

Report on the implementation of AEWA for the period 2015-2017

The format for reports on the implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) for the period 2015-2017 was approved at the 12th meeting of the Standing Committee (31 January – 01 February 2017, Paris, France). This format has been constructed following the AEWA Action Plan, the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2018 and resolutions of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP).

In accordance with article V(c) of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, each Party shall prepare to each ordinary session of the MOP a National Report on its implementation of the Agreement and submit that report to the Agreement Secretariat. By Resolution 6.14 of the MOP the deadline for submission of National Reports to the 7th session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP7) was set at 180 days before the beginning of MOP7, which is scheduled to take place on 4 – 8 December 2018 in South Africa; therefore **the deadline for submission of National Reports is Wednesday 7 June 2018.**

The AEWA National Reports 2015-2017 will be compiled and submitted through the CMS Family Online National Reporting System, which is an online reporting tool for the whole CMS Family. The CMS Family Online Reporting System was developed by the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) in close collaboration with and under the guidance of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat.

To contact the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat please send your inquiries to: aewa.nr@unep-aewa.org

1. General Information

Name of reporting Contracting Party

> Belgium

Date of entry into force of AEWA in the Contracting Party

> 01.06.2006

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

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

> None

2. Institutional Information

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

Designated National AEWA Administrative Authority

Full name of the institution

> Agency For Nature and Forests, Government of Flanders

Name and title of the head of institution

> Marleen Evenepoel, Administrator general

Mailing address - Street and number

> Havenlaan 88

P.O.Box

> bus 75

Postal code

> 1000

City

> Brussels

Country

> Belgium

Telephone

> (0032) 2 / 553 81 02

E-mail

> anb@vlaanderen.be

Website

> www.natuurenbos.be

Designated National Focal Point (NFP) for AEWA matters

Name and title of the NFP

> Mr. Floris Verhaeghe, Policy Advisor Species

Affiliation (institution, department)

> Flemish Government, Agency for Nature and Forest

Mailing address - Street and number

> Koning Albert I-laan 1/2

P.O.Box

> bus 74

Postal code

> 8200

City

> Bruges

Country

> Belgium

Telephone

> +32 50 24 77 91

E-mail

> Floris.Verhaeghe@vlaanderen.be

Website

> www.natuurenbos.be

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

Name and title of the TC NFP

> Mr. Koen Devos

Affiliation (institution, department)

> Research Institute for Nature and Forest

Mailing address - Street and number

> Havenlaan 88

P.O.Box

> 73

Postal code

> 1000

City

> Brussels

Country

> Belgium

Telephone

> +32 4 95 66 78 67

E-mail

> koen.devos@inbo.be

Website

> www.inbo.be

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

Name and title of the CEPA NFP

> Mr. Floris Verhaeghe

Affiliation (institution, department)

> Agentschap voor Natuur en Bos

Mailing address - Street and number

> Koning Albert I-laan 1/2

P.O.Box

> 74

Postal code

> 8200

City

> Bruges

Country

> Belgium

Telephone

> +32(0)479.89.01.09

E-mail

> Floris.Verhaeghe@vlaanderen.be

Website

Designated National Respondent (DNR) in charge of the compilation and submission of the AEWA National Report 2015-2017

Please select from the list below as appropriate.

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

Other contributors to the AEWA National Report 2015-2017

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

> Els Martens (Flemish Government, Agency for Nature and Forests)
Koen Devos (Institute for Nature and Forest Research)
Olivier Beck (Brussels Government, Brussels Environment)
Catherine Debruyne (Public Service of Wallonia, Walloon Government)
Mieke Degloire (Federal Government, DG Environment / Milieu Marin)
Floris Verhaeghe (Flemish Government, Agency for Nature and Forest)
Sven Vrielynck (Flemish Government, Agency for Nature and Forest)
Jeroen Panis (Flemish Government, Agency for Nature and Forest)
Bram D'Hondt (Flemish Government, Agency for Nature and Forest)
Muriel Vervaeke (Flemish Government, Agency for Nature and Forest)

Pressures and Responses

3. Species Conservation

3.1 Legal Measures

1. Please confirm whether all populations listed on AEWA Table 1, Column A which occur in your country are protected by your country's national legislation (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.1), in particular:

Tundra Swan / *Cygnus columbianus* / *bewickii*, Western Siberia & NE Europe/North-west Europe / Column A / Category 2

1.1. Taking of birds and eggs is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> Consistent throughout the country but different legislation for each region.

FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

1.2. Deliberate disturbance that would be significant for the conservation of the population concerned is prohibited

Yes

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Bean Goose / *Anser fabalis* / *fabalis*, North-east Europe/North-west Europe / Column A / Category 3c*

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FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009. Hunting regulation (no open season).

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BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

Long-tailed Duck / Clangula hyemalis / Western Siberia/North Europe (bre) / Column A / Category 1b

1.1. Taking of birds and eggs is prohibited

Yes

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1.2. Deliberate disturbance that would be significant for the conservation of the population concerned is prohibited

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Velvet Scoter / Melanitta fusca / Western Siberia & Northern Europe/NW Europe / Column A / Category 1b

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1.2. Deliberate disturbance that would be significant for the conservation of the population concerned is

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Smew / Mergellus albellus / North-west & Central Europe (win) / Column A / Category 3a

1.1. Taking of birds and eggs is prohibited

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Red-breasted Merganser / Mergus serrator / North-west & Central Europe (win) / Column A / Category 3c

1.1. Taking of birds and eggs is prohibited

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BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

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Horned Grebe / Podiceps auritus / auritus, North-east Europe (small-billed) / Column A / Category 2

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Baillon's Crake / Zapornia pusilla / intermedia, Europe (bre) / Column A / Category 1c

1.1. Taking of birds and eggs is prohibited

Yes

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Common Loon / *Gavia immer* / Europe (win) / Column A / Category 1c

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Black Stork / *Ciconia nigra* / South-west Europe/West Africa / Column A / Category 1c

1.1. Taking of birds and eggs is prohibited

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Eurasian Spoonbill / *Platalea leucorodia* / leucorodia, West Europe/West Mediterranean & West Africa / Column A / Category 2

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Eurasian Bittern / *Botaurus stellaris* / stellaris, W Europe, NW Africa (bre) / Column A /

Category 1c

1.1. Taking of birds and eggs is prohibited

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Common Little Bittern / *Ixobrychus minutus* / minutus, W Europe, NW Africa/Subsaharan Africa / Column A / Category 2

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Black-crowned Night-heron / Nycticorax nycticorax / nycticorax, W Europe, NW Africa (bre) / Column A / Category 3c

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Purple Heron / Ardea purpurea / purpurea, West Europe & West Mediterranean/West Africa / Column A / Category 3c

1.1. Taking of birds and eggs is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> Consistent throughout the country but different legislation for each region.

FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

1.2. Deliberate disturbance that would be significant for the conservation of the population concerned is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

1.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.1. (a), as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> Consistent throughout the country but different legislation for each region.

FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

Eurasian Dotterel / Eudromias morinellus / Europe/North-west Africa / Column A / Category 3c

1.1. Taking of birds and eggs is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> Consistent throughout the country but different legislation for each region.

FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

1.2. Deliberate disturbance that would be significant for the conservation of the population concerned is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

1.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.1. (a), as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> Consistent throughout the country but different legislation for each region.

FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

Eurasian Curlew / Numenius arquata / arquata, Europe/Europe, North & West Africa / Column A / Category 4

1.1. Taking of birds and eggs is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> Consistent throughout the country but different legislation for each region.

FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

1.2. Deliberate disturbance that would be significant for the conservation of the population concerned is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

1.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the

prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.1. (a), as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> Consistent throughout the country but different legislation for each region.

FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

Black-tailed Godwit / *Limosa limosa* / *islandica*, Iceland/Western Europe / Column A / Category 4

1.1. Taking of birds and eggs is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> Consistent throughout the country but different legislation for each region.

FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

1.2. Deliberate disturbance that would be significant for the conservation of the population concerned is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

1.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.1. (a), as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> Consistent throughout the country but different legislation for each region.

FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

Black-tailed Godwit / *Limosa limosa* / *limosa*, Western Europe/NW & West Africa / Column A / Category 4

1.1. Taking of birds and eggs is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> Consistent throughout the country but different legislation for each region.

FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

1.2. Deliberate disturbance that would be significant for the conservation of the population concerned is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

1.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.1. (a), as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> Consistent throughout the country but different legislation for each region.

FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

Temminck's Stint / *Calidris temminckii* / Fennoscandia/North & West Africa / Column A / Category 3c

1.1. Taking of birds and eggs is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> Consistent throughout the country but different legislation for each region.

FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

1.2. Deliberate disturbance that would be significant for the conservation of the population concerned is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

1.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.1. (a), as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> Consistent throughout the country but different legislation for each region.

FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

Dunlin / *Calidris alpina / arctica*, NE Greenland/West Africa / Column A / Category 3a

1.1. Taking of birds and eggs is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> Consistent throughout the country but different legislation for each region.

FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

1.2. Deliberate disturbance that would be significant for the conservation of the population concerned is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

1.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.1. (a), as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> Consistent throughout the country but different legislation for each region.

FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

Dunlin / *Calidris alpina / schinzii*, Baltic/SW Europe & NW Africa / Column A / Category 1c

1.1. Taking of birds and eggs is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> Consistent throughout the country but different legislation for each region.

FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

1.2. Deliberate disturbance that would be significant for the conservation of the population concerned is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

1.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.1. (a), as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> Consistent throughout the country but different legislation for each region.

FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

Purple Sandpiper / *Calidris maritima* / NE Canada & N Greenland (breeding) / Column A / Category 2

1.1. Taking of birds and eggs is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> Consistent throughout the country but different legislation for each region.

FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

1.2. Deliberate disturbance that would be significant for the conservation of the population concerned is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

1.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.1. (a), as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> Consistent throughout the country but different legislation for each region.

FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

Common Redshank / *Tringa totanus* / totanus, Britain & Ireland/Britain, Ireland, France / Column A / Category 3c

1.1. Taking of birds and eggs is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> Consistent throughout the country but different legislation for each region.

FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

1.2. Deliberate disturbance that would be significant for the conservation of the population concerned is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

1.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.1. (a), as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

> Consistent throughout the country but different legislation for each region.

FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

2. Please confirm whether hunting of any populations listed under AEWA Table 1, Column 1, category 2 or 3 with an asterisk or category 4 is allowed in your country.

Bean Goose / *Anser fabalis* / fabalis, North-east Europe/North-west Europe / Column A / Category / 3c*

Is there an open hunting season for Bean Goose / *Anser fabalis* / fabalis, North-east

Europe/North-west Europe / Column A / Category / 3c* ?

No

Please explain.

> FLANDERS, WALLONIA: Bean Goose is mentioned as a game species in the hunting legislation but there's no open period for hunting.

Eurasian Curlew / Numenius arquata / arquata, Europe/Europe, North & West Africa / Column A / Category / 4

Is there an open hunting season for Eurasian Curlew / Numenius arquata / arquata, Europe/Europe, North & West Africa / Column A / Category / 4 ?

No

Please explain.

> FLANDERS, WALLONIA: Eurasian Curlew is not a game species so there can not be an open hunting season.

Black-tailed Godwit / Limosa limosa / islandica, Iceland/Western Europe / Column A / Category / 4

Is there an open hunting season for Black-tailed Godwit / Limosa limosa / islandica, Iceland/Western Europe / Column A / Category / 4 ?

No

Please explain.

> FLANDERS, WALLONIA: Black-tailed Godwit is not a game species so there can not be an open hunting season.

Black-tailed Godwit / Limosa limosa / limosa, Western Europe/NW & West Africa / Column A / Category / 4

Is there an open hunting season for Black-tailed Godwit / Limosa limosa / limosa, Western Europe/NW & West Africa / Column A / Category / 4 ?

No

Please explain.

> FLANDERS, WALLONIA: Black-tailed Godwit is not a game species so there can not be an open hunting season.

3. Please confirm whether the taking of all populations listed on AEWA Table 1, Column B which occur in your country is regulated (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.2), in particular:

Whooper Swan / Cygnus cygnus / Iceland/UK & Ireland / Column B / Category 1

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> As taking is prohibited, there are no limits established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21 December 2001

Whooper Swan / *Cygnus cygnus* / North-west Mainland Europe / Column B / Category 1

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> As taking is prohibited, there are no limits established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: Soortenbesluit - Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

Brent Goose / *Branta bernicla* / bernicla, Western Siberia/Western Europe / Column B / Category 2b

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> Flanders: As no taking is allowed, no limits have been set.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Pink-footed Goose / *Anser brachyrhynchus* / Svalbard/North-west Europe / Column B / Category 1

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: As there is no open hunting season, all taking is prohibited and no limits are established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d.

15/05/2009. It is also a game species, without open hunting season, so also hunting legislation provides some prohibitions on possession or trade.

Common Eider / *Somateria mollissima* / *mollissima*, Baltic, Denmark & Netherlands / Column B / Category 2c 2d

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: As taking is prohibited, there are no limits established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent

throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Common Scoter / *Melanitta nigra* / W Siberia & N Europe/W Europe & NW Africa / Column B / Category 2a

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: As taking is prohibited, no limits have been established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Common Shelduck / *Tadorna tadorna* / North-west Europe / Column B / Category 2a

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: As taking is prohibited, no limits have been established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Red-crested Pochard / *Netta rufina* / South-west & Central Europe/West Mediterranean / Column B / Category 1

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: As taking is prohibited, no limits have been established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Common Pochard / *Aythya ferina* / North-east Europe/North-west Europe / Column B / Category 2c

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009. It is also a game species, without open hunting season, so also hunting legislation provides prohibitions.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: As taking is prohibited, no limits have been established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009. It is also a game species, without open hunting season, so also hunting legislation provides prohibitions.

Greater Scaup / *Aythya marila* / marila, Northern Europe/Western Europe / Column B / Category 2c

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009. It is also a game species but without open hunting season which leads to specific prohibitions from the hunting legislation.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> Flanders: As taking is prohibited, no limits have been established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is protected by the Soortenbesluit - Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009. The species is a game species but with no open hunting season - this leads to extra prohibitions from the hunting legislation.

Northern Shoveler / *Spatula clypeata* / North-west & Central Europe (win) / Column B / Category 1

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is protected by the Soortenbesluit - Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009. The species is a game species but with no open hunting season, this leads to some extra prohibitions from the hunting legislation.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: As taking is prohibited, there are no limits established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is protected by the Soortenbesluit - Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009. The species is a game species but with no open hunting season, this leads to

some extra prohibitions from the hunting legislation regarding possession and trade.

Northern Pintail / *Anas acuta* / North-west Europe / Column B / Category 1

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is protected by the Soortenbesluit - Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009. The species is a game species but with no open hunting season, this leads to some extra prohibitions from the hunting legislation.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as there is no taking allowed, no limits have been established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d.

15/05/2009. The species is a game species but with no open hunting season, this leads to some extra prohibitions from the hunting legislation regarding to possession and trade.

Red-necked Grebe / *Podiceps grisegena* / *grisegena*, North-west Europe (win) / Column B / Category 1

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as the species is fully protected, no limits have been established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Western Water Rail / *Rallus aquaticus* / *aquaticus*, Europe & North Africa / Column B / Category 2c

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as taking is not allowed, no limits have been established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Spotted Crake / *Porzana porzana* / Europe/Africa / Column B / Category 2d

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as taking is not allowed, no limits have been established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Little Crake / *Zapornia parva* / Western Eurasia/Africa / Column B / Category 2c

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the

population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as taking is prohibited, no limits have been established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Common Coot / Fulica atra / atra, North-west Europe (win) / Column B / Category 2c

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009. The species is a game species but with no open hunting season, this leads to some extra prohibitions from the hunting legislation.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as there is no open hunting season, no limits have been established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is protected by the Soortenbesluit - Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009. The species is a game species but with no open hunting season, this leads to some extra prohibitions from the hunting legislation on possession and trade.

Red-throated Loon / Gavia stellata / North-west Europe (win) / Column B / Category 2c

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001management d.d. 15/05/2009.

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as no taking is allowed, no limits have been established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Arctic Loon / *Gavia arctica* / arctica, Northern Europe & Western Siberia/Europe / Column B / Category 2c

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as no taking is allowed, no limits have been established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

White Stork / *Ciconia ciconia* / ciconia, W Europe & North-west Africa/Sub-Saharan Africa / Column B / Category 2b

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:
FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.
BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as no taking is allowed, no limits have been established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Great White Egret / *Ardea alba* / alba, W, C & SE Europe/Black Sea & Mediterranean / Column B / Category 1

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:
FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as no taking is allowed, no limits have been established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Eurasian Oystercatcher / *Haematopus ostralegus* / ostralegus, Europe/South & West Europe & NW Africa / Column B / Category 2c

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:
FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d.

15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as no taking is allowed, no limits have been established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Pied Avocet / *Recurvirostra avosetta* / Western Europe & North-west Africa (bre) / Column B / Category 1

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as all taking is prohibited, no limits have been established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Eurasian Golden Plover / *Pluvialis apricaria* / apricaria, Britain, Ireland, Denmark, Germany & Baltic (bre) / Column B / Category 2c

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009. The species is a game species but with no open hunting season, this leads to some extra prohibitions from the hunting legislation.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as no taking is allowed, no limits have been established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is protected by the Soortenbesluit - Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009. The species is a game species but with no open hunting season, this leads to some extra prohibitions from the hunting legislation on possession and trade.

Common Ringed Plover / Charadrius hiaticula / hiaticula, Northern Europe/Europe & North Africa / Column B / Category 1

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as no taking is allowed, no limits have been established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Kentish Plover / Charadrius alexandrinus / alexandrinus, West Europe & West Mediterranean/West Africa / Column B / Category 1

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions

under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as no taking is allowed, no limits are established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Bar-tailed Godwit / *Limosa lapponica* / *lapponica*, Northern Europe/Western Europe / Column B / Category 2a

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as taking is not allowed, no limits are established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Bar-tailed Godwit / *Limosa lapponica* / *taymyrensis*, Western Siberia/West & South-west Africa / Column B / Category 2a 2c

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as no taking is allowed, no limits have been established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Ruddy Turnstone / *Arenaria interpres* / *interpres*, Northern Europe/West Africa / Column B / Category 1

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as no taking is allowed, no limits are established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Red Knot / *Calidris canutus* / *canutus*, Northern Siberia/West & Southern Africa / Column B / Category 2a 2c

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as taking is prohibited, no limits have been established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Red Knot / *Calidris canutus / islandica*, NE Canada & Greenland/Western Europe / Column B / Category 2a

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as no taking is allowed, no limits are established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Ruff / *Calidris pugnax* / Northern Europe & Western Siberia/West Africa / Column B / Category 2c

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as no taking is allowed, no limits are established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Curlew Sandpiper / *Calidris ferruginea* / Western Siberia/West Africa / Column B / Category 2c

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as no taking is allowed, no limits have been established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Dunlin / *Calidris alpina / schinzii*, Britain & Ireland/SW Europe & NW Africa / Column B / Category 1

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as no taking is allowed, no limits are established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any

readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Purple Sandpiper / *Calidris maritima* / N Europe & W Siberia (breeding) / Column B / Category 1

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as taking is prohibited, no limits are established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWa Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Little Stint / *Calidris minuta* / N Europe/S Europe, North & West Africa / Column B / Category 2c

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as no taking is allowed, no limits are established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWa Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Jack Snipe / *Lymnocyptes minimus* / Northern Europe/S & W Europe & West Africa / Column B / Category 2b

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

FLANDERS: The species is protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009. The species is a game species but without open hunting season; hunting legislation adds some legal prohibitions.

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as no taking is allowed, no limits have been established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Flanders: The species is protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009. As it is also a game species (without open hunting season), hunting legislation adds some specific prohibitions on possession and trade.

Common Sandpiper / *Actitis hypoleucos* / West & Central Europe/West Africa / Column B / Category 2c

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as no taking is allowed, no limits are established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Spotted Redshank / *Tringa erythropus* / N Europe/Southern Europe, North & West Africa / Column B / Category 1

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as no taking is allowed, no limits are established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Common Redshank / *Tringa totanus* / totanus, Central & East Europe (breeding) / Column B / Category 2c

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as no taking is allowed, no limits are established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Little Gull / *Hydrocoloeus minutus* / Central & E Europe/SW Europe & W Mediterranean / Column B / Category 1

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as no taking is allowed, no limits are established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Black-legged Kittiwake / *Rissa tridactyla* / *tridactyla*, Arctic from NE Canada to Novaya Zemlya/N Atlantic / Column B / Category 2c

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as no taking is allowed, no limits are established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Black-headed Gull / Larus ridibundus / W Europe/W Europe, W Mediterranean, West Africa / Column B / Category 2c

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as no taking is allowed, no limits are established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Mediterranean Gull / Larus melanocephalus / W Europe, Mediterranean & NW Africa / Column B / Category 2a

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: as no taking is allowed, no limits are established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

European Herring Gull / Larus argentatus / argenteus, Iceland & Western Europe /

Column B / Category 2c

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: no taking is allowed thus no limits are established.

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

Black Tern / Chlidonias niger / niger, Europe & Western Asia/Atlantic coast of Africa / Column B / Category 2c

3.1. Taking is prohibited during the populations' various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> Consistent throughout the entire country - different legislation per region though:

FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS: no taking is allowed, no limits are established.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: all taking is prohibited and no limits are established

3.3. Possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs which have been taken in contravention of the prohibition under AEWA Action Plan, para 2.1.2, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds and eggs is prohibited.

Yes

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and whether this applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces

> FLANDERS: The species is fully protected by the Decree on species protection and species management d.d. 15/05/2009.

4. Please indicate which modes of taking are prohibited in your country (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.2(b))

Please select from the list below.

- Snares
- Limes
- Hooks
- Live birds which are blind or mutilated used as decoys
- Tape recorders and other electronic devices
- Electrocuting devices
- Artificial light sources
- Mirrors and other dazzling devices
- Devices for illuminating targets
- Sighting devices for night shooting comprising an electronic image magnifier or image converter
- Explosives
- Nets
- Traps
- Poison
- Poisoned or anesthetic baits
- Semi-automatic or automatic weapons with a magazine capable of holding more than two rounds of ammunition
- Hunting from aircraft, motor vehicles, or boats driven at a speed exceeding 5 km p/h (18 km p/h on the open sea)
- Other non-selective modes of taking

Please specify

> FLANDERS: the Governmental Decree of 15 May 2009 on species protection and species management (Soortenbesluit) prohibits under article 16 §1 any other non-selective mode of taking, even when not mentioned as such in the listed prohibited modes of taking in annex 2A of this Decree.

WALLONIA: According to Article Art. 8. of the Hunting Act, it is prohibited, at all times, to transport and use nets, "foot snare traps", leghold traps", "snares", poisoned or non poisoned baits or any other mean for taking, destroying or facilitate the capture or destruction of any game. The possession, sale and offer for sale of "pièges à machoires" are prohibited. Hunting from a motored vehicle is prohibited.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Art 5 of the Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium (d.d. 21/12/200) prohibits taking of in the wild living birds

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation and information on whether the prohibitions apply to the entire country or only to particular states/provinces thereof.

> FLANDERS: The Flemish Governmental Decree of 15 May 2009 on species protection and species management "Soortenbesluit" prohibits the use of the mentioned modes of taking on the territory of the Flemish region of Belgium.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Law on the protection of the marine environment in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium (MMM-wet) dd 20/01/1999.

Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

BRUSSELS REGION: 'Ordonnantie betreffende het Natuurbehoud (1/3/2015).

WALLONIA: In Wallonia, there is no specific prohibition for the modes of taking, but a revision of the law is in project and all forms of non selective taking modes should be included in this revision. Further more, for *Anas crecca*, *Anas platyrhynchos* and *Fulica atra* only shooting is authorized .

5. Has your country granted exemptions from any of the above prohibitions in order to accommodate livelihoods uses? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.2(b))

- No

6. Were any exemptions granted to the prohibitions required by paragraphs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 of the AEWA Action Plan? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.3)

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

- Yes

Please provide information on each species for which exemption was granted

Belgium

Exemption for Common Pochard / *Aythya ferina*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

- (b) In the interests of air safety, public health, public safety, or other imperative reasons of overriding public interests, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance to the environment

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> 10

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Within the boundaries of 1 given airport (with a big pond).

Time span of the exemption

> 2016

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2016

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> Precautionary exemption for air safety at air port. Eventually no birds shot.

Exemption for Western Water Rail / *Rallus aquaticus*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> 1

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Keeping of 1 dead animal as stuffed animal at a single location for educational purposes.

Time span of the exemption

> 2017

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2017

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> Stuffing of a dead specimen.

Exemption for Common Coot / *Fulica atra*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(a) To prevent serious damage to crops, water and fisheries

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> 10

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> A very limited number of agricultural research fields.

Time span of the exemption

> 2015-2016

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2015-2016

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> Precautionary exemption on a small number of agricultural research fields.

Exemption for Common Crane / *Grus grus*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(d) To permit under strictly supervised conditions, on a selective basis and to a limited extent, the taking and keeping or other judicious use of certain birds in small numbers

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> 2

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> 1 location

Time span of the exemption

> 2015-2016-2017

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2015-2016-2017

Exemption for White Stork / *Ciconia ciconia*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(b) In the interests of air safety, public health, public safety, or other imperative reasons of overriding public interests, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance to the environment

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> 3

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Three specific sites.

Time span of the exemption

> 2016-2017

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2016-2017

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> Moving of nests built on working chimneys after the breeding season.

Exemption for Eurasian Spoonbill / *Platalea leucorodia*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> 4

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Keeping of specimens in captivity in a zoo.

Time span of the exemption

> 2015-2016-2017

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2015-2016-2017

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> keeping of a few specimens at a zoo

Exemption for Black-crowned Night-heron / *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> 3

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Keeping of specimens in captivity in a zoo.

Time span of the exemption

> 2015-2016-2017

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2015-2016-2017

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> Keeping of small numbers in a zoo.

Exemption for Purple Heron / *Ardea purpurea*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> 8

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Keeping of 7 specimens in captivity in a zoo. Keeping of 1 stuffed specimen at a specific location for educational purposes.

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2015-2016-2017

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> Keeping in zoo (7 specimens) + stuffing of 1 dead specimen.

Exemption for Eurasian Oystercatcher / *Haematopus ostralegus*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> 1

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Keeping of one specimen in a zoo.

Time span of the exemption

> 2015-2016-2017

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2015-2016-2017

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> keeping of 1 specimen in a zoo

Exemption for Pied Avocet / *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> 15

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Keeping of specimens in captivity in a zoo.

Time span of the exemption

> 2015-2016-2017

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2015-2016-2017

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> Keeping of specimens at a zoo.

Exemption for Eurasian Curlew / *Numenius arquata*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> 1

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Keeping of a dead specimen at a specific location as stuffed bird for educational purposes.

Time span of the exemption

> 2017

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2017

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> Stuffing of a dead specimen.

Exemption for Ruff / *Calidris pugnax*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> 5

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Keeping of specimens in captivity in a zoo.

Time span of the exemption

> 2016-2017

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2016-2017

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> keeping of small number in a zoo

Exemption for Black-headed Gull / *Larus ridibundus*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(b) In the interests of air safety, public health, public safety, or other imperative reasons of overriding public interests, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance to the environment

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> 100

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Exemption is only valid within the boundaries of airports.

Time span of the exemption

> 2015-2016

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2015-2016

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> Precautionary exemption for air safety. The exemption does not mean birds were effectively shot, it only provides the possibility to shoot for air safety within the legal frame, when necessary.

Exemption for Mediterranean Gull / *Larus melanocephalus*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(b) In the interests of air safety, public health, public safety, or other imperative reasons of overriding public interests, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance to the environment

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> 100

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> One specific industrial site in the harbour of Antwerp.

Time span of the exemption

> 2015-2016

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2015-2016

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> Precautionary exemption to deliberately disturb at a building site to prevent potential breeding. The exemption does not mean birds were effectively disturbed but it gives the opportunity to do so within the legal framework, if necessary.

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

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link

in a new tab.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> Not necessary to adjust legislation as it was already in line with the guidance.

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

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

No

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

> Legislation was already covering the recommendations of the Guidelines.

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 3.1. Legal Measures

> FLANDERS: The Flemish Governmental Decree of 15 May 2009 on species protection and species management has a provision that allows the competent authority (the Agency for Nature and Forests) to grant derogations to differ temporarily from the initial protection of wild birds, if there is no other satisfactory solution.

WALLONIA: The Government can give exemptions to bird species protection measures (art. 5. §1er). The exemption is only given if no other satisfactory measure exists and if the exemption will not be of any danger for the population of that species. All wild birds of the European continent, normal or mutant, alive, dead or stuffed are strictly protected (art. 2. of the Natura 2000 Decree).

The following actions are prohibited for these species:

all forms of deliberate capture and deliberate killing;

the deliberate disturbance of wild birds, particularly during the period of breeding, rearing and hibernation;

the deliberate destruction or taking of eggs and nests from the wild or keeping these eggs and nests ;

to possess, to trade, to sell, to give, to buy, to transport, even for transit, birds, eggs, clutch, feathers, part of the animal, or any product made of a bird easily identifiable or any product with a packing telling it contains protected species, except for importation, exportation and transit on non indigenous species

These prohibitions are not valid for poultry, for domestic pigeons, for hunted species and for mutants and hybrids of *Serinus canarius* with a non-protected species.

A Government bill regulates the breeding of birds in order to guarantee the bird's protection.

BRUSSELS: In the Brussels Region, all birds species who's actual or historical natural dispersion area lay within Europe are strictly protected (Order on Nature Conservation, 1/03/2012).

The Brussels Government can give exemptions to this protection measures if no other satisfactory measures exist (art. 83).

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001 has a provision that allows the minister competent for the marine environment to differ temporarily from the initial protection of birds in the marine areas, if there is no other satisfactory solution.

3.2. Species Action and Management Plans

9. Please report on the progress of turning the International Single Species Action and Management Plans (ISSAP and ISSMP), as well as International Multi-species Action Plans (IMSAP), listed below, into National Action or Management Plans. (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.2)

Please report on all listed ISSAP, ISSMP and IMSAP

Corncrake / *Crex crex*

National Plan for Corncrake / *Crex crex*

NP in place and being implemented

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

> FLANDERS: Species Protection Plan for Corncrake approved on 21 december 2015. It runs for 5 years, starting from 20 january 2016 on. The plan can be downloaded at the following website:

<https://www.natuurenbos.be/sbpkwartelkoning>

WALLONIA: In case a nesting Corncrake is observed in a farmland, a delayed mowing is asked for in the nesting area and a financial compensation is given to the farmer.

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

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

> The Great snipe is a very rare migrant in Belgium.

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

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

> The Ferruginous Duck is a very rare migrant in Belgium.

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

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

> The White-headed Duck is a very rare migrant in Belgium.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

> FLANDERS: There's an eradication program for the Ruddy duck in order to prevent spread of this invasive species to the home range of the White-headed Duck with which it hybridises.

WALLONIA: No action plan for the white headed duck, but a strong will to limit/eradicate any population of the Ruddy duck.

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

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

> FLANDERS: Eurasian Spoonbill hasn't been breeding for a long time. Large suitable wetlands were lacking for population restoration.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

> FLANDERS: wetland restoration projects led to the comeback as a breeding bird on several sites. Where breeding occurs, breeding sites and surrounding wetlands are managed in order to enhance foraging opportunities and breeding success.

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

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

> FLANDERS: the wintering population of the Pink-footed Goose has been stable for the last decade.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

> FLANDERS: Population goals have been set for the key hibernation sites and the most important foraging grasslands have been protected. In nature reserves in the hibernation area, grasslands are restored in order to provide desirable foraging conditions and limit agricultural damage.

Tundra Swan / Cygnus columbianus **National Plan for Tundra Swan / Cygnus columbianus**

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

> FLANDERS: The species hibernates in small numbers. The foraging areas change from year to year as the species feeds as well on grasslands as on crops (harvest spill-overs) which makes it hard to focus actions.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

> FLANDERS: Population goals have been set for the most important hibernation areas.

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

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

> Flanders: the Black-tailed Godwit population is stable to slightly declining and does as such not reach conservation priority. Some important populations occur in nature reserves where specific conservation actions are targeted without the need of a national plan.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

> FLANDERS: key breeding sites for grassland-breeding birds (amongst others the Black-tailed Godwit) have been listed. Within these sites, farmers can join in agro-environmental schemes which aim to enhance breeding succes. In nature reserves with extensive areas of grasslands, management aims to enhance breeding succes of this species (if breeding at the site).

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

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

> Flanders: the Eurasian Curlew population is steadily declining but did not yet reach the level of conservation priority. As agro-environmental schemes don't seem to be able to change the negative trend, a NP is being considered now.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

> FLANDERS: key breeding sites for grassland-breeding birds (amongst others the Eurasian Curlew) have been listed. Within these sites, farmers can join in agro-environmental schemes which aim to enhance breeding succes. In nature reserves with extensive areas of grasslands, management aims to enhance breeding succes of this species (if breeding at the site).

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

Yes

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

Belgium

Spotted Crake / *Porzana porzana*

National Single Species Action Plan for Spotted Crake / *Porzana porzana*

NSSAP in development

Please provide details

> FLANDERS: Species action plan is being developed and will start to be implemented from 2018 on, running for 5 years.

Eurasian Bittern / *Botaurus stellaris*

National Single Species Action Plan for Eurasian Bittern / *Botaurus stellaris*

NSSAP in place and being implemented

Please provide details

> FLANDERS: Action plan for Botaurus stellaris in execution.

WALLONIA: Action plans for Botaurus Stellaris is being prepared in the context of an integrated LIFE project.

Common Little Bittern / Ixobrychus minutus

National Single Species Action Plan for Common Little Bittern / Ixobrychus minutus

NSSAP in development

Please provide details

> WALLONIA: Action plans for Ixobrychus minutus, is being prepared in the context of an integrated LIFE project.

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

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

No

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

> FLANDERS: an own quality handbook for 'species protection programmes' is used. It also takes in account the legal requirements on species protection programmes as foreseen in the own regional legislation.

3.3 Emergency Measures

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

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

Emergency situation has occurred

Please provide information on each emergency situation which occurred

Oil spill

Indicate when the emergency situation took place

> 6 oktober 2015

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

> Northsea. Shortly out of the coast of Zeebrugge (Bruges Sea Port).

Indicate which species were affected by the emergency situation and the estimated magnitude of the impact

Black-headed Gull / Larus ridibundus

Number of individuals affected (all individuals exposed to the emergency situation)

> 1 individual with oil soiling reported.

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

< 10%

If mortality has been recorded, indicate number of individuals

> No mortality has been recorded.

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

< 10%

Lesser Black-backed Gull / Larus fuscus

Number of individuals affected (all individuals exposed to the emergency situation)

> 5 individuals with oil soiling recorded.

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

< 10%

If mortality has been recorded, indicate number of individuals

> no mortality recorded.

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

< 10%

European Herring Gull / *Larus argentatus*

Number of individuals affected (all individuals exposed to the emergency situation)

> 43 individuals recorded with oil soiling

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

< 10%

If mortality has been recorded, indicate number of individuals

> no mortality recorded.

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

< 10%

Have emergency response measures been implemented?

Yes

Please provide details

> Measures have been immediately taken to prevent the spread of the spilled oil from the ship wreck where oil was leaking from. In coordination with this, a rapid response intervention plan for oil spill bird casualties was activated immediately.

Field for additional information (optionally, you can provide additional information on the emergency case)

> In general, the oil spill event, following the collision of the boats Flinterstar and Al Orai, took place before wintering birds arrived. Migrating breeding birds mostly already migrated south at the time. There were no big concentrations of birds at that time and very few birds have been affected.

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

No

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

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

No

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

> FLANDERS, WALLONIA and BRUSSELS REGION: Most of the emergency situations that can occur, will affect more than only the waterbirds. We have or are developing systems for diseases in wild animals, introduction of alien species and fire. On sea there's a oil spill intervention plan for birds that can be activated alongside other measures to prevent environmental pollution after big oil spills.

BRUSSELS: In the Brussels Region protocols exist for monitoring zoonoses or diseases caused by waterbirds.

3.4 Re-establishments

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

Yes

Please provide details on the register

> FLANDERS: For re-introduction a derogation from the regional legislation has to be given. Therefore re-introduction programs are listed in the register of derogations. No re-establishment projects concerning waterbirds or wetlands have taken place.

WALLONIA:

- No re-introduction project has taken place concerning waterbirds.

- Re-introductions prohibited by article 5 ter of the law on nature conservation

BRUSSELS REGION:

- No re-introduction project has taken place

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA:

- No re-introduction project has taken place

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

Yes

Please provide details

> FLANDERS: the Government of Flanders Decree concerning species protection and species management regulates the re-establishment of species in the wild.

WALLONIA: Art. 5ter of Law on Nature Conservation : it is forbidden to re introduce any indogenous species into the wild. A derogation system exists for this article.

In Wallonia the articles 5 and 5 bis of the nature conservation law give the possibility to derogate from some of the bans of this law (i.e. to capture, to hold, to transport some individuals). It is necessary to respect the three conditions fixed by the birds directive (no other satisfactory solution, respect the aim, not to put the species in danger).

BRUSSELS REGION: the Order concerning Nature Conservation (1/3/2012) regulates the re-establishment of species in the wild.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001 regulates the re-establishment of species in the wild

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

No

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

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

Not applicable

Please explain

> No re-establishments of waterbird species took place

3.5 Introductions

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

Yes, and being enforced

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

> BELGIUM: Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species , adopted in 2014, enforced from 2015

FLANDERS: the Government of Flanders Decree concerning species protection and species: Art. 17 prohibits the deliberate introduction into the wild of species under the scope of this Decree, while Art. 21 states that specific derogations for the introduction of alien species can be granted, provided that a prior investigation of the impact demonstrates that there is no chance on adverse consequences for the natural habitats in their range of distribution in the Flemish Region or for animal or plant species that naturally occur in the wild in the Flemish Region. Adopted in 2009, enforced by the Nature Inspection of the Agency for Nature and Forests and the federal judiciary when necessary

WALLONIA: Art. 5ter. of the law on nature conservation : The introduction of non-indigenous species or indigenous species of non-indigenous origin in nature is forbidden except for species used for agriculture and

forestry.

BRUSSELS REGION: Art. 77. of the Order on nature conservation (1/12/2015) : The introduction of non-indigenous invasive species is forbidden. Art. 75.: the introduction of non-indigenous species is submitted to an authorization.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA:

Law regarding the protection of the marine environment, 1999, article 11, legal prohibition to deliberately introduce invasive species / legal ground for the King to prohibit the undeliberate introduction of invasive alien species via ballast water, adopted by Parliament, enforced by authorities having a competency at sea (MUMM, DG Environment, Navy, Shipping Police, DG Shipping), applicable to the Belgian maritime area;

Royal Decree concerning the species protection in the maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium d.d. 21/12/2001

The Ballast water convention has also been implemented in Belgian law;

Royal Decree in execution of the Ballast water convention, 2017, enforced by DG Shipping, applicable to the Belgian maritime area.

20. Does your country impose legislative requirements on zoos, private collections, etc. in order to avoid the accidental escape of captive animals belonging to non-native species which may be detrimental to migratory waterbirds? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.5.2)

Yes, and being enforced

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

> - Article 3 of the Royal decision of 10/08/1998 on the recognition of zoos states that all animal enclosures must be designed and kept in a way that in all circumstances escaping of animals is impossible and the safety of the animals, visitors and staff is guaranteed at all times. Enforcement in Flanders by the Animal welfare Service of the Government of Flanders and in the Brussels Region by the Service of Animal Welfare of Brussels Environment.

- Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species, adopted in 2014, enforced from 2015, states in Article 8 that licences for researching or keeping alien species are subject to the condition that they are physically isolated and cannot escape and that an emergency plan in case of escape should be made by the applicant. Enforcement in Flanders by the Nature Inspection of the Agency for Nature and Forests; in Wallonia by the Public Service of Wallonia, in Brussels by Environment Brussels and at the Federal level by the Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment.

WALLONIA: Government bill of 14 January 2014 on the captivity conditions for non pets alien animal species: it specifies the measures for zoos and other animal parks; Its article 3 is on the the infrastructures and buildings to host those animals and to prevent their escape.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[AR_10-08-1998_0_823592_nl.pdf](#) - FED - Royal Decision on recognition of zoos

21. Does your country have in place a National Action Plan for Invasive Species (NAPIS) (in the framework of other MEAs, such as CBD, Bern Convention, and GISP (Global Invasive Species Programme) (Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 1, Target 5)?

Being developed

Please provide starting date and expected finalisation date of the process

> The National Biodiversity Strategy (adopted in 2006) has 2 operational objectives directly related to IAS (n°3.7.: "Avoid the introduction and mitigate the impact of invasive alien species on biodiversity" and n°5.7.: "Consider the potential impact on biodiversity, and in particular the invasiveness of species, in making import and export decisions")

A cooperation agreement among the competent authorities is being developed in order to ensure efficient and coordinated implementation of the European Regulation nr. 1143/2014. The agreement is expected to enter into force in 2019. The agreement installs a mandated working group on IAS policy, as well as a scientific forum to provide the necessary input.

Field for additional information (optional)

> Belgian Research Action through Interdisciplinary Networks: http://www.belspo.be/belspo/brain-be/projects/TrIAS_fr.pdf ;

Belgian Community of practice on IAS: <https://www.biodiversity.be/3642> ;

Belgian forum on IAS: <https://ias.biodiversity.be/>

WALLONIA: <http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/les-plantes-aquatiques-invasives.html?IDC=5996>

22. Has your country considered, developed or implemented programmes to control or eradicate non-native species of waterbird so as to prevent negative impacts on indigenous

species? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.5.3)

Yes

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

Ruddy Duck / *Oxyura jamaicensis*

For Ruddy Duck / *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Control or eradication programme developed and being implemented

Canada Goose / *Branta canadensis*

For Canada Goose / *Branta canadensis*

Control or eradication programme being developed

Please provide starting date and expected finalisation date

> FLANDERS: Although no formal program has been implemented with regards to summering geese, several control measures have taken on a structural basis over the past decennium. For Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) in particular, moulting captures have been deployed yearly since 2010 by a variety of terrain managers. These captures supplement measures such as hunting and the destruction of eggs. For Flanders, yearly counts have indicated a gradual decrease in Canada geese numbers, with that of 2017 being half of that of 2010 (see <https://peerj.com/articles/4283/>).

Field for additional information (optional)

> WALLONIA: *Branta canadensis* is now considered as a huntable species for which the hunting season is open from 01/08 to 25/03.

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

Yes

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

> FLANDERS: Although no formal program has been implemented with regards to invasive, aquatic plants so far, numerous public authorities have engaged in its control, especially in response to the listing of such species on the Union list in 2016 (EU Regulation nr. 1143/2014). Target species for eradication/management are: *Lagarosiphon major*, *Elodea callitrichoides*, *Elodea canadensis*, *Elodea nuttallii*, *Egeria densa*, *Hydrilla verticillata*, *Crassula helmsii*, *Lemna minuta*, *Lemna turionifera*, *Azolla filiculoides*, *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*, *Ludwigia grandiflora*.

Please provide further information for each relevant programme

> FLANDERS: Information on management of these aquatic plants is disseminated via the website www.ecopedia.be and a technical handbook on the management of invasive alien plants, available in print and pdf.

The INVEXO project has resulted in a protocol for the management of *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*.

BELGIUM:

Awareness raising on invasive alien plants in the horticultural sector at national level (federal + Regions):

Life+ project "AlterIAS" (ALTERnatives to Invasive Alien Species, see: <http://www.alterias.be/>): Development of public awareness tools: update of the brochure "SOS invasions", new brochure on alternative plants to IAS, DVD, development of a code of conduct on invasive alien plants in Belgium, the ALTERIAS project resulted in a website with guidelines for alternatives for invasive alien plant species.

Development of black/grey lists of invasive alien species based on a standardised impact assessment protocol (ISEIA) (see: <http://ias.biodiversity.be/>),

BELGIUM: An early warning system is installed on www.waarnemingen.be/exoten.

WALLONIA:

Preventive and control actions against invasive alien species are coordinated through a dedicated interdepartmental unit (CiEi) that has been established in 2009 within the strategic plan of the Administration. This unit is in charge of the following tasks:

. Identify priority pathways and develop preventive and regulatory measures accordingly, including guidelines for plantations, soil movement, green waste management, etc.

. Prepare a coherent legislative framework to regulate preventive and control actions against invasive alien species in Wallonia.

. Set up an early warning system in cooperation with the other regions in the country and nature conservation NGOs.

. Identify and disseminate best practices for the management of invasive alien plants and animals;

. Coordinate control action plans against priority species like giant hogweed, Japanese mosquito, Canada

goose or muskrat.

. Conduct studies to assess non-native species invasiveness in the field and compile information for risk analyses of priority species.

. Communicate and develop capacity building actions towards field managers and the general public.

Nature Parks, many River Contracts and cities which have either a Municipality Plan for Nature Conservation or a 'Roadside management plan' actively manage invasive alien species at a local scale.

BRUSSELS REGION: participation on the Early Warning/Rapid Response installed on the Belgian Level by waarnemingen.be/observations.be. Daily management of invasive alien species in urban parks, Natura 2000 sites and nature reserves.

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

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

No

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

> There is no specific approach for waterbirds. The EU regulation is now operative and the prohibition on the introduction of species, including non-native waterbird species, is legally already anchored as mentioned under 14.

In Wallonia the law on nature conservation already forbids the introduction in nature of non native species. These dispositions will be specified to fully encounter the EU regulation.

Pressures and Responses

4. Habitat Conservation

4.1 Habitat Inventories

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

Yes

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

> FLANDERS: In 2007, an extensive book about nature in a European Union Natura 2000 context in Flanders and the Belgian North Sea has been published by the Institute for Nature and Forest Research (INBO).

Based on the results of waterbird monitoring projects, a list of internationally important waterbird sites in Flanders is yearly updated by INBO. These sites are also listed as Important Bird Areas. There are no clear criteria for sites of national importance, although most of them are part of an ecological network and designated as nature reserves.

WALLONIA:

- There are 4 sites registered on the Ramsar List of wetland's of international importance in Wallonia: "Les Marais d'Harchies Hensies Pommeroel", the "Vallée de la Haute-Sûre", the "Hautes Fagnes" and the "Grotte des Emotions" which are respectively marshes, a transboundary wetland, peatlands and a karst. The 3 first sites are particularly important for migratory birds.

Besides these, we have Nature reserves (government nature reserve and chartered nature reserve) and wetland's of biological interest.

- Several initiatives have been carried out since the late 70's in order to have an inventory of the biological resources of the Walloon Region. These initiatives have led to the creation of lists of sites of great biological value ("Sites de Grand Intérêt Biologique" or SGIB). These lists of major sites are of major importance to the elaboration of the ecological network and in order to have a basis for political negotiation. The high biological value of these sites is due to the presence of protected or threatened habitats or species or even sites or species considered as having a great interest by naturalists.

- Natura 2000 sites are also of great importance in Wallonia for migratory waterbirds

Brussels Region

Lists exist of:

- sites of great biologic value

- N2000 sites

Federal level: Belgian marine territory : Two inventories have been made:

-- Derous S., Verfaillie E., Van Lancker V., Courtens W., Stienen E.W.M., Hostens K., Moolaert I., Hillewaert H., Mees J., Deneudt K., Deckers P., Cuvelier D., Vincx M., Degraer S., 2007, A biological valuation map for the Belgian part of the North Sea: BWZee, Final report, Research in the framework of the BELSPO programme "Global chance, ecosystems and biodiversity"

- SPSSD II, March 2007, pp. 99 (+ Annexes). - Courtens, W. en E.W.M. Stienen. 2006. Marine biological valuation of seabirds in the Belgian Part of the North Sea. INBO rapport A.2005.122: 25p

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

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

No

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

> In Flanders, Wallonia and for the North Sea (federal), the selection of internationally important sites is mainly based on criteria that are used in the framework of the EU Bird Directive, the Ramsar Convention and the designation of Important Bird Areas.

WALLONIA: Reed bed birds action plans are being developed for *Botaurus stellaris*, *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Acrocephalus arundinacea*, and *Locustella luscinioides* in the context on an Integrated LIFE project.

Field for additional information (optional)

> The Natura 2000 network is of major importance notably for waterbirds.

4.2. Conservation of Areas

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

change)? (Resolution 5.13)

For one or more single sites

No

Please explain the reason

> FLANDERS: Climate change assessment on nature has thus far been general or has focused mainly on vegetation, not on species e.g. waterbirds.

For the national protected area network

Yes

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

> FLANDERS: general implications of climate change on biodiversity have been assessed in the 2014 Nature Report by the Institute of Nature and Forest research

WALLONIA: Développement d'indicateurs de l'impact des changements climatiques sur les oiseaux en Wallonie; Aves, pôle ornithologique de Natagora - LAUDELOUT A., PAQUET J.Y.

BRUSSELS REGION: general implications of climate change on biodiversity have been assessed in the 2012 Nature Report by Brussels Environment.

28. Which sites that were identified as important, either internationally or nationally, for Table 1 migratory waterbird species/populations have been designated as protected areas under the national legislation and have management plans that are being implemented, including with the aim to increase resilience to the effects of climate change? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 3.2.1, AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 1, Target 1.2)

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

Reporting on designation and management of internationally important sites

All sites of international importance

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

Total number

> 30

Total area (ha)

> 168453

Number of internationally important sites under national protection designation

> 30

Area of international importance under national protection designation (ha)

> 168453

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

> 30

Area (in ha)

> 168453

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

Number of sites

> 30

Area (in ha)

> 168453

29. Has your country developed a national action plans for filling gaps in designation and/or management of internationally and nationally important sites? (Resolution 5.2)

DESIGNATION GAP FILLING

No

Please explain the reasons

> Designation of all internationally important sites is considered complete.

30. Has your country developed a strategic plan (independently or as part of your country's overarching biodiversity or protected area policy document) to maintain or increase the resilience of the ecological network (for waterbirds), including resilience to climate change, and to conserve range and ecological variability of habitats and species? (Resolution 5.2, AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 1, Target 1.2)

Yes

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

> This is included in the national Belgian Biodiversity Strategy 2006-2016, more specifically objectives 2 and 3. The status of implementation can be consulted in the fifth national report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2014).

The three Belgian Regions - the Flemish Region, the Walloon Region and the Brussels-Capital Region - each have their own strategic documents and action plans in relation to biodiversity:

- The objectives for the conservation of biodiversity in the Flemish Region are included in the Policy Plan for Environment (2011-2015) under a specific chapter on biodiversity. Since 2006 the Agency for Nature and Forests also has its own Strategic Plan and a yearly operational plan giving more detailed information on objectives, actions and indicators related to actions and processes for the conservation and management of nature, forests and green spaces.

- The Wallonia Nature Network, a progressive catalogue of concrete and realistic actions, is also being developed; Given the difficulty to realise a Nature Plan, Wallonia decided to create a progressive catalogue of concrete and realistic actions, and whose implementation would bring tangible results. It was presented to the Walloon government for approval, after consultation with the advisory committees and concerned administrations. A steering committee and an animation cell will be set up. Once implemented, the catalogue would significantly increase the carrying capacity for wildlife in the Walloon region. Particular emphasis is put on the consideration of nature by all actors of the territory. As it is an open approach underpinned by a participatory process, the goal is to gradually expand the partnership while developing the catalogue of measures. Creating a label "Network Wallonia Nature" will bring together and federate the actions already underway and new projects in favour of nature. This Wallonia Nature Network will also offer recognition and visibility to field actors through numerous communication tools.

<http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/reseau-wallonie-nature.html?IDC=5929>

- In application of a new global nature legislation (ordonnance du 1er mars 2012 relative à la conservation de la nature), the Brussels-Capital Region has adopted in September 2013 a project of regional nature plan. This project establishes the Brussels vision for nature at the horizon 2050 and sets up 7 main objectives for 2020 that are underpinned with a set of 26 measures. A public consultation on this project plan took place in the beginning of 2014.

The national Belgian Biodiversity Strategy has been updated in 2013 to align with international objectives for 2020. However, the same overarching objectives 2 and 3 are still valid. In the updated version, ecosystem services are also explicitly taken into account.

Four support mechanisms for implementation have been identified in the updated strategy:

SM1. By 2015, adopt, apply and publish indicators to measure progress against the strategic objectives of the NBS.

SM2. By 2015, implement the EU reporting tool for NBSs on the CHM website.

SM3. By 2015, have a functional Clearing-House Mechanism in place for the Convention and its protocols, including a network of practitioners.

SM4. By 2015, functional Clearing-Houses for implementation and technology transfer are in place for the CBD and its Protocols (BCH, ABS-CH).

In 2013, the EU portable toolkit for the CHM has developed a module for the online integrated reporting on the Aichi targets, the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the national biodiversity strategies. In line with SM2, the Belgian CHM website will integrate this module on its website. This will facilitate the sharing of, and access to, information related to the Aichi Targets, the EU biodiversity strategy and the national strategy. The information in the tool will be updated periodically based on the results of SM1. Belgium will be involved in further developing the tool, through a special working group of the EU, to ensure that the tool will allow adding implementation information between national and EU reporting cycles.

Flanders:

The operational objectives of MINA 4 plan are:

- In 2020, sufficient habitat will have been established, re-destined, improved or demarcated to achieve 70% of the conservation objectives of the species and habitats to be protected in Europe.

-In 2015, the condition of endangered and protected groups of species will have improved.

-In 2015, more quality nature under conservation management will have been achieved.

-By 2020, forested area extent and quality have improved.

A package of measures to be taken is provided to support these objectives, as well as the division of tasks and quantitative goals expected by 2015 for biodiversity, through indicators as the "butterfly index", forest indicators or the total area under conservation management specified in a management plan. The evaluation of the status of biodiversity in Flanders and the follow-up of the implementation of this policy plan are carried out by means of 21 biodiversity indicators, which are closely linked to SEBI European biodiversity indicators. The indicators are published and regularly updated on the biodiversity indicators website, on the website of the plan and on the environment indicators website.

Brussels region:

A new coordinated regional law about nature was adopted in March 2012, consisting of 119 articles and 8 annexes, with the general aim of contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of components of biodiversity. Measures taken under this nature law are intended to:

- maintain or restore to a favourable conservation status natural habitats and species of fauna and flora of community and regional interest;
- contribute to the establishment of an ecological network in Brussels;
- contribute to the integration of biodiversity in an urban context.

This regional law requires the elaboration of a regional plan for nature, which should be adopted at the latest two years after the coming into force of the law (articles 6 and 8 to 11). It also foresees the elaboration of more specific action plans (art. 6 and 12 to 14). These action plans would aim at:

- the improvement of the conservation status of natural species and habitats.
- the struggle against biodiversity threats such as invasive alien species.
- the encouragement of sustainable use of biodiversity components.

As required by the coordinated regional law about nature, Brussels is currently working on the elaboration of a regional plan for nature and biodiversity. A first project plan has been adopted in September 2013 by the Government. The project plan outlines the vision of the region for the long-term development of nature on its territory and articulates in the medium term around seven strategic objectives which are the following:

- Improve access to nature for Brussels inhabitants.
- Consolidate the regional green network.
- Integrate nature issues into plans and projects.
- Expand and strengthen the ecological management of green spaces.
- Reconcile wildlife hosting capacity and urban development.
- Raise awareness and mobilize Brussels inhabitants in favour of nature and biodiversity.
- Improve governance as regards nature.

These objectives are accompanied by a program of 26 measures. Some examples of these measures are given below:

- Strengthen the presence of nature in public spaces.
- Develop an operational plan for the implementation of the ecological network.
- Develop an integrated vision for the maintenance and restoration of agricultural areas and relics.
- Set up a "Nature Facilitator".
- Develop a synthetic indicator to assess the inclusion of nature into projects.
- Adopt a common referential for the ecological management of the green spaces.
- Reduce the fragmentation of biodiversity by finding ways to allow the fauna to move across transport infrastructure (ecoducts and ecotunnels for example).
- Optimizing the management of invasive alien species.
- Develop a comprehensive awareness raising strategy.

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

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

No

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

> Since the reported sites of international importance are Natura 2000 sites, they will be managed based on EU guidance.

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

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

Yes

Please give examples of how you have used the CSN Tool

> To obtain a species list for Belgium, to see the range of the different subspecies. It's a bit difficult to work with the tool, because our screens are too small to see the complete boxes and thereby we can't tick the right button, eg to return to the main menu. On the homepage, the link to 'Species Search Page' with the bird icon

is accompanied by the text 'Site Search Page'.

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 4.2. Conservation of Areas

> The number of sites of international importance contains sites which completely or partly overlap. For the Flemish and Brussels region, Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive and Sites of Community Importance under the Habitats Directive that protect at least one of the AEWA species have been listed and summed up. For the total area however, a GIS correction has been carried out to eliminate double counts of overlapping areas.

To select the sites of national importance in the Walloon region, the criteria used are at least 15 % of the total amount wintering birds of one species or at least 1000 birds counted. This exercise was only executed for Wallonia, therefore the given numbers only refer to the Walloon region. These sites include the sites of international importance in the Walloon region.

Pressures and Responses

5. Management of Human Activities

5.1. Hunting

33. Does your country have an established system for the collection of harvest data, which covers the species listed in Table 1? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.3)

Yes

Does it cover the following? (tick where applicable and provide details)

Only some AEWA species occurring in your country

> Only for species with an open hunting season

FLANDERS: Anser anser and Anas platyrhynchos.

WALLONIA: hunting season open only for 3 AEWA species: Anas platyrhynchos, Anas crecca, Fulica atra; Some hunting council hand in harvest data to the administration for these species; for the moment, this is on a voluntary basis. In 2016, the law which deals with the hunting council will be revised and such report should be made compulsory.

Does it cover the following? (tick where applicable and provide details)

The whole territory of your country

> Every Region has his own similar system of collecting harvest data though.

Does it cover the following? (tick where applicable and provide details)

All harvesting activities

Field for additional information (optional)

> FLANDERS: Flemish hunters are obliged to report annually on game numbers and bag statistics. This can be done through a webtool or old school on paper. The information is received and analyzed by a scientific institute from the Flemish government, the Institute for Nature and Forest Research.

In the Brussels region all hunting is prohibited since 1991.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: all hunting is prohibited since 1999

WALLONIE: all hunting data are collected.

34. Has your country phased out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.4)

Fully

When was lead shot use in wetlands banned?

> FLANDERS: A total ban on the use of leadshot has been adopted in 2003, by a Flemish Government Decree from September 19, 2003, on the use of firearms and ammunition for hunting in the Flemish Region. This law is enforced by Nature Inspection.

WALLONIA: Walloon Government arrest on the use of firearms and shots (05 october 2005). Article 3 of this arrest forbids the use of lead shots to shoot waterbird game species at less than 50 meters from a marsh, a lake, a pond, a water reservoir, a river or a canal.

BRUSSELS: Hunting is not allowed in the Brussels region. It is enforced by the Nature and Forest department.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: all hunting is prohibited since 1999

What legislation is in place?

> FLANDERS: Decision of th Flemish government of 25 april 2014 - holding the conditions for hunting practices.

Who enforces this legislation?

> FLANDERS: the Nature Inspection of the Agency of Nature and Forest.

Has assessment of compliance with the legislation been undertaken?

Yes

Please explain how this was assessed.

> FLANDERS: Nature Inspection controls hunters in the field, amongst others, on the use of the appropriate munition.

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

Moderate (more compliance than non-compliance)

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

published or unpublished references.

> FLANDERS: The fact that owning lead-shot is not forbidden (only the use for hunting practices is forbidden) makes it not easy to act strongly. Only lead-shot in the gun barrel or lead-pellets in the shot animal can lead to proper prosecution.

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

No

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

> FLANDERS: there is no information of sites with problems on lead poisoning in waterbirds.

35. Are there measures in your country to reduce/eliminate illegal taking? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.6)

Yes

How would you rate the effectiveness of the measures?

High

Please provide details

> An expert group has been put in place by the Coordination Committee for International Environmental Policy (CCIEP) Working group on Nature, to identify the main gaps to combat wildlife trafficking in Belgium. This group sent his conclusions to the Interministerial Conference on Environment.

36. Are legally binding best practice codes and standards for hunting (e.g. bird identification) considered a priority or appropriate for your country? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 2, Target 2.4)

Yes

Are there legally binding best practice codes or standards in place?

Yes

What do these cover?

Proficiency test for hunters (including bird identification)

Game Management Plans

Other (please specify)

Optional [Please upload links or examples]

> FLANDERS, WALLONIA: Hunters need to pass a hunting exam before being entitled to a hunting licence. This exam consists of a theoretical part, including bird identification, and a practical part, including safety procedures and shooting competence.

Independent hunters and game management units need to provide a 'fauna management plan' which contains population goals for each huntable species, data on habitat quality and quantity, measures for a sustainable game management, ... In the 'game report', game management units and independent hunters also need to report the estimated spring population state of game species within their hunting ground.

FLANDERS: club affiliation is encouraged as not affiliated hunters have (limited)restrictions on hunting opportunities.

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

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

Yes

Please provide details

> FLANDERS: Participation in the AEWA International Species Management Plan for the Svalbard population of the pink-footed goose, Greylag Goose and Barnacle Goose. Reporting of the number of harvested species mentioned under question 28 is required for the already operational plan for the Pinkfooted Goose.

In other regions of Belgium: no hunting of these birds.

Optionally, you can provide additional information on section 5.1. Hunting

> same for wallonia

5.2. Other human activities

38. Have restrictions on use of lead fishing weights been introduced in your country? (AEWA

Action Plan, paragraph 4.3.12). When answering this question please also consider question 56 in chapter 6 - Research and monitoring.

No

If appropriate, please provide further details.

> Although no official restrictions have been introduced, the Advising Interparliamentary Council of the Benelux has requested the governments to promote the use of ecological and degradable alternatives in sport fishing practice and to sensitize all actors involved in sport fishing for the problems and harmful consequences of lead weights.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Benelux 10 juli 2014 alternatieven lood.pdf](#)

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

Yes and being implemented

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

Entire country

Please provide details

> Each region has its own legislation, based on European Directives.

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

Yes

Please provide details

> European directive 2001/42/CE of 27 June 2001 ensures that plans and programmes likely to have significant effects on the environment are made subject to an environmental assessment, prior to their approval or authorisation. Consultation with the public is a key feature of environmental assessment procedures.

FLANDERS: Decree concerning general provisions relating to environmental policy Decree of 5 April 1995 concerning general provisions relating to environmental policy and the Government of Flanders Decree of 10/12/2004 provide the procedure and a list of activities for which an Environmental Impact Report has to be written.

According to art. 36ter of the Decree for Nature Conservation, for every activity, plan or program that needs to be licenced and that might have a negative impact on a SPA, there has to be made an appropriate assessment.

Federal level: Belgian marine territory: royal Decrees (in pursuance of the MMM law of 20/01/1999): the RD of 09/09/2003 establishing the rules related to the environmental impact assessment and the royal decree of the 07/09/2003 establishing the procedures for granting permits and authorisations for some activities in the marine spaces.

WALLONIA: Environmental assessments of plans and programs are under the Walloon environmental code. This directive has been transposed in the BCR in the order of 18 March 2004.

Brussels Region: Ordonnance du 1er mars 2012 relative à la conservation de la nature, Titre II, Chapitre 5 'Evaluation appropriée des incidences des plans et projets sur les sites protégés et critères de décision', which covers the appropriate impact assessment of plans and projects on Natura 2000 sites and natural and forest reserves + art. 85 appropriate impact assessment on derogations of article 47 §2 and of article 48.'

Do the SEA/EIA processes include public participation?

Yes

Please provide details

> The European Union has established a mix of mandatory and discretionary procedures to assess environmental impacts. European Union Directive on Environmental Impact Assessments (known as the EIA Directive) has been codified in Directive 2011/92/EU of 13 December 2011. Under the EU directive, an EIA must provide certain information to comply. This Directive has been transposed in Regional policy, and is applied through the environmental and the urbanistic permit procedures.

Assessment of the plans and projects in relation to NATURA 2000 sites is provision of the European Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), in particular its article 6(3) and 6(4). The aim of these articles is to reveal negative impacts of plans and projects to coherence of NATURA 2000 network through appropriate assessment (AA) of their possible effects on integrity of the NATURA 2000 sites and in particular in regards to their effect on species and habitats that are sites target features. If impacts are detected such plans and projects have to be either avoided or amended, or if imperative reasons of overriding public interest are proved compensatory measures in favour of NATURA 2000 have to be taken to ensure overall coherence of the NATURA 2000 network.

FLANDERS, WALLONIA: EIA are required under the Environmental code or regional decree (environment and urban permits required).

BRUSSELS: Transposed in the order of 1st March 2012, this principle of the directive has been extended in the Brussels Capital Region to the nature and forest reserves.

FLANDERS: The procedure for the Environmental Impact Report includes public consultation. The request for a licence that might have an influence on a SPA is published for public consultation together with the appropriate assessment.

FEDERAL:

Belgian marine territory: royal Decrees of 09/09/2003 establishing the rules related to the environmental impact assessment and of the 07/09/2003 establishing the procedures for granting permits and authorizations for some activities in the marine spaces clearly specify in which cases a public consultation has to be organized.

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

Yes, all proposed projects

Please provide information on the outstanding cases

> FLANDERS: Projects from the list in the Government of Flanders Decree of 10/12/2004 were subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment following the procedure described in the Decree of 5 April 1995 concerning general provisions relating to environmental policy. This list includes power lines installation and the installation of hydropower facilities and the procedure requires to include the assessment of possible effects on biodiversity, fauna and flora. Plans or programmes that relate to energy, amongst others, and that form the framework for permits for projects from the above mentioned list and plans or programmes for which it could not be demonstrated that it will not have significant environmental impacts were subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

An appropriate assessment has been made for every activity, plan or program that needed to be licenced and that could have had a negative impact on a special protection area, according to art. 36ter of the Decree for Nature Conservation.

WALLONIA: The environmental code lists the projects subject to EIA, part V, chapter II « Système d'évaluation des incidences des plans et programmes sur l'environnement » and chapter III « Système d'évaluation des incidences de projets sur l'environnement ».

In Wallonia the decision of the wallon government of 04/07/2002 concerns the environmental impact assesment. This decision gives a list of acts and projects which require an environmental impact assessment and fixes the minimal information that these studies must include. This list includes power lines installation and the installation of hydropower facilities and the procedure requires to include the assesment of possible effects on biodiversity, fauna and flora.

An appropriate assessment has to be made for every plan or program that needs a licence and that could have had a negative impact on a special protection area (Natura 2000 site), according to art. 28, §1er of the Nature Conservation Law of 12/07/1973.

All the birds species except the game species are protected in Wallonia. The Nature Conservation Law forbids to deteriorate or to destroy the habitats of the protected species and to deliberately capture, disturb or kill individuals. It is possible to get a derogation for allowing one or several of these actions. This derogation can be delivered only if it is established that the derogation won't have a detrimental impact on the species conservation status. Therefore an environmental impact assesment of the project on the potentially impacted species needs to be realised.

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

Yes

Please describe the measures put in place

> Where the powerline is crossing the area with importance for waterbirds, it was put underground.

Field for additional information (optional)

> Under EU legislation it is mandatory to avoid significant negative impact.

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

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

No

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

> FLANDERS: The Flemish Government has published own methodological guidance documents, e.g. on EIA for thermic power plants (2009) and infrastructure (above ground power lines, 2007; underground tubes, 2007; railways, 2007, roads, 2007).

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

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

Yes

Please provide details

> Elia, the manager of the high-voltage electricity transmission system in Belgium, has required the nature ngos Aves, Natuurpunt and Vogelbescherming Vlaanderen as well as the Flemish Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO) to produce a report "Reducing bird mortality caused by high- and very-high-voltage power lines in Belgium" and map the 'black lines' on the power line network. The report with national sensitivity map was published in 2012. All available data from bird monitoring projects were put together to build this map. Bird species were classified according to their specific collision risk. According to the local abundance of each species, a "Bird Collision Risk" score has been calculated for each line section. Most of the dangerous power lines are located in areas where major concentrations of waterbirds occur. Elia will use the sensitivity map to adjust the network by placing markers or "diverters" on the lines with high risk in order to try to reduce the number of collision fatalities drastically. For the power lines with the highest risk on the sensitivity map, mitigation measures are progressively applied. The results of the gradual applied mitigation measures is also monitored and evaluated.

42.2. Has a baseline of waterbird distribution, population sizes, migrations and movements (including those between breeding, resting and feeding areas) been established as early as possible in the planning of any power line project, over a period of at least five years, and with particular emphasis on those species known to be vulnerable to electrocution or collision?

Yes

Please provide details

> FLANDERS: Methodology is described in the guidelines for EIA for above ground power lines (Richtlijnenboek Bovengrondse Hoogspanningsleidingen; Dienst MER; oktober 2007; 62pag.). Basis is the setting up of a population-ecological modelling and population structure for the baseline situation which then should be compared with the situation after the establishment of the power line. In Flanders a bird-collision risk atlas has been made where waterbird concentrations and seasonal/dayle movements are visualised. This atlas can be consulted any time on <https://geo.inbo.be/windturbines/> in order that early on in every project one can evaluate the possible impact/risks at a given site. WALLONIA: SEA and EIA are applicable for power lines and is supposed to take this information into account.

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

Yes

Please provide details.

> In the single relevant case, the powerline went underground on the passing through the sensitive area.

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

Yes

Please provide details

> Location of power lines must be integrated in national zoning maps and the system of land use planning. This process must always be accompanied by a SEA at the level of the spatial planning and EIA for the concrete project.

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

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

Not applicable

Please explain the reasons.

> The situation of new construction of powerlines has not occurred in the reporting period.

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

Yes

Please provide details

> Balls and 'curls' on the power lines are and will be installed on the most sensitive stretches of high-voltage power lines.

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

Yes

Please provide details

> This is an ongoing process. Based on the monitoring of bird mortality due to high- and very-high-voltage power lines in Belgium, a sensitivity map was prepared, indicating those sections that are causing relatively high levels of (water)bird injury and/or mortality due to electrocution and/or collision. The report with national sensitivity map was published in 2012 (see web link). Elia, the manager of the high-voltage electricity transmission system in Belgium, will use the sensitivity map to adjust the network by placing markers or "diverters" on the most dangerous lines in order to try to reduce the number of collision fatalities drastically. For the power lines with the highest risk on the sensitivity map, in 2014 a field study was performed to determine the actual risk, so that Elia can prioritize mitigation measures further. The results of the gradual applied mitigation measures will also be monitored and evaluated on a project level during the coming years.

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

Partially

Please provide details.

> The modification process is ongoing. First the trajectories with the highest risks are modified, others follow step by step.

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

Partial

Please provide details.

> Through the citizen-science portal www.waarnemingen.be / www.observations.be, it is possible to report power line victims. Where a lot of victims are reported, a more detailed assessment of the risk can be performed.

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

Partial

Please provide details.

> Before and after modification of some powerlines, the impact of the modification is assessed.

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

No

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

> Strategic Environmental Assessment for power lines is already covered by legislation in force. No budget could be allocated for monitoring specifically related to power lines. Other aspects of Resolution 5.11 are covered by the Elia project (see 37.5).

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

No

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

> FLANDERS: The Flemish Government has published own methodological guidance documents on EIA for above ground power lines, 2007 and underground tubes, 2007.

44. Please report on the implementation of Resolution 5.16 on Renewable Energy and Migratory Waterbirds.

44.1. Has a national sensitivity and zoning mapping to avoid overlap of renewable energy developments with areas of importance for migratory waterbirds been developed in your country?

Yes

Please provide details

> FLANDERS: The Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO) has produced an update report of the bird sensitivity map in 2015. The instrument includes information and recommendations concerning the possible effects of planned wind turbines on birds and bats in Flanders. The instrument makes clear what essential steps have to be undertaken for new projects and plans of wind farms, and where the necessary information can be found to proceed these steps. The sensitivity map has several component maps, and can be consulted in a geographical web application on the INBO website.

WALLONIA: the impacts of Wind mills and Wind mill farms are included in EIA;

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: impacts of windmills and windmill farms are included in the EIA

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

Yes

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

> FLANDERS: The risk atlas that was already made for Birds (to evaluate windfarm risks), has been enlarged in order to also cover bat collision risks. For this the Eurobats-guidelines provided a major input.

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

Yes

Please share information and lessons learnt from the post-construction monitoring.

> BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: an update of the environmental effects of windfarms was made in the 'Monitoring Report 2016' (<https://www.naturalsciences.be/en/news/item/6688>)

WALLONIA: the impacts of Wind mills and Wind mill farms are included in EIA;

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

No

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

Yes

Please provide details

> For some planned wind farms, compensation of meadow and farmland bird habitat was introduced, because of an estimated local-scale disturbance effect from the turbines.

44.5. Please indicate whether any of the following measures have been put in place to reduce the potential negative impact of terrestrial and marine windfarms on migratory waterbirds:

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

Not applicable

Please explain the reasons

> Windfarms are placed outside migration corridors, so that there is no need for operational shutdowns.

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

Not applicable

Please explain the reasons

> No situations have been detected that would require dismantling or greater operational changes. Throughout the building permit process, places with big risks are avoided.

Focusing research efforts on alleviating the negative effects on waterbirds from wind farms, such as the mapping of the main migration corridors and migration crossings for waterbirds also allowing the optimising of wind farm layouts.

Yes

Please provide details

> FLANDERS: The areas with important waterbird concentrations, migration corridors and crossings have been mapped and are available as a risk atlas via a web application (<https://geo.inbo.be/windturbines/>)

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

No

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

> Priority is given to a general approach on the impact of biofuel production on biodiversity. This has been included in the National Biodiversity Strategy: 'Belgium will defend a position aiming at the compulsory inclusion of new environmental criteria within the framework of the revision of Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC. Incentives should be restricted to the promotion of biofuels produced from feedstock that do not create an additional demand for land and do not compete with other uses like food, materials, biodiversity.'

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

Yes

Please provide details

> National Biodiversity Strategy 2006-2016: 4c.8 Ensure that the production of plants for renewable energy does not negatively impact on biodiversity

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

No Information

Field for additional information (optional)

> The European Commission has developed an Action Plan for reducing incidental catches of seabirds in fishing gears.

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

Yes

Field for additional information (optional)

> The European Commission has developed an Action Plan for reducing incidental catches of seabirds in fishing gears.

Pressures and Responses

6. Research and Monitoring

49. Does your country have waterbird monitoring schemes for the AEWA species in place? (Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 3, Target 3.2)

Yes

Covering the breeding period

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

Fully

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

Please provide details.

> FLANDERS: rare breeding birds and colony-breeders are followed up on a yearly basis through the project Bijzondere Broedvogels. More numerous and frequent breeders are monitored in the project Algemene Broedvogels through statistically based plots scattered over the region which are followed up every 3 years.

Covering the passage period

Fully

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

Please provide details.

> FLANDERS: all sites with important concentrations of waterbirds are monitored through mid-monthly waterbird counts (15 october - 15 march). Passing birds outside this period are not fully covered, but counts are then performed at the most important stop-over sites.

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: monitoring of seabirds is included in the monitoring program established under the EU-Marine Strategy (MSFD)

Covering the non-breeding/wintering period

Fully

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

Please provide details.

> FLANDERS: all sites with important concentrations of waterbirds are monitored through mid-monthly waterbird counts (15 october - 15 march).

BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA: monitoring of seabirds is included in the monitoring program established under the EU-Marine Strategy (MSFD)

Field for additional information (optional)

> Information on species conservation status is available on the wallon internet site on biodiversity.

<http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/accueil.html?IDC=6>

Besides this, information on Natura 2000 birds species conservation status is available through the Natura 2000 website. The Environmental Outlook for Wallonia gives trends for birds species which are monitored on a regular basis and the results are available through the dashboard of the Walloon environment.

50. Has your country supported, technically or financially, other Parties or Range States in designing appropriate monitoring schemes and developing their capacity to collect reliable waterbird population data? (Resolution 5.2)

No

Please explain the reasons

> No opportunity arose to set up such kind of support. Through the European Goose Management Platform however Flanders contributed financially to the datacenter to collect and process distribution data.

51. Has your country used the AEWA Guidelines for a waterbird monitoring protocol?

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

No

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

> Monitoring programs were existing at the time the guidelines were established. It is possible to use the Guidelines in future monitoring protocols.

FLANDERS: Waterbird monitoring has been organised since 1967 in the framework of the 'International Waterbird Census', coordinated by Wetlands International, to which monitoring schemes are optimised.

BELGIUM (federal): Since 1992 regular counts of seabirds are done from ships following standardized methods on an ad hoc basis, for research projects and in the framework of WinMon, a monitoring program to assess the impact of windmills that started in 2005.

Since 1997 monitoring of nesting gulls and terns is organized in the framework of ecological quality objectives of OSPAR. The monitoring of seabirds is included in the monitoring program established under the EU-Marine Strategy (MSFD) since 2014.

WALLONIA: Trends in common birds numbers in Wallonia: through the environment dashboard in Wallonia, 75 species of birds are monitored. Though only representing 43% of the breeding species found in Wallonia, they account for 96% of the total bird population.

52. Have any research programmes been established in your country in the last 5 years to address waterbird conservation priorities in accordance with the AEWA strategies and plans? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 3, Target 3.3)

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS, WALLONIA and BRUSSELS: Research projects have primarily been planned and established in the framework of Natura2000 and species protection programmes. Some of this research is in the benefit of waterbirds but there is no specific research programme targeted to waterbirds.

53. List (or provide links to lists) of research related to waterbirds and their conservation that has been undertaken or results published in the past triennium (Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 3, Target 3.5)

> FLANDERS: The Institute of Nature and Forest Research shares the outcomes of their research in several publications.

The results of wintering waterbird censuses are published in 'Vogelnieuws', a magazine published by the Institute of Nature and Forest research to also provide feedback to the volunteers who are engaged in the mid-monthly waterbird counts.

More specific research outputs are published in scientific reports, most of which are available as pdf through <https://pureportal.inbo.be/portal/nl/publications/search.html?ordering=researchOutputOrderByPublicationYear&descending=true>

Also more information about running projects concerning waterbirds can be found on the site of the institute: <https://www.inbo.be/nl/thema/soorten-biotopen-fauna/vogels/watervogels>

54. Has your government provided over the past triennium funds and/or logistical support for the International Waterbird Census at international or national level? (Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 3, Target 3.1)

Yes

Nationally

Yes

Please provide details

> FLANDERS: the Institute of Nature and Forest research is coordinating a network of professionals and skilled volunteers in order to have a good coverage of breeding rare waterbirds and wintering waterbirds.

Internationally

No

Please explain the reasons

> Nu budget available.

55. Has your country donated funds to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership Fund in the past triennium (Resolution 6.3)?

No

56. Has the impact of lead fishing weights on waterbirds been investigated in your country? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.3.12). When answering this question please also consider

question 38 in chapter 5 - Management of human activities.

No

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

No

Please provide reason(s)

> no priority

Pressures and Responses

7. Education and Information

7.1. Communication, Education and Public Awareness

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

Yes, being implemented

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

> FLANDERS: The Agency for Nature and Forests participates in several nature visitor centers nearby important wetlands. Contact: Marie-Laure Vanwanseele, anb@vlaanderen.be
Nature conservation NGO's also pay attention to raising public awareness about nature conservation in general, including waterbirds and wetland ecosystems. Contact: e.g. largest Nature NGO Natuurpunt, director Chris Steenwegen, chris.steenwegen@natuurpunt.be. Naturalists' associations are in some cases financed by the Flemish government in view to organize public awareness and education activities

WALLONIA: The Nature and Forest Department organises CEPA activities (Philippe.vanasbroek@spw.wallonie.be);

- Naturalists' associations are financed in view to organize public awareness and education activities. Nature protection organizations such as the WWF, the 'Ligue Royale pour la Protection des Oiseaux' (LRBPO, protection.oiseaux@birdprotection.be), Natagora (info@natagora.be), "Ardenne et Gaume" (secretariat@ardenne-et-gaume.be), 'Les Cercles des Naturalistes de Belgique', 'Jeunes et Nature' and 'Forêt Wallonne' all have educational activities oriented towards nature conservation.

- Public education and awareness is one of the missions of Natural parks (info@fpnw.be)

BRUSSELS REGION: Naturalists' associations are financed in view to organize public awareness and education activities. Nature protection organizations such as the 'Ligue Royale pour la Protection des Oiseaux' (LRBPO, director Corentin Rousseau, corentin.rousseau@birdprotection.be), Natagora/Aves (director Philippe Funcken, philippe.funcken@natagora.be), Natuurpunt (director Chris Steenwegen, chris.steenwegen@natuurpunt.be), and many others all have educational activities oriented towards nature conservation. Public education and awareness is one of the missions of Brussels Environment, the regional administration for energy and environment.

• Federal level: Belgian marine territory:

- A national campaign was launched in April 2005 in order to create a social basis for the different "values" of the sea.

- In 2012 a brochure has been published on the natural values of the sea to raise public awareness.

Contact: Federal Public Service (FPS) Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment, marien.milieu.marin@environment.belgium.be

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

No

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> CEPA is followed up by the National Focal Point, who informs the Regional Focal Points.

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

Yes

Please indicate which measures have been taken:

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> No budget could be allocated for specific training programmes in the framework of AEWA. People involved in the awareness programmes are either trained professionals or volunteers that can follow various training

programmes in their NGOs or through knowledge sharing institutions such as Natuurinvest (affiliate of the Flemish Agency for Nature and Forests). Those training programmes are usually situated in a broader biodiversity framework.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> Training programmes and materials related to waterbirds usually are part of a broader nature training, developed by nature NGOs or government administrations. For programmes and materials in Dutch, the language is an extra barrier for co-developing such materials.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> No dedicated AEWA related information and training resources were produced. Information and training resources related to waterbirds usually are part of broader nature information and training resources, developed by nature NGOs or government administrations. For information and resources in Dutch, the language is an extra barrier for exchanging these.

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

Yes

How can the effectiveness of the measures be rated?

Other

> Not evaluated

Please provide details

> FLANDERS: In the framework of Natura2000 (Birds directive), public awareness for the conservation of populations of relevant waterbird species has been addressed by the website www.natura2000.vlaanderen.be. On the website www.ecopedia.be detailed ecological information of, amongst others, relevant waterbirds is available.

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

Yes

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

> FLANDERS: In 2017 an event was held at the Zwin, an intertidal wetland (with visitors centre) at the coast where large numbers of waterbirds stop over.

61. Has your country provided funding and/or other support, as appropriate (e.g. expertise, network, skills and resources) towards the implementation of the AEWA Communication Strategy? Please consider both national and international funding and different types of support provided. (Strategic Plan 2009- 2017, Objective 4, Target 4.1 and Resolution 3.10, Resolution 5.5)

No

Please explain the reasons

> No budget available.

62. In Resolution 3.10 the Meeting of the Parties encouraged Contracting Parties to host AEWA Exchange Centres for their respective regions. Has your country considered/shown interest in hosting a Regional AEWA Exchange Centre? (Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 3, Target 2 and Resolution 3.10)

Not considered yet

Please provide details on the answer given above

> No staff available to work this out.

63. Training for CEPA (Communication, Education and Public Awareness) at national level is supposed to be conducted by staff who have been trained in the framework of an AEWA Training of Trainers programme. Have staff who were trained as part of a Training of Trainers workshop conducted national CEPA training in your country in the past triennium? (Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 4, Target 4.2)

No

Please explain the reasons

> FLANDERS: No staff was trained.

Pressures and Responses

8. Implementation

64. Has your country approached non-contracting party range states to encourage them to accede to the Agreement? (Resolution 3.10)

Report only on activities over the past triennium

No

Please explain the reasons

> No opportunity arose to approach non-contracting parties on this issue.

65. Has your country supported/developed international co-operation projects for the implementation of the Agreement, according to the priorities outlined in the AEWA International Implementation Tasks (IIT) for the current triennium? (Resolution 6.13).

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

Yes

Please list the IIT projects (**see the full roster here**) to which grants have been provided or for which initiatives have been undertaken and briefly provide any relevant information

> FLANDERS: a budget was granted for the implementation of the International Management Plan for the Pinkfooted Goose. Also a budget was granted to develop the datacenter of the European Goose Management Platform (EGMP) under which new International Management Plans for other goose species are developed.

66. Does your country have in place a national coordination mechanism for implementation of AEWA, possibly linking to national coordination mechanisms for other biodiversity Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)? (Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 5, Target 5.7)

Yes, it is operational on a regular basis

Please provide details

> The Coordination Committee for International Environmental Policy (CCIEP) Working group on Nature ensures that Belgium brings well-argued opinions on environmental policy to the international scene. These coordinated standpoints require a preceding debate both at technical and political level. Representatives from all Régions and the federal for all international or european nature related agreements (CMS (and its daughter agreements), CITES, Ramsar, CBD, ...) and other stakeholders are represented.

<http://www.sante.belgique.be/eportal/Environment/Inspectionandenvironmentalrigh/international/CCPIE/10972455?ie2Term=CCIM&ie2section=83&&fodnlang=en>

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

Yes

Please provide details on each twinning arrangement

> FLANDERS: Twinning of sites near the Zwin Tidal Area: nature restoration and recreation/ecotourism. The Hedwige-Prosper project across the Dutch/Belgian border in the Scheldt Estuary: restoring waterbird habitat. Collaboration with the Netherlands and Germany in the tri-country Park: broad collaboration including landscape management.

68. Are those officers in your country's government responsible for AEWA implementation co-ordinated and engaged with national processes to implement and to assess delivery of the CBD Strategic Plan 2011 - 2020 including the Aichi targets?

Yes

Please provide details

> The Coordination Committee for International Environmental Issues / Nature takes this into account

69. Are the AEWA priorities incorporated into your county's National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) and other strategic planning processes (Resolution 6.3)?

69.1 NBSAP

Yes

69.2 Other strategic planning processes

Yes

Please name the other strategic planning processes

> FLANDERS: Indirectly the AEWA-priorities are incorporated through agreements with other administrations and organisations (agriculture, water management, traffic, economy, land management, ...) in the wider frame of the realisation of the Natura2000 goals from the SPA's of the EU Birds Directive. Where applicable these other sectors commit to support the conservation goals throughout their own projects/processes or at least not to jeopardize them.

70. Please report any activity undertaken to promote with the development agency of your country or other appropriate governmental body the relevance of AEWA implementation in the context of SDG-delivery and to stress the need to better integrate actions for waterbird and wetland conservation within relevant development projects (Resolution 6.15).

AEWA relevance for SDG implementation WAS promoted

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

> By the harmonization of the reporting formats, harmonized cooperation between these conventions and agreements, use of "indicators": 'blinkers', which give signals and indications of situations and trends. Indicators could show how well which goals of the Agreement are being reached in a rather easy way, would allow a high degree of standardization in the reporting process. Sets of indicators have been developed at EU-level (in the framework of the EU Biodiversity Strategy) and in the framework of the new Strategy for Migratory Species under CMS. Those sets could form a basis for specific indicators for the AEWA Action Plan.

72. Has your country donated funds to the AEWA Small Grants Fund over the past triennium? (Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 5, Target 5.4)

No

Please explain the reasons

> There was no budget available.

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

Yes

Please provide details, including amount of funds donated

> Contribution to the implementation of the international adaptive harvest management plan for the pinkfooted goose (30.000€) and for the establishment of the datacentre for the European Goose Management Platform (25.000€).

74. Please report on the implementation of Resolution 6.21 on Resource mobilisation for the implementation of AEWA.

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

Yes

Please describe the resources provided

> Land owners are encouraged to establish nature reserves, restore nature (including waterbird habitat) and

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

No

74.3 Has your country's government provided funding to support developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, to meet their obligations under AEWA, and the implementation of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017? Under this question please report for support

provided outside of formal and established intergovernmental cooperation. For the latter, please refer to the next question 74.4.

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

Pressures and Responses

9. Climate Change

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

a. Research and studies of climate change impacts on waterbirds

No relevant activities

Please explain the reasons

> FLANDERS: Main focus in climate research lies on effects on nature management and fire prevention. Some projects focus on vegetation or ecosystems as a whole, but not specific on direct effects on waterbirds or wetlands. An impact assessment of climate change on the vegetation level has been carried out (Van der Aa et al. (2015). Effecten van klimaatverandering op natuur en bos. Rapporten van het Instituut voor Natuur- en Bosonderzoek 2015 (INBO.R.2015.9952476). Instituut voor Natuur- en Bosonderzoek, Brussel.).

There are 2 projects that have started which focus on river-ecosystems, which may be relevant: The project FutureFloodplains, carried out by different scientific partners, focuses on the modelling of changing ecosystem services of floodplains (including biodiversity), by considering different mid- and long-term scenarios of socio-ecological changes (including climate change). The research output is meant to help decision making in order to sustainably manage these floodplains. The project started in 2017 and will run uptill 2021.

The Life project Sparc (www.natuurenbos.be/sparc) studies climate change effects along the Scheldt river and focuses on enhanced flood safety by restoring flooding areas that are designed as wetlands with high nature values.

b. Assessment of the potential vulnerability to climate change of key habitats used by waterbird species (including those outside protected area networks) (Please note that the question asks about habitats, rather than sites. Question 27 in Section 4, sub-section 4.2 investigates vulnerability of sites to climate change)

Planned

Please provide details

> FLANDERS: A strategy has been developed on how to adapt climate change effects in nature and forest management, starting with a sensitivity screening of different landscape types (DEMEY et al. (2015). Klimaatadaptatie in natuur- en bosbeheer. Universiteit Gent).

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[20150324_Nota_Klimaatadaptatie_FINAAL.pdf](#) - Ghent University report on climate adaptation (Dutch)

[BIJLAGE - Discussienota_workshops.pdf](#) - Discussion document on workshops related to the Ghent University climate adaptation report (Dutch)

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

No relevant activities

Please explain the reasons

> Assessment of the potential vulnerability of waterbirds to climate change is not a priority in climate change impact assessment. The focus has been given in the first place to an ecosystem approach in general. Through impacts on vegetation, water quantity and quality, it can be relevant for waterbirds though.

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

Undertaken

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

> The National Biodiversity Strategy has been reviewed. This is relevant to waterbirds and to climate change, although its scope is much broader.

e. National Action Plan for helping waterbirds adapt to climate change (as a separate implementation process or as part of a larger national framework for biodiversity adaptation to climate change. Please note that Question 28 in Section 4, sub-section 4.2 investigates national measures for increasing resilience of the ecological network for waterbirds to climate change).

No relevant activities

Please explain the reasons

> Climate Policy planning considers the impact on nature/environment in general, without specific focus on waterbirds.

f. Other undertaken or planned relevant activities.

No

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

No

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

> FLANDERS, WALLONIA, BRUSSELS: The Climate Action plan is a conceptual plan. At this stage it is not relevant to use specific guidelines for waterbirds. With the implementation at specific sites the local biodiversity (including waterbirds) will be taken into account.

Pressures and Responses

10. Avian Influenza

77. What issues have proved challenging in responding nationally to the spread of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in the last triennium and what further guidance or information would be useful in this respect?

77.1 List challenges

> FLANDERS: The main challenge is the organization of the surveillance in wild birds in order to submit for a laboratory analysis a sufficient number of carcasses of wild birds. The notification of such suspicions in wildlife is done by:

- professional wild life “workers”(e.g. ornithologists and employees of the regional nature authorities)
- the general public through the use of a nationwide telephone number, free of charge, via which the public can notify suspicious cases of mortality in wild Birds

Moreover, the surveillance is expanded to birds that die in wild birds refuge centers.

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 10. Avian Influenza

> WALLONIA: administrations and scientific institutes collaborate to collect and analyse the dead birds found.

11. Confirmation

Confirmation of information verification and approval for submission

Please confirm:

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

I declare that the information provided in the Report on the implementation of AEWA for the period 2015-2017 has been verified and the report has been approved for submission by the appropriate state institution in the country.

Date of submission

> 02/07/2018