

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

> Cyprus

Date of entry into force of AEWA in the Contracting Party

> 01.09.2008

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

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

> None

2. Institutional Information

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

Designated National AEWA Administrative Authority

Full name of the institution

> Department of Environment, MANRE

Name and title of the head of institution

> Costas Hadjipanagiotou

Mailing address - Street and number

> MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Postal code

> 1498

City

> NICOSIA

Country

> CYPRUS

Telephone

> +357 22408900

Fax

> +357 22774945

E-mail

> estylianopoulou@environment.moa.gov.cy

Website

> www.moa.gov.cy/environment

Designated National Focal Point (NFP) for AEWA matters

Name and title of the NFP

> Ms. Elena Stylianopoulou, Environment Officer A

Affiliation (institution, department)

> Department of Environment , Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment

Mailing address - Street and number

> MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Postal code

> 1498

City

> Nicosia

Country

> Cyprus

Telephone

> +357 22 408929

Fax

> +357 22 77 49 45

E-mail

> estylianopoulou@environment.moa.gov.cy

Website

> www.moa.gov.cy/environment

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

Name and title of the TC NFP

> Mr. Pantelis Hadjgerou, Head of the Game Fund Service

Affiliation (institution, department)

> Game & Fauna service/ Ministry of Interior

Mailing address - Street and number

> MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, NICOSIA

Postal code

> 1453

City

> Nicosia

Country

> Cyprus

Telephone

> +357 22867786

Fax

> +357 22867780

E-mail

> wildlife.thira@cytanet.com.cy

Website

> www.cypruswildlife.gov.cy

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.

Another person has been designated as the National Respondent

Name and title of the DNR

> Nicolaos Kassinis, Senior Game and Wildlife Officer

Affiliation (institution, department)

> Game and Fauna Service, Ministry of Interior

Postal code

> 1453

City

> Nicosia

Country

> Cyprus

Telephone

> 357 22 867786

Fax

> 357 22 867780

E-mail

> lemesos.thira@cytanet.com.cy

Website

> www.cypruswildlife.gov.cy

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.

> BirdLife Cyprus (BirdLife International partner)

Pressures and Responses

3. Species Conservation

3.1 Legal Measures

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.

Black-winged Pratincole / Glareola nordmanni / SE Europe & Western Asia/Southern Africa / Column A / Category / 4

Is there an open hunting season for Black-winged Pratincole / Glareola nordmanni / SE Europe & Western Asia/Southern Africa / Column A / Category / 4 ?

No

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 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.

> Law 152(1) 2003 for the Protection and Conservation of Game & Wild Birds

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.

No

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

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

> species exists as passage migrant to Cyprus. Key habitats used on passage are protected.

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

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

> Species is a scarce Passage migrant. Key habitats used by the species on migration are protected.

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

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

> Species-specific National Plans are not developed in Cyprus, however conservation actions are implemented for species listed under Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

> Key habitats used are protected and species is monitored regularly

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

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

> Species is a passage migrant in Cyprus. Key habitats used on migration are protected and monitored.

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

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

> Species is a passage migrant in Cyprus. Key habitats used on migration are protected and monitored.

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)

No

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?

> Species-specific National Plans are not developed in Cyprus, however conservation actions are implemented for species listed under Annex I of the EU Birds Directive. Furthermore management plans have been developed for Special Protected Areas (Natura 2000)

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

Botulism

Indicate when the emergency situation took place

> August-September 2017

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

> Bishop's Pool, Akrotiri Peninsula (34°35'47.0"N 32°59'06.0"E)

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

> 2.25 ha

What proportion of the site has been affected?

Please fill in the percentage (%) in the box below.

> 100

Have emergency response measures been implemented?

Yes

Please provide details

> Carcasses removed. Fresh water added. Water management guidelines adopted.

Lead poisoning

Indicate when the emergency situation took place

> winter 2009-10, winter 2010-2011

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

> Larnaca saltlake

Have emergency response measures been implemented?

Yes

Please provide details

> Birds were prevented from using a specific area by placing bird scarers

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

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)

No

Please explain the reasons

> No re-establishment projects are planned.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> No re-establishment projects are planned.

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.

No

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

> No translocation project are planned.

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.

> Law 152.1 of 2003. Ministry of the Interior (Game & Wildlife Service)

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

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)?

No

Please explain the reasons

> The EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation has been transposed and adopted in Cyprus legislation

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)

Not applicable

Please explain

> No non-native waterbird species is established in Cyprus.

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

> Phragmites have been eradicated in specific NATURA 2000 sites in order to reclaim habitat for breeding waterbirds such as *Vanellus spinosus* and *Himantopus himantopus*

Please provide further information for each relevant programme

> Actions undertaken as part of wetland restoration projects: LIFE Oroklini and Darwin Plus project 'Akrotiri Marsh Restoration: a flagship wetland in the Cyprus SBAs'. Actions also included in SPA Management Plans (not yet enforced)

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?

> The EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation has been transposed and adopted in Cyprus legislation

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

> https://issuu.com/birdlifecyprus/docs/important_bird_areas_of_cyprus_by_b
Hellicar, M.A., Anastasi, V., Beton, D. & Snape, R. 2014. Important Bird Areas of Cyprus. BirdLife Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus

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?

> BirdLife International Important Bird Area identification guidelines were used

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

> Climate change threats have been considered in development of SPA management plans

For the national protected area network

No

Please explain the reasons.

> Climate change threats have been considered in development of SPA management plans

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

Examples of best practice (optional)

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

> Oroklini Lake, as restored and managed under LIFE Oroklini project: <http://www.orokliniproject.org/>

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

MANAGEMENT GAP FILING

No

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)

No

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?

> SPA management plans developed in accordance with requirement of EU Birds Directive.

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.

No

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)

All AEWA species occurring in your country

Does it cover the following? (tick where applicable and provide details)

Only part of the territory of your country

> Only in the area that is effectively controlled by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus

Does it cover the following? (tick where applicable and provide details)

All harvesting activities

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?

> In 2003.

What legislation is in place?

> Law 152(1) of 2003 On the protection and conservation of game and wild birds. The Game & fauna service (of the Ministry of Interior) enforces wildlife legislation

Who enforces this legislation?

> Game and Fauna Service, Ministry of Interior

Field for additional information (optional)

> Limited wetlands are open to hunting.

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?

Moderate

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)

Other (please specify)

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.

No

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

> Birds Directive, EU legislation

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

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?

Other

Please provide details

> Area effectively controlled by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus

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

Yes

Do the SEA/EIA processes include public participation?

Yes

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

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?

Partially

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?

> EU SIA/EIA legislation

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

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?

No

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?

Not applicable

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

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?

No

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

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.

> Fireflies applied at Oroklini Lake and along some river valleys used as migration corridors by birds

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

No

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?

No

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

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?

No

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

> Developments assessed as part of EIA/SEA processes

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.

> EIA and SEA

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

No

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

No

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.

No

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

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.

No

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?

Not applicable

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

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

No

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

No Information

Field for additional information (optional)

> New MAVA-funded project on 'Understanding multi-taxa 'bycatch' of vulnerable species and testing mitigation measures' launched in 2018. Coordinated by BirdLife International, with NGO partners

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)

Not applicable

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.

> Monthly counts, including colony counts at major wetlands and breeding sites.

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.

> Monthly counts at major wetlands and important passage bottlenecks

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.

> Monthly counts at major wetlands.

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

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.

Yes

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

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)

> Annual waterbird surveys have been published.

1. Charalambidou, I., Gücel, S., Kassinis, N., Turkseven, N., Fuller, W., Kuyucu, A. and Yorgancı, H. 2008. Waterbirds in Cyprus 2007/08. UES-CCEIA/ TCBA/CGF/, Nicosia, Cyprus. 91pp.

2. Kassinis, N., Gücel, S., Charalambidou, I., Turkseven, N., Fuller, W., Kuyucu, A. and Yorgancı, H. 2009. Waterbirds in Cyprus 2008/09. UES-CCEIA/ TCBA/CGF/, Nicosia, Cyprus. 87pp.

3. Ioannou, D. Chochlakis, N. Kassinis, P. Anayiotos, A. Lyssandrou, B. Papadopoulos, Y. Tselentis and A. Psaroulaki. 2009. Carriage of Rickettsia spp., Coxiella burnetii and Anaplasma spp. by endemic and migratory wild birds and their ectoparasites in Cyprus. Journal of Clinical Microbiology and Infection.

4. Monthly waterbird count data published in BirdLife Cyprus Monthly Checklist:

<https://birdlifecyprus.org/monthly-checklist>

5. Charalambides, I., Kassinis, N., Gücel, S. & Fuller W. 2012. The Status and Breeding Population of the Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus* in Cyprus. *Podoces* 7: 1-8.

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

Internationally

No

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

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.

> Developed posters for wetlands that have been distributed to schools, etc. Wildlife Service officers regularly speak in schools on issues relevant to wetland conservation, biodiversity, endemic species, etc. Also, through LIFE-funded and other projects that involve wetland habitats there are awareness actions being implemented.

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

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)

No

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.

> Releases of rehabilitated migratory birds, open to the public. Launch event for birdwatching hides and completion of Akrotiri Marsh restoration project (Darwin Initiative funded) during WMBD. Family birdwatching events.

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

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

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

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

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.

No

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)

No

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)

No

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?

No

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

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

No

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

> Relevant activities are funded by national budget (Game and Fauna Service budget) and as co-funding in EU LIFE projects

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

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

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

> Water conservation works carried out under LIFE Oroklini SPA project (2012-2014) and Darwin Initiative funded project "Akrotiri Marsh Restoration: a flagship wetland in the Bases" (2015-2017) aimed at conserving water at such levels so to safeguard breeding conditions for site designation waders such as *Vanellus spinosus* and *Himantopus himantopus*.

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)

No relevant activities

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

No relevant activities

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

No relevant activities

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

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

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

> 1. To raise awareness among the public w/o scaring it.

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 10. Avian Influenza

> All wild birds found dead, sick or injured are checked for AI in cooperation with the Veterinary Services of the Republic of Cyprus

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

> 05 July 2018