

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

> Syrian Arab Republic

Date of entry into force of AEWA in the Contracting Party

> 01/ August/ 2003

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

> Ministry of Local Administration and Environment.

Name and title of the head of institution

> Eng. Housain Makhoulouf

Mailing address - Street and number

> Yossif Al - Azmeh Square,

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Postal code

> -

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> Syrian Arab Republic

Telephone

> + 963 11 2320884

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> + 963 11 2311895

Website

> -

Designated National Focal Point (NFP) for AEWA matters

Name and title of the NFP

> Mrs. Heba Laktineh

Affiliation (institution, department)

> Ministry of Local Administration and Environment, Directorate of Biodiversity, Land and Protected Areas

Mailing address - Street and number

> Yossif Al - Azmeh Square,

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E-mail

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Website

> -

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

Name and title of the TC NFP

> No TC NFP was assigned in Syria

Affiliation (institution, department)

> N/A

Mailing address - Street and number

> N/A

P.O.Box

> N/A

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

Name and title of the CEPA NFP

> Mrs. Heba Laktineh

Affiliation (institution, department)

> Ministry of Local Administration and Environment, Directorate of Biodiversity, Land and Protected Areas

Mailing address - Street and number

> Yossif Al - Azmeh Square,

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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.

> Dr. Nabegh Ghazal Asswad, Aleppo University, Department of Renewable Natural Resources and Ecology; Chairman of the Syrian Society for Conservation of Wildlife (SSCW). (nabegh@yahoo.co.uk)

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:

White-headed Duck / *Oxyura leucocephala* / East Mediterranean, Turkey & South-west Asia / Column A / Category 1a 1b 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.

> the taking of birds and eggs from the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

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.

> the Disturbance of birds and nests during breeding season in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

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.

> the Disturbance and trade of birds and nestlings and eggs during breeding season in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

Greater White-fronted Goose / *Anser albifrons* / albifrons, Northern Siberia/Caspian & Iraq / 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.

> the taking of birds from the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

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.

> the Disturbance of birds in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

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.

> the Disturbance and trade of birds in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

Lesser White-fronted Goose / *Anser erythropus* / NE Europe & W Siberia/Black Sea & Caspian / Column A / Category 1a 1b 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.

> the taking of birds from the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

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.

> the Disturbance of birds in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

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.

> the Disturbance and trade of birds in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

Common Shelduck / *Tadorna tadorna* / Western Asia/Caspian & Middle East / 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.

> the taking of birds from the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

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.

> the Disturbance of birds and eggs during breeding season in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

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.

> the Disturbance and trade of birds and nestlings and eggs during breeding season in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

Ruddy Shelduck / *Tadorna ferruginea* / East Mediterranean & Black Sea/North-east Africa / 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.

> the taking of birds and eggs from the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

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.

> the Disturbance of birds in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

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.

> the Disturbance and trade of birds and nestlings and eggs during breeding season in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

Marbled Teal / *Marmaronetta angustirostris* / East Mediterranean / Column A / Category 1a 1b 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.

> the taking of birds and eggs from the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

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.

> the Disturbance of birds and nestlings and eggs during breeding season in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

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.

> the Disturbance and trade of birds and nestlings and eggs during breeding season in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

Red-crested Pochard / *Netta rufina* / Black Sea & East Mediterranean / 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.

> the taking of birds and eggs from the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

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.

> the Disturbance of birds in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

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.

> the Disturbance and trade of birds in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

Ferruginous Duck / *Aythya nyroca* / Eastern Europe/E Mediterranean & Sahelian Africa / Column A / Category 1a 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.

> the taking of birds from the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

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.

> the Disturbance of birds during breeding season in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

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.

> the Disturbance and trade of birds in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

White Stork / *Ciconia ciconia* / ciconia, Western Asia/South-west Asia / 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.

> the taking of birds from the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

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.

> the Disturbance of birds in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

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.

> the Disturbance and trade of birds in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

Eurasian Spoonbill / *Platalea leucorodia* / leucorodia, C & SE Europe/Mediterranean &

Tropical Africa / 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.

> the taking of birds and eggs from the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law.

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.

> the Disturbance of birds and nestlings in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

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.

> the Disturbance and trade of birds in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

Northern Bald Ibis / *Geronticus eremita* / South-west Asia / Column A / Category 1a 1b 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.

> the taking of birds and eggs from the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law. This is a specially important bird and all efforts are concentrating on protecting it.

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.

> the Disturbance of birds and nestlings and eggs during breeding season in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

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.

> the Disturbance and trade of birds and nestlings and eggs during breeding season in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

Glossy Ibis / *Plegadis falcinellus* / Black Sea & 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.

> the taking of birds and eggs from the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

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.

> the Disturbance of birds and nestlings in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

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.

> the Disturbance and trade of birds and nestlings and eggs during breeding season in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

Dalmatian Pelican / *Pelecanus crispus* / Black Sea & Mediterranean (win) / Column A / Category 1a 1b 1c

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.

> the Disturbance and trade of birds in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

Great White Pelican / *Pelecanus onocrotalus* / Europe & Western Asia (bre) / Column A / Category 1a 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.

> the taking of birds from the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

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.

> the Disturbance of birds and nestlings in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

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.

> the Disturbance and trade of birds in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

Eurasian Curlew / *Numenius arquata* / *orientalis*, Western Siberia/SW Asia, E & S 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.

> the taking of birds and eggs from the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

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.

> the Disturbance of birds during breeding season in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

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.

> the Disturbance and trade of birds and eggs during breeding season in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

Collared Pratincole / Glareola pratincola / pratincola, Black Sea & E Mediterranean/Eastern Sahel zone / 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.

> the taking of birds and eggs from the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

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.

> the Disturbance of birds during breeding season in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

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.

> the trade of birds and nestlings during breeding season in the wild is completely prohibited by the National Hunting Law

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-tailed Godwit / Limosa limosa / limosa, West-central Asia/SW Asia & Eastern Africa / Column A / Category / 4

Is there an open hunting season for Black-tailed Godwit / Limosa limosa / limosa, West-central Asia/SW Asia & Eastern Africa / Column A / Category / 4 ?

No

Please explain.

> Hunting is banned all year round until the new legislation under discussion is being approved and issued officially

Great Snipe / Gallinago media / Western Siberia & NE Europe/South-east Africa / Column A / Category / 4

Is there an open hunting season for Great Snipe / Gallinago media / Western Siberia & NE Europe/South-east Africa / Column A / Category / 4 ?

No

Please explain.

> Hunting is banned all year round until the new legislation under discussion is being approved and issued officially

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:

Common Pochard / Aythya ferina / Central & NE Europe/Black Sea & Mediterranean / 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

> Taking is prohibited according to the proposed updated hunting law, but the current hunting law does not include it within the protected species and it is not much enforced

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> As above

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.

No

Please explain the reasons

> As above

Tufted Duck / Aythya fuligula / Central Europe, Black Sea & Mediterranean (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.

No

Please explain the reasons

> Taking is prohibited according to the proposed updated hunting law, but the current hunting law does not include it within the protected species and it is not much enforced

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> As above

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.

No

Please explain the reasons

> As above

Common Teal / *Anas crecca* / crecca, Western Siberia/SW Asia & NE 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.

No

Please explain the reasons

> Taking is prohibited according to the proposed updated hunting law, but the current hunting law does not include it within the protected species and it is not much enforced

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> As above

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.

No

Please explain the reasons

> As above

Mallard / *Anas platyrhynchos* / platyrhynchos, Eastern Europe/Black Sea & East Mediterranean / 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.

No

Please explain the reasons

> The current hunting law does not include it within the protected species and it is not much enforced . However it is among the huntable species with a limit to the number taken according to the proposed updated Hunting law

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> As above

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.

No

Please explain the reasons

> as above

Greater Flamingo / *Phoenicopterus roseus* / East Mediterranean / 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.

No

Please explain the reasons

> The current hunting law does not include it within the protected species and it is not much enforced . However it is not included among the huntable species according to the proposed updated Hunting law

3.2. Limits are established on taking.

No

Please explain the reasons.

> as above

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.

No

Please explain the reasons

> as above

Glossy Ibis / *Plegadis falcinellus* / South-west Asia/Eastern 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.

No

Please explain the reasons

> The current hunting law does not include it within the protected species and it is not much enforced . However it is not included among the huntable species according to the proposed updated Hunting law

Eurasian Bittern / *Botaurus stellaris* / stellaris, C & E Europe, Black Sea & E Mediterranean (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.

No

Please explain the reasons

> The current hunting law does not include it within the protected species and it is not much enforced . However it is not included among the huntable species according to the proposed updated Hunting law

Common Little Bittern / *Ixobrychus minutus* / minutus, C & E Europe, Black Sea & E Mediterranean/Sub-saharan 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.

No

Please explain the reasons

> The current hunting law does not include it within the protected species and it is not much enforced . However it is not included among the huntable species according to the proposed updated Hunting law

Cattle Egret / *Bubulcus ibis* / ibis, East Mediterranean & South-west Asia / 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.

No

Please explain the reasons

> The current hunting law does not include it within the protected species and it is not much enforced . However it is not included among the huntable species according to the proposed updated Hunting law

Grey Heron / *Ardea cinerea* / cinerea, West & South-west Asia (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.

No

Please explain the reasons

> The current hunting law does not include it within the protected species and it is not much enforced .
However it is not included among the huntable species according to the proposed updated Hunting law

Purple Heron / *Ardea purpurea* / purpurea, East Europe, Black Sea & Mediteranean/Sub-Saharan 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.

No

Please explain the reasons

> The current hunting law does not include it within the protected species and it is not much enforced .
However it is not included among the huntable species according to the proposed updated Hunting law

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.

No

Please explain the reasons

> The current hunting law does not include it within the protected species and it is not much enforced .
However it is not included among the huntable species according to the proposed updated Hunting law

Little Egret / *Egretta garzetta* / garzetta, Central & E Europe, Black Sea, E 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.

No

Please explain the reasons

> The current hunting law does not include it within the protected species and it is not much enforced .
However it is not included among the huntable species according to the proposed updated Hunting law

Pygmy Cormorant / *Microcarbo pygmaeus* / 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.

No

Please explain the reasons

> The current hunting law does not include it within the protected species and it is not much enforced .
However it is not included among the huntable species according to the proposed updated Hunting law

Black-winged Stilt / *Himantopus himantopus* / himantopus, Central Europe & E Mediterranean/N-Central 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.

No

Please explain the reasons

> The current hunting law does not include it within the protected species and it is not much enforced .
However it is not included among the huntable species according to the proposed updated Hunting law

Eurasian Dotterel / *Eudromias morinellus* / Asia/Middle East / 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.

No

Please explain the reasons

> The current hunting law does not include it within the protected species and it is not much enforced .
However it is not included among the huntable species according to the proposed updated Hunting law

Spur-winged Lapwing / Vanellus spinosus / Black Sea & Mediterranean (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.

No

Please explain the reasons

> The current hunting law does not include it within the protected species and it is not much enforced .
However it is not included among the huntable species according to the proposed updated Hunting law

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.

No

Please explain the reasons

> The current hunting law does not include it within the protected species and it is not much enforced .
However it is not included among the huntable species according to the proposed updated Hunting law

Collared Pratincole / Glareola pratincola / pratincola, SW Asia/SW Asia & NE 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.

No

Please explain the reasons

> The current hunting law does not include it within the protected species and it is not much enforced .
However it is not included among the huntable species according to the proposed updated Hunting law

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

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.
> the current legislation in place for hunting is Law no. 152 of the year 1970 . Updating the legislation for regulating hunting is at the final stages with final draft been produced recently. the Formal approval of the new updated law has not yet been granted but it is expected to be before the end of year 2018

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

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.

> this will be reviewed once the approval of the updated Hunting law is passed and will be added to the guidance notes for the law.

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

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

> Generally, by a Decision of Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (MAAR) all bird's hunting activities were banned since 1994 until Oct.2015 and extended till Oct 2018. The hunting Law issued in 1970 is under the updating process, this process Lead by the Higher Council of Hunting with participation from all relevant stakeholders in this sector.

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

> Lack of capacities and support for such position and activities

Great Snipe / *Gallinago media*

National Plan for Great Snipe / *Gallinago media*

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

› Lack of capacities and support for such position and activities

Sociable Lapwing / Vanellus gregarius
National Plan for Sociable Lapwing / Vanellus gregarius

NP in place, but not being implemented properly or at all

Northern Bald Ibis / Geronticus eremita
National Plan for Northern Bald Ibis / Geronticus eremita

NP in place, but not being implemented properly or at all

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

› Lack of capacities and support for such position and activities

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

› including the conservation and protection of the species within the proposed protected species in the hunting Law

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

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

› Lack of capacities and support for such position and activities

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

› Lack of capacities and support for such position and activities

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

› including the conservation and protection of the species within the proposed protected species in the hunting Law

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

NP in development

Please provide starting date and expected finalisation date

› in consultation process to start the process as the capacities and expertise are provided. No finalization date is still expected

Field for additional information (optional)

› Lack of capacities and support for such position and activities

Lesser White-fronted Goose / Anser erythropus
National Plan for Lesser White-fronted Goose / Anser erythropus

NP in development

Please provide starting date and expected finalisation date

> in consultation process to start the process as the capacities and expertise are provided. No finalization date is still expected

Field for additional information (optional)

> Lack of capacities and support for such position and activities

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.

Yes

Please provide details

> yes when prepared the Draft NAP for the Northern Bald Ibis. It will be used as a basic for drafting the future AP for all relevant species.

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 3.2. Single Species Action Plans

> None

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.

No emergency situation has occurred

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.

Not applicable

Please explain

> nothing was monitored and observed

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 3.3. Emergency Measures

> None

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

> Few individuals of Northern Bald Ibis were re-introduced from Turkey and kept in captivity to encourage the breeding of the birds which were introduced with the wild birds of this species and to release the fledgling birds into the wild. However, these were lost during the current crisis in the country.

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

Partial

Please provide details

> through an instructional efforts from the Ministries (MAAR & MLAE) but not targeting certain species, but practices for reintroduction and protection mainly.

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)

Yes

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?

> not applicable. No such action was followed and adopted on the national level for such criteria

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 3.4. Re-establishments

> none

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 of Conservation of Planet Genetic Resources No. 20, Adopted in 12/07/2009, It was adopted by Syrian parliament, It is enforced by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (MAAR), and the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment (MLAE) previously named as Ministry of State for Environment Affairs (MSEA).

Field for additional information (optional)

> none

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)

No

Please explain the reasons

> Work In progress

Field for additional information (optional)

> none

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

> Syria prepared the NSAP of Biodiversity Conservation which indicated to small action plan for Invasive species and the Management of these species.

It is now under revision for updating with NSAP 2011-2020 within the CBD framework

Field for additional information (optional)

> none

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)

No

Please explain the reasons

> This is not a National priority. However, it will need more efforts to coordinate the work by MAAR and other conservation departments.

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?

> lack of legislation and financial abilities. However, this has not been used due to the non-existence of control programs

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 3.5. Introductions

> none

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)

Partially

Please describe the progress

> Based on the work of Evans (1994), and the publication on the IBAs in the Middle East, 22 sites identified as IBAs in Syria, some of these sites were identified and proposed as a Protected Areas for conservation measures. The identification of IBAs in Syria needs updating, This process (updating) was planned to take place in 2013 with coordination between the Ministry's and SSCW. It assessed partially the list of sites as some sites were assessed according to Birdlife Measures and criteria, while other were not finished. this will be the future work to classify the level of the importance of all sites (national / regional / & international). and the level of availability of waterbirds populations and other relevant species. A current review of all National IBA is underway and will involve all stakeholder under the lead from SSCW and aim to finish by mid 2019

Field for additional information (optional)

> Some of the identified sites as IBAs were a location or stations for some species of Migratory WaterBirds As AlJaboul lake, Euphrate Basin.

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

> Lack of capacities and support for such activities

For the national protected area network

No

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

Reporting on designation and management of nationally important sites

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

All sites of international importance

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

Total number

> 7

Total area (ha)

> 406000

Number of internationally important sites under national protection designation

> 5

Area of international importance under national protection designation (ha)
> 80000

Internationally important protected sites with management planning in place which is being implemented
> 2

Area (in ha)
> 49000

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
> 0

Area (in ha)
> 0

All sites of national importance

Total number
> 9

Total area (ha)
> 450000

Number of nationally important sites under national protection designation
> 32

Area of national importance under national protection area designation
> 450000

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

Number of sites

> 3

Area (in ha)
> 62000

Nationally important sites with management planning in place which is being implemented and include management objectives related to maintaining or increasing the resilience of existing ecological networks, including resilience to climate change

Number of sites

> 0

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> this will be identified in the near future when assistance is available to assess the status of protection and the needs to strengthen the conservation measures for sites.

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

Being developed

Please provide starting date and expected date of finalisation

> management plans for some PAs with IBA attributes (2015-end of 2019)

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

Please explain the reasons

> Being an area for development after capacity is being built and assistance being offered.

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

Please explain the reasons

> Accessed and used initially very slightly with limited number of experts.

Individuals will need training to implement the usage of CSN

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 4.2. Conservation of Areas

> From the sites we mentioned above as a national importance, it is expected that 4 sites have international importance, It is planned to make a national survey for all wetland sites in Syria to nominated some of them to be RAMSAR sites especially where the international importance is applicable.

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)

No

Please explain the reasons

> Not yet, However, this matter was planned to be part of the General Biodiversity Data Base which implementation as one of the Biodiversity Conservation and PAs Management Project implementing by the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment and the Directorate of Biodiversity.

34. Has your country phased out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.4)

No

Please explain the reasons and barriers to introduction of legislation

> Due to the lack of legislation for this issue.

It is been looked at and included into the proposed updated National Hunting Law

Has your country introduced self-imposed and published timetable for banning fully the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands?

No

Please explain the reasons

> Lack of national legislation.

The new hunting law, which is expected to be issued by 2019 will take into consideration banning the use of lead shot.

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?

Low

Field for additional information (optional)

> None

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)

Club Affiliation

Other (please specify)

> Licensing

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?

> The new proposed national hunting law and its Regulatory instructions, which expected to be issued in 2019, has taken into consideration the AEWA Guidelines

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.

> N/A

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

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

Yes

Please provide details

> Syria started to implement (EIA) System on all industrial, tourism, agricultural and infrastructural projects etc....) especially if the project will be in or around water surfaces including the wetland sites.

Do the SEA/EIA processes include public participation?

Yes

Please provide details

> Since 2008 Syria started the public participation in the SEA/EIA processes, Due to the Executive procedures for the EIA which refers that the public participation is necessary in two phases: 1- Scoping 2- EIS (Environment Impact Statement).

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

> For example: AlJaboutl lake, the using of SEA/EIA implemented on the existing and proposed projects, The Ministry implemented a survey for all projects around this lake to assess the situation of the existed human activities.

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

> Shut down industrial facilities and plants that are causing pollution to the area and the neighboring Protected Areas if they were found polluting areas

Field for additional information (optional)

> none

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.

Not applicable

Please explain

> no past work was done, but this is noticed for future development

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?

Partially

Please provide details.

> need much of development and organization for a newly issue in the country

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?

Partially

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

> this process is at the initiation to develop.

It will aim to use all available data and sensitivity mapping tool from MSB project delivered by BirdLife International to assess sites and minimize hazardous activities and establishments.

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

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

Partially

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

> This action was not adopted earlier.

However, this process of adopting the right sites is at the initiation to use all available data and sensitivity mapping tool from MSB project to assess sites and minimize hazardous activities and establishments.

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.

Partially

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?

Partially

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?

Partially

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?

Not applicable

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

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

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?

Yes

Please provide details

> based on a national assessment of these points and to follow the resolution in current and future activities.

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?

Not applicable

Please explain.

> this process is at the initiation process

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?

Being developed

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.

> Guidelines and documents developed by the MSB Project within Birdlife International.

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

No

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

> this process is at the initiation level, but it will be noticed and applied for future work

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

> no wind Farms in the Country

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.

Not applicable

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?

> it is currently not a priority option for energy production that was adopted in the country, but it will be

noticed and applied for future work to be considered.

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?

No

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

> this will be developed within the current activities of (MLAE) to revise the NBSAP.

This is anticipated to be finalised in 2018-2019.

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.

Not Applicable

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

Not applicable

Please explain

> In spite of this, there are no registered information about the by-catch of waterbirds. and it is thought that it is rarely happened in the fishing gear within the national waters, this information gap can be filed in cooperation with the fishermen through the General Authority for Fisheries.

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

Please explain

> In the coastal zone, there are no cases registered of by-catch seabirds.

48. Please report on the implementation of Resolution 5.12 on Adverse Effects of Agrochemicals on Migratory Waterbirds in Africa (this question is applicable only to Contracting Parties in Africa).

48.4. Have education and training activities been implemented for relevant target groups on the proper use of agrochemicals that may have possible adverse effect on waterbirds?

No

Please explain the reasons

> Syria is not a contracting African country

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

Partially

Covering the passage period

Partially

Covering the non-breeding/wintering period

Partially

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

> do not have the enough manpower

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

Please provide details

> trained teams of some targeted local communities in some important sites have already being formed and trained based on the AEWA Guidelines for the Monitoring of 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)

> 1- Three surveys on the monitoring of Sociable Lapwing achieved during its passing season in Syria (Spring and Autumn) during the last three years, these missions were in cooperation between the Ministry of State for Environment Affairs, the Syrian Society for the Conservation of Wildlife (SSCW), AEWA, Bird Life and RSPB in order to work to protect it through the immigration season.

2- In Al Jaboul P.A , Waterbirds have been inventoried over the full year June 2009- June 2010, this survey implemented by a specialized team within a regional project on the protection of biodiversity through eco-tourism, and the project was carried out by the (SSCW) and funded by the Swiss Agency for Development.

3- In 2008, Syrian Society for Conservation of Wildlife, (SSCW) issued the Field Guide to the Birds of Syria , which include the waterbirds (resident and passing and migratory species).

4- There are a number of surveys and researches implemented by some international experts and specialists during the last 10 years.

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)

No

Please explain the reasons

> Lack of financial Budget and funding

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?

Yes

Please provide further details

> not a very urgent goal, but it would be considered

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.

> Such programmes were partially implemented for local communities in some important sites like Al Jabboul lake, Palmyra area and sites along the Euphrates. Some of these activities were an objective of some projects such as "Improving the Conservation Status of Globally Threatened Birds at Jabboul Ramsar Wetland through Promoting and Implementing Sustainable Hunting Practices Project" and other projects implemented in Al Jabboul Site is the preparation of training and development of programmes and achievement of the activities aim to increase the awareness and capacity building of staffs and local communities.

An examples:

1- A photo exhibition depicting the story of the Northern Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita* was opened on 8 February 2006 in the Old Town of Damascus, aimed at promoting conservation of this Critically Endangered bird and creating a sense of ownership of the project to the Syrian authorities.

2- A second photo exhibition about the History and present situation of Bald Ibis organized on 2007, in coordination with the Danish and Italian Embassies in Damascus at Danish House, Old Damascus.

3- A good number of posters and brochures distributed about waterbirds.

4- two posters about the birds of Al-Jabboul Area, (Flamingo, Reed Warbler, Kingfishers,...)

5- Workshops to build knowledge and raise awareness for Sociable Lapwing Protection and the threats it faces.

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

Yes

Field for additional information (optional)

> -

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

> Lack of funding. However, there is CEPA officer at the Ministry of Environment to deal with general Environmental Issues

Field for additional information (optional)

> -

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

Please explain the reasons

> this was not in the planned activities for the recent past period

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.

> three activities were carried out for celebrating the WMBD in 2015 & 2016. These were in line with the general themes of the WMBD. There is a plan to celebrate this event this year 2018 during the Autumn.

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

> A lack of budget

Field for additional information (optional)

> -

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

> This matter wasn't discussed with the decision makers, The situation will not allow such activity

Field for additional information (optional)

> -

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

> Not Applicable for Syria

Field for additional information (optional)

> -

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 7.1. AEWA Communication Strategy

> none

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

Please explain the reasons

> A lack of budget.

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

> As planned, The AEWA National Focal Point coordinates with other Focal Points of other biodiversity Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Conventions for common work.

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

Please explain the reasons

> no plans for that in the near future due to current situation and the complexity of arranging such process with other countries.

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 NFP is part of the national government dealing with the CBD and in a close cooperation on regular basis

69. Are the AEWA priorities incorporated into your country's National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) and other strategic planning processes (Resolution 6.3)?

69.1 NBSAP

Yes

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?

> Full coordination between the focal points of these agreements and work to support activities related to the implementation AEWA.

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 is no fund for such cause. However, Syria will not have the capacity to pay in cash for this, but may

contribute in -kind if needed for Syria

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> No request for a national activity during this period was made, but previously The Ministry (MSEA) and SSCW provided in - kind support for the official visiting team of the Sociable Lapwing back in 2009-2010.

74. Please report on the implementation of Resolution 6.21 on Resource mobilisation for the implementation of AEWA.

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)?

Yes

When are they going to be settled?

> once the situation is improved and sanctions are lifted on Syrian contribution and financial transactions.

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.

Not applicable

Please explain

> N/A

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

Please explain the reasons

> N/A

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

Please explain the reasons

> N/A

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?

Yes

Please describe each synergetic arrangement and acquired benefits

> Synergies of implementing other commitments to environmental conventions and treaties, such as CBD.

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 8. Implementation

> N/A

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

> not on the Agenda

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

> to assess the changes of habitats due to the recent alteration in resources and their usages and the surrounding environment

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

No relevant activities

Please explain the reasons

> Not on the national Agenda

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

Planned

Please provide details

> will take place when the national policies for the conservation of biodiversity will be discussed in the near future.

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

> no budget is available for planning an Action Plan for this issue

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?

Not applicable

Please explain

> not a widely used issue that is directly affecting waterbirds.
the future work will hopefully take waterbirds into consideration for such issue.

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

> no cases were reported in the country, but the challenging issue would be the lack of official control at some areas to combat it if it happens to occur in some remote areas of the country.

77.2 List required further guidance or information

> N/A

77.3 Field for additional information (optional)

> Not Applicable

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

> none

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

> 06 June 2018