermedia</i>	1c			LC	1-10,000	UNK	Some
59	- Europe (bre) <i>Sterna bergii enigma</i>	1c			LC	2,000-10,000	UNK	Some

²⁰ EU Species Action Plan 2001.

No.	Populations	Column A	Column B	Column C	Red List	Pop size	Pop trend	Climate Change
60	- Madagascar & Mozambique/Southern Africa	1c				7,500-10,000	UNK	Some
	<i>Podiceps cristatus infuscatus</i>				LC			
61	- Southern Africa	1c				1-1,000	UNK	
	<i>Sterna albifrons guineae</i>				LC			
62	- West Africa (bre)	1c				2,000-3,000	UNK	
	<i>Gavia immer</i>				LC			
63	- Europe (win)	1c				5,000	UNK	
	<i>Mergus serrator serrator</i>				LC			
64	- Western Siberia/South-west & Central Asia	1c				1-10,000	UNK	
	<i>Gavia stellata</i>				LC			
65	- Caspian, Black Sea & East Mediterranean (win)	1c				1-10,000	UNK	
	<i>Mergus merganser merganser</i>				LC			
66	- North-east Europe/Black Sea	1c				10,000	UNK	
	<i>Cephus grylle faeroensis</i>				LC			
67	- Faeroes	1c				10,000	UNK	
	<i>Ciconia ciconia ciconia</i>				LC			
68	- Southern Africa	1c				20	STA	Critical
	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>				LC			
69	- Southern Africa	1c				1,560-4,050	STA?	High
	<i>Sterna bengalensis emigrata</i>				LC			
70	- S Mediterranean/NW & West Africa coasts	1c				4,000	STA	Some
	<i>Phaethon aetherus aetherus</i>				LC			
71	- South Atlantic	1c				1,750	STA	
	<i>Phaethon aetherus indicus</i>				LC			
72	- Persian Gulf, Gulf of Aden, Red Sea	1c				2,400	STA	
	<i>Podiceps auritus auritus</i>				LC			
73	- North-west Europe (large-billed)	1c				4,600-6,800	STA	
	<i>Anas capensis</i>				LC			
74	- Eastern Africa (Rift Valley)	1c				5,750-7,000	STA	
	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>				LC			

No.	Populations	Column A	Column B	Column C	Red List	Pop size	Pop trend	Climate Change
75	- South-west Europe/West Africa <i>Sterna dougallii dougallii</i>	1c				1,300-1,370	INC	High
76	- Southern Africa <i>Sterna dougallii dougallii</i> !!! ²¹	1c			LC	750-780	INC	Some
77	- Europe (bre) <i>Sterna caspia caspia</i>	1c				5,400-5,700	INC	Some
78	- Southern Africa (bre) <i>Ardeola ralloides ralloides</i>	1c				2,000	INC	
79	- SW Europe, NW Africa (bre) <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	1c				2,700-5,600	INC	
80	- Svalbard/Denmark & UK <i>Sterna caspia caspia</i>	1c				7,600	INC	
81	- Baltic (bre) <i>Sterna caspia caspia</i>	1c				8,000-11,000	INC	
82	- Black Sea (bre)	1c			LC	8,000-11,000	INC	

²¹ EU Species Action Plan 1999.

TABLE 3

Priority list of waterbird populations for development of Species Management Plans 2012-2015 (colour code: pink – EN, orange – VU, yellow – NT, white – LC).

No.	Populations	Column A	Column B	Column C	Red List	Pop size	Pop trend
	<i>Melanitta fusca fusca</i> ²²				EN		
1	- Western Siberia & Northern Europe/NW Europe		2a 2c			450,000	DEC
	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i> ²³				VU		
2	- Western Siberia/North Europe		2c			1,600,000	DEC
	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i> ²⁴				VU		
3	- Iceland & Greenland			1		100,000-150,000	STA
	<i>Numenius arquata arquata</i> ²⁵				NT		
4	- Europe/Europe, North & West Africa	4				700,000-1,000,000	DEC
	<i>Anser fabalis fabalis</i>				LC		
5	- North-east Europe/North-west Europe	3c*				63,000	DEC
	<i>Thalassornis leuconotus leuconotus</i>				LC		
6	- Eastern & Southern Africa	2*				10,000-25,000	STA

²² Uplisted to Endangered after MOP5, therefore not listed under Column A, category 1b; Resolution 5.6 urges Parties to support the development of a SSAP for *Melanitta fusca*. There is an EU Management Plan 2007-2009 for the species.

²³ Uplisted to Vulnerable after MOP5, therefore not listed under Column A, category 1b; Resolution 5.6 urges Parties to support the development of a SSAP for *Clangula hyemalis* as a priority in relation to other mentioned species (*Melanitta fusca* and *Numenius arquata*).

²⁴ Uplisted to Vulnerable after MOP5, therefore not listed under Column A, category 1b; Resolution 5.6 urges Parties to support the development of a SSAP for *Clangula hyemalis* as a priority in relation to other mentioned species (*Melanitta fusca* and *Numenius arquata*).

²⁵ Resolution 5.6 urges Parties to support the development of a SSAP for *Numenius arquata*.