8th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

26 – 30 September 2022, Budapest, Hungary

"Strengthening Flyway Conservation in a Changing World"

ANALYSIS OF THE AEWA NATIONAL REPORTS FOR THE TRIENNIUM 2018-2020

Prepared for the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat by the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)[1]

Introduction

The revised format for reports on the implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) for the period 2018-2020 was approved at the 15th Meeting of the Standing Committee, in December 2019 in Bristol, UK. The format was initially approved at the 7th Session of the Meeting of the Parties and was constructed according to the AEWA Action Plan (Annex 3 to the Agreement), the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 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. According to Resolution 7.1, the deadline for submission of National Reports to the 8th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA (MOP8) was set at 180 days before the beginning of MOP8, which was originally scheduled to take place on 5-9 October 2021 in Budapest, Hungary; therefore, the deadline for submission of National Reports was 8 April 2021.

The AEWA National Reports 2018-2020 were compiled and submitted through the CMS Family Online Reporting System (ORS), which is an online reporting tool for the whole CMS Family. However, AEWA was the first of the CMS-related treaties to use the ORS for its reporting to MOP5 in 2012. The CMS Family ORS was developed in 2010-2011 by the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) in close collaboration with, and under the guidance of, the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat.

The reporting cycle to MOP8 was launched by the Secretariat in mid-August 2020 and access credentials to the ORS were provided to the Parties. Upon receipt of each National Report, the Secretariat performed a brief check of some sections and in certain instances sent back a request for additional information to be provided. Once re-submitted, the National Reports were considered as being final.

Only 12% of the reports were submitted by the deadline and the Secretariat continued accepting late submissions until 03 May 2021. After this date, all submitted reports were analysed. By the cut-off date of 03 May 2021, 53 out of 79 reports due (67%) were submitted through the ORS. This represents a slight decline of reporting rate compared to MOP7 (71%).

The analysis of national reports for the triennium 2018-2020 was commissioned by the Secretariat to UNEP-WCMC, thanks to generous contributions by the Governments of Switzerland and Germany and in accordance with a detailed analysis matrix developed by the Secretariat. The draft of the analysis was reviewed and commented by the Secretariat on the basis of which the final version was produced by UNEP-WCMC and submitted to the Secretariat in the end of July 2021.

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[1] WCMC works in collaboration with UNEP under the banner UNEP-WCMC (UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre). Representation at Meetings and production of outputs are therefore portrayed as UNEP-WCMC.

The Standing Committee reviewed the final version at its 18th meeting on 28 July 2021 and approved it for submission to MOP8 subject to a final review by the Secretariat. Such a review was performed in advance of the MOP8 document deadline and the version for submission to MOP8 with minor amendments was provided by the compilers.

Chapters III (Re-establishments) and IV (Introductions and Non-native Species) are extended sections compiled instead of full reviews on re-establishment projects and on the status of introduced non-native waterbird species as per paragraph 7.4 of AEWA's Annex 3. In addition, Chapter III incorporates additional information from Parties in relation to the status of non-native waterbird species in their countries gathered through a separate national reporting module on the status of waterbird populations that was rolled out earlier in the triennium.

Results of this analysis were also used in the compilation of the Progress report on the Implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 (document AEWA/MOP 8.11).

Action requested from the Meeting of the Parties

The Meeting of the Parties is invited to take note of the Analysis of the National Reports for the Triennium 2018-2020 and take its conclusions and recommendations into account in the decision-making process.

ANALYSIS OF THE AEWA NATIONAL REPORTS FOR THE TRIENNIUM 2018-2020

UN environment programme

WCMC

AEWA

Analysis of the AEWA National Reports for the triennium 2018-2020

Prepared for the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (UNEP/AEWA)

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Authors Aude Caromel, Ellie Webber, Andrew Szopa-Comley, Sarah Rouse, Holly Mynott, Katie Hunter, Ciara Stafford, Sam Hirons, Frances Davis and Kelly Malsch

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Cover Photo Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*). © puplpitis17 / Adobe Stock

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United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)
219 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, UK
Tel: +44 1223 277314
www.unep-wcmc.org

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This analysis of National Reports summarises the information provided by Parties to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) on their implementation of the Agreement over the triennium 2018-2020. As this is the first reporting cycle in the period covered by the Strategic Plan 2019-2027, this analysis provides a benchmark to assess progress in future reporting cycles, and to identify areas to consider prioritising over the next triennium to ensure that the objectives of the Strategic Plan are successfully met.

Fifty-three Contracting Parties submitted National Reports by the extended deadline (3rd May 2021) representing a 67% submission rate. Based on the assessment of National Reports received, the Party responses indicate that efforts are ongoing towards achieving a number of Strategic Plan targets and associated indicators, but that more work is needed in some key areas affecting all five objectives of the Strategic Plan. It is possible that some targets may be more fulfilled than can be confirmed through this analysis, due to gaps in reporting. With the backdrop of wetlands disappearing three times faster than forests[1], concerted efforts to conserve and restore wetland habitats and the waterbirds that inhabit them are urgently needed.

Parties have been actively working to promote and integrate the relevance of migratory waterbird priorities into various cross-cutting national processes relating to biodiversity, including strategy and action plans, delivery of targets under other frameworks and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), and ensuring that any adverse impacts on biodiversity from human development activities are avoided, mitigated and compensated. National level implementation is informed by relevant waterbird monitoring data in many Parties, and public awareness-raising campaigns and engagement are being carried out.

Integration of waterbird habitats and related ecosystem services into broader decision-making processes, such as water- and land-use planning, is more limited, although Parties have made encouraging steps to develop waterbird-related ecotourism initiatives. While large areas of identified sites of national and international importance for AEWA-listed waterbird populations are designated as protected areas, more work is needed to improve the effectiveness of these areas by putting in place and implementing management plans for these sites, and to continue to identify and protect the network of all sites of importance across the flyway.

Strategic Plan targets relating to legal protections for waterbirds and regulation to ensure use of relevant AEWA-listed populations is sustainable are one of the areas where the greatest gaps in implementation remain. In addition, conservation efforts for specific species would benefit from further development and implementation of Single Species Action Plans. Assessments of Party resource needs and capacity gaps for delivery of the Strategic Plan and overall AEWA implementation are also needed. These should therefore be considered priority areas for future action.

Cooperation, capacity building and resource mobilisation to support Parties in meeting their commitments will be key to continued progress towards the objectives of the Strategic Plan and the overall aim of the Agreement, to "*maintain or to restore migratory waterbird species and their populations at a favourable status throughout their flyways*".

[1] Ramsar Convention on Wetlands 2018. *Global Wetland Outlook: State of the World's Wetlands and their Services to People*. Gland, Switzerland. 84 pp.

INTRODUCTION

National Reports provide one of the best means available to assess the status of implementation of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), and help to guide decisions on current and future strategic priorities. The present document provides an analysis of the National Reports submitted by Parties prior to the 8th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA (MOP8) in the context of the targets set out in the Strategic Plan 2019-2027, the AEWA Action Plan (Annex 3 to the Agreement), and decisions of previous MOPs. As this is the first set of National Reports in the period covered by the new Strategic Plan, this synthesis will provide a useful baseline for measuring progress towards the targets in future reporting cycles.

The AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, adopted at MOP7 in 2018, highlights the overall goal of the Agreement: to **maintain migratory waterbird species and their populations in a favourable conservation status or to restore them to such a status throughout their flyways,** through the implementation of five main objectives and their associated targets for the period 2019 to 2027. The objectives focus on *Species Conservation and Recovery, Sustainable Use, Flyway Networks, Habitat Conservation* and *Improved Knowledge, Capacity and Awareness.* Corresponding targets and measurable indicators have been developed to monitor progress towards these objectives, and in turn towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan as a whole. Targets for which National Reports provide a means for verification of progress towards an objective are highlighted throughout this report. An overview of the implementation of AEWA in the African region in particular is also available in the Analysis of national reports on the implementation of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa, 2019-2020, a separate document submitted to MOP8, which summarises the responses from African Parties regarding implementation of the Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027, an operational guideline to aid African Parties in fulfilling the objectives of the Strategic Plan.

The present analysis follows the general structure of the National Reports. The exceptions to this are that the questions on the use of AEWA Conservation Guidelines are discussed together at the end, and the questions on Re-establishments and Introductions have been drawn out into separate extended sections (instead of full reviews on re-establishment projects and on the status of introduced non-native waterbird species as per paragraph 7.4 of AEWA's Annex 3). In addition, section III *Introductions and non-native species* incorporates additional information from Parties in relation to the status of non-native waterbird species in their countries (gathered through a separate national reporting module).

Overview of reporting

Contracting Parties are required (cf. Article V.1(c)) to prepare and submit a National Report on their implementation of the Agreement prior to each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP). All National Reports for the MOP8 reporting cycle were submitted through the CMS Family Online Reporting System (ORS) using the revised format for National Reports on the implementation of AEWA 2018-2020 adopted at the 15th meeting of the Standing Committee. The formal deadline for submitting National Reports for the 2018-2020 triennium was 8th April 2021, but submissions received up to 3rd May 2021 were accepted and included within the analysis.

For this reporting cycle, **53 reports were received** in the required format in time to be included within this analysis, representing **67% of the 79 AEWA Contracting Parties** from which National Reports were due. While this represents a slight decrease in the *proportion* of Parties reporting compared to the previous triennium 2015-2017, the *number* of reporting Parties (53) has remained the same

(Figure 1). Throughout this analysis, percentages are provided both out of the total 'reporting Parties' (RP), referring to the 53 Parties whose reports were included in the analysis, and out of the total 'Contracting Parties' (CP), referring to the 79 Parties from which National Reports were due. It should be noted that, where accompanying text information contradicted the categorical answers selected by the Party, these were changed to reflect the status of the accompanying text; these changes are indicated in the Excel Annex to this report containing the answers provided by Parties to the questionnaire.

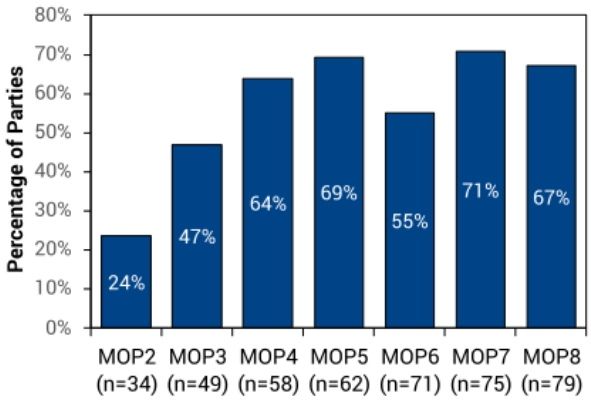
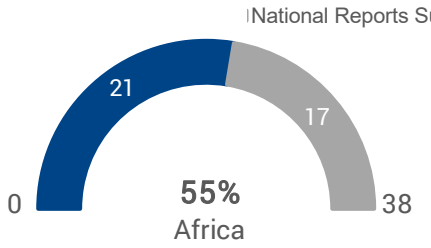
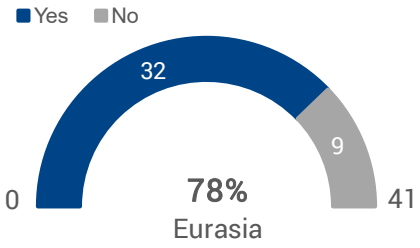
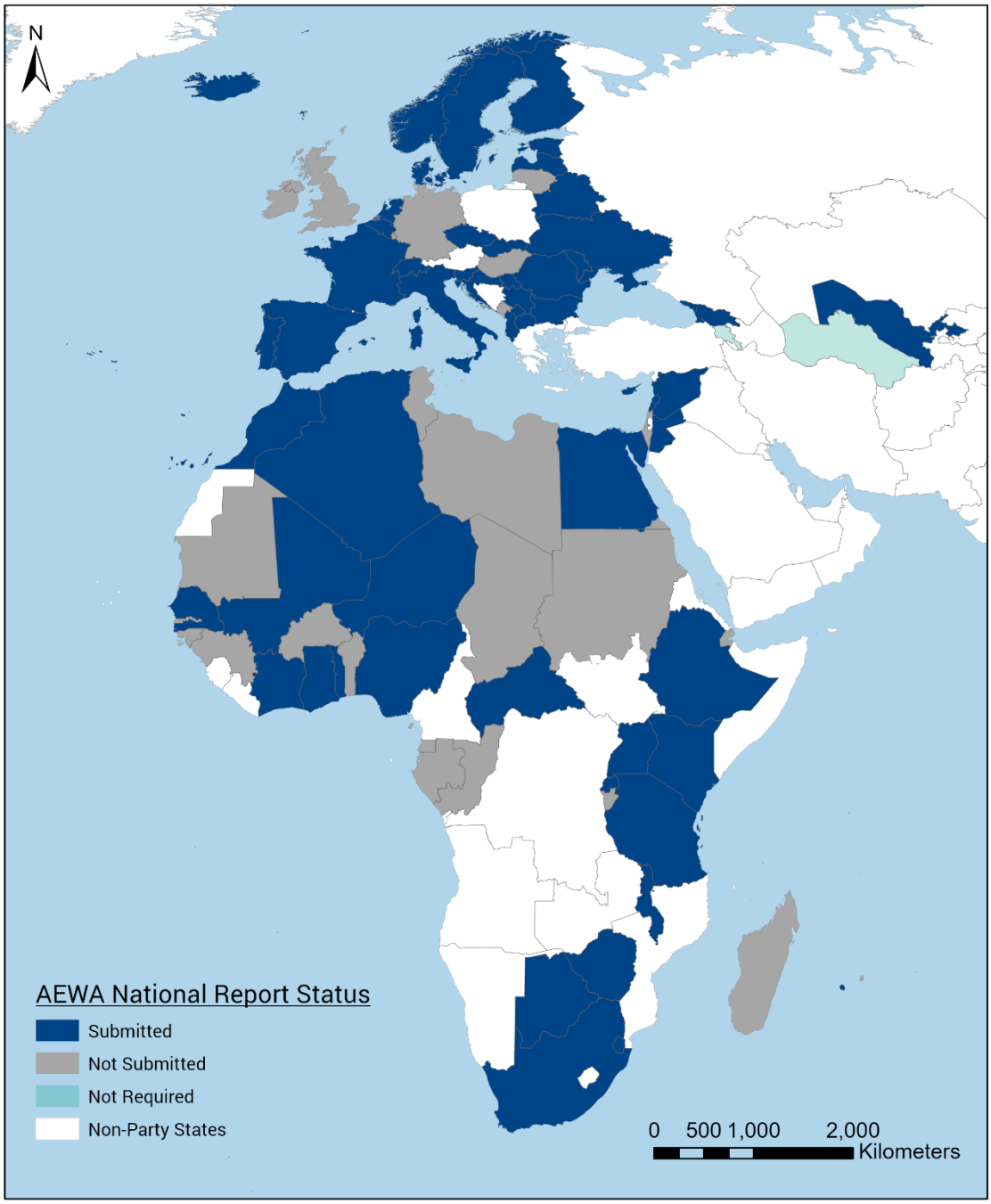


Figure 1. National report submission rate over time. With the exception of MOP2 where no synthesis report was prepared, values represent the percentage of reports received in time for the synthesis compiled before each MOP, out of the total reports due (n).

Details of Parties that submitted reports in time for the analysis and those from which reports had not been received by the cut-off date are provided in Table 1 and in Figure 2.

Table 1. Reporting status of Contracting Parties to AEWA regarding submission of National Reports to MOP8 by 3rd May 2021. For Parties that have not provided due National Reports, the number of consecutive MOPs to which they have not submitted National Reports is included in brackets, where >1.

	African Contracting Parties	Eurasian Contracting Parties
Overall Report Submissions from AEWA Contracting Parties		
AEWA Parties that submitted National Reports	Algeria, Botswana, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania (hereafter referred to as Tanzania) and Zimbabwe	Albania, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Iceland, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Estonia (hereafter referred to as Estonia), Republic of Moldova (hereafter referred to as Moldova), Republic of Slovenia (hereafter referred to as Slovenia), Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic (hereafter referred to as Slovakia), Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter referred to as Syria), Ukraine and Uzbekistan
AEWA Parties that had not submitted National Reports by 3 May 2021	Benin, Burkina Faso (3), Burundi, Chad (3), Congo (4), Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea (7), Gabon (3), Guinea (7), Guinea-Bissau, Libya, Madagascar (2), Mauritania (2), Mauritius, Sudan, The Gambia (7) and Tunisia	Germany, Hungary, Ireland (5), Israel, Lithuania (3), Luxembourg, Monaco (3), Montenegro (2) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (hereafter referred to as the United Kingdom)
AEWA Parties not required to submit		Due to acceding shortly before the deadline: Armenia and Turkmenistan Due to the reporting of individual EU Member States: the European Union



Coordinate system: Robinson, Central Meridian 12

Data sources: Base layers: United Nations Geospatial, 2020.

The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.

Figure 2. Status of submission of AEWA National Reports to MOP8 by 3rd May 2021.

Northern Gannet/ *Morus bassanus*/ Guy Bryant/ Adobe Stock

I. SPECIES CONSERVATION

AEWA Parties were asked 38 questions in relation to waterbird species conservation, aiming to assess efforts towards implementing legal measures in line with AEWA provisions, developing Species Action and Management Plans, and addressing emergency situations, re-establishments and introductions of non-native species affecting waterbirds; the latter two are presented in separate chapters. In addition, Parties with maritime territories were asked about seabird conservation.

Two Strategic Plan targets are assessed through questions in this section, relating to transposing all legal measures required by the AEWA Action Plan into domestic legislation, and ensuring priority populations are covered by Species Action Plans at flyway level. In both cases, success towards the target is low, with few Parties confirming full legislative protection or regulation for all relevant populations occurring in their country, as well as fully prohibiting all indiscriminate modes of taking. Very few populations are fully protected across their range. The number of priority populations covered by national Species Action Plans across their flyway is also low, although a number of Parties reported having implemented actions despite not having an Action Plan in place. However, assessment of the true coverage of populations by protections, regulations and Action plans across the flyway is hampered by gaps in reporting.

Legal measures

Q1. Following MOP7, was a review undertaken in your country of the relevant domestic legislation against the provisions of the latest version of the Agreement text and its annexes, including Table 1 in Annex III, taking into account all amendments adopted by MOP7? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Actions 1.1 (a), 1.1 (b), 2.2(a) and 2.2(b))

Following MOP7, twenty-one Parties (40% of Reporting Parties (RP); 27% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reviewed their domestic legislation against the provisions of the AEWA text and its annexes, taking into account all amendments adopted by MOP7 (Actions 1.1(a) and 2.2(a) of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027) (Figure 1.1). Among these, ten Parties (Belgium, Botswana, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Kenya, Portugal, Rwanda, Slovenia, Uzbekistan) found their legislation to be fully in line with the Agreement (19% of RP; 13% of CP), and nine (Belarus, Croatia, Ethiopia, Finland, Iceland, Moldova, North Macedonia, Switzerland, Ukraine) found their legislation to be misaligned (17% of RP; 11% of CP). Four of the latter Parties (Croatia, Iceland, Moldova, Switzerland) subsequently made adjustments to their legislation (8% of RP; 5% of CP).

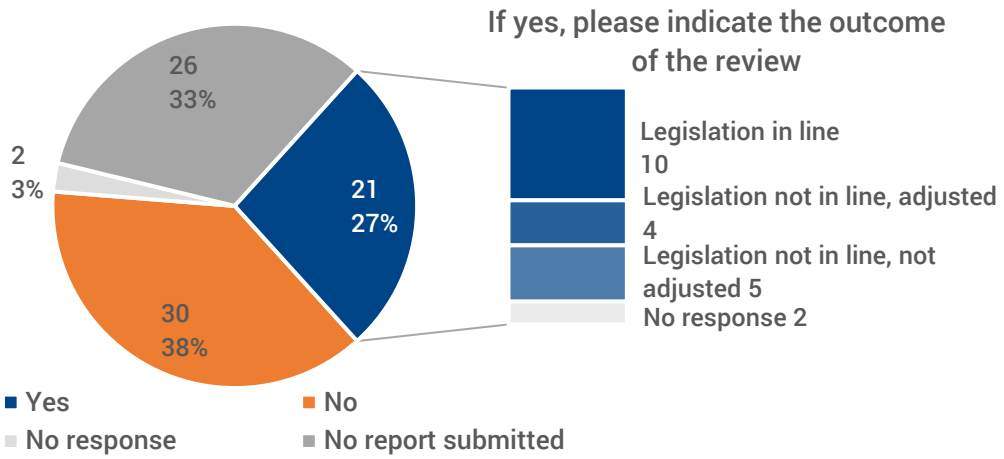


Figure 1.1. Party responses as to whether they have reviewed their domestic legislation against the provisions of the AEWA text and its annexes, taking into account all amendments adopted by MOP7, and for Parties having undertaken a review, responses regarding the alignment of the domestic legislation with the AEWA text and its annexes and any adjustments if required.

Thirty Parties did not undertake a formal review of their domestic legislation (57% of RP; 38% of CP). Among the reasons, several Parties indicated that they had not conducted a review because their domestic legislation was either fully in line with AEWA (Bulgaria, Mali, Morocco, Serbia), or largely in line, with any discrepancies already known about (Czech Republic, Italy, Netherlands, Norway); others reported having proposed new legislation to increase alignment with AEWA (Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana) or that reviews were ongoing or planned (Albania, Romania, South Africa, Tanzania; Figure 1.2).

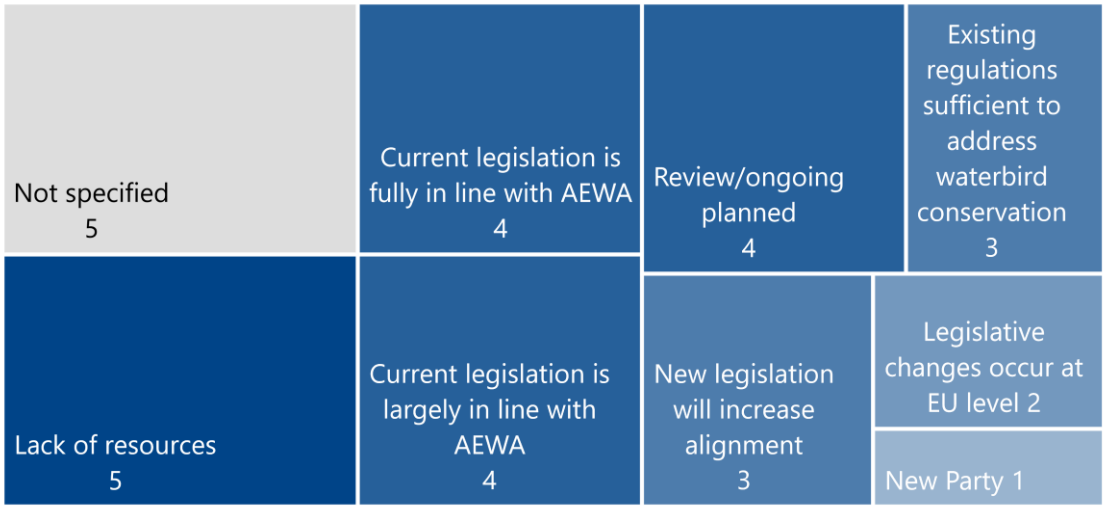


Figure 1.2. Reasons provided by the Parties for not conducting a review of domestic legislation following MOP7. (Note: Parties may have reported more than one reason.)

Q2. 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)?

Only a limited proportion of reporting Parties conducted a review of their national legislation following the guidance (16 Parties; 30% of Reporting Parties (RP); 20% of all Contracting Parties (CP); Figure 1.3). Of these, seven (Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Moldova, Niger, Rwanda, Slovakia)

subsequently adjusted their domestic legislation (13% of RP; 9% of CP). The remaining nine Parties (17% of RP; 11% of CP) reported that, based on the review, their national legislation did not need adjusting, either judging it to be compatible with the guidance (e.g. in cases where protective legislation applies universally to all populations) (six Parties: Botswana, Croatia, Estonia, Senegal, Slovenia, Switzerland), or because no or limited hunting takes place during the period when different populations of the same species overlap (two Parties: Belgium, Denmark). One additional Party (Portugal) did not provide a reason explaining why their national legislation did not need adjusting.

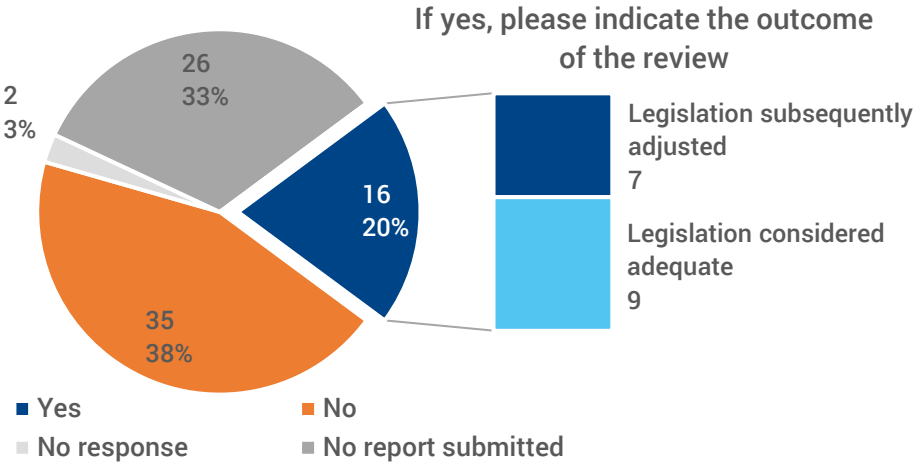


Figure 1.3. Party responses as to whether they reviewed their national legislation following the Guidance on Measures in National Legislation for Different Populations of the Same Species, Particularly with Respect to Hunting and Trade, and further responses as to whether legislation required adjusting following the review.

Among the 35 Parties which did not conduct a review (66% of RP; 44% of CP), the leading reason was that a review was ongoing or planned (15% of RP; 10% of CP; Central African Republic, Egypt, Georgia, Romania, South Africa, Syria, Tanzania, Uzbekistan; Figure 1.4). 'Other' reasons include a new Party (Malawi), and where a Party considered existing regulations as sufficient to address waterbird conservation (Uganda).

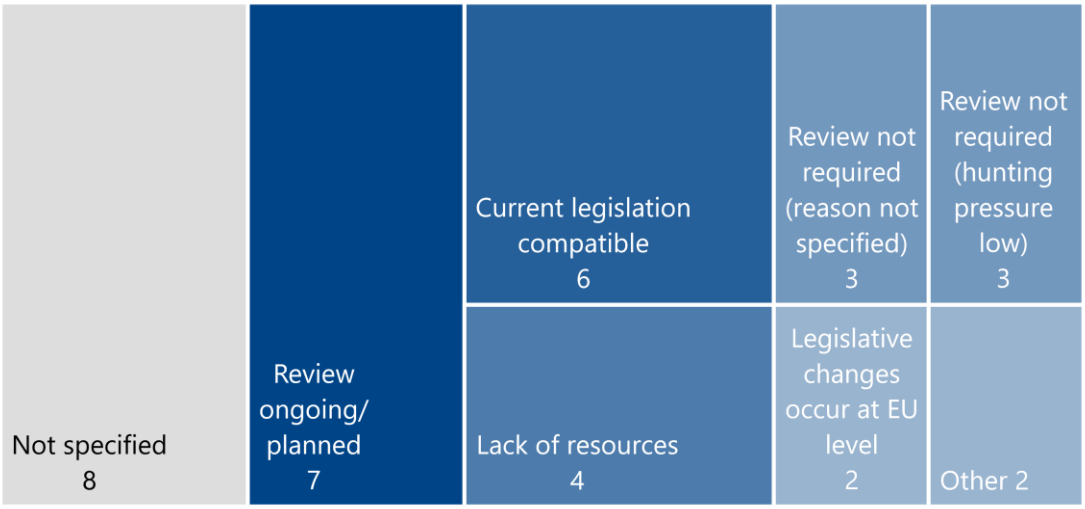


Figure 1.4. Reasons provided by the Parties for not conducting a review of domestic legislation following the Guidance on Measures in National Legislation for Different Populations of the Same Species, Particularly with Respect to Hunting and Trade (Resolution 6.7). (Note: Parties may have provided more than one reason).

Q3. Please confirm the protection status under your country's national legislation of each population on the drop-down list below. This list contains all the AEWA Table 1, Column A populations that are regularly occurring in your country (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.1; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 1.1).

To evaluate the protection status of AEWA species, Parties were asked to confirm that three activities (take, deliberate disturbance and use/trade) had been prohibited for all Table 1, Column A populations occurring within their country[2]. A breakdown of responses, aggregated by taxon and by Party, is presented in Annex Tables A1 and A2 respectively.

Reports were received on 219 of the 221 Table 1, Column A populations. Seven populations were confirmed as receiving full (100%) protection from all three activities by all their respective Range States that are Contracting Parties to AEWA:

- *Fratercula arctica* (Atlantic Puffin) of North East Canada, North Greenland, to Jan Mayen, Svalbard, North Novaya Zemlya;
- *Fregata ariel iredalei* (Lesser Frigatebird) of Western Indian Ocean;
- *Fregata minor aldabrensis* (Great Frigatebird) of Western Indian Ocean;
- *Gavia adamsii* (Yellow-billed Loon) of Northern Europe (wintering);
- *Gavia arctica arctica* (Arctic Loon) of Central Siberia/Caspian;
- *Sarothrura ayresi* (White-winged Flufftail) of Ethiopia;
- *Somateria mollissima borealis* (Common Eider) of Norway & Russia.

When Parties that did not submit a report were excluded from the analysis, a further twelve populations were confirmed as receiving full protection by the reporting Parties.

Across all Range States that are Contracting Parties to AEWA (including those which did not provide a response for a population or did not submit a report), only thirty-six populations (17%) received full protection in more than half of the relevant Range States (Figure 1.5). However, for a substantial proportion of Column A populations, incomplete responses or missing reports prevented the exact protection status from being confirmed: considering only those Parties which submitted a report, fifty-one populations had full answers for less than 75% of the relevant Range States (see Annex Table A1). Additionally, no responses were received on the protection status of two populations (the Lower Congo Basin population of the Egyptian Plover *Pluvianus aegyptius* and the Madagascar population of the Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhyncha*).

[2] The protection status of populations is presented across all relevant Range States, regardless of any reservations Parties have entered; details of the reservations, and how they impact the coverage of protections, are accounted for in Annex Tables A1 and A2.

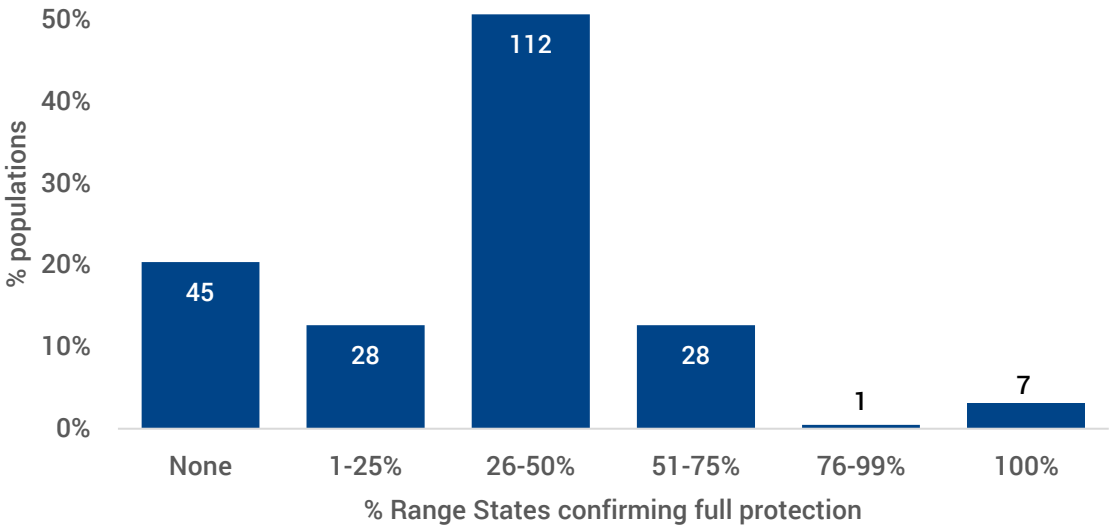


Figure 1.5. Number of Table 1, Column A populations by percentage of Range States confirming full protection for a given population. (Proportion is based on the number of reporting Parties confirming that all activities (take, disturbance and use/trade) are prohibited out of the total number of relevant Contracting Parties that are Range States for the populations in question (including those that did not respond and/or report).

Twelve (26% of Reporting Parties (RP); 15% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) of the forty-six Parties which responded to the question confirmed that all Table 1, Column A populations occurring in their country are fully protected, with all three activities prohibited (Table 1.1). When populations for which Parties have entered reservations are excluded, an additional seven Parties are fully protecting all Table 1, Column A populations for which they have an obligation to do so. A further twelve Parties confirmed full protection for over 75% of the Table 1, Column A populations occurring within their country (see Annex Table A2).

Table 1.1. Number of Reporting Parties confirming full protection of all Table 1, Column A populations in their country (via legislation prohibiting all three activities: take, disturbance and use/trade). The percentage of populations fully protected includes those populations for which reservations are in place. Symbol (†) denotes Parties which have fully protected 100% of the populations in their country when populations for which they have a reservation are excluded.

Percentage of populations fully protected	No. of Reporting Parties	Parties
100%	12	Albania, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Latvia, Lebanon, Netherlands, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Uganda, Tanzania
76-99%	14	Belarus, Belgium†, Cyprus†, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland†, Italy†, Jordan, Malawi, Norway†, Romania†, Slovakia, Sweden†, Switzerland
51-75%	4	Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Iceland
26-50%	4	Algeria, Ghana, Moldova, Portugal
1-25%	2	Kenya, Morocco
No populations confirmed as fully protected	10	Botswana, Estonia, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Syria, Togo, Ukraine, Uzbekistan
Total	**46**	

Q4. Please confirm for each population listed below, whether there is an open hunting season in your country. This list contains all the AEWA Table 1, Column A, category 2 or 3 with an asterisk or category 4 that are regularly occurring in your country (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.1; AEWA Strategic Plan 20192027, Target 1.1).

Based on the responses of the Parties, open hunting seasons were permitted for eighteen (72%) of the twenty-five AEWA populations listed in Table 1, Column A under category 2 or 3 with an asterisk or category 4 (Table 1.2); only one of these, the Taiga Bean Goose, is permitted for hunting by the provisions of the Agreement, in the framework of an international action plan with adaptive harvest management. Only two populations, both of Common Eider, were confirmed as having closed hunting seasons across their range in the AEWA Parties (Table 1.2). For many of the populations, responses were missing for a relatively high proportion of Parties, preventing an accurate overview of the levels of hunting permitted across all Range States for a given population. Full details of the Parties in each category are provided in Annex Table A3.

*Table 1.2. List of waterbird populations, their AEWA Table 1 category, IUCN Red list threat category and the number of Parties reporting whether an open hunting season is permitted or not permitted; Parties without a response include those that did not specify and those that did not submit a report. In brackets, number of Parties with a reservation. [Key: LC = Least Concern; NT = Near Threatened; ^ IUCN Red List assessments applies to the species, not the subspecies. Populations confirmed as having a closed hunting season across their range are highlighted in **bold**. Populations where hunting is permitted by the provisions of the Agreement (i.e. under an adaptive harvest management process within the framework of an international action plan), are highlighted in green.]*

Taxon	AEWA Table 1 Population and Category	IUCN Red List Category	Open hunting season (No. Parties)		Parties without a response
			permitted	not permitted	
ANATIDAE					
Thalassornis leuconotus leuconotus White-backed Duck	A2* (Eastern & Southern Africa)	LC^	2	6	5
Anser fabalis fabalis Taiga Bean Goose	A3c* (North-east Europe/North-west Europe)	LC^	3 (3)	4 (3)	2 (1)
Anser albifrons flavirostris Greenland White-fronted Goose	A2* (Greenland/ Ireland & UK)	LC^	0	3	2
Somateria mollissima mollissima Common Eider	A4 (Baltic, Denmark & Netherlands)	NT^	6 (5)	7 (6)	2 (2)
Somateria mollissima mollissima **Common Eider**	**A4 (Norway & Russia)**	**NT^**	**0**	**1 (1)**	**0**
Somateria mollissima borealis **Common Eider**	**A4 (Svalbard & Franz Joseph)**	**NT^**	**0**	**2 (2)**	**0**
PHOENICOPTERIDAE					
Phoeniconaias minor Lesser Flamingo	A4 (Southern Africa (to Madagascar)	NT	0	4	2
HAEMATOPODIDAE					
Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus Eurasian Oystercatcher	A4 (Europe/ South & West Europe & NW Africa)	NT^	2 (1)	26 (16)	16 (5)
Haematopus ostralegus longipes Eurasian Oystercatcher	A4 (SE Eur & W Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa)	NT^	2 (1)	12 (2)	4

Taxon	AEWA Table 1 Population and Category	IUCN Red List Category	Open hunting season (No. Parties)		Parties without a response
			permitted	not permitted	
CHARADRIIDAE					
Vanellus vanellus Northern Lapwing	A4 (Europe, W Asia/Europe, N Africa & SW Asia)	NT	5 (3)	27 (14)	12 (4)
SCOLOPACIDAE					
Numenius arquata arquata Eurasian Curlew	A4 (Europe, North & West Africa)	NT^	0	29	16
Numenius arquata orientalis Eurasian Curlew	A4 (Western Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa)	NT^	2	24	20
Limosa lapponica lapponica Bar-tailed Godwit	A4 (Northern Europe/Western Europe)	NT^	1 (1)	11 (9)	3 (2)
Limosa lapponica taymyrensis Bar-tailed Godwit	A4 (Western Siberia/West & South-west Africa)	NT^	3 (1)	18 (13)	16 (3)
Limosa lapponica taymyrensis Bar-tailed Godwit	A4 (Central Siberia/South & SW Asia & Eastern Africa)	NT^	2 (1)	6	4
Limosa limosa islandica Black-tailed Godwit	A4 (Iceland/Western Europe)	NT^	0	12 (7)	3 (2)
Calidris canutus canutus Red Knot	A4 (Northern Siberia/West & Southern Africa)	NT^	3 (1)	19 (13)	13 (2)
Calidris canutus islandica Red Knot	A4 (NE Canada & Greenland/Western Europe)	NT^	2 (1)	9 (7)	3 (2)
Calidris ferruginea Curlew Sandpiper	A4 (Central Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa)	NT	2	17	18
Calidris ferruginea Curlew Sandpiper	A4 (Western Siberia/West Africa)	NT	2	25	21
Gallinago media Great Snipe	A4 (Scandinavia/ probably West Africa)	NT	0	14	16
Gallinago media Great Snipe	A4 (Western Siberia & NE Europe/South-east Africa)	NT	4	28	19
GLAREOLIDAE					
Glareola nordmanni Black-winged Pratincole	A4 (SE Europe & Western Asia/Southern Africa)	NT	1	14	14
ALCIDAE					
Alca torda Razorbill	A4 (E North America, Greenland, E to Baltic & White Seas)	NT	1	6	2
Alca torda islandica Razorbill	A4 (Iceland, Faeroes, Britain, Ireland, Helgoland, NW France)	NT^	2 (2)	8	3

Thirty-five Parties (66% of all Reporting Parties (RP); 44% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that there are no open hunting seasons for any of the AEWA populations listed under Table 1, Column A under category 2 or 3 with an asterisk or category 4 which occur in their country, and which were not covered by a reservation or adaptive harvest management plan (Figure 1.6). Nine Parties (16% of RP; 12% of CP) reported that hunting was permitted for at least one population not covered by a reservation (Denmark, Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, Switzerland, Syria, Tanzania, Ukraine and Uzbekistan).

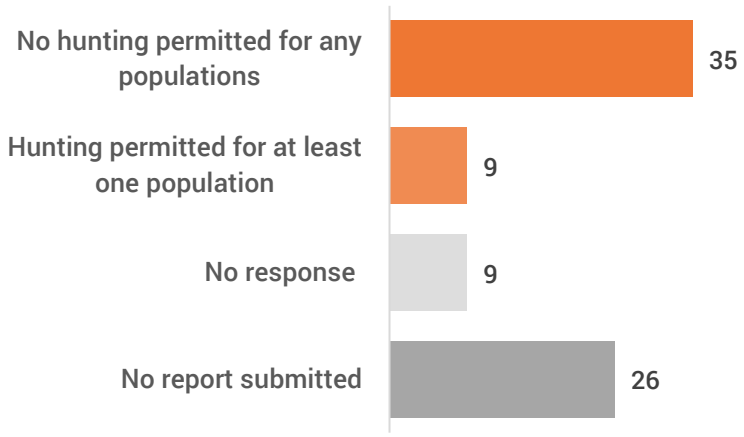


Figure 1.6. Number of Parties reporting whether an open hunting season is permitted or not, for any of the populations listed under Table 1, Column A, category 2 or 3 with an asterisk or category 4 which occur in their country. Populations where hunting is permitted without contravening the provisions of the Agreement (because the population is covered by either a reservation or an adaptive harvest management plan) are excluded.

Q5. Please confirm for each population on the drop-down list below whether taking is regulated in your country. This list contains all the AEWA Table 1, Column B populations that are regularly occurring in your country (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.2; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 1.1).

To assess the regulatory status of AEWA species with respect to taking, Parties were asked to confirm that three measures regulating taking (prohibition of taking during reproduction and the return to breeding grounds, the establishment of limits on taking and prohibition of use/trade when taken in contravention of other prohibitions) had been implemented for all Table 1, Column B populations occurring within their country[3]. A breakdown of responses, aggregated by taxon and by Party, is presented in Annex Tables A4 and A5 respectively.

Across 154 Table 1, Column B populations, all three measures to regulate taking were confirmed as being implemented for only one population across the entirety of its range: the North America, Greenland to Severnaya Zemlya population of Common Guillemot *Uria lomvia lomvia* (Figure 1.7). Once incomplete answers and Parties that did not submit a report had been excluded from the analysis, all three regulatory measures were confirmed as being implemented within the Reporting Parties for a further four populations (see Annex Table A4). For the vast majority (99%; Figure 1.7) of column B populations, all measures to regulate taking were not confirmed as being implemented in all of the relevant Range States, although this figure may have been inflated due to missing or incomplete responses (for thirty-seven populations, less than 75% of the relevant Range States provided a full answer; see Annex Table A5).

[3] The protection status of populations is presented across all relevant Range States that are Contracting parties to AEWA, regardless of any reservations Parties have entered; details of the reservations, and how they influence the coverage of protections, are accounted for in Annex Tables A4 and A5.

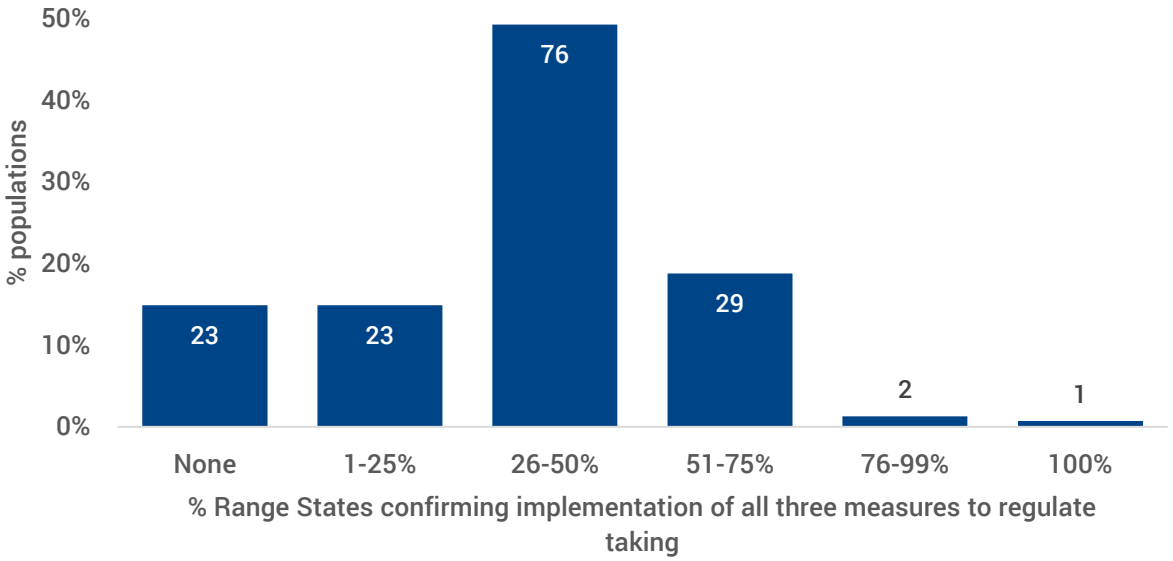


Figure 1.7. Distribution of Table 1, Column B populations by the percentage of Range States confirming implementation of all three measures to regulate taking for a given population. (Proportion is based on the number of reporting Parties confirming that all three measures regulating taking are prohibited, out of the total number of relevant Contracting Parties that are Range States for the populations in question (including those that did not respond and/or report)).

Eleven (24% of Reporting Parties (RP); 14% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) of the forty-five Parties which responded confirmed that all three measures to regulate taking have been implemented for all relevant Table 1, Column B populations within their country (Table 1.3). A further fifteen Parties confirmed that over 75% of the Table 1, Column B populations occurring within their country are covered by all three measures. A substantial proportion of reporting Parties (27% RP; 15% CP) did not confirm that measures to regulate taking had been implemented for any of the relevant populations (see Annex Table A5).

Table 1.3. Number of Reporting Parties confirming implementation of all three measures to regulate taking for all Table 1, Column B populations in their country. The percentage of populations covered by all three measures to regulate taking includes those populations for which reservations are in place. The number of reporting Parties confirming that 100% of populations are covered by all three measures to regulate taking remains unchanged after populations for which they have a reservation are excluded.

Percentage of populations covered by all three measures to regulate taking	**No. of Reporting Parties**	**Parties**
100%	11	Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Lebanon, Netherlands, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Tanzania, Uganda
76-99%	15	Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, Georgia, Italy, Malawi, Morocco, Norway, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland
51-75%	4	France, Latvia, Moldova, Ukraine
26-50%	2	Botswana, Senegal
1-25%	1	Kenya
No populations confirmed as being fully covered by measures to regulate taking	12	Czech Republic, Estonia, Ghana, Iceland, Jordan, Portugal, Rwanda, Slovakia, South Africa, Syria, Togo, Uzbekistan
Total	**45**	

Q6. Please indicate which modes of taking are prohibited in your country (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.2(b); AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 1.1)

Twenty-four Parties have fully prohibited all seventeen modes of indiscriminate taking listed in paragraph 2.1.2(b) of the AEWA Action Plan (45% of Reporting Parties (RP); 30% of all Contracting Parties (CP); Figure 1.8). A further six Parties have fully or partially prohibited all the listed modes (11% of RP; 8% of CP). However, over a quarter of reporting Parties (fifteen Parties; 28% of RP; of 19% CP) either reported that while several modes of indiscriminate taking have been fully or partially banned, it remains legal to hunt using at least one non-selective method, or did not confirm that all modes were prohibited. Two Parties (Côte d'Ivoire and Togo) have yet to prohibit any of the modes specified in the Agreement text (4% of RP; 3% of CP). However, all modes are *de facto* prohibited in Côte d'Ivoire by virtue of a complete hunting ban since 1974, and Togo indicated that these hunting techniques had not been prohibited because they are not widespread, but might be used only occasionally. A full breakdown by Party is presented in Annex A6.

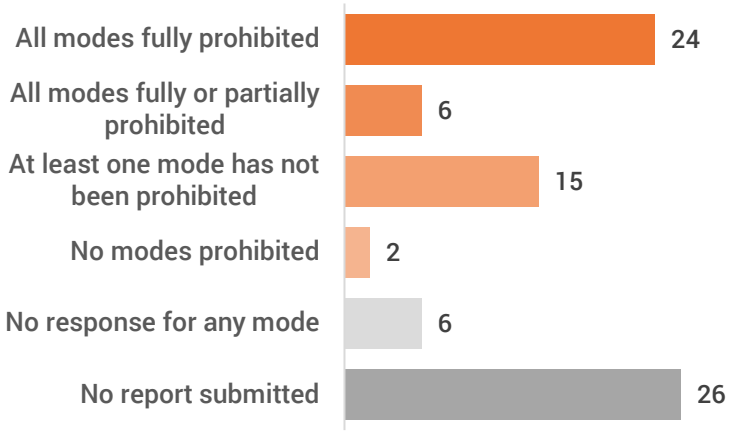


Figure 1.8. Number of Parties to have fully or partially prohibited all or at least one indiscriminate mode of taking.

The extent of prohibition across Parties varied between modes, ranging from a high of forty-three Parties which have fully prohibited the use of artificial light sources (81% of RP; 54% of CP), to a low of thirty-six which have fully prohibited the use of sighting devices (comprising an electronic image magnifier or image converter) for night shooting (68% of RP; 46% of CP; Figure 1.9). Several Parties indicated that other non-selective modes of taking had been fully prohibited (58% of RP; 39% of CP), including regulations banning specific additional modes (such as the use of pits, gas and smoke, falconry, the use of vehicles at any speed, or chemical means like attractants), as well as general regulations prohibiting all forms of non-selective taking.

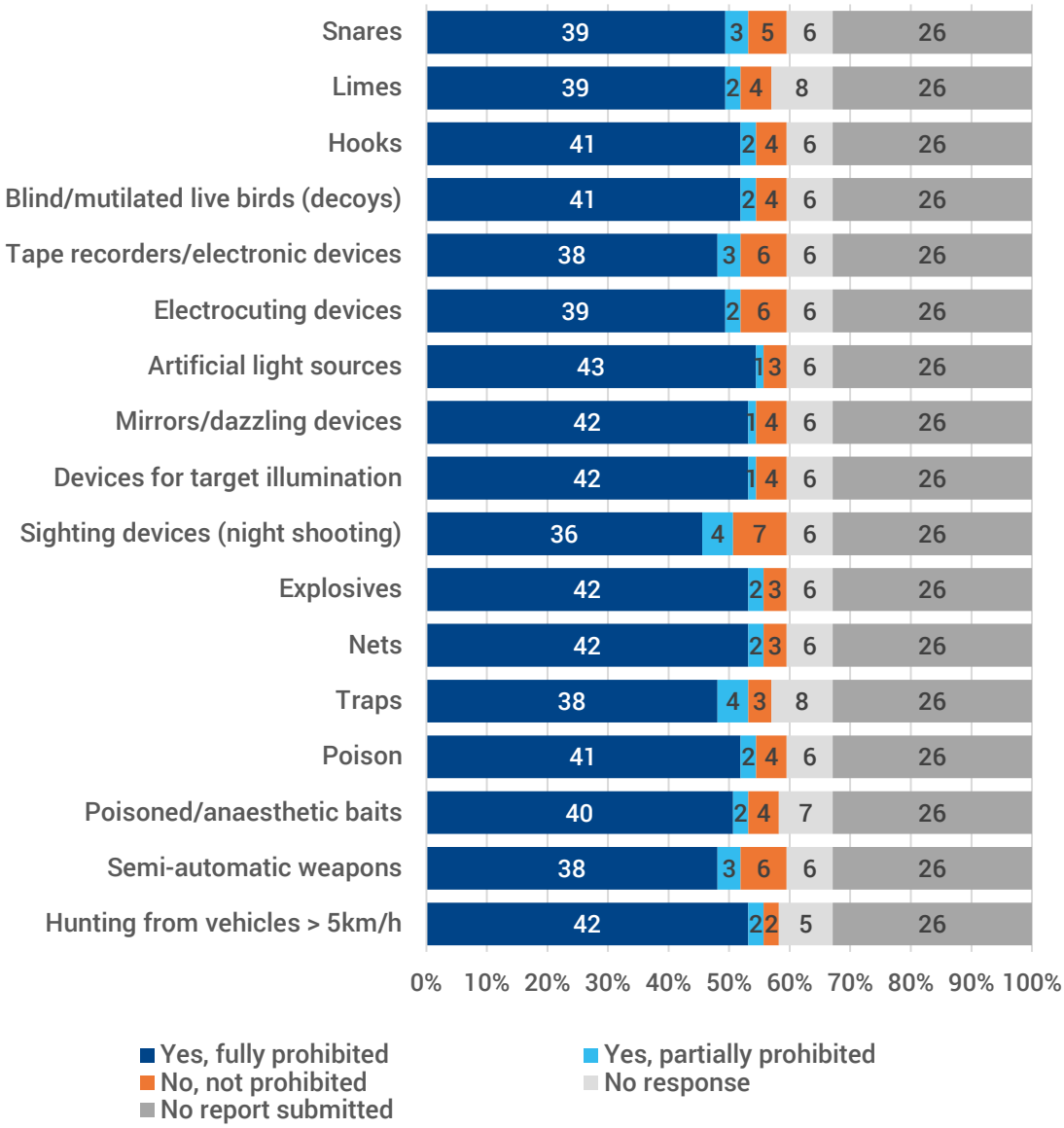


Figure 1.9. Party responses on the status of prohibition for each of the seventeen modes of indiscriminate taking listed in paragraph 2.1.2(b) of the AEWA Action Plan.

Q7. Has your country granted exemptions from any of the above prohibitions in order to accommodate livelihoods uses? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.2(b); AEWA Strategic Plan 2019- 2027, Target 1.1)

The vast majority of Parties (91% of Reporting Parties (RP); 61% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) did not grant any exemptions in order to accommodate livelihoods uses (Figure 1.10). Exemptions were granted by only two reporting Parties (4% of RP; 3% of CP), Egypt and Iceland, for the use of nets (both Parties) and traps (Egypt only) in traditional hunting practices. No exemptions for any other non-selective modes of taking were granted.

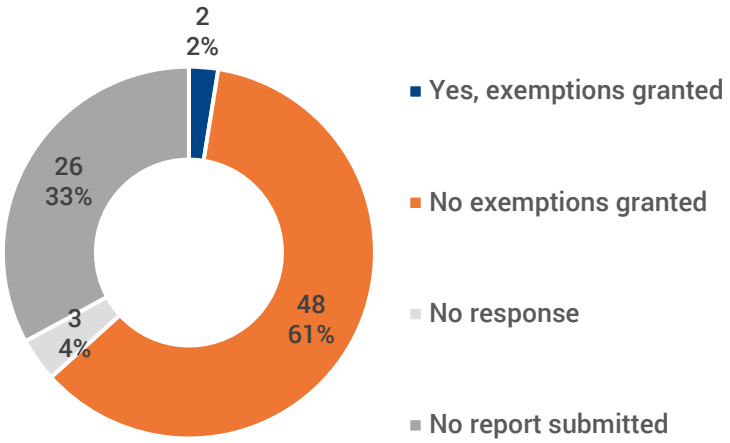


Figure 1.10. Number of Parties granting exemptions on the use of prohibited modes of taking in order to accommodate livelihoods uses.

Q8. 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; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 1.1)

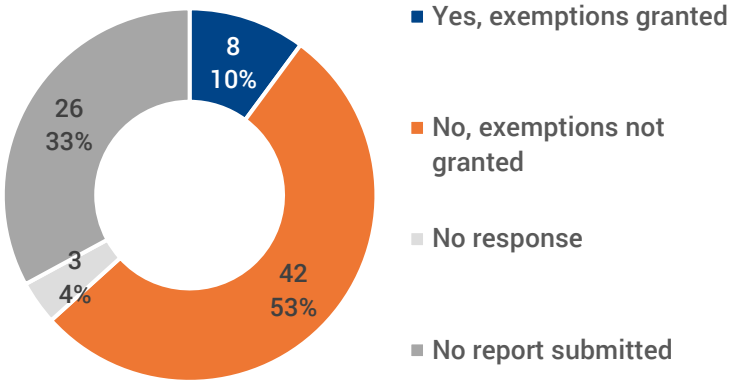


Figure 1.11. Party responses as to whether they had granted exemptions to the prohibitions required by paragraphs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 of the AEWA Action Plan.

Eight Parties (15% of Reporting Parties (RP); 10% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) confirmed that they had granted exemptions to the prohibitions prescribed by paragraphs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 of the AEWA Action Plan (Figure 1.11), but only five Parties provided species-specific information on the exemptions permitted; however, one of these (Egypt) reported exemptions for a prior period. A full breakdown of exemptions reported by taxon and by Party, including the number of eggs and individuals affected, are presented in Annex Table A7.

In total, the exemptions reported by the Parties affected fifty-seven species. The vast majority were granted on the grounds of research, education, re-establishment, and the breeding necessary for these purposes (affecting 40 species) (Figure 1.12). Exemptions were also granted in the interests of air safety, public health or public safety, or other overriding public interests (21 species) and to prevent serious damage to crops, water and fisheries (16 species). Only one species was affected by an exemption granted to allow the taking and keeping or other judicious use of a small number of birds, on a selective basis and to a limited extent, under strictly supervised conditions. One exemption was also granted in order to enhance the propagation or survival of the population concerned. In addition to these five categories of purposes in the questionnaire, one Party (Sweden) reported issuing exemptions for the purpose of protecting flora and fauna (affecting six species), as well as a number of derogations for unspecified species of birds (affecting 7 individuals). Across all

reporting Parties, the species with the highest numbers of individuals affected were the Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*, 23,285 individuals) and the Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*, 4,570 birds and 954 eggs). Although affecting only 16 species, the exemption for prevention of serious damage to crops, water and fisheries affected the greatest number of individuals (Table 1.4).

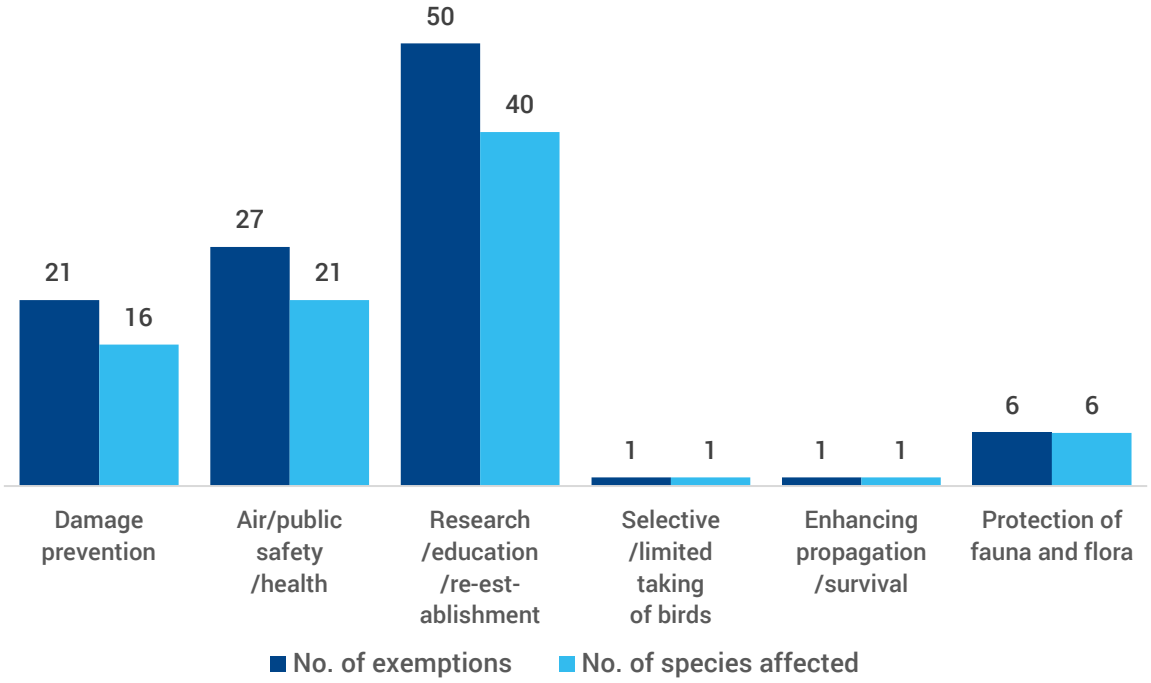


Figure 1.12. Reasons provided by the Parties for granting exemptions and number of species affected; Parties may have reported more than one reason for each exemption. (For the purposes of this graph, an exemption is defined as a taxon-country combination, rather than a specific derogation authorisation; a Party may have granted several authorisations for the same taxon in the reporting period, but these are counted as a single exemption).

Table 1.4: Number of individuals, eggs and nests affected by exemptions granted, by purpose of exemption, as reported by Parties.

Purpose of exemption	No. of individuals affected	No. of eggs affected	No. of nests affected
To prevent serious damage to crops, water and fisheries	26,342	435	0
In the interests of air safety, public health, public safety, or other imperative reasons of overriding public interests	1,953	1,867	1,016
For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes	1,983	80	1
To permit under strictly supervised conditions, on a selective basis and to a limited extent, the taking and keeping or other judicious use of certain birds in small numbers	2	0	0
For the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the populations concerned	0	0	0
For the protection of fauna and flora	158	0	0
Multiple purposes specified (In the interests of air safety, public health, public safety, or other imperative reasons of overriding public interests & for the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes)	571	2,740	0
Multiple purposes specified (various combinations, other than the one listed above)	924	68	1

Q9. Has a review of enforcement of and compliance with the domestic legislation relevant for AEWA implementation, [in particular the legislation which caters for the obligations under paragraphs 2.1 and 4.1 of the AEWA Action Plan], been undertaken in your country after MOP7? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Actions 1.1(c) and 2.2(c))

Following MOP7, only seven Parties (13% of Reporting Parties (RP); 9% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported conducting a review of enforcement of and compliance with domestic legislation relevant for AEWA implementation (Actions 1.1(c) and 2.2(c) of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027) (Figure 1.13). Among these, the level of enforcement and compliance was assessed as very high (full compliance) by three Parties (Netherlands, Slovenia, Switzerland) and high (almost full compliance) by three Parties (Belarus, Kenya, Rwanda). The single reporting Party (Egypt) which registered a low level of compliance highlighted a lack of enforcement capacity as the underlying cause. Measures were introduced to ensure strengthened enforcement and compliance in three out of the four Parties reporting less than full compliance (all but Kenya).

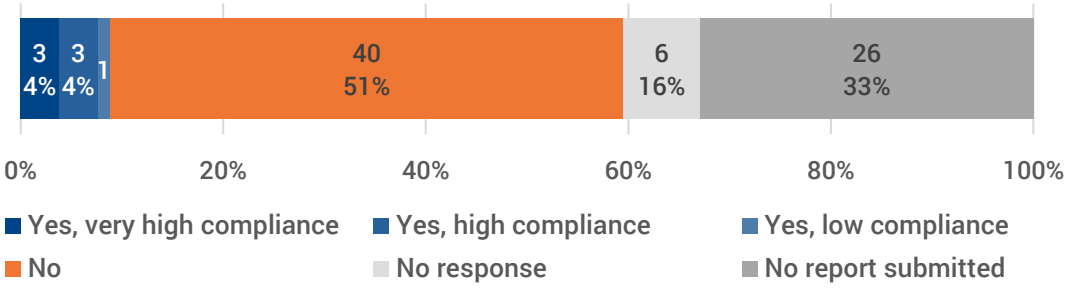


Figure 1.13. Party responses as to whether enforcement of and compliance with domestic legislation relevant for AEWA implementation has been reviewed.

Of the 40 Parties that did not review enforcement of and compliance with their domestic legislation after MOP7, three had conducted a review prior to MOP7 (Figure 1.14). These Parties reported varying levels of compliance, split equally between very high (full: Estonia), high (almost full: Latvia) and medium levels of compliance (more compliance than non-compliance: Czech Republic). Among the remaining Parties, the leading reason for not conducting a review was that legislation was considered sufficient (Figure 1.14). However, a number of Parties' responses suggested that the question may have been misinterpreted, as the responses did not specifically address compliance and enforcement issues.

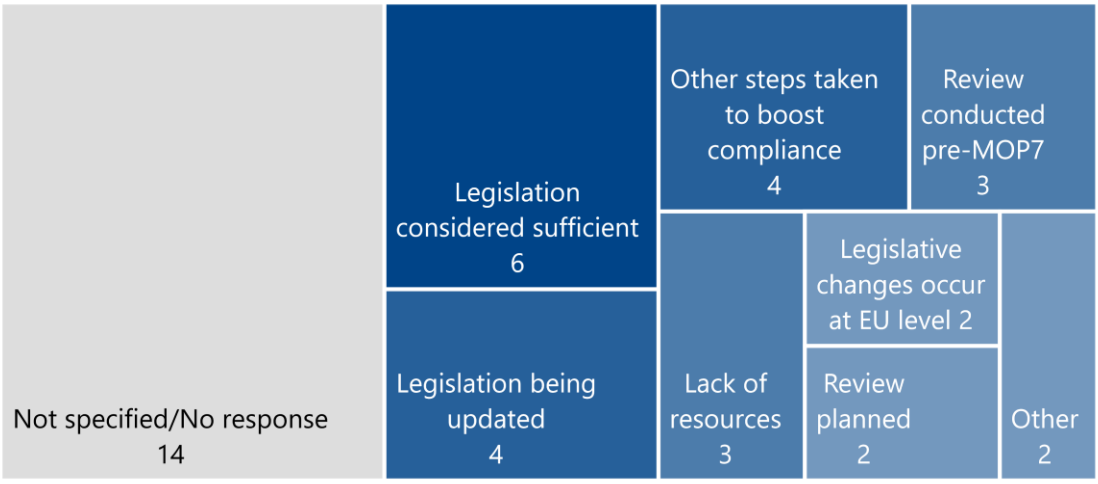
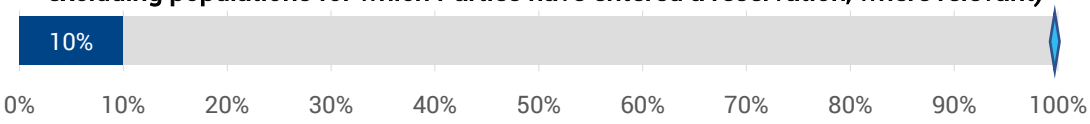


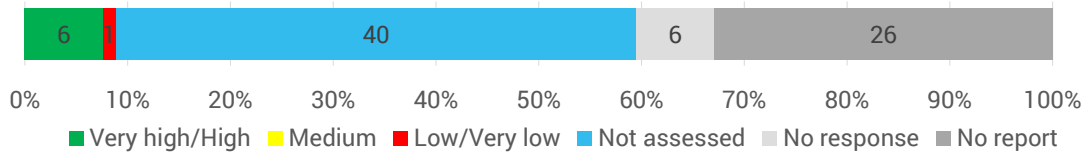
Figure 1.14. Reasons provided by the Parties for not conducting a review of enforcement of and compliance with domestic legislation following MOP7.

Strategic Plan Target 1.1: The legal measures required by the AEWA Action Plan (Paragraph 2.1) are transposed into all Parties' domestic legislation and enforced effectively.

Indicator: Percentage of Parties that have transposed all of the legal measures required in Paragraph 2.1 of the AEWA Action Plan into domestic legislation (based on fulfilling the requirements for all four aspects covered by questions Q3, Q4, Q5 and Q6, excluding populations for which Parties have entered a reservation, where relevant)



Indicator: Degree of enforcement of legislation (Q9*)



Party responses to assessing enforcement of legislation*

Very High: 3	High: 3	Medium: 0	Low: 1	Very Low: 0	Not at all: 0	Not assessed: 40	No response: 6	No report: 26

*Note: A large number of Parties may have misinterpreted the question

Species Action and Management Plans

Q11. 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), relevant for your country into National Action or Management Plans. (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.2; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 1.2 (d))

Parties were asked to report on the progress of turning International Single Species Action and Management Plans (ISSAPs and ISSMPs), as well as International Multispecies Action Plans (ISMAPs), into National Action or Management Plans. ISSAPs, ISSMPs and IMSAPs were relevant for all of the 53 reporting Parties (67% of all Contracting Parties (CP)). In total, there were 37 species[4] that were relevant to the reporting Parties (representing all 37 species currently subject to adopted International Action or Management Plans), corresponding to a total of 361 potential National Action or Management plans (Table 1.5).

[4] Species with ISSAPs for those Parties that submitted reports: *Anser erythropus, Anser fabalis, Anser albifrons, Ardeola idae, Aythyna nyroca, Balaeniceps rex, Balearica regulorum, Branta ruficollis, Clangula hyemalis, Crex crex, Cygnus columbianus, Egretta vinaceigula, Gallinago media, Geronticus eremita, Glareola nordmanni, Limosa limosa, Melanitta fusca, Numenius arquata, Oxyura leucocephala, Oxyura maccoa, Pelecanus crispus, Phoeniconaias minor, Platalea leucorodia, Sarothrura ayresi,* and *Vanellus gregarius*. Species with an ISSMP: *Anser anser, Anser brachyrhynchus* and *Branta leucopsis*. Species with an IMSAP: *Haematopus moquini, Hydroprogne caspia, Microcarbo coronatus, Morus capensis, Phalacrocorax capensis, Phalacrocorax neglectus, Spheniscus demersus, Sternula balaenarum,* and *Thalasseus bergii*

Table 1.5. Number of species and Parties with applicable instruments, and the total number of potential national-level plans

	No. species with applicable instruments	No. reporting Parties with applicable instruments	No. potential national-level Plans from reporting Parties	No. potential national-level Plans from Contracting Parties which did not submit a report	Total no. potential national-level Plans
ISSAPs	25	53	339	113	**452**
ISSMPs	3	11	21	5	**26**
IMSAPs	9	1	1	0	**1**
All International Plans combined	**37**	**53**	**361**	**118**	**479**

Of the 361potential national-level plans, 308 were reported on. A total of 51 national plans (45 NSSAPs, 5 NSSMPs and 1 NMSAP) were confirmed to be in place and being implemented or in development, while 255 national plans (239 NSSAPs and 16 NSSMPs) were either not in place or in place but not being implemented properly (Figure 1.15). The status of an additional two plans in Denmark was not classified but further details were provided, noting that a national plan for the Corncrake existed before the AEWA ISSAP, and that the Black-tailed Godwit is included in a national plan for threatened meadow birds. A breakdown of the number of plans by Party is provided in Annex Table A8.

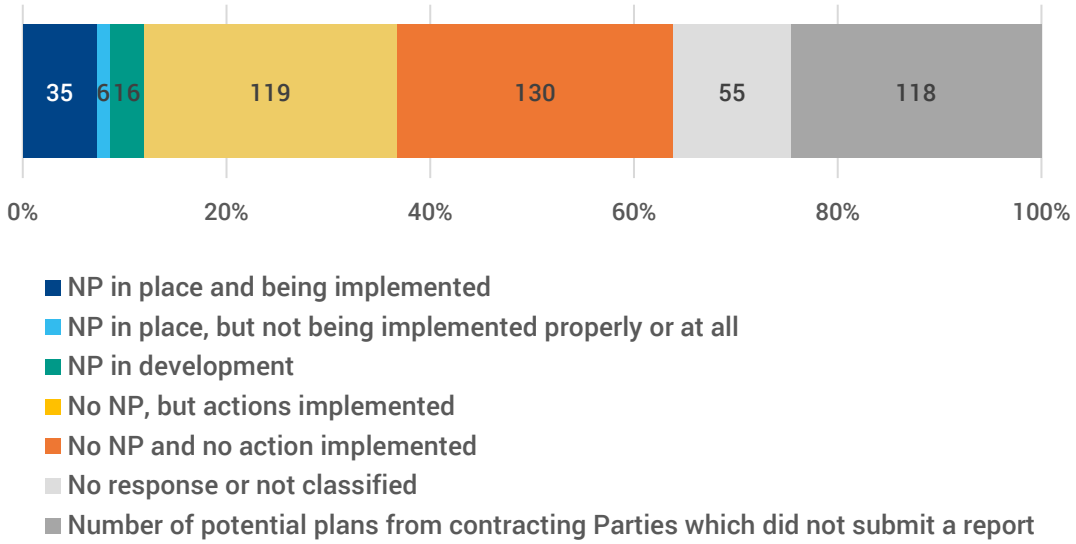


Figure 1.15. Status of the 361 potential National Action or Management Plans reported by the 53 Reporting Parties and 26 Contracting Parties which did not submit a report.

When all plans (ISSAP, ISSMP and IMSAP) are considered, 35 national plans are in place and being implemented by 20 Parties (38% of relevant Reporting Parties (RP); 25% of CP), with a further ten Parties (19% of relevant RP; 13% of CP) reporting that they are in the process of developing a total of 16 national plans (Figure 1.15). Six Parties (11% of relevant RP; 8% of CP) each reported one national plan which was in place but not implemented properly or at all; Estonia and Morocco noted that this was because the plan was recently finalised. Other reasons provided for lack of implementation were the lack of a national coordinator (Belgium), a lack of funding (Uganda), and that the plan was not legally binding (Italy). One Party (Uzbekistan) did not specify a reason for lack of implementation.

A total of 304 potential national plans were reported to not be in place, not reported on, or not classified. However, for 119 of these species/country combinations, actions were being implemented despite the lack of a national plan. Details of the reasons provided by Parties for the non-existence of a national plan are shown in Figure 1.16.

Of the 35 National Action or Management Plans reported to be in place and implemented, 20% were confirmed as fully implemented, 46% in an advanced stage of implementation, 17% as moderately implemented and 17% did not have a state of implementation reported (Figure 1.17).

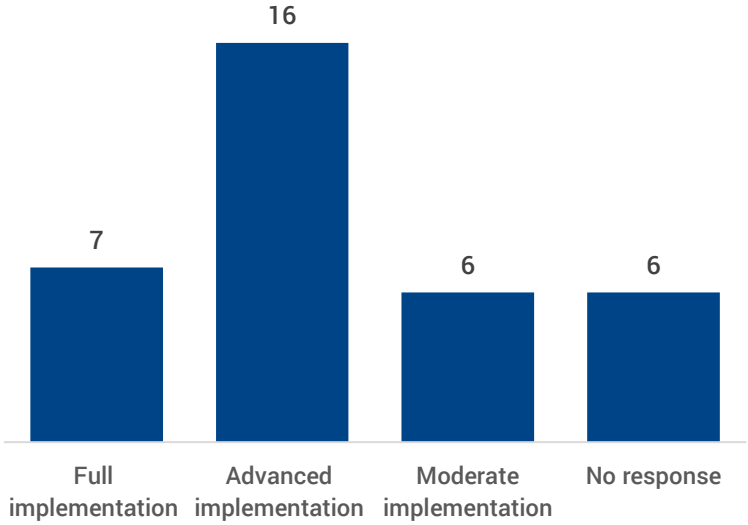


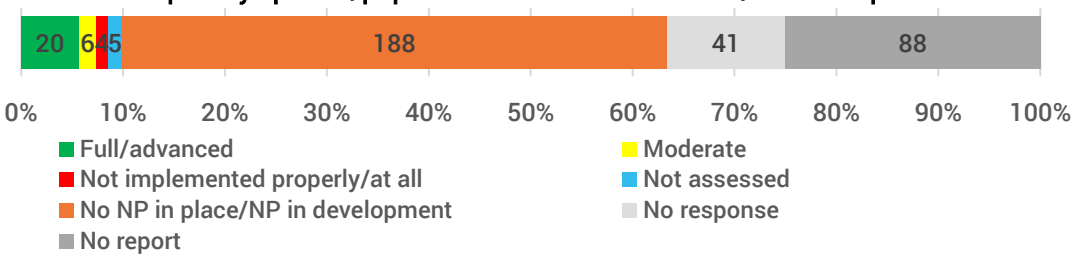
Figure 1.17. Status of implementation of the 35 National Action or Management Plans from the 20 Parties which stated a plan was in place and being implemented.

Of the 25 species with ISSAPs, 17 species were reported to have at least one NSSAP in place or in development. Of the three species with an ISSMP, two had at least one NSSMP in place or in development. For the one IMSAP (Benguela seabirds), South Africa reported the national plan as in place and being implemented (Table 1.6).

To determine progress towards AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 Target 1.2, priority populations in Table 1 of the AEWA's Annex 3 are considered (those listed in Column A: Categories 1(a) and 1(b), Categories 1(c) and 2-3 where the species is categorised by the IUCN as Near Threatened, Category 4, plus Column A populations marked with an asterisk). Seventeen of the 98 priority populations (17%) have at least one range state with an implemented SSAP (based on responses from relevant reporting Parties), noting that 51 of the 98 priority populations are not yet covered by an AEWA International Species Action Plan. Five priority populations (5%) are covered by implemented SSAPs in all of their range states which are Party to AEWA: *Anser erythropus* (Fennoscandia), *Geronticus eremita* (Morocco), *Morus capensis* (Southern Africa), *Phalacrocorax capensis* (Coastal Southern Africa) and *Phalacrocorax neglectus* (Coastal South-west Africa).

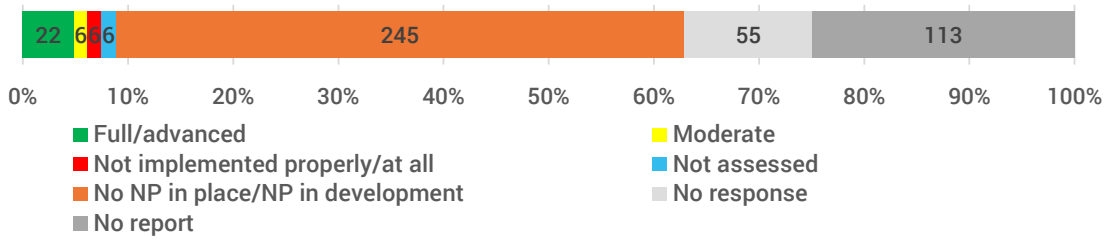
Strategic Plan Target 1.2: All priority species/populations are covered by effectively implemented Species Action Plans at flyway level

Indicator: Traffic-light assessment of implementation status of national Species Action Plans for priority species/populations that have an ISSAP/IMSAP in place



Full: 4	Advanced: 16	Moderate: 6	Insufficient: 0	Not properly/ at all: 4	Not assessed: 5	In development: 10	No NP in place: 178	No response: 41	No report: 88	No ISSAP (no. of species/country combinations): 388

Indicator: Traffic-light assessment of implementation status of national Species Action Plans for all species/populations for which an ISSAP/IMSAP is in place



Full: 6	Advanced: 16	Moderate: 6	Insufficient: 0	Not poperly/ at all: 6	Not assessed: 6	In development: 12	No NP in place: 233	No response: 55	No report: 113

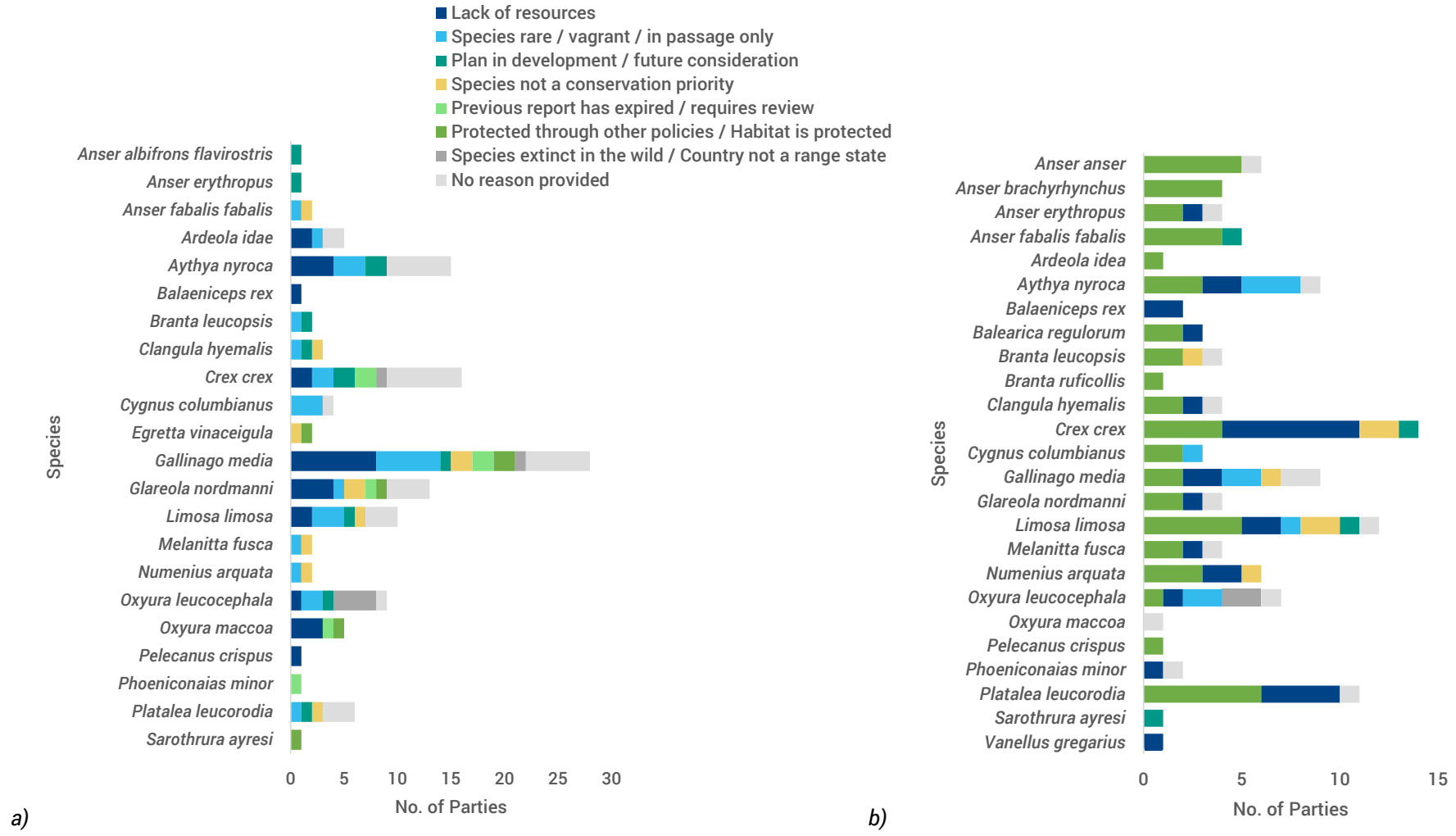


Figure 1.16. Reasons provided by Parties for the non-existence of a national plan by species a) where Parties had reported that no actions had been taken, and b) where Parties had reported that actions had been carried out.

Table 1.6. Party progress of turning ISSAPs, ISSMPs, and IMSAPs into National Action or Management Plans by species or area.

Species / Area	Red List category (relevant AEWA instrument)	National plan in place and being implemented	National plan in place, but not being implemented properly or at all	National plan in development	No national plan, but actions implemented	No national plan and no action implemented	No response/ not classified	Potential plans from Contracting Parties which did not submit a report
ANATIDAE								
Oxyura maccoa (Maccoa Duck)	VU (ISSAP)	0	0	0	1 Tanzania	5 Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe	2 Botswana, Ethiopia	1 Burundi
Oxyura leucocephala, (White-headed Duck)	EN (ISSAP)	2 Bulgaria, Spain	1 Morocco	0	7 Belgium, Denmark, Portugal, Romania, Switzerland, Ukraine, Uzbekistan	9 Finland, Georgia, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, Syria	2 Algeria, France	6 Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Tunisia
Cygnus columbianus bewickii (Bewick's Swan)	LC (ISSAP)	0	1 Estonia	0	3 Belgium, Denmark, Netherlands	4 Finland, Latvia, Norway, Sweden	1 France	4 Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, United Kingdom
Branta leucopsis (Barnacle Goose)	LC (ISSMP)	1 Estonia	0	2 Norway, Sweden	4 Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Netherlands	2 Iceland, Latvia		4 Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, United Kingdom
Branta ruficollis (Red-breasted Goose)	VU (ISSAP)	1 Bulgaria	0	1 Romania	1 Ukraine	0		0
Anser anser (Greylag goose)	LC (ISSMP)	0	0	2 Norway, Sweden	6 Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Netherlands, Spain	0		1 Germany
Anser fabalis fabalis (Taiga Bean Goose)	VU (ISSAP)	1 Estonia	0	1 Sweden	5 Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Norway, Ukraine	2 Belarus, Latvia		3 Germany, Lithuania, United Kingdom
Anser brachyrhynchus (Pink-footed Goose)	LC (ISSMP)	0	0	0	4 Belgium, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway	0		0
Anser albifrons flavirostris	LC (ISSAP)	0	0	0	0	1 Iceland		2 Ireland, United Kingdom

Species / Area	Red List category (relevant AEWA instrument)	National plan in place and being implemented	National plan in place, but not being implemented properly or at all	National plan in development	No national plan, but actions implemented	No national plan and no action implemented	No response/ not classified	Potential plans from Contracting Parties which did not submit a report
(Greenland White-fronted Goose)								
Anser erythropus (Lesser White-fronted Goose)	VU (ISSAP)	4 Bulgaria, Finland, Norway, Sweden	0	1 Estonia	4 Netherlands, Romania, Ukraine, Uzbekistan	1 Syria		3 Germany, Hungary, Lithuania
Clangula hyemalis (Long-tailed Duck)	VU (ISSAP)	0	0	0	4 Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Norway	3 Iceland, Latvia, Sweden		4 Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, United Kingdom
Melanitta fusca (Velvet Scoter)	VU (ISSAP)	0	0	0	4 Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Norway	2 Latvia, Sweden		2 Germany, Lithuania
Aythya nyroca (Ferruginous Duck)	NT (ISSAP)	5 Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain	1 Italy	0	9 Albania, Belarus, Croatia, Mali, Moldova, Niger, Portugal, Switzerland, Ukraine	15 Algeria, Central African Republic, Czech Republic, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Morocco, Netherlands, Senegal, Serbia, Syria, Uzbekistan	6 Belgium, Cyprus, Ethiopia, France, Nigeria, North Macedonia	11 Chad, Gambia Germany, Hungary, Israel, Libya, Lithuania, Mauritania, Montenegro, Sudan, Tunisia
PHOENICOPTERIDAE								
Phoeniconaias minor (Lesser Flamingo)	NT (ISSAP)	1 Tanzania	0	1 Kenya	2 Senegal, Uganda	1 South Africa	2 Botswana, Ethiopia	3 Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania
RALLIDAE								
Sarothrura ayresi (White-winged Flufftail)	CR (ISSAP)	0	0	0	1 South Africa	1 Zimbabwe	1 Ethiopia	0
Crex crex (Corncrake)	LC (ISSAP)	4 France, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland	1 Belgium	1 Belarus	14 Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic,	16 Egypt, Georgia, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Malawi,	7 Algeria, Botswana, Cyprus,	10 Germany, Hungary, Ireland,

Species / Area	Red List category (relevant AEWA instrument)	National plan in place and being implemented	National plan in place, but not being implemented properly or at all	National plan in development	No national plan, but actions implemented	No national plan and no action implemented	No response/ not classified	Potential plans from Contracting Parties which did not submit a report
					Estonia, Finland, Moldova, Netherlands, Romania, Rwanda, Slovakia, Uganda, Ukraine, Tanzania	Morocco, Portugal, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Syria, Uzbekistan, Zimbabwe	Denmark, Eswatini, Kenya, North Macedonia	Israel, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Sudan, Tunisia, United Kingdom
GRUIDAE								
Balearica regulorum (Grey Crowned-crane)	EN (ISSAP)	1 Zimbabwe	1 Uganda	1 Kenya	3 Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania	0		1 Burundi
THRESKIORNITHIDAE								
Platalea leucorodia (Eurasian Spoonbill)	LC (ISSAP)	1 Spain		1 Bulgaria	11 Albania, Belgium, Croatia, Italy, Moldova, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan	6 Czech Republic, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Serbia, Syria	6 Algeria, Cyprus, Denmark, France, North Macedonia, Senegal	9 Djibouti, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Libya, Mauritania, Montenegro, Sudan, Tunisia
Geronticus eremita (Northern Bald Ibis)	EN (ISSAP)	2 Morocco, Syria	0	0	0	0	2 Algeria, Ethiopia	0
ARDEIDAE								
Ardeola idae (Madgascar Pond-heron)	EN (ISSAP)	1 France	0	0	1 Tanzania	5 Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, Zimbabwe		2 Burundi, Madagascar
Egretta vinaceigula (Slaty Egret)	VU (ISSAP)	0	0	0	0	2 South Africa, Zimbabwe	1 Botswana	0
BALAENICIPITIDAE								
Balaeniceps rex (Shoebill)	VU (ISSAP)	0	0	1 Uganda	2 Rwanda, Tanzania	1 Central African Republic	1 Ethiopia	1 Burundi

Species / Area	Red List category (relevant AEWA instrument)	National plan in place and being implemented	National plan in place, but not being implemented properly or at all	National plan in development	No national plan, but actions implemented	No national plan and no action implemented	No response/ not classified	Potential plans from Contracting Parties which did not submit a report
PELECANIDAE								
Pelecanus crispus (Dalmatian Pelican)	NT (ISSAP)	3 Albania, Bulgaria, Romania	1 Uzbekistan	0	1 Ukraine	1 Georgia		1 Montenegro
CHARADRIIDAE								
Vanellus gregarius (Sociable Lapwing)	CR (ISSAP)	0	0	1 Uzbekistan	1 Syria	0	1 Ethiopia	1 Sudan
SCOLOPACIDAE								
Numenius arquata (Eurasian Curlew)	NT (ISSAP)	2 Belgium, France	0	0	6 Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Netherlands, Norway, Uzbekistan	2 Italy, Sweden		3 Germany, Ireland, United Kingdom
Limosa limosa (Black-tailed Godwit)	NT (ISSAP)	4 Belgium, France, Senegal, Sweden	0	1 Belarus	12 Albania, Estonia, Finland, Italy, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Ukraine	10 Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Ghana, Iceland, Kenya, Latvia, Niger, Serbia	5 Algeria, Denmark, Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria	16 Burkina Faso, Chad, Gambia, Germany, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Libya, Lithuania, Mauritania, Montenegro, Sudan, Tunisia, United Kingdom
Gallinago media (Great Snipe)	NT (ISSAP)	1 Belarus	0	2 Estonia, Finland	9 Albania, Norway, Romania, Senegal, Slovakia, Switzerland, Togo, Ukraine, Tanzania	28 Bulgaria, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Georgia,	11 Algeria, Belgium, Botswana, Cyprus, Denmark,	22 Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Congo, Equatorial

Species / Area	Red List category (relevant AEWA instrument)	National plan in place and being implemented	National plan in place, but not being implemented properly or at all	National plan in development	No national plan, but actions implemented	No national plan and no action implemented	No response/ not classified	Potential plans from Contracting Parties which did not submit a report
						Ghana, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Malawi, Morocco, Netherlands, Niger, Portugal, , Rwanda, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Syria, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Zimbabwe	Ethiopia, France, Mali, Moldova, Nigeria, North Macedonia	Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Israel, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, Sudan, Tunisia, United Kingdom
GLAREOLIDAE								
Glareola nordmanni (Black-winged Pratincole)	NT (ISSAP)	0	0	0	4 Romania, Ukraine, Tanzania, Uzbekistan,	13 Belarus, Bulgaria, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Rwanda, South Africa, Syria, Togo, Uganda	7 Botswana, Cyprus, Ethiopia, France, Mali, Moldova, Nigeria	8 Burundi, Chad, Gabon, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Mauritania, Sudan
MULTI-SPECIES ACTION PLAN								
Benguela Seabirds (9 species[5])	4 EN, 1 VU, 1 NT, 3 LC (IMSAP)	1 South Africa	0	0	0	0		0

[5] *Haematopus moquini* (African Oystercatcher), *Hydroprogne caspia* (Caspian Tern), *Sternula balaenarum* (Damara Tern), *Thalasseus bergii bergii* (Greater Crested Tern), *Microcarbo coronatus* (Crowned Cormorant), *Phalacrocorax capensis* (Cape Cormorant), *Phalacrocorax neglectus* (Bank Cormorant), *Morus capensis* (Cape Gannet), *Spheniscus demersus* (African Penguin)

Q12. Has your country provided assistance for the coordination and implementation of International Species Action or Management Plans through funding of AEWA International Species Working and Expert Groups? (Resolution 7.5)

Eight Parties (15% of Reporting Parties (RP); 10% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) stated their country had provided assistance for the coordination and implementation of International Species Action or Management Plans through the funding of AEWA International Species Working and Expert groups (Figure 1.18; Table 1.7).

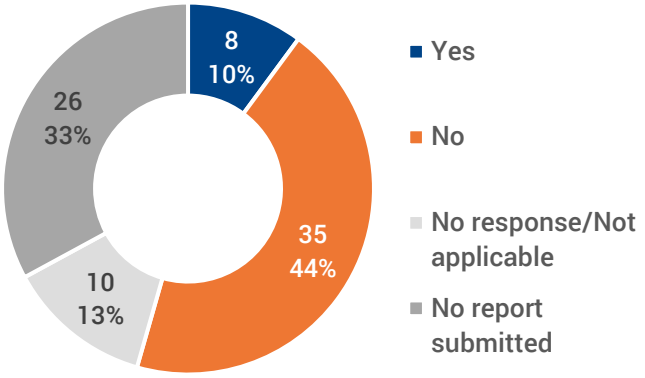


Figure 1.18. Party responses to whether assistance for the coordination and implementation of International Species Action or Management Plans was provided through funding of AEWA International Species Working and Expert Groups.

Table 1.7. Details provided by Parties that provided assistance through funding of AEWA International Species Working and Expert Groups.

Party	Further information
Belgium	Provided financial support of the data centre for the European Goose Management Platform (EGMP) and provided information on relevant parameters, e.g. population counts.
Denmark	Provided funding for the EGMP (40,000 EUR in 2018; 55,785 EUR in 2019; 55,785 EUR in 2020).
Finland	Provided funding for the Lesser White-fronted Goose ISSAP (10,000 EUR annually), the European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG) (25,000-45,000 EUR annually), and provided in-kind support by acting as the Taiga Bean Goose Task Force coordinator.
France	Participates in the EGM IWG, which it supports financially (140,000 EUR from 2013 to 2020). Financed the development of the Adaptive Harvest Management Programme within the Eurasian curlew ISSAP.
Netherlands	The Netherlands funds the coordinator of the International Species Working Group of the Black-tailed Godwit and contributes financially and through in-kind expert knowledge to the EGMP. The Netherlands organised a workshop for the eastern flyway of the Black-tailed Godwit (25th August 2020). As it was an online meeting the funding was reserved for the next meeting.
Norway	Provides annual funding to the EGMP and Lesser White-fronted Goose ISSAP.
South Africa	The Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) hosted the 3rd White-winged Flufftail International Working Group meeting in November 2019, at Verlorenkloof, Dullstroom, Mpumalanga, South Africa. All costs of the workshop and travelling costs of participants from the AEWA Secretariat and Ethiopia were covered by the DEFF.
Sweden	Provided funding to the EGMP (100,000 SEK in 2019; 560,000 SEK in 2020) and actively participated in a number of IWG and Task Forces.

Q13. Has your country provided financial or in-kind assistance for the development of new international Species Action or Management Plans? (Resolution 7.5)

Seven Parties (13% of Reporting Parties (RP); 9% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported having provided financial or in-kind assistance for the development of new International Species Action or Management Plans (Figure 1.19; Table 1.8).

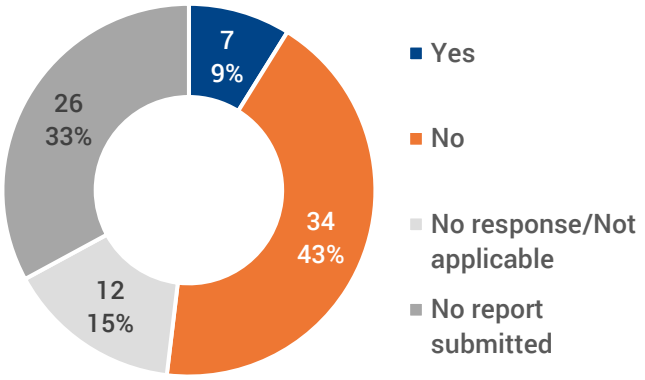


Figure 1.19. Party responses to whether financial or in-kind assistance for the development of new International Species Action or Management Plans were provided.

Table 1.8. Details provided by Parties which responded that financial or in-kind assistance was provided for the development of new International Species Action or Management Plans.

Party	Further information
Albania	Albanian authorities and national NGOs have helped in preparing the International Species Action Plan (species was not specified).
Denmark	Provided in-kind contribution to the development of an ISSAP for the Common Eider. The Danish Environmental Protection Agency financed the participation of a Danish expert in the drafting group.
Finland	Funded the development of an ISSAP for the Common Eider (120,000 EUR; of which 60,000 EUR was provided by the regional Government of Åland and 60,000 EUR by Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry).
France	Financially supported the drafting of the Greylag Goose ISMP piloted by the French NGO Oiseaux Migrateurs du Paléarctique Occidental (OMPO) (60,000 EUR provided equally by the National Hunters' Federation, the François Sommer Foundation and the French Ministry for Ecological and Inclusive Transition).
Iceland	No further information provided.
Romania	No further information provided.
Sweden	Actively participated in drafting an ISSAP for the Common Eider.

Q14. Has a review and prioritization been undertaken in your country of the resources needed to develop national action plans in response to ISSAPs, implement those plans and coordinate their implementation? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 1.2(g))

Seven Parties (13% of Reporting Parties (RP); 9% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) stated that a review and prioritisation of resources required for the development, coordination and implementation of Species Action Plans had been undertaken (Action 1.2(g) of the AEWA Strategic Plan, 2019-2027). Of the Parties which reported that a review and prioritisation of resources had been undertaken, four Parties (Belarus, France, Slovakia, Switzerland) confirmed that a corresponding national resource mobilisation plan had been established while three Parties (Croatia, Norway, Zimbabwe) stated that no mobilisation plan was in place (Figure 1.20).

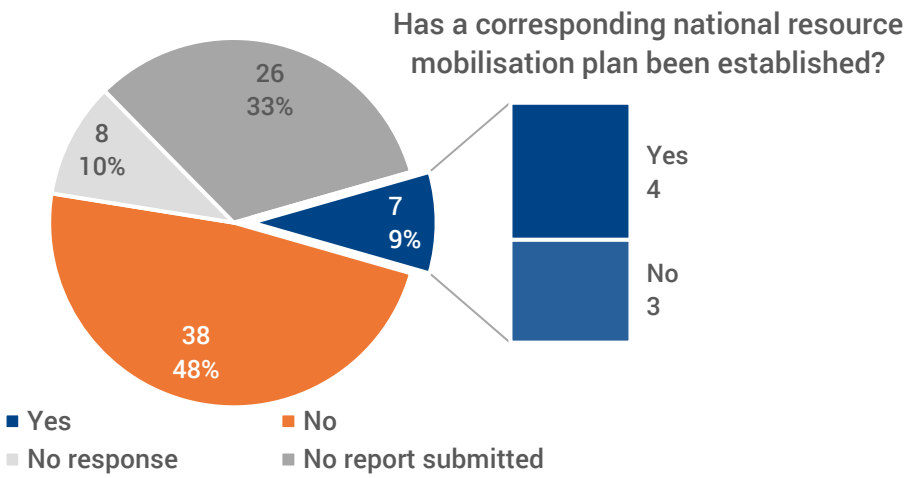


Figure 1.20. Party responses to whether a review and prioritisation of resources needed to develop national action plans in response to ISSAPs has been undertaken, and for Parties which had, responses whether a corresponding national resource mobilisation plan has been established.

Parties that had not undertaken a review and prioritisation of the resources needed to develop national action plans in response to ISSAPs were asked to provide details, summarised in Figure 1.21. Ten Parties cited a lack of resources, and four Parties (Morocco, Sweden, Syria, Tanzania) noted that this action was currently in development. Three Parties (Belgium, Czech Republic, Italy) did not consider the implementation of International Single Species Action Plans a priority; for example, Belgium stated that the protection of Annex I species in the EU Birds Directive was considered a priority, however noted that some of these species overlapped with AEWA ISSAP species. The Netherlands and Slovenia noted that this action was being achieved through the implementation of Natura 2000 management plans, and Latvia and Niger stated that prioritisation exercises are carried out across all bird species and habitats rather than in response to ISSAPs specifically.

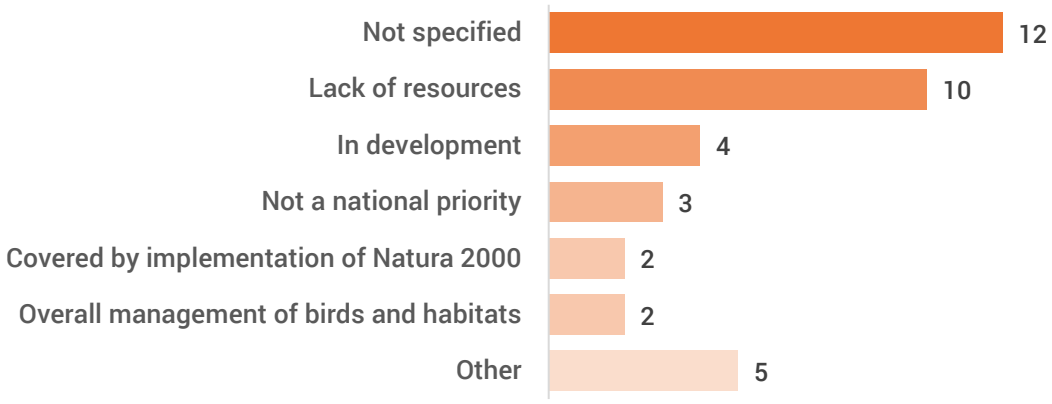


Figure 1.21. Reasons provided by Parties which had not carried out a review and prioritisation of resources needed to develop national action plans in response to ISSAPs.

Q15. 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)

Twelve Parties (23% of Reporting Parties (RP); 15% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that they have in place or are developing NSSAPs for 28 species that are not yet covered by an AEWA ISSAP (Figure 1.22). Ten of these Parties provided details of the species and the stage of development of the NSSAP, totalling 33 potential NSSAPs (Table 1.9); Denmark, Senegal and South Africa did not provide further details. Sixteen NSSAPs were in place and being implemented and 17 were in development, of which 15 NSSAPs were reported by Bulgaria as part of a Multispecies Action Plan for Colonial Breeding Waterbirds.

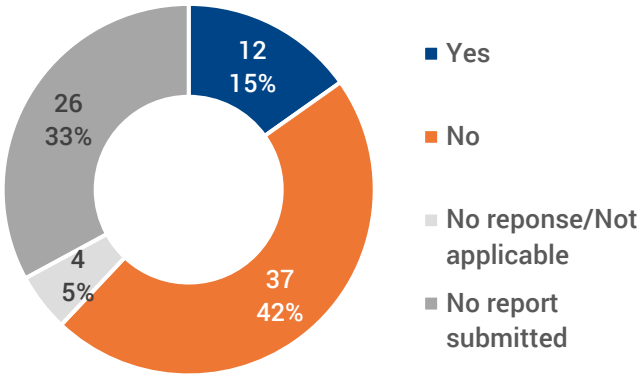


Figure 1.22. Party responses to whether a National Single Species Action Plan was in place or in development.

Table 1.9. Status of NSSAPs for species that are not (yet) covered by ISSAPs. †LC = Least Concern, NT = Near Threatened, VU = Vulnerable, EN = Endangered.

Species	IUCN Red List Category†	NSSAP in place and being implemented	NSSAP in development
ANATIDAE			
Mergellus albellus	LC	Belarus	
Marmaronetta angustirostris	VU	Spain	
CICONIIDAE			
Ciconia nigra	LC	Estonia, Ukraine	
Ciconia ciconia	LC	Switzerland	
THRESKIORNITHIDAE			
Plegadis falcinellus	LC		Bulgaria
ARDEIDAE			
Botaurus stellaris	LC	Belgium, Belarus, Bulgaria, France	
Nycticorax nycticorax	LC		Bulgaria
Ardeola ralloides	LC		Bulgaria
Ardea purpurea	LC		Bulgaria
Ardea alba	LC		Bulgaria
Egretta garzetta	LC		Bulgaria
PHALACROCORACIDAE			
Microcarbo pygmaeus	LC	Bulgaria	
RECURVIROSTRIDAE			
Recurvirostra avosetta	LC		Bulgaria
CHARADRIIAE			
Charadrius alexandrinus	LC	Sweden	
SCOLOPACIDAE			
Calidris pugnax	LC	Sweden	
Calidris alpina	LC	Estonia, Sweden	
Actitis hypoleucos	LC	Switzerland	
GLAREOLIDAE			
Glareola pratincola	LC		Bulgaria

Species	IUCN Red List Category†	NSSAP in place and being implemented	NSSAP in development
LARIDAE			
Larus melanocephalus	LC		Bulgaria
Larus fuscus	LC		Belgium
Larus argentatus	LC		Belgium
Sternula albifrons	LC		Bulgaria
Gelochelidon nilotica	LC		Bulgaria
Hydroprogne caspia	LC	Sweden	
Chlidonias hybrida	LC		Bulgaria
Chlidonias niger	LC		Bulgaria
Sterna hirundo	LC		Bulgaria
Thalasseus sandvicensis	LC		Bulgaria

Emergency Measures

Q17. 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).

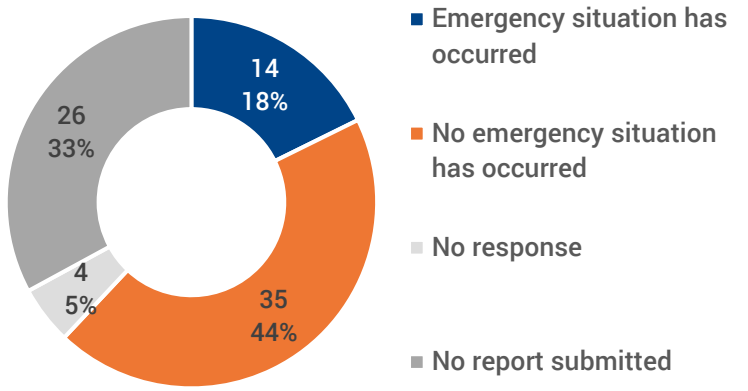


Figure 1.23. Party responses as to whether an emergency situation that threatened waterbirds has occurred over the past triennium.

Fourteen Parties (26% of Reporting Parties (RP); 18% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that at least one emergency situation had occurred within the last triennium which threatened waterbirds (Figure 1.23); nine of these Parties provided further details (Table 1.10). Thirty-five Parties (66% of RP; 44% of CP) reported no emergency situation occurring in the past triennium.

Six categories of emergency situation were reported: extreme weather, infectious disease, oil spill, botulism, war, and other emergency situations. (Figure 1.24). Within the 'Other emergency' category, Parties reported a pylon collision (Jordan), a die-off event thought to be a result of lack of food availability due to a combination of factors such as climate change, overfishing, and algal blooms (Norway), or did not provide details on the nature of the emergency (Eswatini). Four Parties (Cyprus, Mali, Romania, Ukraine) did not specify the type of emergency situation that had occurred.

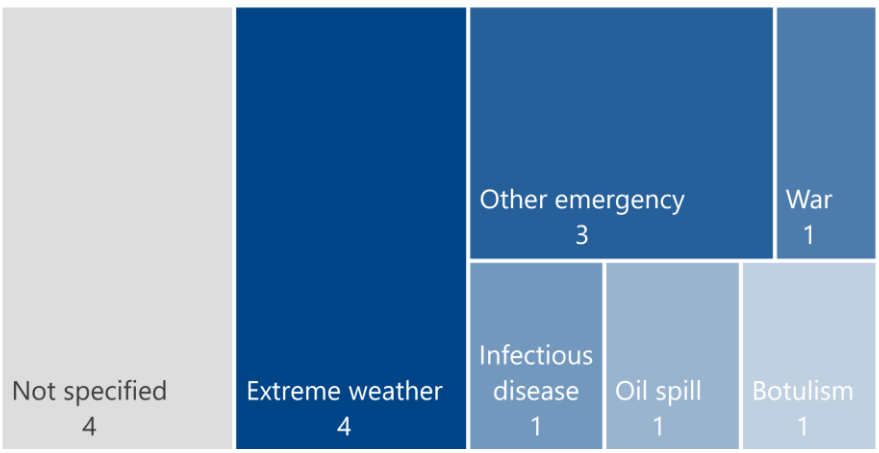


Figure 1.24. Type of emergencies reported by the 15 Parties which confirmed that one or more emergency situations had occurred over the past triennium.

Table 1.10. Types and further details of emergency situations reported and an indication of whether emergency measures were implemented ('-' = not specified). Responses falling outside the reporting period were excluded.

Emergency situation	No. of Parties (% of RP)	Party	Nature of situation and when it occurred	Where the situation occurred	Species affected	Estimated magnitude	Implementation of emergency measures
Botulism	1 (2%)	Italy	September–October 2019	260 hectares of Madriole Valley – Po Delta Park	*Anas crecca, Anas platyrhynchos, Fulica atra, Gallinago gallinago, Gallinula chloropus, Mareca strepera, Recurvirostra avosetta, Somateria mollissima, Spatula clypeata, Tringa erythropus*	Over 2100 individuals died	Yes
Extreme weather	4 (8%)	Albania	Heavy rain in 2018 and hail in 2019	Divjaka-Karavasta National Park	*Pelecanus crispus*	Reduced breeding success	-
		Rwanda	Flooding in 2019	Akagera Wetland and Nyabarongo Wetland	*Balearica regulorum*	8 individuals affected, only eggs suffered mortality	Yes
		Uzbekistan	Cold winter 2020–2021	Throughout the country (with the exception of southern regions)	-	Most of the wetlands where waterbirds were wintering covered with ice from second half of December to second half of January	No
		Zimbabwe	Cyclone Idai of 2019	Eastern to Southeast Lowveld	*Balearica regulorum, Bugeranus carunculatus*	No comprehensive assessment was carried out to determine number affected and no records for mortality	No
Infectious disease	1 (2%)	South Africa	Avian influenza (H5N8) outbreak in 2018	Malgas Island and Cape Town (including Robben Island)	*Alopochen aegyptiaca, Phalacrocorax capensis, Podiceps cristatus, Spheniscus demersus, Sterna hirundo, Threskiornis aethiopicus, Thalasseus bergii, Thalasseus sandvicensis, and other duck species*	Mortality per species: >100 *Alopochen aegyptiaca,* >100 *Podiceps cristatus,* >100 *Thalasseus bergii* Further mortalities reported for *Phalacrocorax capensis, Spheniscus demersus, Sterna hirundo, Thalasseus sandvicensis, and Threskiornis aethiopicus*	No

Emergency situation	No. of Parties (% of RP)	Party	Nature of situation and when it occurred	Where the situation occurred	Species affected	Estimated magnitude	Implementation of emergency measures
Oil spill	1 (2%)	South Africa	Oil spill in 2019	Algoa Bay, Port Elizabeth	*Spheniscus demersus*, *Morus capensis, Phalacrocorax capensis* and other seabirds	Individuals per species found oiled: 90 *Spheniscus demersus*, 12 *Morus capensis*, 4 *Phalacrocorax capensis*. More affected birds may not have been found. All oiled birds were taken to a rehabilitation facility for treatment	Yes
War	1 (2%)	Central African Republic	Ongoing civil war	Wetlands frequented by large populations of waterbirds in the North and North-East prefectures	*Pelecanus onocrotalus*	Number of individuals affected not determined	No
Other	2 (4%)	Jordan	Pylon collision resulting in electrocution in Autumn 2020	Northwest Jordan at Al-Ikaider Landfill	*Ciconia ciconia*	Approximately 150 *Ciconia ciconia* died, of over 1000 individuals affected	Yes
		Norway	Die-off event, Spring 2020	Skagerak coastline (to the south)	*Somateria mollissima*	An estimated 1000 *Somateria mollissima* died, of 20,000 individuals affected	Yes

Q18. 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 the future in emergency cases?

Six Parties (11% of Reporting Parties (RP); 8% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported additional emergency response measures that have been developed and are available for use in future emergencies (Figure 1.25). These measures are summarised in Table 1.11; Central African Republic, Senegal and Algeria did not provide any details of their additional emergency response measures. Responses to emergency situations include the use of national legislation and regional instruments (e.g. EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species) and on the ground responses such as monitoring and encouraging citizens and other groups to report issues to prevent emergencies.

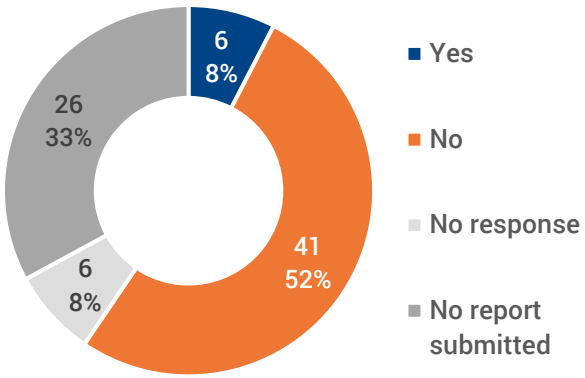


Figure 1.25. Proportion of Parties that have established other emergency response measures to emergency situations that could be detrimental to waterbird species.

Table 1.11. Reporting Parties that have specified established emergency response measures to emergency situations that could be detrimental to waterbird species.

Party	Emergency situation
Netherlands	Algal blooms, Alien species, Avian influenza, Botulism, Extreme weather, Infectious disease, Oil spills
Norway	Oil spills
Ukraine	Chemical pollution

Seabirds

In relation to seabirds, Parties were asked ten questions to assess their efforts on seabird species conservation. The questions applied only to the 24 respondents that reported having maritime territories and in which the AEWA seabird conservation priorities are relevant (Figure 1.26). Questions provided insights into topics such as seabird by-catch, hunting and egg harvesting, invasive non-native species, oil spills and wind farms. Additional work is required towards establishing robust data and understanding for many of these subjects.

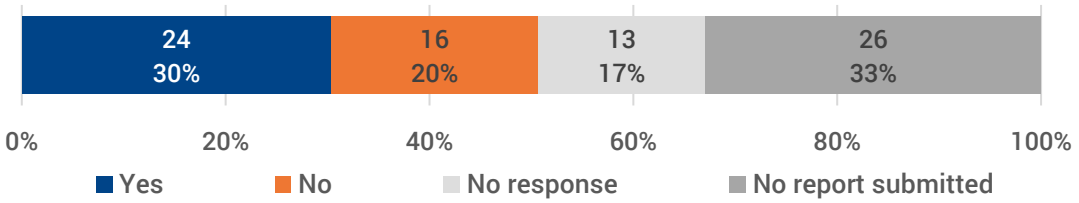


Figure 1.26. Number of Parties reporting maritime territories and in which the AEWA seabird conservation priorities are relevant for the country.

Q29. Does your country have comprehensive data on seabird by-catch? (Resolution 7.6)

Three Parties ((Iceland, Netherlands, South Africa; 12% of reporting applicable Parties - from herein referred to as "RAP") reported that they had comprehensive data on seabird by-catch (Figure 1.27). Nine Parties (Croatia, Denmark, France, Georgia, Latvia, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden; 38% of RAP) confirmed partial data on seabird by-catch. Among the 12 Parties without by-catch data, this was predominantly due to a lack of monitoring schemes and limited data available from fishing professionals (Figure 1.28). Belgium noted that the risk of seabird by-catch was low due to the gear types used (specifically trawling), whilst Italy described training sessions aimed at providing fishing professionals with improved species identification and data recording abilities.

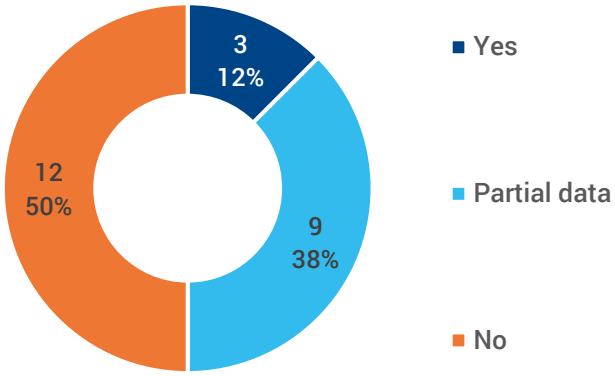


Figure 1.27. Number and proportion of reporting applicable Parties that have comprehensive data on seabird by-catch.

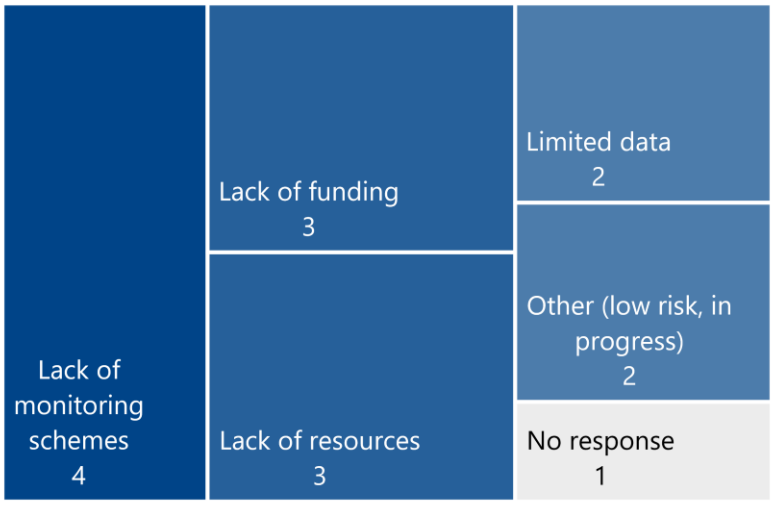


Figure 1.28. Explanations provided by reporting applicable Parties as to why they do not have comprehensive data on seabird by-catch (Note: Parties may have provided more than one answer).

Q30. Have you assessed the impact of by-catch by artisanal fisheries to AEWA-listed seabirds? (Resolution 7.6)

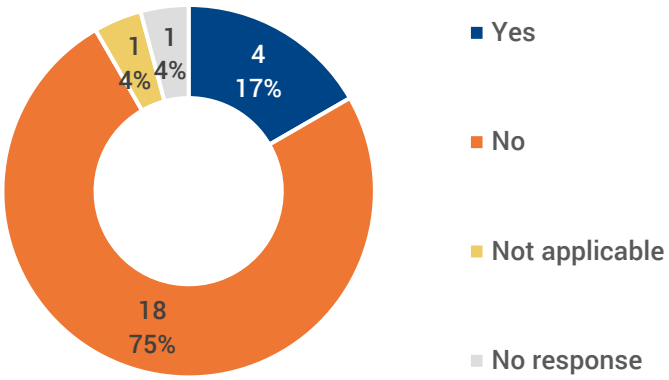


Figure 1.29. Number and proportion of reporting applicable Parties that assessed the impact of by-catch by artisanal fisheries to AEWA-listed seabirds.

Four Parties (France, Netherlands, Slovenia, South Africa; 17% of reporting applicable Parties (RAP)) confirmed that the impact of by-catch by artisanal fisheries to AEWA-listed seabirds had been assessed (Figure 1.29), with Slovenia reporting interactions between artisanal fisheries and the European Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*), and France noting that while there is no formal assessment, observations and data are collected as part of general monitoring of ocean catches. One party (Norway) selected 'Not applicable' due to the

absence of artisanal fisheries within their country. Of the 18 Parties (75% of RAP) that had not assessed the impact of by-catch by artisanal fisheries to AEWA-listed seabirds, the most predominant explanations were lack of funding or resources, and/or limited data and lack of monitoring. One Party noted that this was in progress (Italy), and another (Belgium) considered that this was low risk and thus not a priority.

Q31. Have you assessed the impact of artisanal/recreational fisheries on seabirds' prey? (Resolution 7.6)

Two Parties (Netherlands and Slovenia; 8% of reporting applicable Parties (RAP)) reported that the impact of artisanal/recreational fisheries on seabirds' prey had been, or is currently being, assessed (Slovenia's assessment is ongoing with results available in 2021) (Figure 1.30). Lack of funding and resources were the primary reasons cited by the 16 Parties (67% of RAP) that had not assessed the impact of artisanal/recreational fisheries on seabird's prey (Figure 1.31), however Croatia and Romania both noted plans to begin assessments in the next EU financial period. Belgium and Sweden cited that catches by recreational fisheries most likely did not account for large proportions of seabirds' prey. Of the two Parties that reported 'Not applicable', Norway cited a lack of artisanal fisheries and South Africa did not provide an explanation.

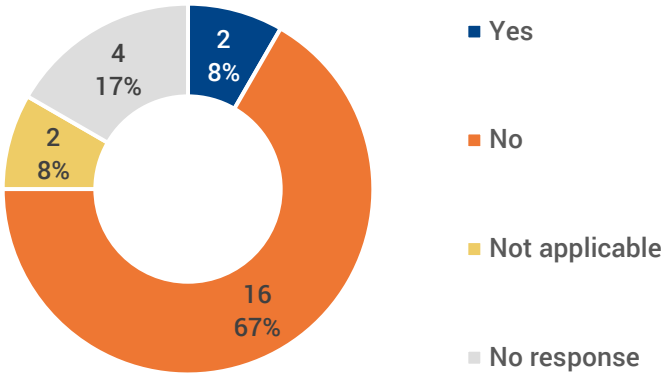


Figure 1.30. Number and proportion of reporting applicable Parties that assessed the impact of artisanal/recreational fisheries on seabirds' prey.

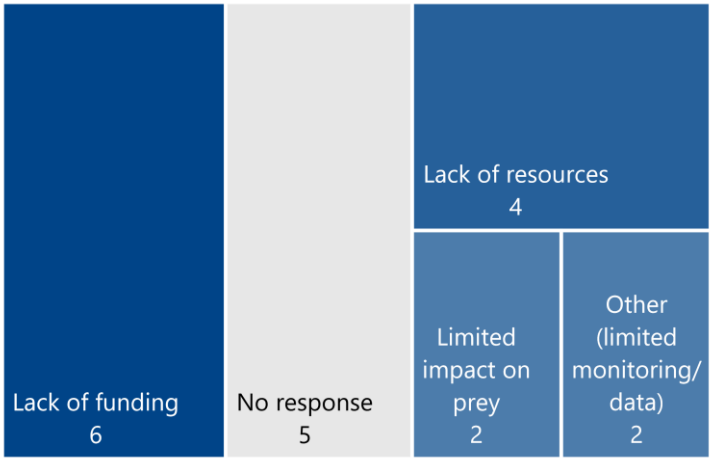


Figure 1.31. Explanations provided by reporting applicable Parties as to why they have not assessed the impact of artisanal/recreational fisheries on seabirds' prey (Note: Parties may have provided more than one answer).

Q32. 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)

Thirteen Parties (54% of reporting applicable Parties (RAP)) confirmed they had taken 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 (Figure 1.32). Steps taken by the Parties included improved fishing practices, restrictions on the use of gillnets, research to uncover areas of conflict and updated legislation and/or Management plans. Of the seven Parties (Albania, Belgium, Croatia, Kenya, Lebanon, Sweden) that had not taken steps to reduce by-catch of seabirds and combat IUU fishing practices in the Agreement Area, the most predominant explanations were lack of funding, expertise, and resources (Figure 1.33).

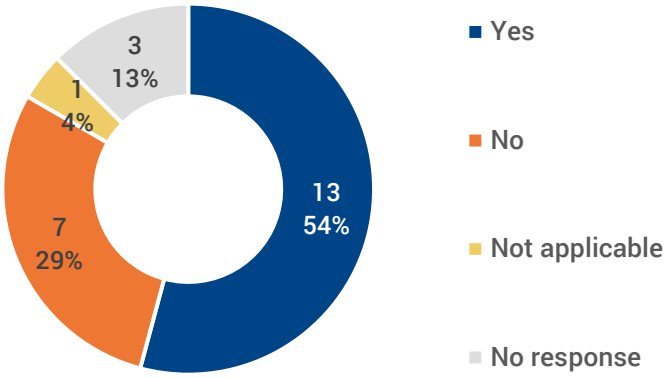


Figure 1.32. Number and proportion of reporting applicable Parties that have undertaken steps to reduce the incidental catch of seabirds and combat IUU fishing practices in the Agreement Area.

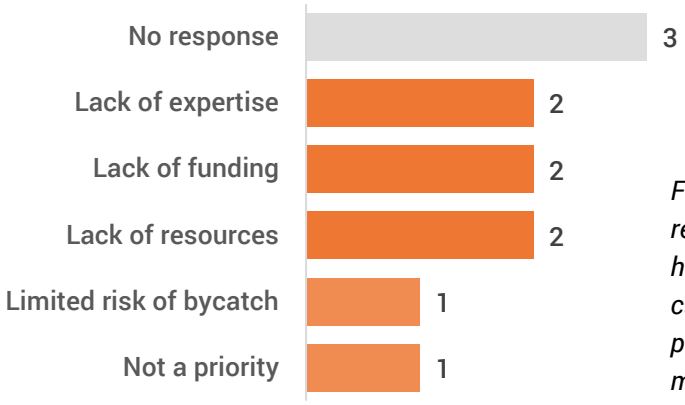


Figure 1.33. Explanations provided by reporting applicable Parties as to why they have not taken steps to reduce the incidental catch of seabirds and combat IUU fishing practices in the Agreement Area (Note: Parties may have provided more than one answer).

Q33. Does your country have comprehensive data on hunting and egg harvesting (both legal and illegal) of AEWA-listed seabirds? (Resolution 7.6)

Three Parties (Denmark, Estonia, Norway; 13% of reporting applicable Parties (RAP)) reported that they had comprehensive data on hunting and egg harvesting (both legal and illegal) on AEWA-listed seabirds (Figure 1.34), whilst four Parties (Finland, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden; 17% of RAP) confirmed that they had partial data on the topic. For the 13 Parties that did not have data, an absence of hunting/egg harvesting was the main reason given, with over two-thirds noting that hunting and egg harvesting on AEWA-listed

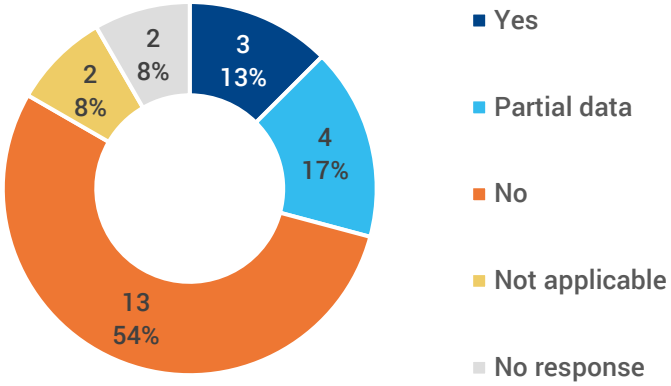


Figure 1.34. Number and proportion of reporting applicable Parties that have data on hunting and egg harvesting (both legal and illegal) of AEWA-listed seabirds.

seabirds was illegal in their country[6]. Other reasons included lack of funding and limited resources, along with limited expertise in this area.

Q34. Have you assessed the impact of hunting and egg harvesting (both legal and illegal) on AEWA-listed seabirds? (Resolution 7.6)

Four Parties (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Sweden; 17% of reporting applicable Parties (RAP)) confirmed they had assessed the impact of hunting and egg harvesting (both legal and illegal) on AEWA-listed seabirds (Figure 1.35), with Sweden noting an in-depth analysis for two AEWA-listed seabirds, Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) and Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*). Of the 14 Parties that had not assessed the impact of hunting and egg harvesting on AEWA-listed seabirds, the absence of hunting/egg harvesting was the main reason given, with over two-thirds[6] noting that hunting and egg harvesting on AEWA-listed seabirds was illegal in their country. Other reasons included a lack of funding and/or resources, as well as the absence of hunting/egg harvesting, and limited expertise carrying out such an assessment.

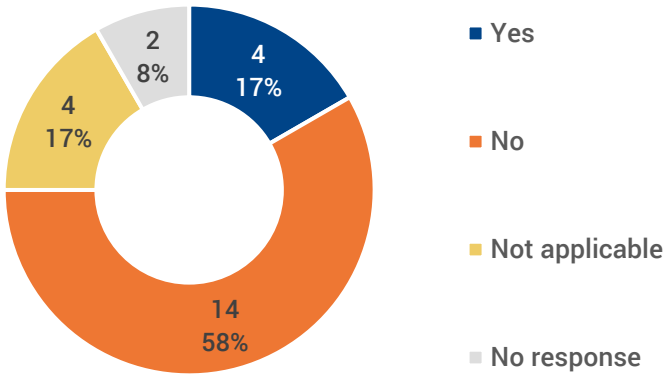


Figure 1.35. Number and proportion of reporting applicable Parties that have assessed the impact of hunting and egg harvesting on AEWA-listed seabirds.

Q35. Have you identified those seabird colonies at risk from invasive non-native species? (Resolution 7.6)

Five Parties (Belgium, Croatia, Finland, Italy, South Africa; 21% of reporting applicable Parties (RAP)) reported identifying those seabird colonies at risk from invasive non-native species (Figure 1.36). Four of these Parties confirmed prioritising these colonies for action, with the exception of Belgium, who noted that all seabird colonies are considered a priority and assessed for risk continuously due

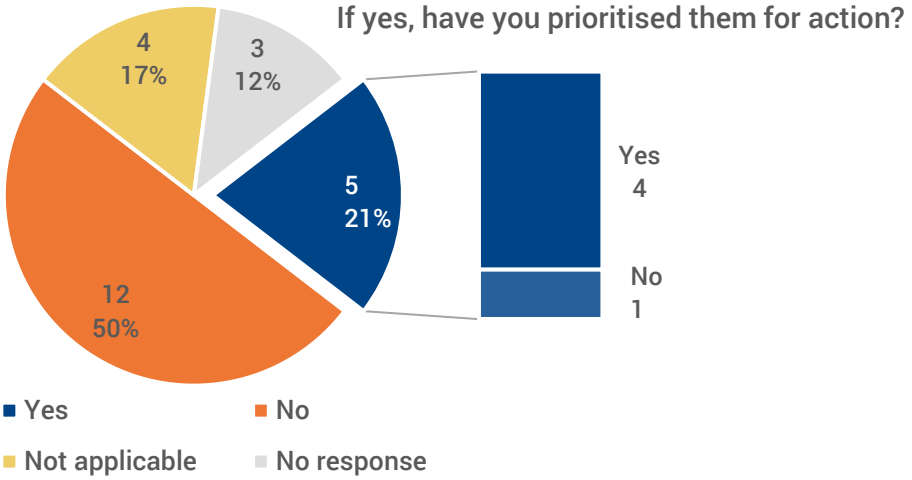


Figure 1.36. Number and proportion of reporting applicable Parties that have identified those seabird colonies at risk from invasive non-native species, and, if so, the number of Parties that have prioritised those colonies for action.

[6] Note: those Parties that selected 'Not applicable' to Q33 or Q34 because hunting and/or egg harvesting on AEWA-listed species was illegal in their country have been treated as 'No' for the purpose of this analysis.

to the low overall number of colonies. For the 12 Parties that had not identified those seabird colonies at risk from invasive non-native species, the predominant explanation was limited risk to colonies, as well as lack of funding and resources. Parties that selected 'Not applicable' noted the absence of such seabird colonies.

Q36. Have you identified the key coastal and at-sea areas where responses to oil spills would be most urgently required in relation to the presence of AEWA-listed seabirds? (Resolution 7.6)

Nine Parties (Estonia, Finland, Lebanon, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, South Africa; 37% of reporting applicable Parties (RAP)) confirmed identification of key coastal and at-sea areas where responses to oil spills would be most urgently required in relation to the presence of AEWA-listed seabirds (Figure 1.37). All nine Parties also reported that AEWA seabirds and seabird sites were adequately represented within existing oil spill response plans (Figure 1.37). Those Parties that had not yet identified key coastal and at-sea areas typically cited a lack of funding and/or resources, in addition to a low risk of oil spills (Figure 1.38). One Party (Latvia) selected 'Not applicable' as they considered that this would affect all territories.

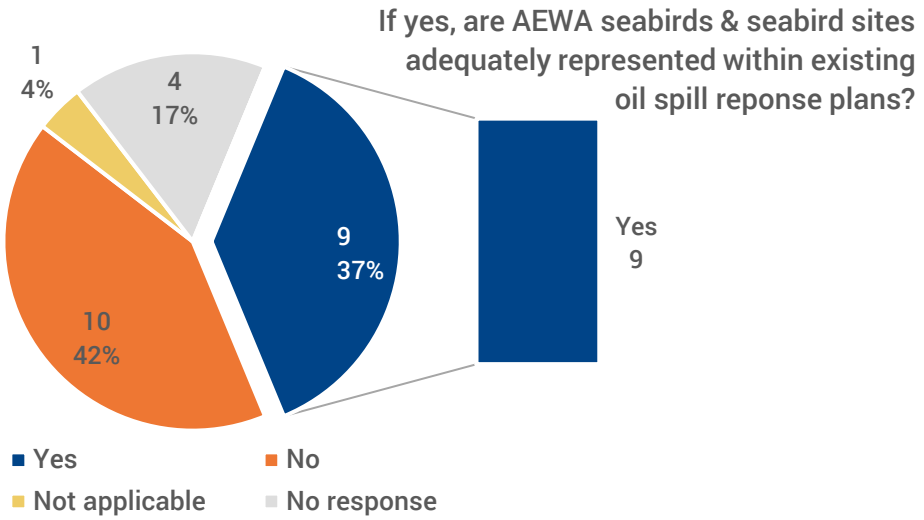


Figure 1.37. Number and proportion of reporting applicable Parties that have identified key coastal and at-sea areas where responses to oil spills would be most urgently required in relation to the presence of AEWA-listed seabirds, and, if so, the number of Parties that have adequately represented AEWA seabirds and seabird sites within existing oil spill response plans

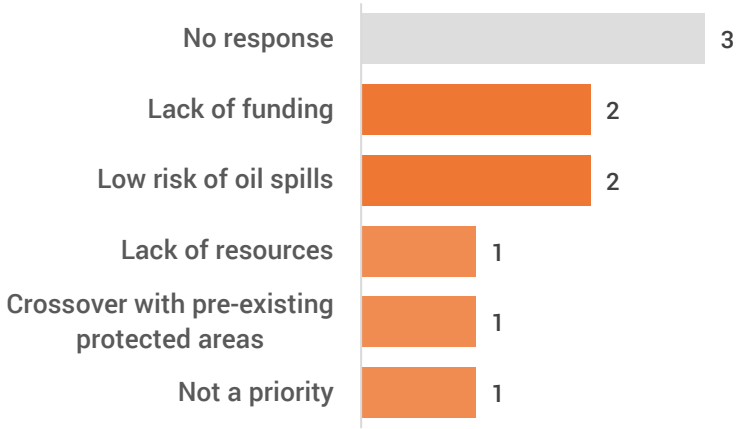


Figure 1.38. Explanations provided by reporting applicable Parties as to why they have not identified key coastal and at-sea areas where responses to oil spills would be most urgently required in relation to the presence of AEWA-listed seabirds (Note: Parties may have provided more than one answer)

Q37. (Applicable only to countries bordering the North or Baltic Sea) Has your country undertaken a program of data-collection to validate models of population level impacts of offshore windfarms in the North and Baltic Seas on AEWA seabirds? (Resolution 7.6)

Of the 24 respondents which reported this section on seabirds as relevant, nine Parties also border the North or Baltic Sea (Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden). Three of these Parties (Belgium, Netherlands, Norway) reported that they had undertaken a program of data-collection to validate models of population level impacts of offshore windfarms on AEWA seabirds (Figure 1.39). Norway noted that whilst no offshore windfarms currently exist in domestic waters, data is continuously collected to allow for mapping and impact analysis. Over half of the responding Parties bordering the North or Baltic Sea did not have a program of data-collection, explaining that instead impact at each site was evaluated prior to construction, or that only onshore windfarms had been assessed, or that the absence of offshore windfarms removed the need for a program of data collection.

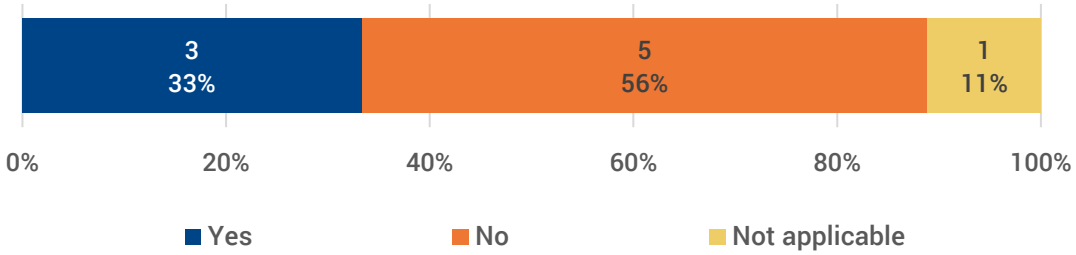


Figure 1.39. Number and proportion of reporting applicable Parties bordering the North or Baltic Sea that have collected data to validate models of population level impacts of offshore windfarms on AEWA seabirds

Q38. Have you identified priority sites by filling gaps in the Critical Site Network for seabirds (breeding, non-breeding, pelagic and coastal areas)? (Resolution 7.6)

Four Parties (Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Romania; 17% of reporting applicable Parties (RAP)) confirmed the full identification of priority sites by filling gaps in the Critical Site Network for seabirds, with Latvia and Netherlands noting the inclusion and/or future designation of sites within the Natura 2000 network, and three Parties (Estonia, Finland, France) responded that they had partially identified priority sites (Figure 1.40). Of the seven Parties that had not carried out any identification, the explanations cited were lack of funding (Albania, Georgia), lack of resources (Croatia, Sweden), and that this will be considered in future (Morocco); Egypt and Togo did not provide any explanation. Three Parties (Belgium, Slovenia, South Africa) selected 'Not applicable', with Slovenia reporting that thresholds for the Critical Site Network for seabirds had not been achieved within their country, and Belgium noting that priority sites had been previously identified, while South Africa did not provide a reason.

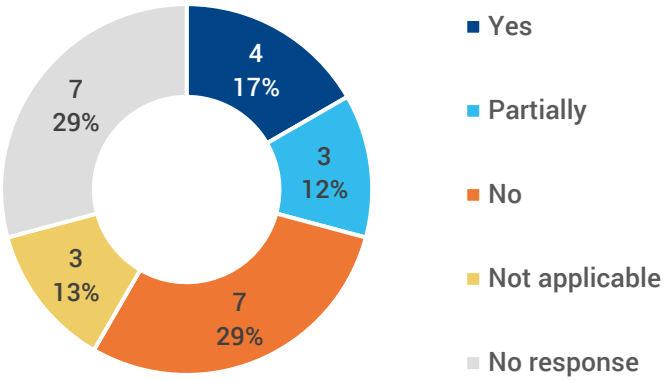


Figure 1.40. Number and proportion of reporting applicable Parties that have identified priority sites by filling gaps in the Critical Site Network for seabirds

Black-tailed Godwit/ *Limosa limosa*/ AGAMI/ Adobe Stock

II. RE-ESTABLISHMENTS

Parties were asked about any waterbird re-establishment projects in their country, as well as how such projects are regulated. Details of ongoing re-establishment projects are provided based on information provided by the Party, as well as additional research where sources were available. In general, relatively few Parties have or are considering re-establishment projects.

Q20. 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)

Eleven Parties (21% of Reporting Parties (RP); 14% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) stated that a national register of re-establishment projects is maintained (Figure 2.1). Details of national registers are summarised in Table 2.1.

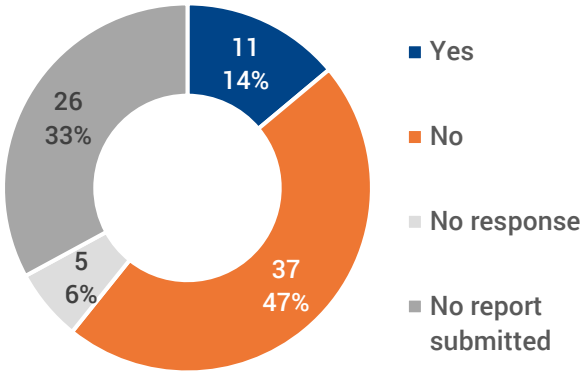


Figure 2.1. Proportion of Parties with a national register of re-establishment projects.

Table 2.1. Summary of Parties that confirmed they currently maintain or plan to maintain a national register of re-establishment projects.

Party	Details of the register
Belgium	In Flanders, re-introductions must request a derogation from the regional legislation, with projects listed in a register of derogations. In Wallonia, reintroductions are prohibited according to Article 5 of the Nature Conservation Law. In Flanders, Wallonia, the Brussels region and the Belgian part of the North Sea, no re-introduction projects have taken place.
Czech Republic	A register is managed by the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection, a state body under the Ministry of Environment.
Eswatini	Included in the Species Data List
France	The documents are filed in the archives.
Netherlands	Re-establishment projects from 1908–2008 are publicly available: https://www.clo.nl/indicatoren/nl147404-inleiding-herintroductie-soorten
Portugal	-
Romania	-
Slovenia	A register of permits is maintained for the holding and transport of protected wild animal species, and the reasons for it. This includes AEWA species.
South Africa	Partially implemented, with a register maintained under the Biodiversity Management Plan for the African penguin.
Uzbekistan	-
Zimbabwe	Current and planned re-establishment projects are recorded at the district level.

Thirty-seven Parties (70% of Reporting Parties (RP); 47% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) stated they do not have an existing or planned national register for re-establishment projects. Approximately half of these Parties specified there were no re-establishment projects currently being implemented (Figure 2.2). Three Parties (Georgia, Serbia and Syria) noted a lack of resources to implement a

national register, while two Parties commented that a re-establishments register was not considered a national priority (Egypt and Spain). Other reasons included Sweden noting that while there is no national register, the country's only reintroduction project (Swedish Stork Project) maintains its own register. Italy stated that while no formal national register exists, documents relating to re-establishment programs are hosted by the Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA).

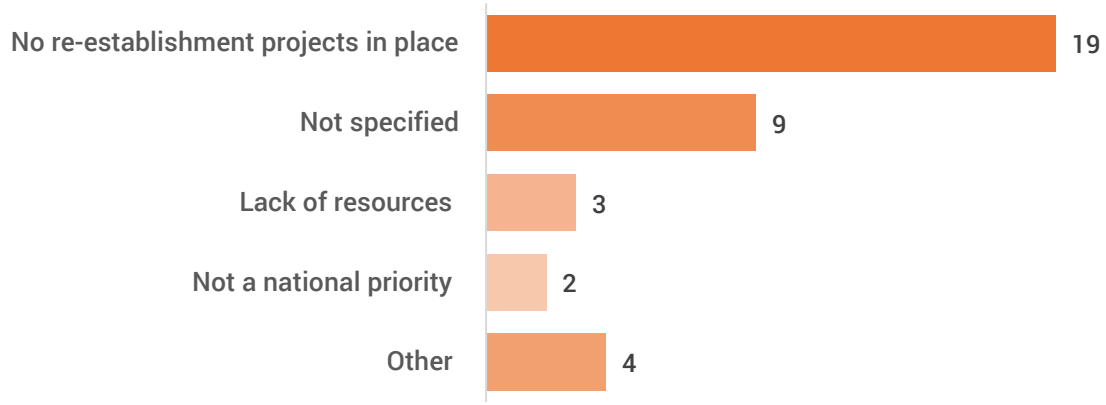


Figure 2.2. Reasons provided by Parties which did not maintain a national register of re-establishment projects.

Q21. Is there a regulatory framework for re-establishments of species, including waterbirds, in your country (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.4)?

Twenty-three Parties stated that a full regulatory framework was in place for the re-establishment of species, including waterbirds (43% of Reporting Parties (RP); 29% of all Contracting Parties (CP)), and a further eight Parties (15% of RP; 10% of CP) reported partial implementation of a regulatory framework (Figure 2.3). Details of the regulatory frameworks are summarised in Table 2.2.

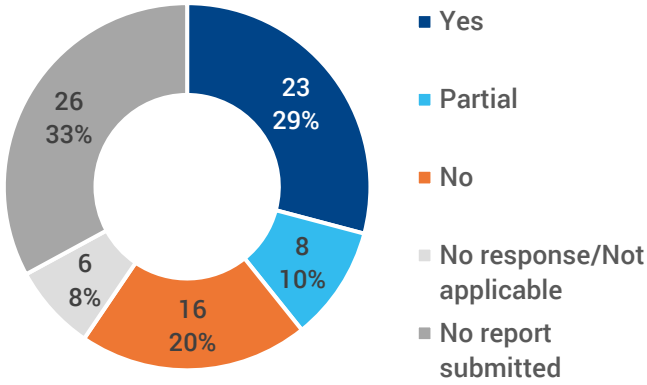


Figure 2.3. Proportion of Parties with a regulatory framework for the re-establishment of species, including waterbirds.

Of the sixteen Parties which reported that a full regulatory framework was *not* in place (30% of RP; 20% of CP), three Parties (Cyprus, Ghana, Zimbabwe) noted a lack of re-establishment projects in the country, and three Parties (Bulgaria, Nigeria, Uganda) reported that the re-establishment of species was not necessary. A further three Parties (Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Rwanda) noted that while they did not have a specific regulatory framework for the re-establishment of species, some instruments relating to re-establishments were present in existing wildlife legislation. For example, Rwanda noted that the Biodiversity and Wildlife Law (in draft) would provide regulatory instruments relating to re-establishment projects. Albania reported that a regulatory framework was in development. Serbia stated there was a lack of resources to implement a regulatory framework. Algeria reported the re-establishment of Marbled Teal (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*) and Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*) in some hunting centres. Four Parties (Ethiopia, Georgia, Iceland, Jordan) did not provide further details on the lack of a regulatory framework.

Table 2.2. Summary of Reporting Parties which reported the existence of a regulatory framework for the re-establishment of species. Fully implemented frameworks in normal text, partially implemented frameworks italicised; '-' denotes where further details were not provided.

Party	Details of fully or partially implemented regulatory framework
Belgium	In Flanders, the Decree of Flemish Government concerning species protection and species management regulates the re-establishment of species in the wild. In Wallonia, Article 5 of the Law on Nature Conservation forbids the reintroduction of any indigenous species into the wild, but exceptions may be provided through a derogation system. In Brussels, the Order concerning Nature Conservation (1/3/2012) regulates the re-establishment of species in the wild. In the Belgian part of the North Sea, a Royal Decree concerning species protection in maritime regions under the jurisdiction of Belgium dated 21/12/2001 regulates the re-establishment of species in the wild.
Belarus	-
Croatia	Re-introduction of extinct wild species and repopulation of wild species is regulated under the Nature Protection Act (OG 80/13, 15/18, 14/19 and 127/19) and Ordinance on the methodology of preparing and implementing risk assessment studies with respect to introduction, reintroduction and breeding of wild taxa (OG 34/08). Provisions related to re-introduction and re-population of wild species are in force since 2005 and were a part of the former Nature Protection Act (OG 70/05, 139/08, 57/11).
Czech Republic	Guidelines for preparation of action plans for threatened plant and animal species were published by the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection in 2002.
Denmark	-
Estonia	Framework of principles is defined in the Nature Conservation Act, mainly in §58: Introduction to and removal from wild of native species.
Eswatini	The country has a species reintroduction plan.
Finland	Covered under national legislation.
France	In 2010, the Grenelle II law incorporated "national action plans for the conservation or recovery of the species referred to in Articles L. 411-1 and L. 411-2 of the Environment Code as well as species of pollinating insects" into the Environment Code.
Italy	*Re-establishment projects of species listed in Annex IV of the Habitats Directive must be authorised by Regional Administrations, however authorisation is not required for the re-establishment of birds*
Kenya	The Wildlife Conservation and Management Act has a regulation for the rehabilitation of habitats and the re-establishment of species.
Latvia	Species and Habitats Protection Law (2000); Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 1165 (2010): Procedures for Issuing Permits for Acquiring Individuals of Non-Game Species, for Introducing Wild Species Uncharacteristic to the Nature of Latvia (Introduction), and Restoring Populations of Species in the Nature (Re-Introduction).
Lebanon	Article 4 of Lebanon's Hunting Law (580/ 2004) allows the establishment of rearing centres for the purpose of raising wild animals and birds that are local or migrants, particularly globally threatened species, with the aim to release them back into the wild.
Mali	Law 95-031 (1995) sets the conditions for the management of wild fauna and its habitat. The DNEF, the National Focal Points (AEWA, CMS, Ramsar, CBD, and the Coordinator of the Plan of Action and Management of wetlands) and NGOs will consider together how to develop a recovery register.
Moldova	*Specific measures for the re-establishment of species are outlined in the "Law on Animal Kingdom"*

Party	Details of fully or partially implemented regulatory framework
Morocco	*Introductions and reintroductions of wild fauna and flora, including birds, are subject to obtaining a permit and a scientific assessment of project feasibility*
Netherlands	The release of animals in the wild is prohibited under the Nature Conservation Act. The Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality may grant an exemption for the release, breeding or catching and translocation of protected animals. Reintroductions are carried out in accordance with the provisions of the guidelines of the IUCN. The guidelines are contained in the Policy Guideline Reintroductions (Parliamentary 31 200 XIV, no. 215).
Norway	Generally regulated by the national Nature Diversity Act. A separate guideline for the reestablishment of species into the wild has been drafted Autumn 2020: https://www.miljodirektoratet.no/aktuelt/nyheter/2020/august-2020/arfugldod-skyldtes-trolig-svikt-i-mattilgang/
Portugal	-
Romania	Law No. 82 /1993 on the establishment of the "Danube Delta" Biosphere Reserve with amendments; Government Decision No. 248/1994 for the adoption of measures to enforce Law 82/1993; Government Decision No. 1076/2004 concerning the procedure for environment assessment of plans and programs; Law No. 89/2000 for AEWA ratification; Government Emergency Ordinance No. 57/2007 on the regime of protected natural areas, conservation of natural habitats, wild flora and fauna, approved with amendments by Law No. 49/2011 with amendments; Order No. 19/2010 for approving the Methodological Guide on the relevant evaluation of the potential effects of the plans or projects over the natural protected areas.
Senegal	-
Slovakia	General provisions of the Decree of the Ministry of Environment No. 24/2003 (as amended) to the Nature Conservation Act. Re-establishment activities require the approval of the Ministry of Environment (and if it is a game species, also the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development).
South Africa	*Regulatory frameworks are species-specific and not generic to all waterbirds*
Spain	Law 42/2007 Article 55 and the IUCN Conservation Guidelines.
Sweden	Swedish Hunting Ordinance (1987:905).
Switzerland	Article 8 of the Ordinance on Hunting and the Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds: federal authorities may, with the approval of the cantons concerned, approve the re-establishment of protected species or species once native in Switzerland. The Swiss Species Conservation Plan, however, specifies that re-establishments and resettlement should only be considered as an exception. Rules based on the relevant IUCN guidelines.
Syria	*Partially implemented through Ministries and not species specific*
Ukraine	Law of Ukraine "On Fauna": re-establishment of species can only be made under a special permit issued by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, based on relevant scientific rationale.
Tanzania	The Wildlife Conservation Act No. 5 (2009) and subsequent regulations allows for the import of any species from another country for re-introduction or re-establishment. Under this arrangement, in 2019 the government was able to import nine black rhinos from South Africa.
Togo	-
Uzbekistan	Decision of The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Approval of the Strategy for Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Republic of Uzbekistan for the Period of 2019-2028" No. 484 11.06.2019; Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Approval of the Concept of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan Until 2030" No. 5863 30.10.2019.

Q22. Has your country considered, developed or implemented re-establishment projects for any species/population listed on AEWA Table 1? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.4)

Seven Parties (13% of Reporting Parties (RP); 9% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported having re-establishment projects in consideration, developed, or implemented for AEWA Table 1 species (Figure 2.4). The species concerned and status of the projects are listed in Table 2.3. Belarus noted that while specific plans were not developed for the re-establishment of Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* and Smew *Mergellus albellus*, nest boxes have been installed in some areas. Further details of the projects which have been developed and are being implemented are given below.

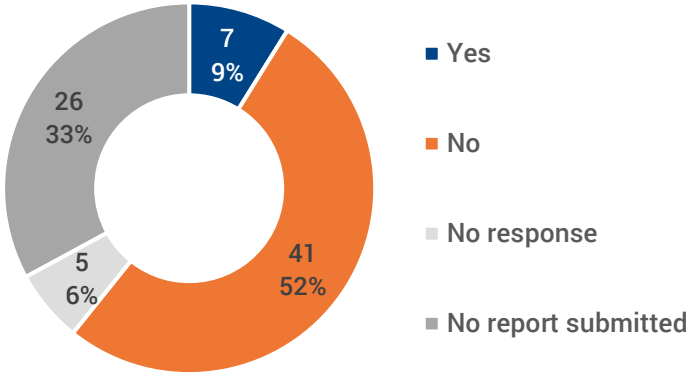


Figure 2.4. Proportion of Parties with re-establishment projects being considered, developed or implemented for AEWA Table 1 species/population.

Table 2.3. Status of re-establishment plans for AEWA Table 1 species by Party, and whether or not the AEWA Secretariat was informed in advance of the re-establishment project. Note: Algeria responded 'Yes' but no details of re-establishment plans were provided.

Species	Parties	Status of Plan	AEWA Secretariat informed	Reasons for not informing AEWA Secretariat
Bucephala clangula (Common Goldeneye)	Belarus	No plan in place, but re-establishment is being considered		-
Chroicocephalus hartlaubi (Hartlaub's Gull)	South Africa	No plan in place, but re-establishment is being considered		-
Ciconia ciconia (White Stork)	Sweden	Developed and being implemented	No	The project started in 1989 before AEWA was established.
	Switzerland	Developed and being implemented	No	Programme implemented prior to the adoption of AEWA.
Marmaronetta angustirostris (Marbled Teal)	Italy	Developed and being implemented	No	-
Mergellus albellus (Smew)	Belarus	No plan in place, but re-establishment is being considered		-
Pelecanus crispus (Dalmatian Pelican)	Georgia	No plan in place, but re-establishment is being considered		-
Phalacrocorax capensis (Cape Cormorant)	South Africa	Developed and being implemented		-
Spheniscus demersus (African Penguin)	South Africa	Developed and being implemented		-

Re-establishment projects developed and being implemented

Note: South Africa did not provide further details or a link to a website for *Phalacrocorax capensis* and *Spheniscus demersus*, the two species for which it has reported implementing projects.

a) *Ciconia ciconia* (White Stork)

IUCN Red List Status[7]**:** Least Concern **Population trend:** Increasing

Ongoing re-establishment projects

AEWA Range State: SWEDEN, region: Skåne
Organisations: Nature Conservation Association in Skåne and the Skåne Ornithological Society
Start year: 1989
End year: Ongoing
Comments: The Stork Projektet is an initiative developed and implemented by two NGOs, which breed and release pairs of White Storks in Skåne. The methods and storks were taken from Aneboda in Småland. The methods involve implanting pairs of storks and promoting an extensive production and movement of young storks every year. The storks form pairs and nest for one or more years in permanent enclosures, after which they are released. Some of the released storks overwinter in Skåne and thus cannot be considered wild. However, in 2014, the first wild self-produced breeding pair nested in Skåne and several storks have returned to nest.

AEWA Range State: SWITZERLAND
Start year: 1948
End year: Ongoing
Comments: The native population became extinct in Switzerland in 1950 after a rapid decline since the 1900s when 140 breeding pairs remained. Since the White Stork reintroduction project was launched in 1948, the population has continuously increased to reach 269 breeding pairs in 2010. The entire original breeding range on the Central Plateau (<600m altitude) is now occupied, compared to the species occupying only 9 atlas squares in surveys 1972-76.

b) *Marmaronetta angustirostris* (Marbled Teal)

IUCN Red List Status[8]**:** Vulnerable **Population trend:** Decreasing

Ongoing re-establishment projects

AEWA Range State: ITALY, region: Sicily
Organisations: Stiftung Pro Artenvielfalt
Start year: 2019
End year: Ongoing
Comments: The first nesting pair of *Marmaronetta angustirostris* was recorded in west Sicily in 2000. A very small number of pairs (1-2 in Sardinia and 1-3 in Sicily) has bred regularly over recent years. A National Action Plan was published in 2017, and a re-establishment project coordinated by Stiftung Pro Artenvielfalt was launched in 2019 in the framework of the LIFE Marbled Duck PSSO project. The project aims to accelerate the natural colonisation of *Marmaronetta aguistirostris* in Sicily through the release of captive bred individuals from Valencia, Spain. The first release is planned for Spring 2021.

[7] BirdLife International 2016. *Ciconia ciconia. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016: e.T22697691A86248677*. [Accessed 19/06/2021]
[8] BirdLife International 2017. *Marmaronetta angustirostris.The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2017: e.T22680339A110054350.* [Accessed 19/06/2021]

Purple Heron/ *Ardea purpurea*/ andre/ Adobe Stock

III. INTRODUCTIONS AND NON-NATIVE SPECIES

In relation to introductions, Parties were asked to assess their response to the introduction of non-native species with regards to the conservation of migratory waterbirds. Questions provided insights into legislation on introductions and accidental escapes from zoos and private collections, and programmes aimed at controlling or eradicating non-native species. In addition, an update on the population status of selected species of non-native waterbirds is presented. Reponses to the National Reports highlight that further work is required towards establishing more comprehensive measures that prevent negative impacts on waterbirds from non-native species.

Q24. 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)

Thirty-nine Parties (74% of Reporting Parties (RP); 49% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) confirmed that legislation prohibiting the introduction of non-native species of animals and plants which may be detrimental to migratory waterbirds, was in place and being enforced (Figure 3.1). A further two Parties (Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria) stated that this was in development. Three Parties reported that legislation was in place but not being enforced properly or at all, with Iceland noting that this was primarily due to the absence of proper supervision, and the other two Parties (Syria, Togo) not providing any explanations. Of the four Parties (Ethiopia, Ghana, Jordan, Niger) that reported having no legislation in place, only one Party (Ethiopia) gave further details, explaining that plans existed to develop such legislation in the future.

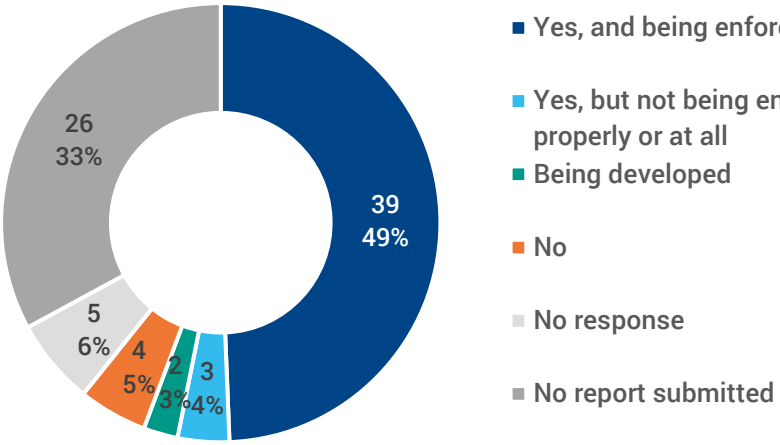


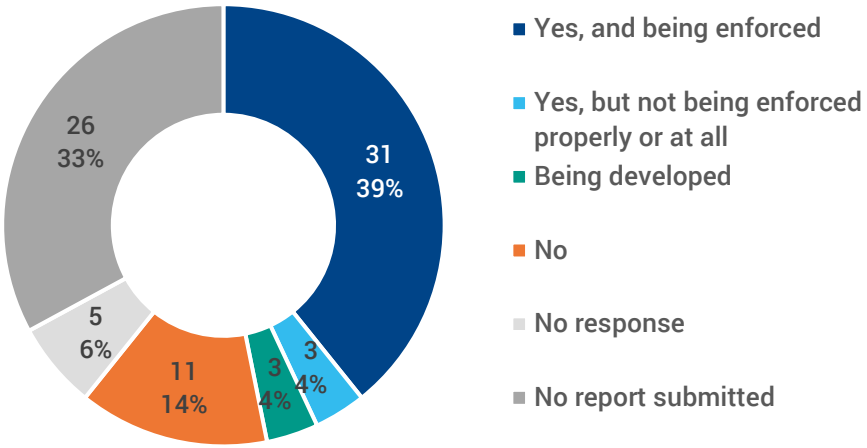
Figure 3.1. Party responses as to whether they have legislation in place, which prohibits the introduction into the environment of non-native species of animals and plants which may be detrimental to migratory waterbirds.

Q25. 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)

Thirty-one Parties (58% of Reporting Parties (RP); 39% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that their country imposed and fully enforced legislative requirements on zoos, private collections and similar establishments, in order to avoid the accidental escape of captive animals belonging to non-native species which may be detrimental to migratory waterbirds (Figure 3.2), and a further three Parties (Albania, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo) noted this was in development. Three Parties (Egypt, Moldova, Portugal) confirmed legislative requirements were in place but not being enforced properly or at all, without providing further explanation. Those Parties that did not impose specific legislative

requirements on zoos or private collections typically noted the existence of such measures within broader legislation, or within internal regulations (Figure 3.3).

Figure 3.2. Party responses as to whether they have imposed legislative requirements on zoos, private collections, and similar establishments in order to avoid the accidental escape of captive animals belonging to non-native species which may be detrimental to migratory waterbirds.



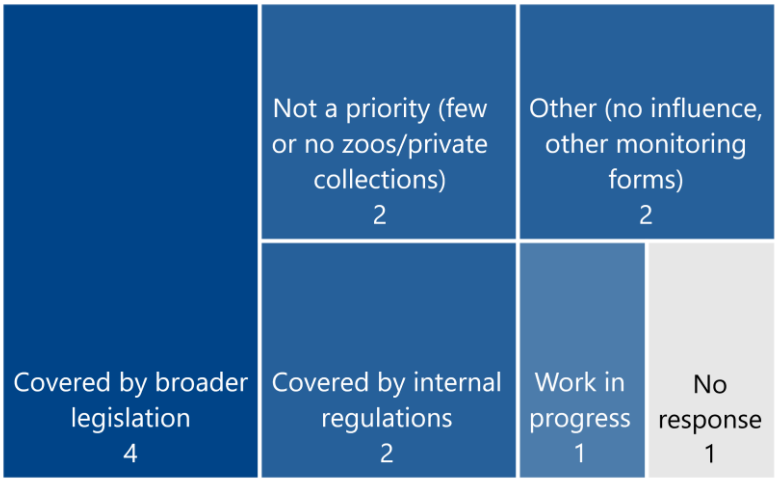


Figure 3.3. Explanations provided by Parties as to why they have not imposed legislative requirements on zoos, private collections, and similar establishments in order to avoid the accidental escape of captive animals belonging to non-native species which may be detrimental to migratory waterbirds (Note: Parties may have provided more than one answer).

Q26. Has your country considered, developed or implemented programmes to control or eradicate non-native species of waterbirds so as to prevent negative impacts on indigenous species? (Article III(2)(g); AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.5.3)

Eleven Parties (21% of Reporting Parties (RP); 14% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) confirmed that they had considered, developed or implemented programmes to control or eradicate non-native species of waterbirds so as to prevent negative impacts on indigenous species[9] (Figure 3.4); three of these did not provide details regarding the species concerned (Denmark, Moldova, South Africa).

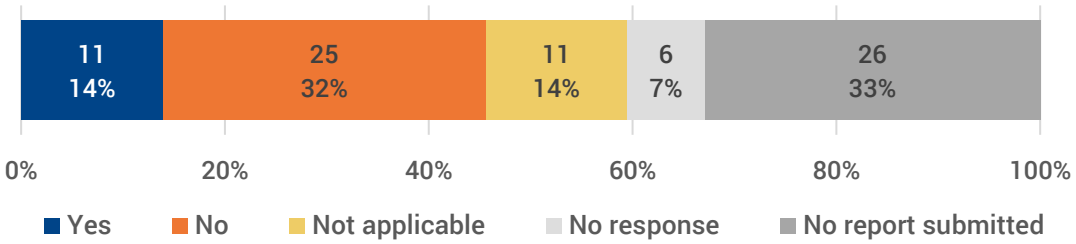


Figure 3.4. Party responses as to whether they have considered, developed or implemented programmes to control or eradicate non-native species of waterbirds so as to prevent negative impacts on indigenous species.

[9] In addition, Belgium reported an informal programme for African Sacred Ibis in their response to question 27.

Four species (African Sacred Ibis[10], Canada Goose, Egyptian Goose[11] and Ruddy Duck[12]) were listed as the focus of such programmes, with the Ruddy Duck being the target of the most control/eradication programmes (Figure 3.5). Italy noted that whilst its programme for African Sacred Ibis was yet to be implemented, a management plan had been developed and the approval process was ongoing.

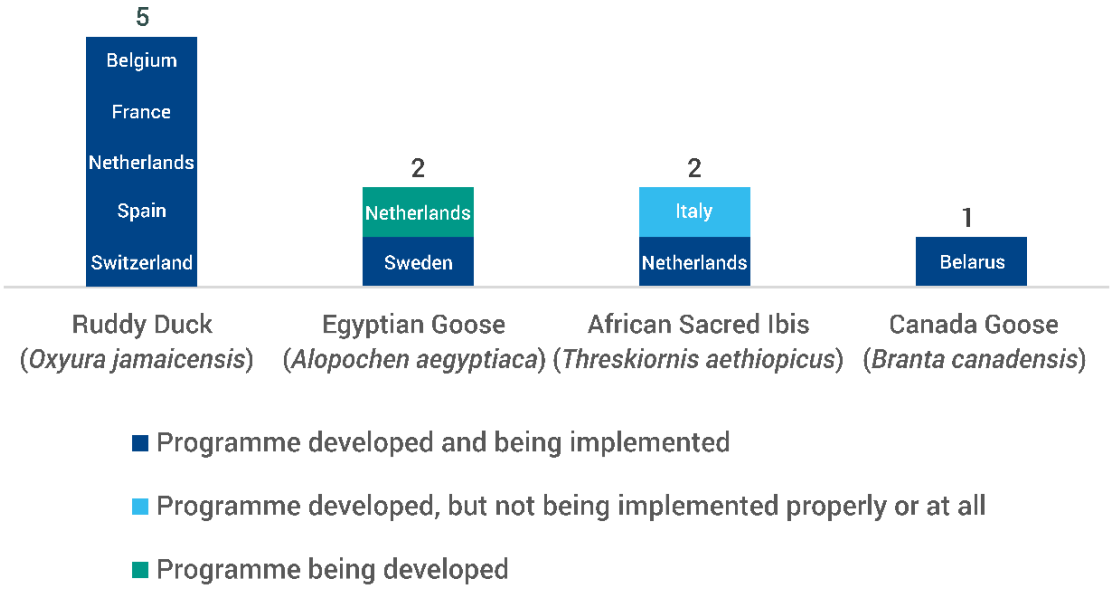


Figure 3.5. Non-native species of waterbirds that are the subject of control and/or eradication programmes so as to prevent negative impacts on indigenous species, as indicated by Parties.

Twenty-five Parties (47% of RP; 32% of CP) reported no programmes for the control or eradication of non-native species of waterbirds, citing a limited need as the most common explanation (Figure 3.6), whether because such populations were small with minimal impact on indigenous species, no negative impacts were noted in the country, or all populations of non-native species were non-breeding. The vast majority of Parties that considered this question 'Not applicable' explained that non-native species had not been identified and/or were not established within their countries.

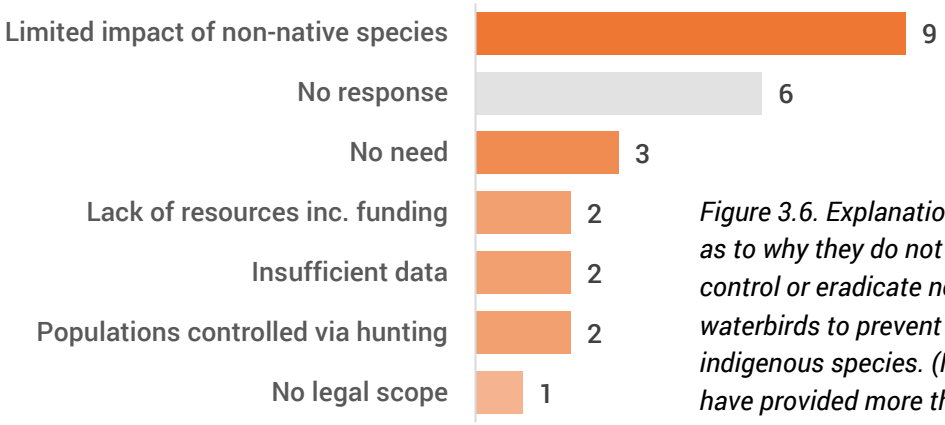


Figure 3.6. Explanations provided by Parties as to why they do not have programmes to control or eradicate non-native species of waterbirds to prevent negative impacts on indigenous species. (Note: Parties may have provided more than one answer).

[10] African Sacred Ibis: Italy submitted the management plan that is awaiting approval and Netherlands provided a factsheet with further details.
[11] Egyptian Goose: Netherlands provided a factsheet and Sweden provided a link with further information.
[12] Ruddy Duck: Belgium reported a significant drop in Ruddy Duck sightings/numbers culled since the programme began and Sweden provided a factsheet with further details.

Q27. Has your country considered, developed or implemented programmes to control or eradicate other non-native species (in particular aquatic weeds and terrestrial predators) so as to prevent negative impacts on migratory waterbirds? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraphs 2.5.3 and 4.3.10 and Resolution 5.15)

Twenty-two Parties (41% of Reporting Parties (RP); 28% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that they had considered, developed or implemented programmes to control or eradicate other non-native species so as to prevent negative impacts on migratory waterbirds (Figure 3.7). Seventeen of these Parties went on to list the non-native species for which relevant action had been undertaken (Table 3.1), of which four species, Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), American Mink (*Neovison vison*), Racoon Dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) and Curly Waterweed (*Lagarosiphon major*), were noted most often.

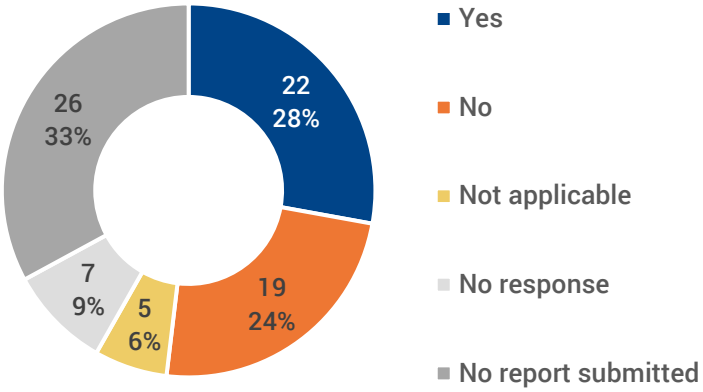


Figure 3.7. Party responses as to whether they have considered, developed or implemented programmes to control or eradicate other non-native species (in particular aquatic weeds and terrestrial predators) so as to prevent negative impacts on migratory waterbirds

Those Parties that had not considered, developed or implemented programmes explained this was predominantly due to the lack of need for such activities (Figure 3.8). Albania, Czech Republic and Slovakia reported that non-native species were not an issue in their country, whilst Uganda and Morocco noted non-native species were not having a negative impact on indigenous waterbirds. Other explanations included lack of resources (including funding), lack of information, and programmes to control and/or eradicate non-native species but not specifically to benefit waterbirds (e.g. tourism, fishing, habitat protection).

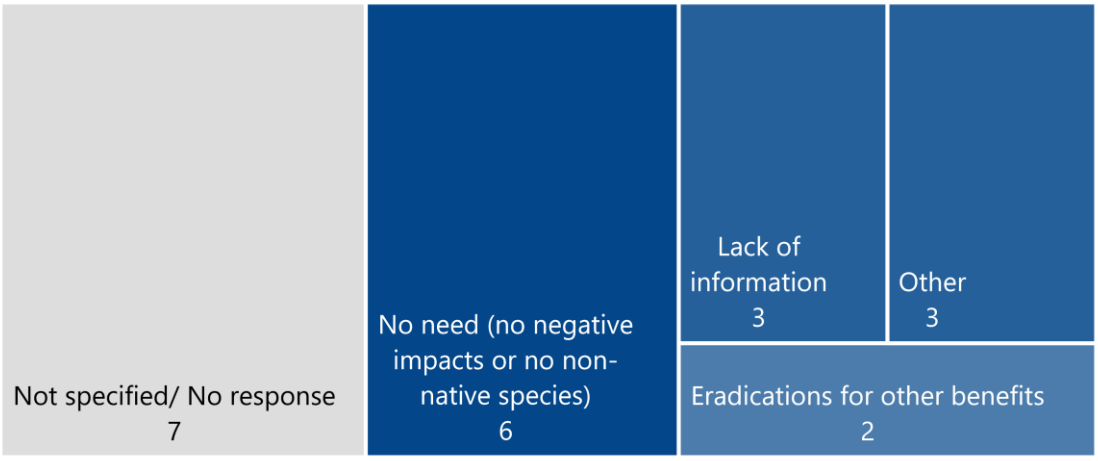


Figure 3.8. Explanations provided by Parties as to why they have not considered, developed or implemented programmes to control or eradicate other non-native species (in particular aquatic weeds and terrestrial predators) so as to prevent negative impacts on migratory waterbirds (Note: Parties may have provided more than one answer)

Table 3.1. Non-native taxa controlled and/or eradicated by Parties as part of programmes to prevent negative impacts on migratory waterbirds

Party	Non-native taxa	
Belarus	American Mink (*Neovison vison*)	Canadian Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*)
	Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)	Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)
	Racoon Dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*)	Sosnowsky's Hogweed (*Heracleum sosnowskyi*)
	Spiny-cheek Crayfish (*Orconectus limosus*)	Wild Cucumber (*Echinocystis lobata*)
	Ashleaf Maple (*Acer negundo*)	
Belgium	American Waterweed (*Elodea canadensis*)	New Zealand Pygmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*)
	Brazilian Elodea (*Egeria densa*)	Nuttall's Waterweed (*Elodea nuttallii*)
	Curly Waterweed (*Lagarosiphon major*)	Pacific Azolla (*Azolla filiculoides*)
	Floating Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*)	South American Waterweed (*Elodea callitrichoides*)
	Florida Elodea (*Hydrilla verticillata*)	Turion Duckweed (*Lemna turionifera*)
	Minute Duckweed (*Lemna minuta*)	Water-Primrose (*Ludwigia grandiflora*)
Croatia	Javan Mongoose (*Herpestes javanicus*)	Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)
	Pond Slider (*Trachemys scripta*)	Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*)
	Signal Crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*)	
Cyprus	*Phragmites* spp.	
Denmark	American Mink (*Neovison vison*)	Racoon Dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*)
	Racoon (*Procyon lotor*)	
Estonia	Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)	Sosnowsky's Hogweed (*Heracleum sosnowskyi*)
Ethiopia	Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)	
Finland	American Mink (*Neovison vison*)	
France	*Azolla* spp.	*Elodea* spp.
	Baccharis spp.	New Zealand Pygmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*)
	Curly Waterweed (*Lagarosiphon major*)	Parrot's Feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)
	Egeria spp.	
Netherlands	American Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*)	Virile Crayfish (*Faxonius virilis*)
	Amur Sleeper (*Percottus glenii*)	American Skunk Cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*)
	Chinese Mittencrab (*Eriocheir sinensis*)	Broadleaf Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*)
	Coypu (*Myocastor coypus*)	Curly Waterweed (*Lagarosiphon major*)
	Marbled Crayfish (*Procambarus virginalis*)	Fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*)
	Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*)	Floating Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*)
	Red Swamp Crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*)	Floating Primrose-willow (*Ludwigia peploides*)
	Signal Crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*)	Nuttall's Waterweed (*Elodea nuttallii*)
	Spiny-cheek Crayfish (*Orconectus limosus*)	Parrot's Feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)
	Stone Moroko (*Pseudorasbora parva*)	Water Primrose (*Ludwigia grandiflora*)
Nigeria	Kachalla Grass (*Typha australis*)	Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)
Norway	American Mink (*Neovison vison*)	Racoon Dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*)
Rwanda	Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)	
South Africa	Water Fern (*Azolla filiculoides*)	Water Lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*)
	Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)	
Spain	Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)	
Sweden	American Mink (*Neovison vison*)	Pond Slider (*Trachemys scripta*)
	Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*)	Racoon Dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*)
Zimbabwe	Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)	

Update on the status of non-native species of waterbirds breeding in the AEWA Region

This section provides an update on the status of introduced non-native waterbird species within the territories of AEWA Contracting Parties. It presents an overview of the past and most recent population status of such species that may pose a risk to native waterbird species in the AEWA Area, as reported by Contracting Parties. The methodology and full results are provided in a comprehensive table included within Annex A9.

In order to achieve the overall aim of **maintaining migratory waterbird species and their populations in a favourable conservation status or restoring them to such a status throughout their flyways**, the AEWA Action Plan contains a number of paragraphs that relate to the management of non-native species under paragraph 2 on "Introductions", including taking appropriate measures to ensure that already introduced non-native species or their hybrids do not pose a potential hazard to the populations listed in Table 1. Up-to-date information on the status of non-native introduced waterbirds is essential in supporting Contracting Parties to undertake these measures.

Among the international reviews necessary for assessing the implementation of AEWA, Paragraph 7.4 of the AEWA Action Plan requires the preparation of a review on the status of introduced non-native waterbird species and hybrids thereof, which is to be compiled for each second Meeting of the Parties (MOP). The first[13], second[14] and third[15] editions of these reviews were submitted to MOP2 in 2002, MOP4 in 2008, and MOP6 in 2015, respectively.

The review presented in Annex A9 builds on the update published in 2015, using information submitted by AEWA Contracting Parties through a reporting module on the national status of waterbird populations separate to the National Reports, to assess changes in the population sizes, trends and distribution of selected non-native species since the 2015 review, and to identify any newly introduced waterbird species reported to be posing a potential risk to native waterbirds. In addition, information from the National Reports 2018-2020 is integrated to show what remedial actions have been taken to mitigate the effects of introduced waterbird species on native waterbird species. Table 3.2 summarises the estimated numbers and population and range trends, as reported by Parties, and the assessed Risk status.

From the submitted reports, no additional species were identified as potentially posing a risk to native species since 2015 (assessed as having an increasing long-term population trend and noted as posing a risk by at least one Party). Of the species reviewed in 2015, four showed particularly high increases, based on the number estimates: Greater Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*; Very High risk in large parts of Europe), Mandarin Duck (*Aix galericulata*; Medium risk), and Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*; Medium-High risk, with High risk in certain countries), which all showed increase in both breeding and wintering populations, and Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*; Low-Medium risk) which showed an increase in breeding numbers in particular (Table 3.2). All four species were noted by at least one Party as posing a threat to native waterbird populations, and control or eradication programmes were reported to be in place in at least one Party for Egyptian Goose and Greater Canada Goose.

[13] Blair, M.J., McKay, H., Musgrove, A.J. and Rehfisch, M.M. 2000. Review of the Status of Introduced Non-Native Waterbird Species in the Agreement Area of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement. BTO Research Report No. 229. British Trust for Ornithology, Thetford, UK.

[14] Banks, A.N., Wright, L.J., Maclean, I.M.D. and Rehfisch, M.M. 2008. Review of the Status of Introduced Non-Native Waterbird Species in the Area of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement: 2007 Update. BTO Research Report 489. British Trust for Ornithology, Thetford, UK.

[15] UNEP-WCMC. 2015. *Update on the status of non-native waterbird species within the AEWA Area*. UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge.

On the basis of number estimates and reported risks posed to native waterbird populations, an additional four species were assessed as having a Risk status Medium or higher: Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*; Very High risk), Sacred Ibis (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*; High risk), Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*; Medium-High risk) and Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*; Medium risk) (Table 3.2). All four were also reported to have an increasing population or range trend in at least one Party, and the first two were reported to be the subject of control or eradication programmes in at least one Party.

In addition to these, eleven species were noted to have an increasing population and/or range trend in at least one Party, of which six were considered to pose a threat to native waterbirds in at least one Party: Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*), Swan Goose (*Anser cygnoides*), Bar-headed Goose (*Anser indicus*), Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*), Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*), and Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) (Table 3.2).

It is important to note, however, that some of these trends may be a result of differences in reporting Parties between the two reporting cycles, and differences in monitoring, data collection and data completeness.

Table 3.2. Overview of 2015 and most recent estimated numbers, population and range trends, risks posed to native waterbirds and actions taken by Parties, based on the Waterbird Population Status Reports submitted by Parties in 2020 and National Reports in 2021. [Key: p=pairs; i=individuals; B=breeding; W=non-breeding/wintering; (occasional)=occasionally recorded; in green, those species with increasing number estimates or population and/or range trends, with darker green those also reported to be a threat, and very dark green those also with a risk status of Medium or higher]

Species	2015 number estimates	Most recent number estimates	Additional Parties since 2015?	Trends reported by Parties	Threat reported by at least one Party	Action taken in at least one Party	Risk status
ANSERIFORMES							
ANATIDAE							
Aix galericulata (Mandarin Duck)	B: ~685-767p; W: ~7,610-7,699i	B: ~5,312-4650p; W: ~15,683-16,336i	1 (occasional)	Increasing population and range	Yes	No	Medium
Aix sponsa (Wood Duck)	B: 59-71p; W: ~25-49i	B:~49-65p; W:~ 85-285i	1 (occasional)	Increasing population and W range	Yes	No	Low
Alopochen aegyptiaca (Egyptian Goose)	B: 14,781-21,886p W: ~36,943-44,942i	B: ~19,675-28,892p; W: ~76,829-90,809i	2	Increasing population and range	Yes (a lot)	Yes	High (BE, DE, FR, NL), Medium-High elsewhere
Anas bahamensis (White-cheeked Pintail)	W: ~9-14i	B: ~0-1p; W: ~5-12i	3 (occasional)	No trends	No	No	Very Low
Anas melleri (Meller's Duck)			-	-	-	-	-
Anas platyrhynchos (incl. forma domestica) (Mallard)	B: 401-882p	B: ~1-201p	0	No trends	Yes	No	Data deficient
Anser albifrons (Greater White-fronted Goose)		B: ~0-1p	0	No trends	No	No	Very Low
Anser anser (Greylag Goose)		No data reported	No data reported	No data reported	No	No	Data deficient
Anser brachyrhynchus (Pink-footed Goose)		W: 0-1i	1 (occasional)	No trends	No	No	Very Low
Anser cygnoides (Swan Goose)	B:~113-163p; W:166-216i	B:~26-41p;W:~202-410i	0	Increasing W population	Yes	No	Low
Anser fabalis (Bean Goose)			0	No data reported	No	No	Very Low
Anser indicus (Bar-headed Goose)	B: ~52-366p; W: ~270-380i	B: ~69-138p; W: 329-583i	5 (occasional)	Increasing range trend	Yes	No	Low
Branta canadensis (Greater Canada Goose)	B: 73,722-80,036p; W: 245,589-245,709i	B: ~114,957-116,201p; W: ~349,465-375,219i	2 (occasional)	Increasing population and range trends	Yes	Yes	Very High (W & N Europe), Low (E Europe)
Branta hutchinsii (Cackling Goose)	B: 2,900-3,000p; W: ~1i	B: ~460-770p; W: ~1500-2000i	1 (occasional)	Increasing population and range trends	Yes	No	High (NL), Low-Very Low elsewhere

Species	2015 number estimates	Most recent number estimates	Additional Parties since 2015?	Trends reported by Parties	Threat reported by at least one Party	Action taken in at least one Party	Risk status
Branta leucopsis (Barnacle Goose)	B: 1,000p	B: ~4800-5151p: W: ~10-20i	2 (occasional)	No population trends, stable range trend	Yes	No	Low-Medium
Cairina moschata (Muscovy Duck)	B: 38-65p; W: 363i	B: ~50-100p; W: ~331-799i	0	Increasing population and range trends	No	No	Low-Medium (NL), Low elsewhere
Chen caerulescens (Snow Goose)	B: ~75-80p; W: ~146-157	B: ~7-14p; W: ~266-286i	1	Increasing W population	Yes	No	Low
Chen canagicus (Emperor Goose)	B: 4p; W: 23-43	W: ~5-10i	1 (occasional)	No trends	Yes	No	Very Low
Chloephaga picta (Upland Goose)	B: 5-8p; W: 4-11	B: ~5p; W: ~5-22i	2 (occasional)	No trends	No	No	Low
Cygnus atratus (Black Swan)	B: 159-190p; W: ~432	B: ~97-173p; W: 243-505i	1	Increasing population and range trend	Yes	No	Medium
Cygnus cygnus (Whooper Swan)		W: ~0-347i	1	possibly increasing W population	No	No	Very Low
Cygnus olor (Mute Swan)	B: 300-500p; W: 10,598-12,098i	B: ~500-700p; W: ~5805-9243i	1	possibly increasing population and range trends	Yes	No	Low (IT), Very Low elsewhere
Dendrocygna viduata (White-faced Whistling Duck)		B: ~1p; W: ~4i	3, 4 (occasional)	No trends	Yes	No	Low
Netta rufina (Red-crested Pochard)	B: 10-34p W: 320i		1 (occasional)	No trends	No	No	Very Low
Oxyura jamaicensis (Ruddy Duck)	B: ~30-39p; W: ~402-461i	B: ~43-110p; W: ~190-225i	1 (occasional)	Increasing population and range trend	Yes (a lot)	Yes	Very High
Tadorna ferruginea (Ruddy Shelduck)	B: 182-266p; W: ~1,012-1,176i	B: ~211-290p; W: ~2830-3863i	3 (occasional)	Increasing population and range trends in several Parties	Yes	No	Medium-High
PELECANIFORMES							
PELECANIDAE							
Pelecanus crispus (Dalmatian Pelican)	B: 10i	W: ~0-1i	4 (occasional)	No trends	No	No	Very Low
Pelecanus rufescens (Pink-backed Pelican)	B: 50ns		3 (occasional)	No trends	No	No	Very Low
CICONIIFORMES							
PHOENICOPTERIDAE							
Phoenicopterus chilensis (Chilean Flamingo)	B: 6-9p; W: ~65-85i	B: ~13p; W: ~36-46i	1 (occasional)	Increasing B /stable W population, increasing W range	No	No	Low-Medium
Phoenicopterus roseus (Greater Flamingo)	B: 2ns	B: ~9p; W: ~15-20i	2 (occasional)	Increasing population, decreasing W range trend	No	No	Very Low

Species	2015 number estimates	Most recent number estimates	Additional Parties since 2015?	Trends reported by Parties	Threat reported by at least one Party	Action taken in at least one Party	Risk status
Phoenicopterus ruber (Caribbean Flamingo)	B: 1p; W: 2i	W: ~1i	2 (occasional)	No trends	No	No	Low
THRESKIORNITHIDAE							
Threskiornis aethiopicus (Sacred Ibis)	B: 1,306-1,326p	B: ~560-582p; W: ~515-1377i	1, 1 (occasional)	Mixed trends	Yes	Yes	High
GRUIFORMES							
RALLIDAE							
Porphyrio porphyrio (Purple Swamphen)			1 (occasional)	No trends	No	No	Data deficient

Lesser Flamingo/ *Phoeniconaias minor*/ AGAMI/ Adobe Stock

IV. HABITAT CONSERVATION

In relation to habitat conservation, AEWA Parties were asked nine questions to assess their efforts on maintaining and restoring important habitats for waterbirds. Five questions helped establish a baseline for specific targets and actions of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027; moderate success has been achieved in identifying sites of international and national importance, and in designating these sites as protected areas, however, continued efforts are needed. A greater focus is also needed on introducing and actively implementing effective management plans for important sites and ensuring that the integrity of these sites is taken into account in planning and decision-making processes.

Habitat Inventories

Q39. 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; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 3.1(a))

Thirty Parties (57% of Reporting Parties (RP); 38% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) confirmed that a network of sites had been fully identified within their country (Action 3.1(a) of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027), with a further 16 Parties reporting having partially done so (30% of RP; 20% of CP; Figure 4.1).

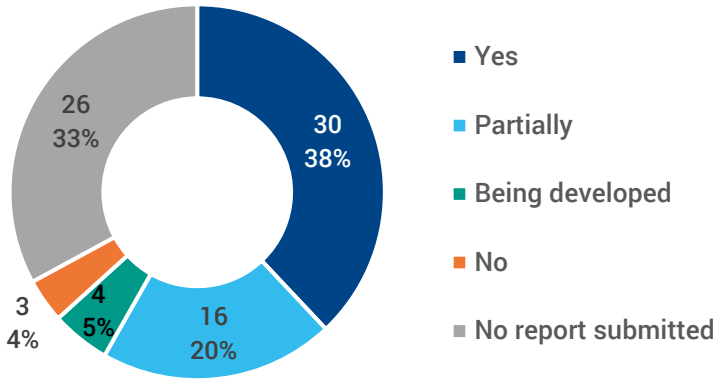


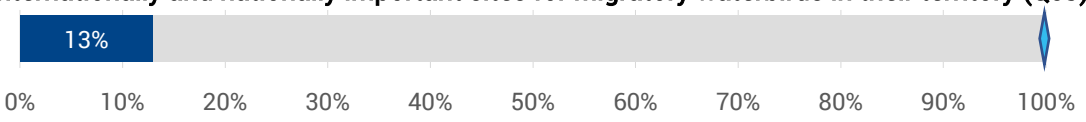
Figure 4.1. Party responses regarding the identification of the network of all sites of international and national importance within their country.

Of the 30 Parties that have fully identified a network of important sites for migratory waterbirds in their country, 10 (19% of RP; 13% of CP) have reviewed, confirmed and communicated to the AEWA Secretariat after MOP7 the inventory of these sites. Fifteen Parties (28% of RP, 19% of CP) that have identified sites reported that they have not reviewed and confirmed the sites with the AEWA Secretariat, while the remaining five (Cyprus, Jordan, Mali, Slovakia and Zimbabwe) did not respond as to whether they had done so.

Of the remaining seven Parties that had not fully or partially identified sites, four reported that networks are currently being developed (Algeria, Croatia, Eswatini and Sweden); one Party cited a lack of human resources (North Macedonia), another noted the existing designation of national parks and wildlife reserves which constitute important sites (Uganda), and the remaining Party did not provide a reason for not having done so (Botswana).

Strategic Plan Target 3.1: Known sites of national or international importance for populations listed in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan have been reviewed and confirmed (in conformity with Paragraph 3.1.2 of the Action Plan) and at least three-quarters of the priority site gaps are filled in the case of Contracting Parties.

Indicator: Percentage of Parties to AEWA that have reviewed and confirmed the known internationally and nationally important sites for migratory waterbirds in their territory (Q39)



Conservation of Areas and Habitats

Q41. 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)

The resilience of the national network of sites important for waterbirds to the effects of climate change can be assessed on the scale of individual sites or national Protected Area Networks (PANs). Twenty-four Parties (45% of Reporting Parties (RP); 30% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that there had been assessments of climate change impact for one or more single sites (Figure 4.2), while 18 Parties (34% of RP; 23% of CP) reported that there had been assessments for their national PAN (Figure 4.2).

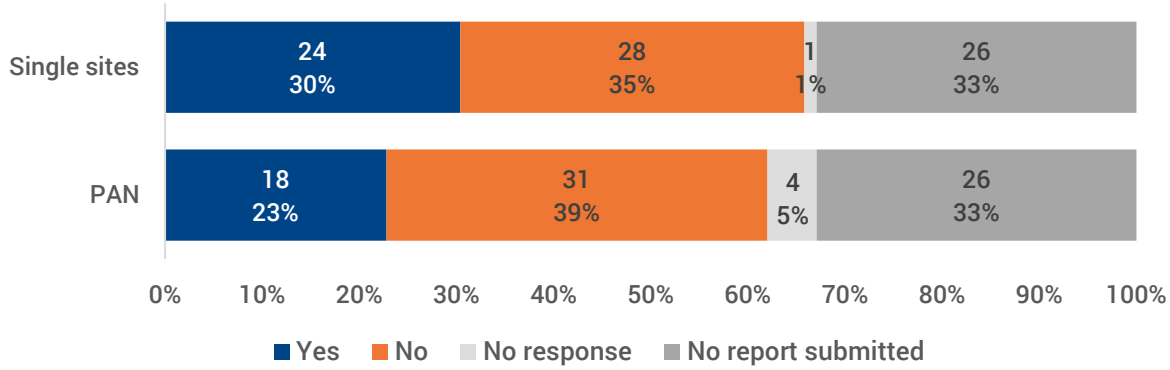


Figure 4.2. Party responses as to whether an assessment of the implications of climate change had been carried out for single sites and national Protected Area Networks.

Seventeen Parties had assessed the implications of climate change for both single sites and their national PAN (Figure 4.3). Six Parties reported having undertaken assessments for single sites but not national PAN (Denmark, Egypt, Italy, Lebanon, Sweden and Ukraine), Belgium cited having done only national PAN assessments and no single site assessments, and Botswana only provided a positive response regarding single site assessments but did not respond regarding national PAN. Of the 25 Parties that reported assessments of future climate change implications, be that for single sites or the national PAN, all but Botswana, Eswatini and Ukraine provided references of their assessments.

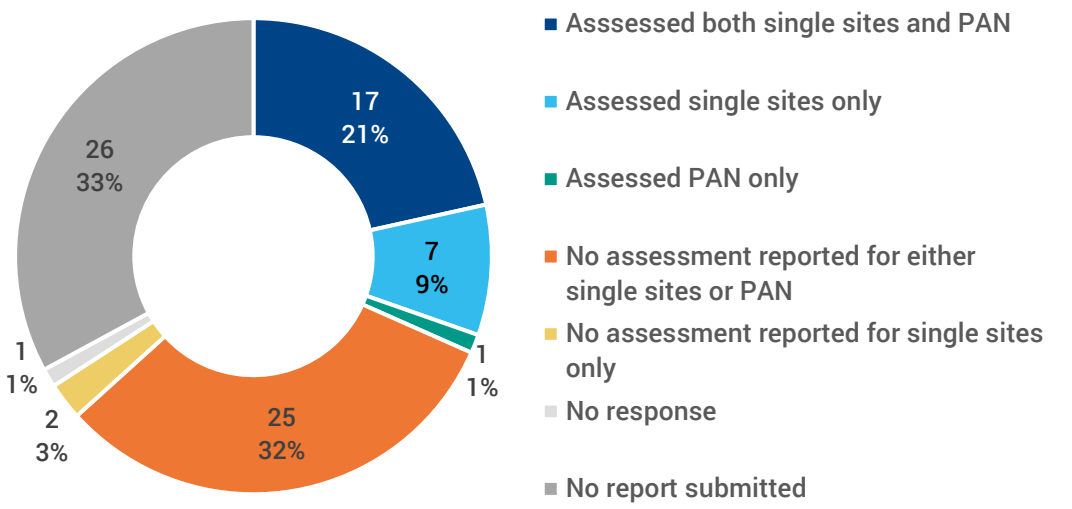


Figure 4.3. Party responses as to whether an assessment for the implications of climate change had been carried out for single sites and/or national Protected Area Networks.

Twenty-five Parties (47% of RP; 32% of CP) reported no assessments for either single sites or their national PAN, whilst Kenya and Malawi only provided a negative response for single site assessments. A lack of resources and broader national focus were the main reasons cited by Parties as to why they have not assessed the future implications of climate change (Figure 4.4).

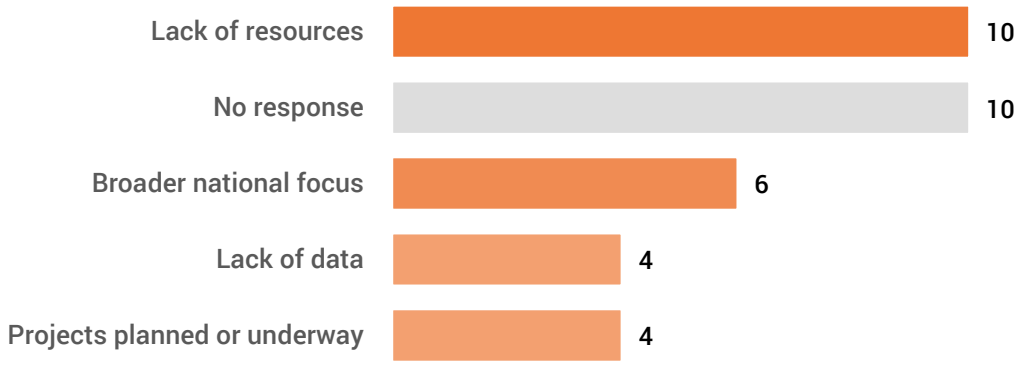


Figure 4.4. Party responses as to why they had not assessed the future implications of climate change for protected areas and other sites important for waterbirds (Note: Parties may have provided more than one answer).

Q42. Which sites that were identified as important, either internationally or nationally, for Table 1 migratory waterbird species/populations have been designated as protected areas under the national legislation and have management plans that are being implemented, including with the aim to increase resilience to the effects of climate change? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 3.2.1, AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 3.3)

As part of the contribution towards assessing progress towards Target 3.3 of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Parties were asked to provide details on the total number and size of **nationally important sites (NIS)** and **internationally important sites (IIS)** for migratory waterbird species/populations listed on AEWA Table 1 within their countries. Parties were also asked for details on the *number* and *area* of sites protected under national legislation, as well as protected sites with management plans in place which are being implemented.

In response to this question, twenty-eight Parties (53% of Reporting Parties (RP); 35% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported on the number of NIS, and 37 Parties (70% of RP; 47% of CP) reported on the number of IIS (Figure 4.5). A slightly lower proportion of Parties reported on the details of the area covered for both NIS and IIS site categories.

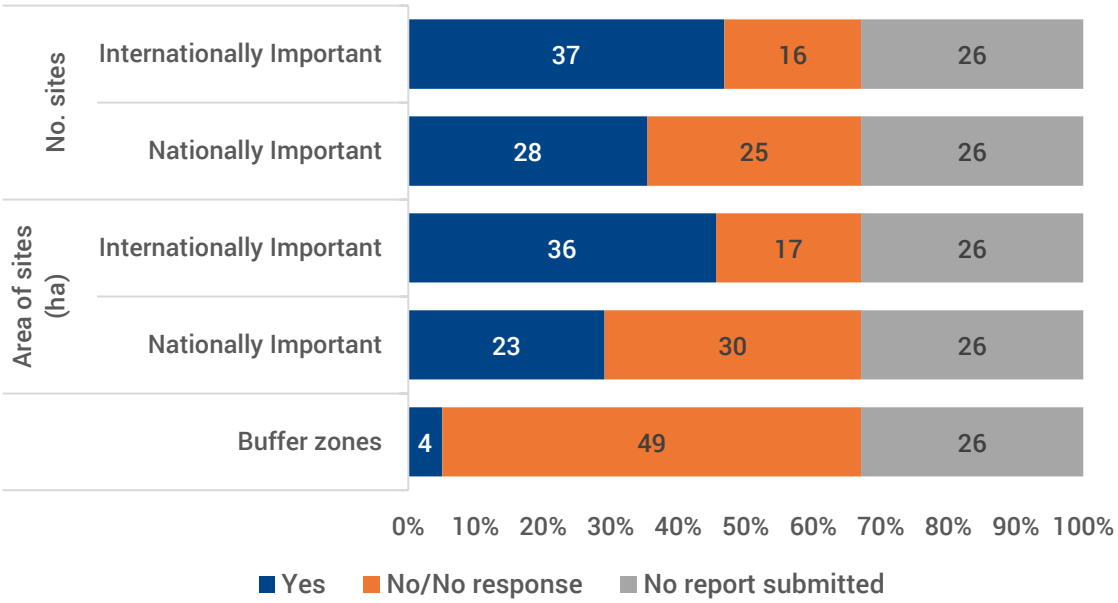


Figure 4.5. Number of Parties that reported on nationally and internationally important sites, by number and area of sites, and on whether they had identified areas where the establishment of buffer zones is needed to maintain or increase resilience.

For national sites, Parties reported a total of 131 800 NIS (Figure 4.6); slight discrepancies in reporting indicate a higher number of nationally protected sites (131 978). For these national sites with legal protection, 1997 (1.5%) have management plans in place and 1820 (1.4%) have management plans in place that include objectives relating to the maintenance or increase of the resilience of ecological networks (including resilience to climate change) according to the Parties. Regarding IIS, the outlook was more positive: Parties cited a total of 2417 sites of international importance, of which 1373 (57%) are legally protected. Of those IIS, 827 (60% of protected sites, 34% of all sites) are protected with management plans in place and 666 (49% of protected sites, 28% of all sites) have management plans which include ecological resilience objectives (representing 81% of the protected sites with management plans).

In terms of area covered, Parties reported a total area of 92,161,129 ha of NIS, of which 83% (~76 million ha) are legally protected (Figure 4.7). Of these, ~65 million ha (71%) are in sites with management plans, of which ~59 million ha (64%) have ecological resilience objectives within the plans. For IIS areas, Parties reported a total of 317,721,192 ha that are considered internationally important, of which 14% (~45 million ha) are in legally protected sites. Of the area that falls within protected sites, approximately 3% (~9 million ha) is in protected sites that have management plans. Discrepancies in reporting indicate a larger area of protected sites with management plans that integrate ecological resilience objectives than the area of protected sites with management plans (~24 million ha).

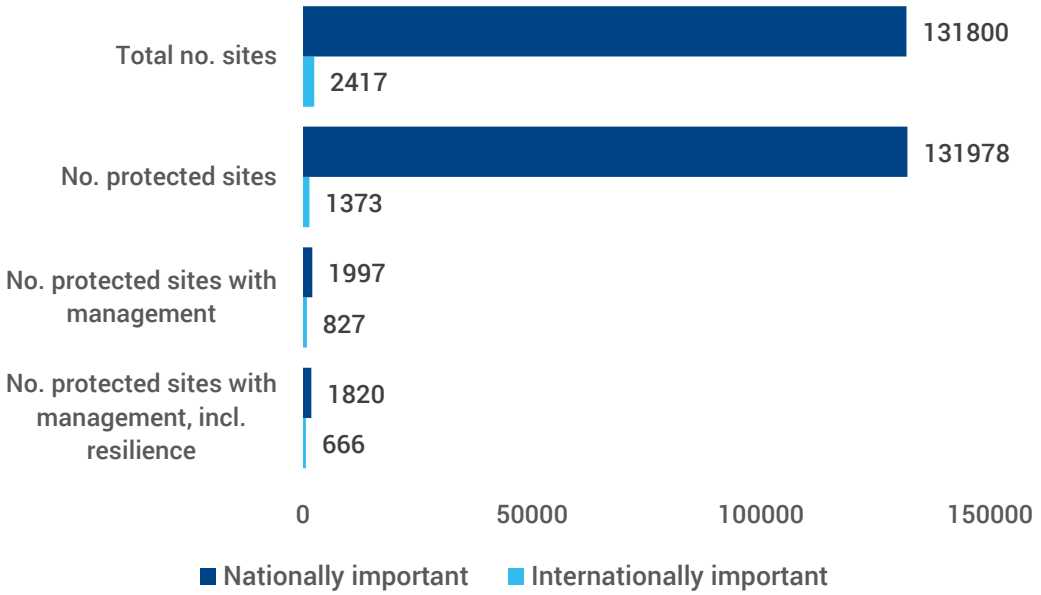


Figure 4.6. Total number of nationally and internationally important sites, protected sites, protected sites with management plans in place, and protected sites with management plans in place which include objectives pertaining to the resilience of existing ecological networks, summed across all reporting Parties.

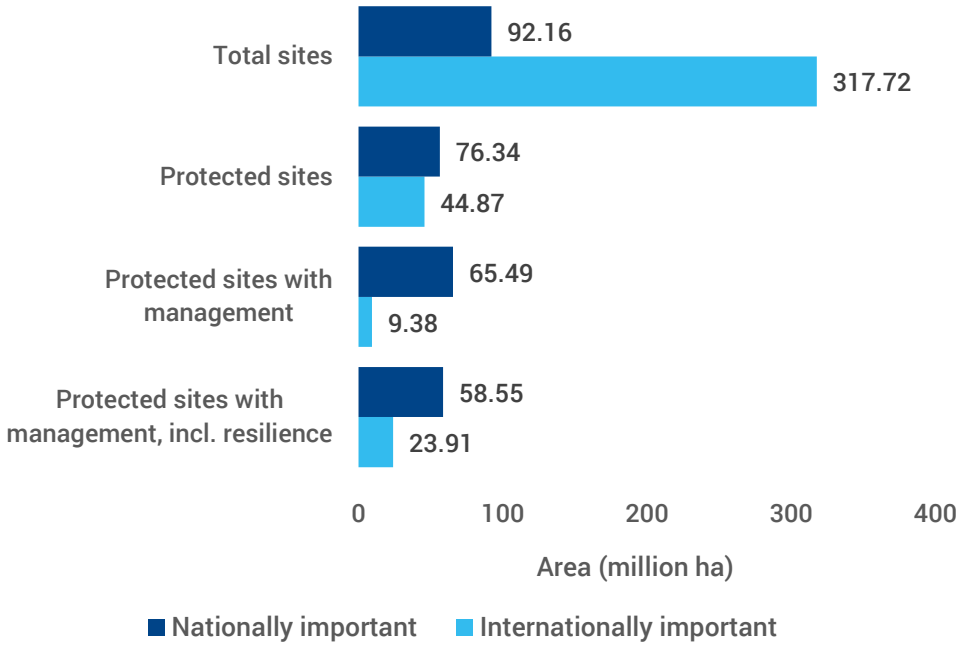


Figure 4.7. Total area of sites of national and international importance to AEWA Table 1 species/populations, area of protected sites, area of protected sites with management plans in place, and area of protected sites with management plans in place which include objectives pertaining to the resilience of existing ecological networks, summed across all reporting Parties.

Figure 4.8 summarises the number and area of NIS and IIS that are protected with a management plan, those that are protected without a management plan, and those that have no legal protection, as reported by the Parties that responded to this question. In terms of the total number of sites protected, IIS have a higher proportion of individual sites protected than NIS (73% of IIS and 51% of

NIS). Based on the actual area protected, a larger proportion of NIS areas are protected than IIS areas (83% of NIS and 62% of IIS).

Regarding management plans, less than half of all NIS and IIS have management plans in place (Figure 4.8). Relating this to site area, a much lower proportion of the area covered by internationally important sites have a management plan (10%) than nationally important sites (71%).

Details of the number and area covered by NIS and IIS Party-by-Party are provided in Annex Figures A10-A13.

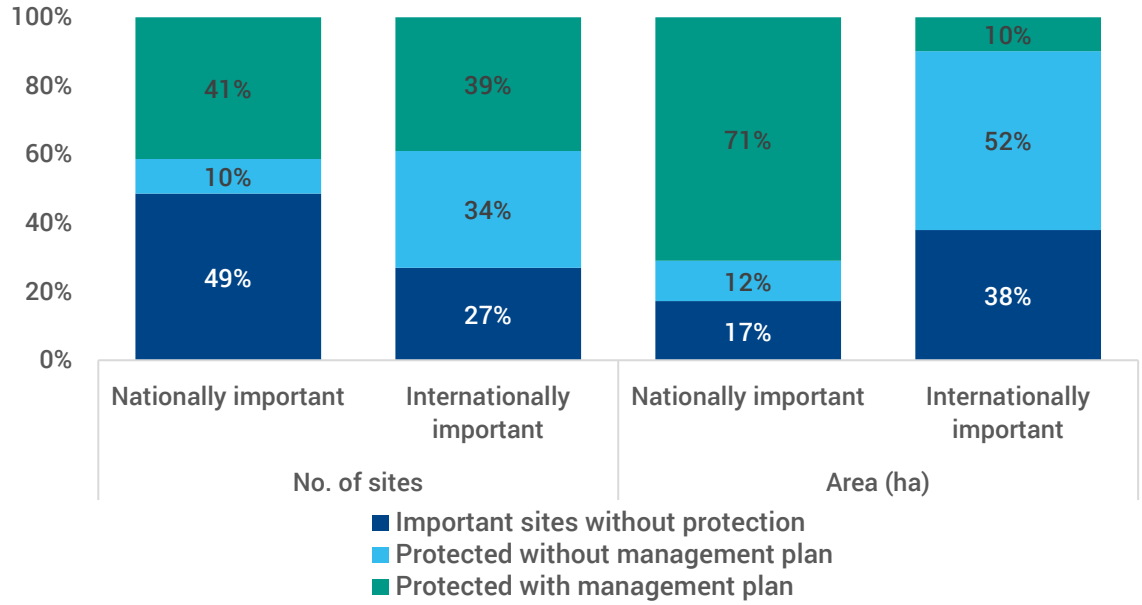


Figure 4.8. Across-Party percentages of nationally and internationally important sites that are protected and have a management plan, protected with no management plan, and not protected, as reported by the Parties (n=37 out of 40 Parties that responded to at least part of this question; Denmark, Norway and Serbia were removed from this analysis due to their data presenting outliers, such as where the reported area/number of sites with management plans exceeded the area/number of all important sites, a very high total number of sites or a very high area of sites relative to country area).

Party responses indicate progress towards achieving Target 3.3, as a high number of international sites and large area of both national and international sites have legal protection. Nonetheless, a high number of NIS lack legal protection and the proportion of IIS areas with management plans remains low. The large quantity of nationally important sites without protection indicates the need for continued efforts and focus on increasing legal protections for important sites.

In addition to reporting on important sites, Parties were asked to report on establishing buffer zones around waterbird sites as an approach for maintaining or increasing resilience of ecological networks. Four Parties (Algeria, Czech Republic, Rwanda and South Africa, 8% of RP; 5% of CP) reported that they have identified which nationally or internationally important sites require buffer zones to maintain or increase resilience (Figure 4.5). Thirteen Parties reported that they have not identified sites which require buffer zones (25% of RP; 16% of CP) and of these, five countries reported that buffer zones were not required. Reasons for this were that buffers already being included in sites (Estonia and the Netherlands), no legislative requirement for buffer zones (Italy), sites already have management plans unrelated to AEWA (Serbia) and high national coverage of

Natura 2000 sites (Slovenia). Three other Parties noted lack of resources as an impediment (Albania, France and Ukraine), one Party noted this as a future consideration (Syria), and one Party reported that identification was underway (Norway).

Parties were asked to rate the current effectiveness of national protection designation, management measures and climate resilience measures for both internationally and nationally important sites, as well as the effectiveness of buffer zones around waterbird sites (Figure 4.9). National protection designation for IIS received the highest effectiveness rating from the Parties: 22 Parties (42% of RP; 28% of CP) rated the effectiveness of this measure as 'high' and 12 Parties (23% of RP; 15% of CP) rated this as 'moderate'. Nine Parties (17% of RP; 11% of CP) rated the effectiveness of climate resilience measures, for those IIS with management planning including objectives related to climate change resilience, as 'low' (Albania, Croatia, Finland, Lebanon, Moldova, Niger, Norway, Syria, Uganda); this was the most 'low' ratings for any of the management measures assessed. Party responses indicate that further work may be required to support Parties to assess and improve the effectiveness of current protection and management measures at nationally and internationally important sites.

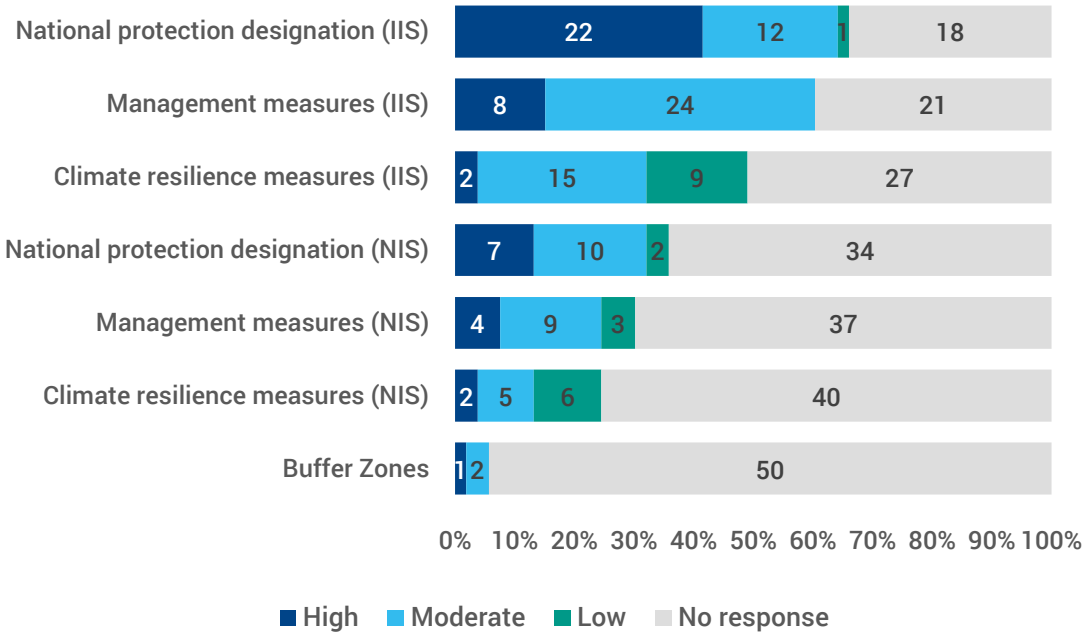
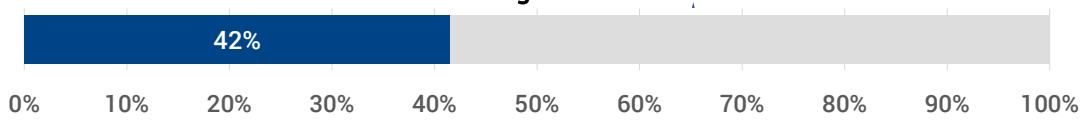


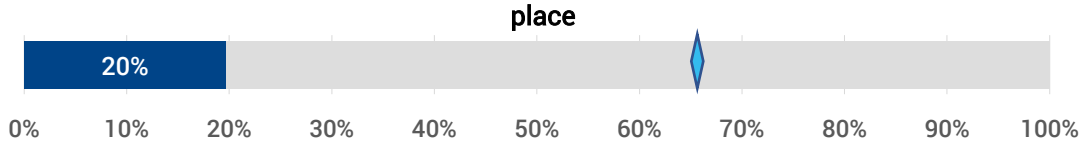
Figure 4.9. Party responses to rating the effectiveness of national protection designation, management measures in NIS and IIS, climate resilience measures in NIS and IIS and the establishment of buffer zones around important waterbird sites, for those Parties that responded to this question.

Strategic Plan Target 3.3: At least two-thirds of all flyway network sites are actively protected and actively managed, focusing in particular on internationally important sites and those in transboundary areas

Percentage of flyway network sites covered by national or international protected area designations

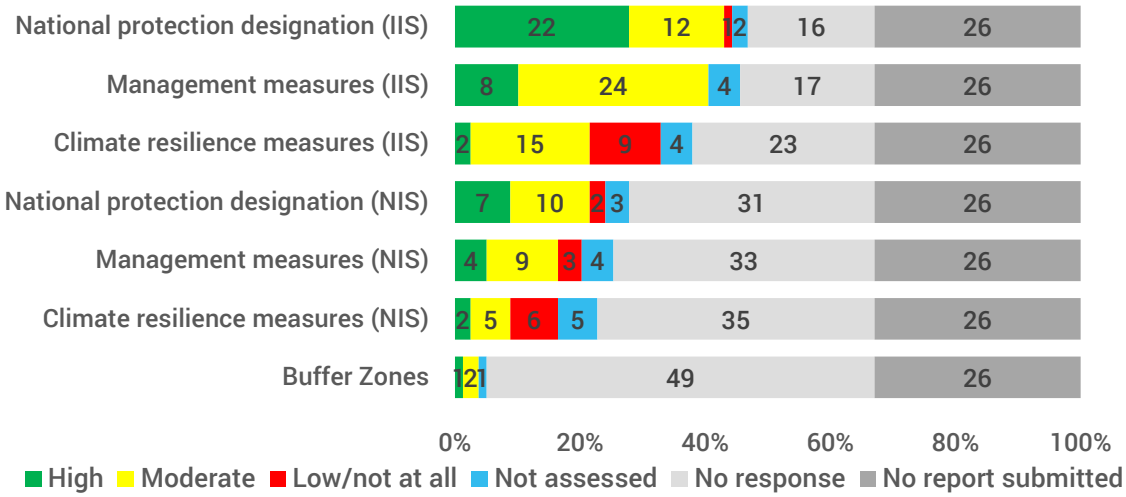


Percentage of flyway network sites for which actively implemented management plans are in place

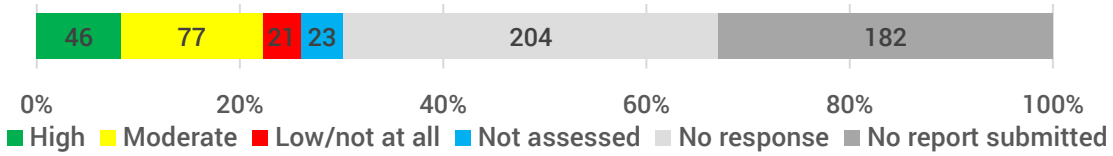


The above percentages of flyway network sites are calculated combining NIS and IIS. The results are based on the responses from the 37 Parties that provided a response to the area and/or number of sites for NIS and/or IIS and whose data could be included (see caption for Figure 4.8))

Traffic light assessment of overall effectiveness rating of conservation measures



Traffic light assessment of overall effectiveness rating across all conservation measures



Party responses to rating the effectiveness of conservation measures

National Protection Designation (IIS)	High: 22	Moderate: 12	Low: 1	Not at all: 0	Not assessed: 2	No response: 16	No report: 26
Management measures (IIS)	High: 8	Moderate: 24	Low: 0	Not at all: 0	Not assessed: 4	No response: 17	No report: 26
Climate resilience measures (IIS)	High: 2	Moderate: 15	Low: 6	Not at all: 3	Not assessed: 4	No response: 23	No report: 26
National protection designation (NIS)	High: 7	Moderate: 10	Low: 2	Not at all: 0	Not assessed: 3	No response: 31	No report: 26
Management measures (NIS)	High: 4	Moderate: 9	Low: 3	Not at all: 0	Not assessed: 4	No response: 33	No report: 26
Climate resilience measures (NIS)	High: 2	Moderate: 5	Low: 3	Not at all: 3	Not assessed: 5	No response: 35	No report: 26
Buffer zones	High: 1	Moderate: 2	Low: 0	Not at all: 0	Not assessed: 1	No response: 49	No report: 26
All measures	High: 46	Moderate: 77	Low: 15	Not at all: 6	Not assessed: 23	No response: 204	No report: 182

Q43. Has your country developed a national strategy / action plan for filling gaps in designation and/or management of internationally and nationally important sites? (Resolution 5.2; AEWA Strategic Plan 20192027, Action 3.3(a))

Twenty Parties (38% of Reporting Parties (RP); 25% of all Contracting Parties (CP); Figure 4.10) reported that they have developed a national strategy or plan for filling gaps in the *designation* of internationally and nationally important sites, and twelve Parties (23% of RP; 15% of CP; Figure 4.11) have developed action plans for fillings gaps in the *management* of such sites to ensure that such measures are incorporated into existing plans (Action 3.3(a) of the Strategic Plan 2019-2017). Of these, all Parties except one (Estonia) provided further details and references or web links to their national strategy or action plan.

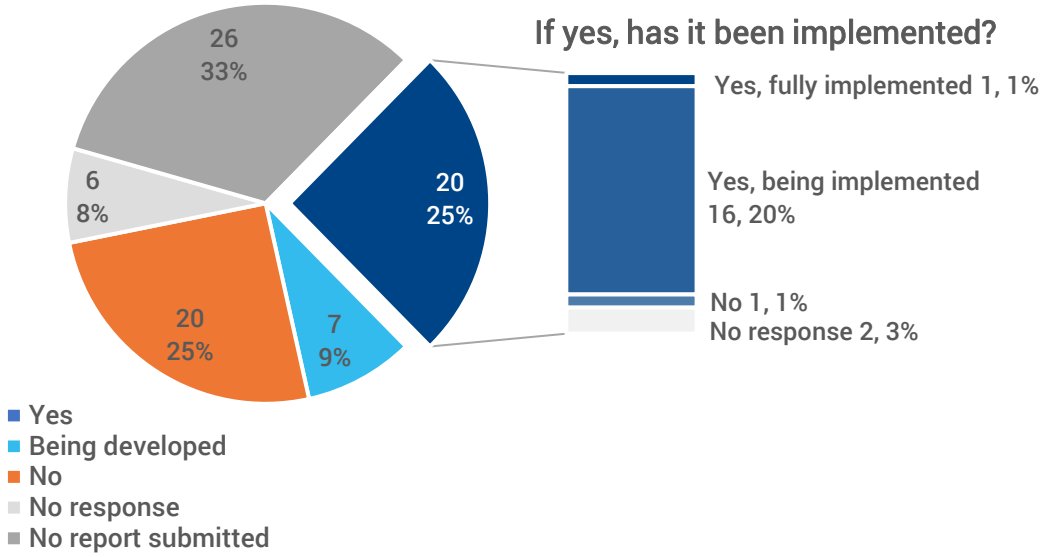


*Figure 4.10. Party responses as to whether they have developed a national **strategy/action plan for filling gaps in the designation** of internationally and nationally important sites. For Parties that have done so, responses as to whether this has been implemented.*

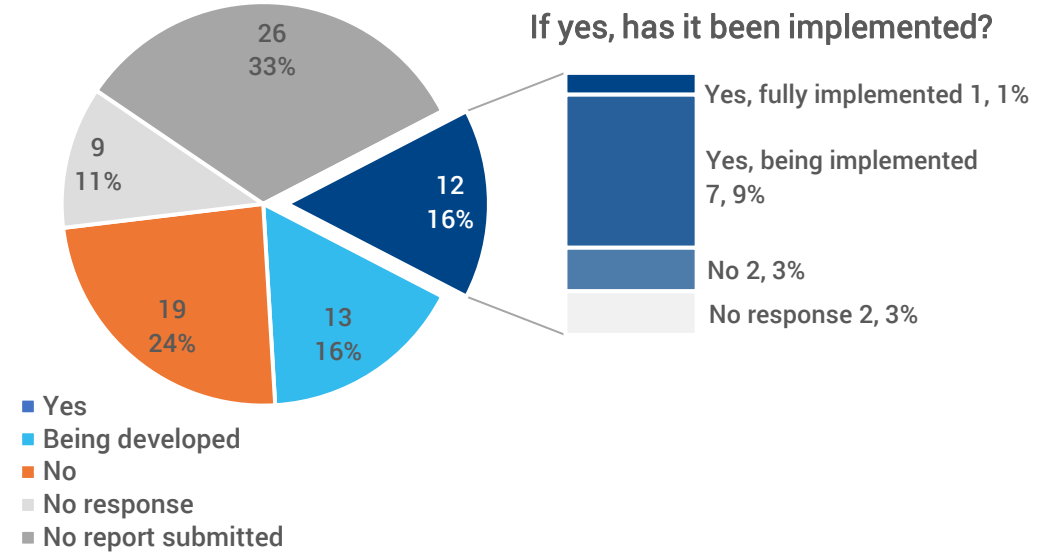


*Figure 4.11. Party responses as to whether they have developed a national **strategy/action plan for filling gaps in the management** of internationally and nationally important sites. For Parties that have done so, responses as to whether this has been implemented.*

Twelve of the 20 Parties (38% of RP; 25% of CP) that had not developed a national action plan for filling gaps in *site designation* provided an explanation. The most frequently cited reasons were that this issue is already addressed by other laws or initiatives (Bulgaria, Croatia, Latvia and Tanzania) or that such a plan was not necessary (Czech Republic, Finland and Slovenia). Two Parties mentioned a lack of data or resources (Côte d'Ivoire and North Macedonia). 'Other' reasons included the evaluation of sites being underway (Denmark), the network of important sites only recently being adopted (Serbia) and only recently becoming an AEWA Contracting Party (Malawi). Of the nineteen Parties that reported no development of an action plan in relation to *management* gap filling (36% of RP; 24% of CP), ten countries provided further details. The most common answer was that this was not necessary, or not relevant if gaps had not yet been identified (Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Latvia and Slovenia). Three Parties (Croatia, Denmark and Egypt) considered that the sites were already covered by other laws or initiatives, and two Parties (Belgium and Spain) mentioned that this would be considered in future. Serbia noted that as they are a relatively new Party, they have only recently adopted the network of important sites.

Q44. Is the network of nationally and internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds integrated into your country's water- and land-use policies and planning and decision-making processes? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 3.4)

Sixteen Parties (30% of Reporting Parties (RP); 20% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that the network of nationally and internationally important sites was fully integrated into their water- and land-use policies, planning and decision-making processes, with a further 19 Parties having done this partially (36% of RP; 24% of CP; Figure 4.12). Of the 9 Parties (17% of RP; 11% of CP) that reported that the network of important sites had not been integrated into their water- and land-use policies, six Parties provided an explanation. These included that this integration is under development (Albania), the network of important sites has not yet been identified (Sweden), the network of important sites has only recently been adopted (Serbia) and a lack of resources (North Macedonia). Malawi noted their status as a relatively new Contracting Party and South Africa reported that, while there is no specific network of important sites for migratory waterbirds, sites are generally covered by other laws of Protected Areas and Ramsar sites.

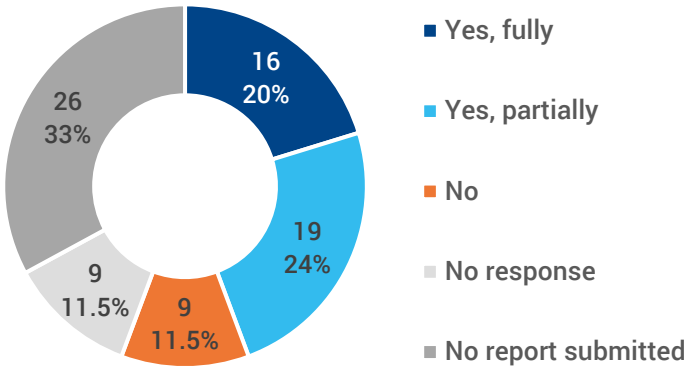
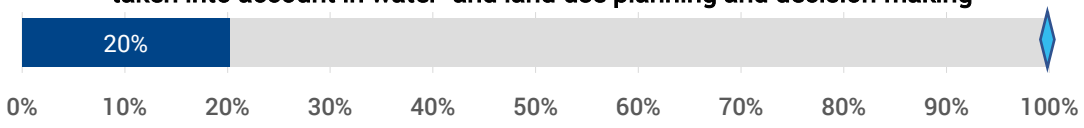


Figure 4.12. Party responses as to whether the network of nationally and internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds is integrated into their country's water and land-use policies, planning and decision-making processes.

Strategic Plan Target 3.4: The need to maintain the importance and integrity of AEWA flyway network sites is taken into account in planning and decision-making processes in all Contracting Parties

Percentage of Parties confirming that the importance of AEWA flyway network sites is explicitly taken into account in water- and land-use planning and decision-making



Q46. Has the Critical Site Network (CSN) Tool for the AEWA area been accessed and used in your country? (Resolution 7.9)

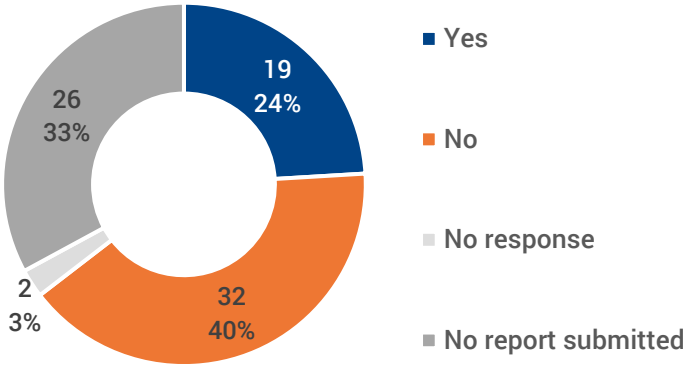


Figure 4.13. Party responses as to whether they have accessed and used the Critical Site Network (CSN) tool.

Nineteen Parties (36% of Reporting Parties (RP); 24% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that they have accessed and used the Critical Site Network (CSN) tool (Figure 4.13). Of the 32 Parties that reported having not accessed and used the CSN tool (60% of RP; 41% of CP), 11 Parties gave no reason. Six Parties stated the CSN tool had not been required (Denmark, Italy, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway and Sweden), including where protected area policy is addressed by national processes or other initiatives such as the EU Birds Directive. Three Parties mentioned that the tool did not have sufficient or up-to-date data (Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Senegal), and a further three Parties reported needing training (Lebanon, Rwanda and Syria). Two Parties noted a lack of resources (Albania and North Macedonia). Other responses included where the Party reported that they are learning to use the tool (Eswatini), have used the tool but not specifically for habitat conservation purposes (Croatia), or have only recently adopted a network of important sites (Serbia).

Q47. Following MOP7, has your country been involved in the establishment of innovative, international, multi-stakeholder partnerships to guide the development and implementation of habitat management, creation and restoration projects in the wider environment? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 4.4(a))

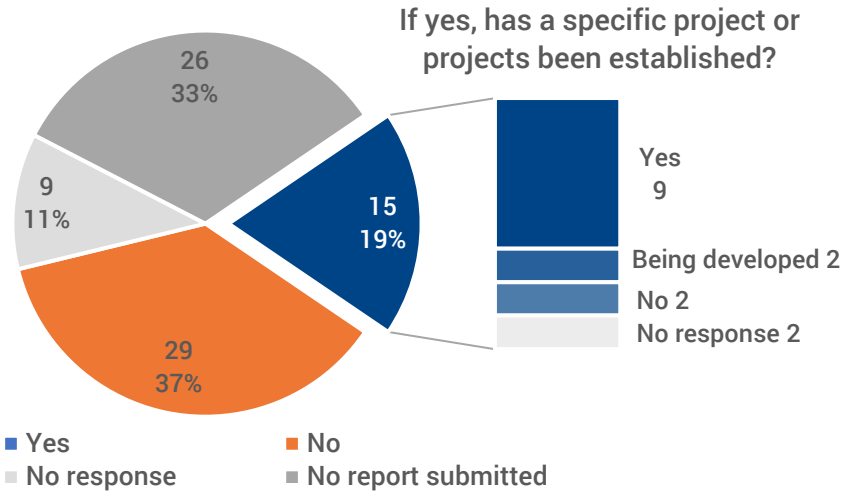


Figure 4.14. Party responses as to whether they have been involved in the establishment of innovative, international, multi-stakeholder partnerships to guide the development and implementation of habitat management, creation and restoration projects. For those that have, further details of whether they have established specific project/s.

Following MOP7, fifteen Parties (28% of Reporting Parties (RP); 19% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) have established innovative, international, multi-stakeholder partnerships to guide the development and implementation of habitat management, creation and restoration (Action 4.4(a) of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027) (Figure 4.14). Of these, nine Parties reported that they have established a specific project or projects under a partnership arrangement. Over 18 different projects were reported by these Parties (Table 4.1). A further two Parties (Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe) reported that specific projects are currently being developed.

Over half of the twenty-nine Parties (55% of RP; 37% of CP) that reported that they had not been involved in the establishment of multi-stakeholder partnerships gave no specific reason. The lack of financial, technical and human resources was given as the main reason why such projects have not been established (Albania, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Georgia, Rwanda, Slovenia and Syria). Two Parties noted that there was no cooperative framework in place for this (Lebanon and Morocco), and two Parties considered the issue covered by other initiatives (Belgium and Norway).

Table 4.1. Projects reported by Parties as established under partnership arrangements to implement habitat management, creation and restoration projects in the wider environment

Party	Projects
Belarus	Creation of opportunities and conditions for joint management and sustainable use of natural resources of the transboundary Ramsar territory "Olmany – Perebrody Mires" (Belarus-Ukraine) Mire management experience exchange between Belarusian Ramsar sites with the wetlands of Poland, Lithuania, Ukraine, Russia, Germany and other countries Conservation-oriented management of forests and wetlands to achieve multiple benefits (2017-2021) Polesia - Wildlife Without Borders: Protection of One of the Largest Natural Landscapes in Europe (2019-2023) River Bug Valley: Integration of the Ramsar Approach with other Spatial Forms of Protection (2012-2020)
France	Project RESSOURCE (Component 2: waterbird habitat conservation)
Latvia	LIFE projects
Netherlands	Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation projects
Serbia	Transboundary Management Programme for the planned 5-country Biosphere Reserve "Mura-Drava-Danube" with Slovenia, Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia Case study: Advocating ESAV in Bosut Forests Area -integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services in natural resource uses and management Active sensor monitoring Network and environmental evaluation for protection and wise use of wetlands and other surface waters (SeNSWET) with Croatia Operation Wetlands Ecosystem Services Assessment in Croatia-Serbia cross border region (EcoWET)
Slovakia	Bridging the Danube Protected Areas towards a Danube Habitat Corridor - DANUBEparksCONNECTED (Danube Transnational Programme, 2017-2019) DaRe to Connect - Supporting Danube Region's ecological Connectivity by linking Natura 2000 areas along the Green Belt (Danube Transnational Programme, 2018-2021) Building management capacities of Carpathian protected areas for the integration and harmonization of biodiversity protection and socio-economic development - Centralparks (Programme Central Europe, 2019-2022)
Spain	LIFE project for the protection of wetland sites which are stopovers for the Aquatic Warbler in the regions of Castilla y Leon, Castilla La Mancha and Valencia
Tanzania	Combating poaching and the illegal wildlife trade in Tanzania through an integrated Approach
Ukraine	Polesia – Wilderness without borders (2019-2023): mire restoration planned for 2022. Restoration of the natural state of Bobrove lake (Kherson region) (2020)

Strategic Plan Target 4.4: At least three of the innovative, international multi-stakeholder partnerships[X] result in the improved management, creation and/or restoration of waterbird habitats in the wider environment

Number of specific projects being implemented and/or have been completed: 18 projects

[X] As established under Action 4.4(a)

European Shag/ *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*/ Frank Fichtmüller/ Adobe Stock

V. MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES

Parties were asked 23 questions relating to the management of human activities, such as hunting, fishing and infrastructure development, as well as the promotion of waterbird-related ecotourism and ecosystem services. Management measures considered include regulation to ensure best practice; implementation of provisions to avoid, mitigate and compensate for adverse impacts; and monitoring and data collection for use in mitigation.

Six different Strategic Plan Targets are assessed through these questions. A high number of Parties reported having in place either legal or administrative measures to avoid, mitigate and compensate for adverse impacts on flyway sites, and making use of impact assessments. Good efforts are also being made towards meeting the targets on promoting waterbird-related ecotourism and having best-practice codes or standards in place for waterbird hunting. However, a low number of Parties have transposed all the legal measures in the AEWA Action Plan relating to the use and management of migratory waterbirds into domestic legislation, and harvest data collection efforts are moderate. Integration of cultural or provisioning ecosystem services of migratory waterbirds into decisions affecting their habitats is also relatively low.

Hunting

Q48. Does the legislation of your country implement the principle of sustainable use of waterbirds, as envisaged in the AEWA Action Plan, taking into account the full geographical range of the waterbird populations concerned and their life history characteristics? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.1; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 2.2)

Forty-four Parties (87% of Reporting Parties (RP); 58% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that their legislation implements the principle of sustainable use of waterbirds (Figure 5.1). Forty Parties provided further details on how this was done, with the majority (27) describing various means through which sustainable use was integrated into legislation, for example through closed seasons, quotas, and restrictions on hunting equipment, to adaptive harvest management plans based on population monitoring. A further six Parties (Albania, Algeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Eswatini, Kenya and Rwanda) noted that hunting is prohibited.

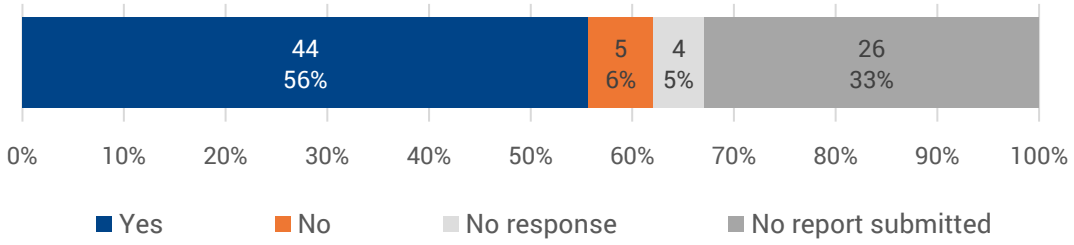


Figure 5.1. Party responses as to whether their legislation implements the principle of sustainable use of waterbirds.

Five Parties (6% of RP; 4% of CP) responded that their legislation did not implement the principle of sustainable use of waterbirds and provided reasons, citing that hunting was not a significant issue in the country (Ethiopia), that alternative legislation or instruments were responsible for addressing sustainable use of waterbirds (Netherlands and Lebanon), and capacity constraints (North Macedonia). Syria noted that the process of updating the hunting law was underway.

Q49. Does your country have an established system for the collection of harvest data, which covers the species/populations listed in Table 1? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.3; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 2.1(b))

Thirty-one Parties (58% of Reporting Parties (RP); 39% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that there is an established system for collecting harvest data in place in their country (Action 2.1(b) of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027) (Figure 5.2).

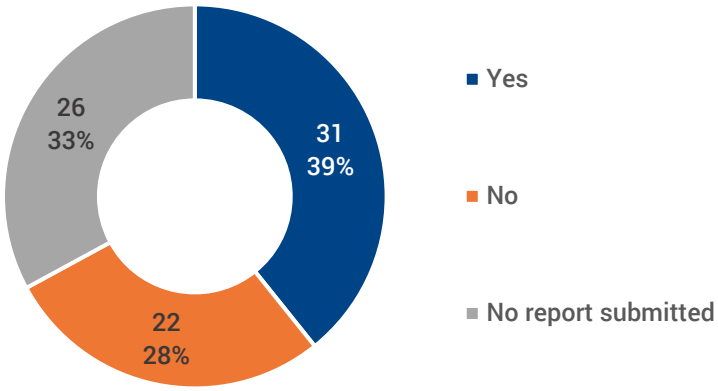


Figure 5.2. Party responses as to whether they had established harvest data collection systems covering the species/populations listed in AEWA Action Plan Table 1.

The 31 Parties that reported a harvest data collection system provided further information on what their collection systems covered (Figure 5.3). Thirteen Parties (37% of RP; 16% of CP) reported having a system in place that includes all AEWA species, all harvesting activities, and that was in place throughout the whole territory of the country. In many instances, Parties specified that this was only for AEWA-listed populations that are listed as game species.

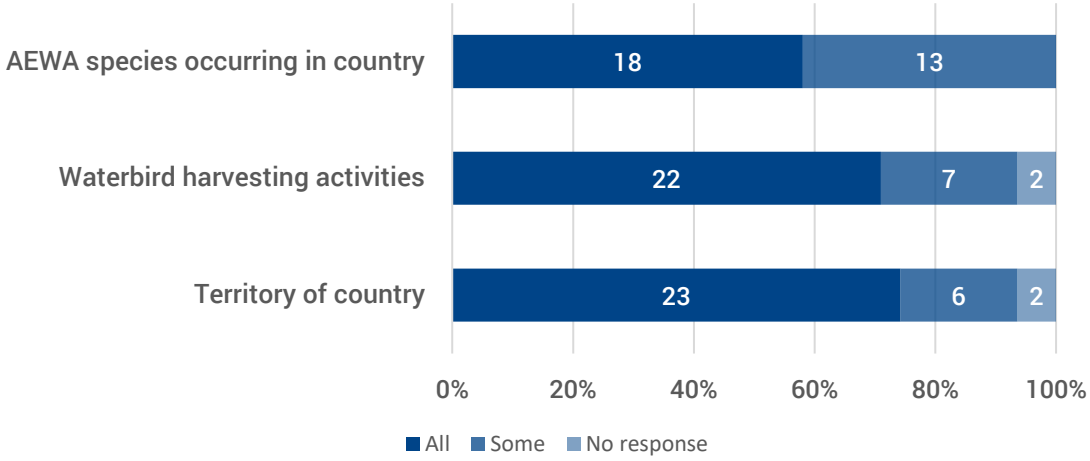


Figure 5.3. Party responses, from those with an established harvest data collection system, as to whether they had harvest data collection systems that cover all, or only some: AEWA species occurring in their country; harvesting activities; and the whole territory, or only part.

Twenty-two Parties (37% of RP; 16% of CP) reported that they did not have an established system for harvest data collection in their country. The most common reason provided for this was that hunting of waterbirds was prohibited in the country (Algeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Eswatini and Rwanda) (Figure 5.4). Three Parties (Albania, Belarus and Syria) stated that they were working on implementing a harvest data collection system.

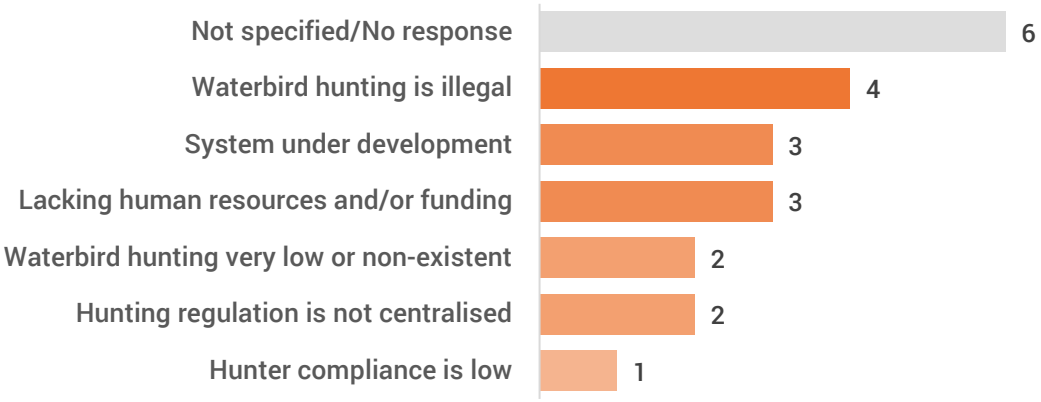


Figure 5.4. Summary of explanations provided by Parties who reported no established harvest data collection system within their country for species listed in Table 1 of the AEWA Agreement.

Q50. Has your country phased out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.4; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 2.2(d))

Eighteen Parties (34% of Reporting Parties (RP); 23% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported having fully phased out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands (Action 2.2(d) of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027) (Figure 5.5). A further eight Parties (15% of RP; 10% of CP) reported that lead shot was partially phased out.

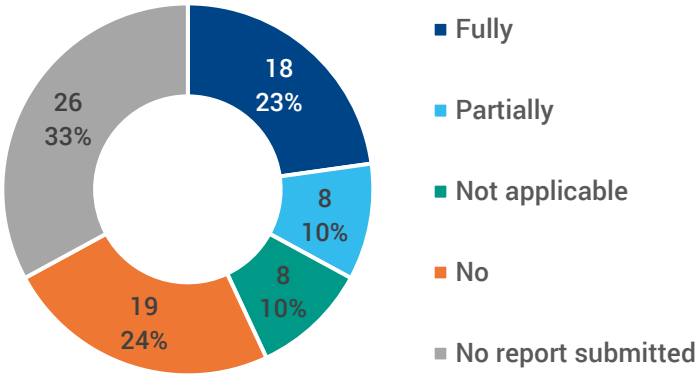
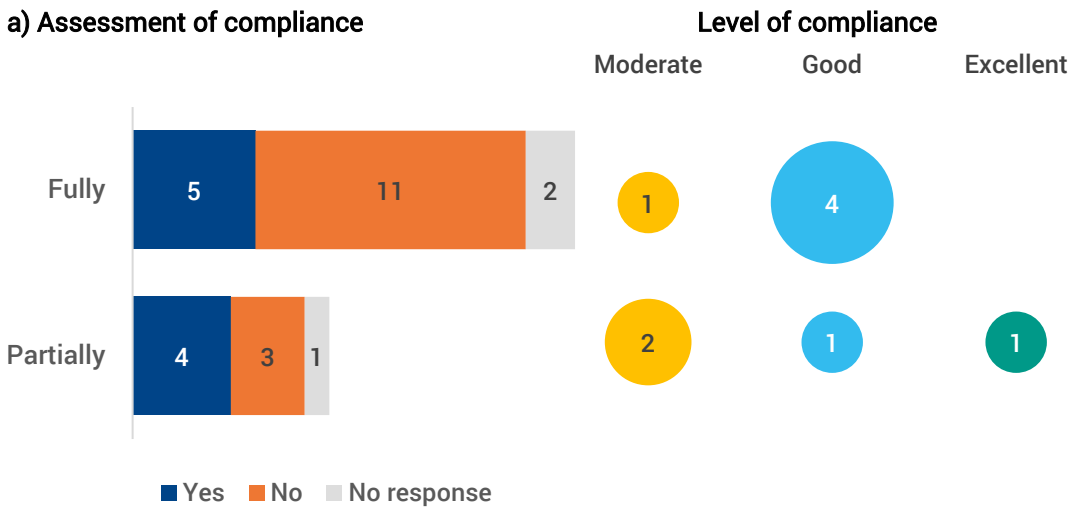


Figure 5.5. Party responses as to whether the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands has been fully phased out.

Only five Parties having *fully* phased out lead shot reported undertaking an assessment of compliance with the legislation, and four reported level of compliance as good (Belgium, Croatia, Denmark and the Netherlands) and one as moderate (Estonia), noting that their review was not yet finished (Figure 5.6a)). Two of the five Parties also identified barriers to compliance: the Netherlands noted that the system did not prevent illegal actions, and Belgium noted that as it is not illegal to own lead shot, only to use it for hunting, enforcement was difficult.

Of the eight Parties that had *partially* phased out lead shot, half had undertaken an assessment of compliance with the legislation (Figure 5.6a)). Only one Party (Latvia) identified a barrier to compliance, noting limited alternatives to lead ammunition and that hunters still preferred to use it. Of these eight Parties that had partially phased out lead shot, only two Parties (Spain and Portugal) had introduced a self-imposed and published timetable for fully banning its use. Six Parties had not done so: Italy and Moldova explained that legislation was in progress; the Czech Republic reported that lead shot had not been phased out due to a disagreement in parliament; Ethiopia commented that it was not a priority due to the rarity of the use of lead shot in wetlands; and Latvia stated that the use of lead ammunition is already prohibited in the main wetlands and there is limited hunting. Finland did not provide an explanation.



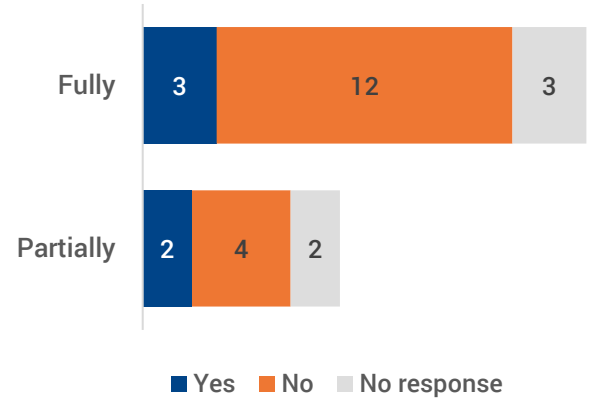


*Figure 5.6. Responses from Parties that had either "fully" or "partially" phased out lead shot as to whether **(a)** an assessment of compliance with the legislation had been undertaken, and how compliance was rated for those that had assessed it, and **(b)** an assessment of impact of the legislation had been undertaken.*

Among the Parties having fully or partially phased out lead shot, five (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Spain and Sweden) reported having measured the impact of the legislation (Figure 5.6b)).

The 19 Parties (36% of RP; 24% of CP) that had not phased out lead shot for hunting in wetlands were asked to explain the reasons and barriers to the introduction of legislation. Six Parties (Botswana, Egypt, Iceland, South Africa, Syria and Ukraine) were making progress towards introducing legislation, by discussing how lead shot measures could be implemented, reviewing their systems, or working on new legislation. Five Parties stated that the issue was low priority or not relevant, whether because little lead shot hunting in wetlands occurs (Niger, Slovenia, Tanzania and Togo), or due to a hunting moratorium (Albania). Four Parties (Georgia, Romania, South Africa, and Ukraine) commented on the requirement for multi-stakeholder involvement in this complex issue. Ukraine noted the lack of a suitable alternative to lead shot in their country. Niger explained that monitoring of hunters is not carried out, and Ghana stated that hunting with lead shot is allowed with a permit. Lebanon commented that it is forbidden to hunt in protected areas, Important Bird Areas and wetlands of international importance. Malawi expressed the need for a study on the magnitude and impact of lead shot in wetlands, and Belarus noted its reservation regarding this paragraph upon joining AEWA. Three Parties (South Africa, Tanzania and Ukraine) have additionally noted awareness raising activities or voluntary agreement not to shoot over wetlands.

None of the 19 Parties that had not phased out lead shot for hunting in wetlands reported having introduced a self-imposed and published timetable for fully banning its use. Eleven provided an explanation (Figure 5.7), within which lack of legislation was the most common reason (reported by Lebanon, Syria and Tanzania).

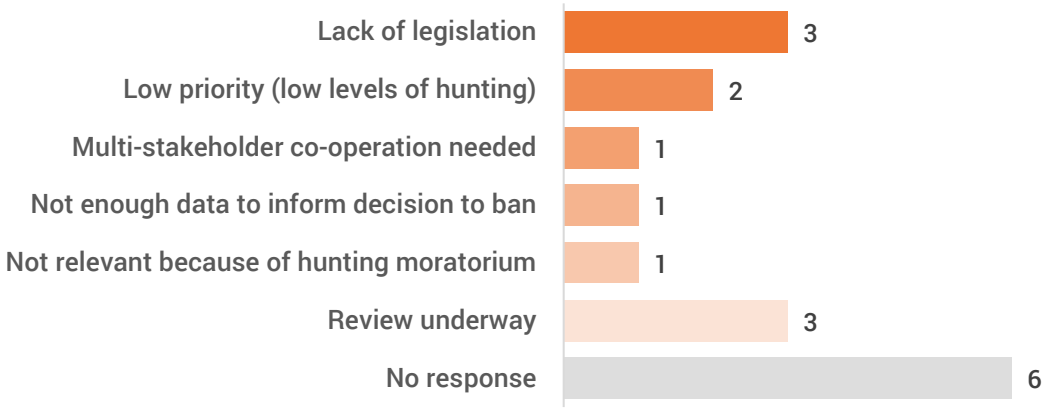


Figure 5.7. Reasons and barriers to the introduction of a self-imposed and published timetable for fully banning the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands.

Q51. Are there measures in your country to reduce/eliminate illegal taking? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.6; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 2.2(e))

The vast majority of Parties - fifty-one Parties (96% of Reporting Parties (RP); 65% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) - reported that there were measures in place to reduce/eliminate illegal taking (Action 2.2(e) of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027) (Figure 5.8). Only one Party (Togo) reported that no such measures were in place, noting that while there were no specific measures, the matter was already accounted for by other laws. Parties' rating of the effectiveness of their measures are also displayed in Figure 5.8, with most rating as either 'high' or 'moderate'.

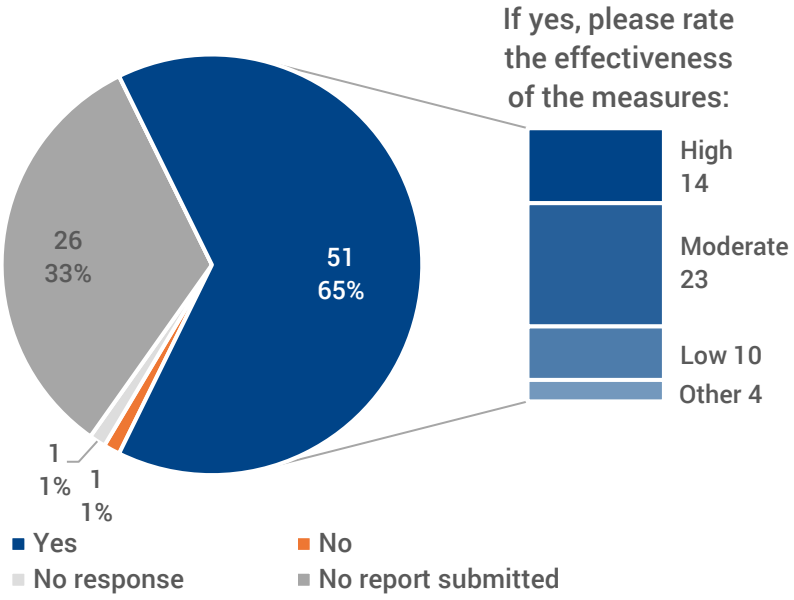


Figure 5.8. Party responses as to whether they had measures in place to reduce or eliminate illegal taking.

Among the Parties that rated the effectiveness of measures as 'moderate' or 'low', the vast majority cited a lack of enforcement as the reason for the lower level of effectiveness (10 and seven of these Parties, respectively). Six Parties (Central African Republic, Croatia, Egypt, Italy, the Netherlands and Slovakia) stated that more officers were needed on the ground, with some noting an accompanying need for more financial resources and equipment, and one stating that more officers were needed due to an increase in the number of incidents and in aggression. Three Parties (Albania, Croatia and Syria) also mentioned a lack of experience, knowledge or topic-specific training alongside a lack of

enforcement, and Croatia also reported the need for a single protocol and dedicated National Action Plan to address the issue more systematically. One Party (Botswana) cited the requirement to police widespread areas as a reason for the lower effectiveness, while three Parties (Central African Republic, Lebanon and Malawi) explained that enforcement was lacking outside protected areas specifically. Iceland noted very low levels of monitoring of illegal takings.

Q52. Does your country maintain an adequate system for making realistic estimates of the number of waterbirds taken illegally? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 2.1(b))

Six Parties (Georgia, Senegal, Slovenia, Switzerland, Tanzania and Uganda) (11% of Reporting Parties (RP); 7% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that they maintained an adequate system for making realistic estimates of the numbers of waterbirds taken illegally (Action 2.1(b) of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027) (Figure 5.9). A further 14 Parties (26% of RP; 14% of CP) reported partially maintaining such a system.

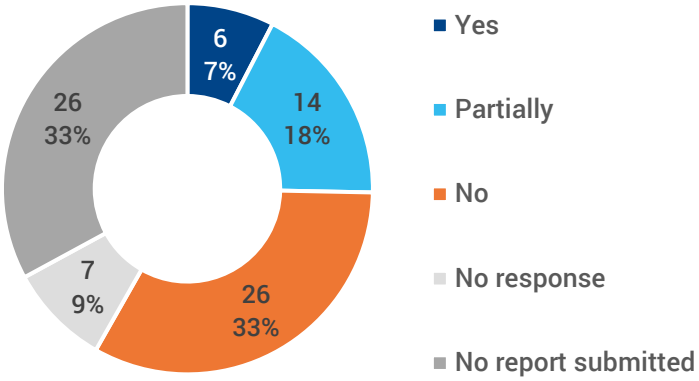


Figure 5.9. Party responses as to whether they maintain an adequate system for making realistic estimates of the number of waterbirds taken illegally.

Of the 26 Parties (49% of RP; 33% of CP) reporting having no adequate systems in place, five Parties (Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Denmark, Norway and Sweden) explained that this was because illegal take of waterbirds was considered to be a small problem, and therefore such a system was not a priority. Four Parties (Central African Republic, Egypt, Lebanon and Serbia) reported lacking the resources to maintain a system. Other reasons included one Party stating that all hunting is prohibited in wetlands and most hunting offences are reported to the hunting administration (Algeria), and one Party commenting that there had been no interest so far by the international community in measuring illegal hunting (North Macedonia). Croatia did not have such a system because it was not prescribed by the relevant legislation and the Netherlands and South Africa noted the difficulties in estimating illegal hunting.

Q53. Is legally binding proficiency testing for hunters, including amongst other things bird identification, in place in your country? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.8; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 2.2)

Twenty-seven Parties (51% of Reporting Parties (RP); 34% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that there was a legally binding proficiency test for hunters in place, which included bird identification, and a further five Parties (Algeria, Georgia, Moldova, North Macedonia and South Africa) (8% of RP; 5% of CP) said that this was partially in place (Figure 5.11).

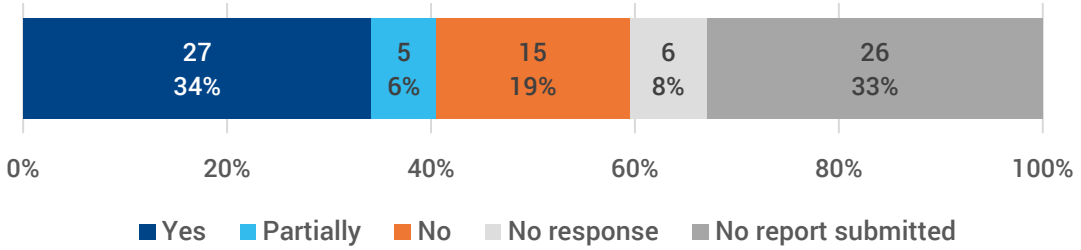
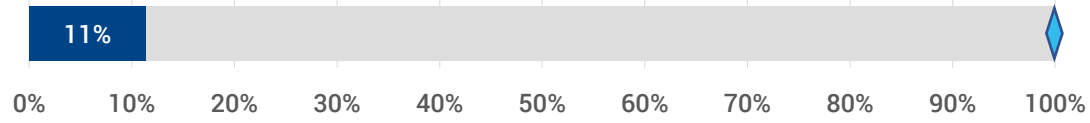


Figure 5.11. Party responses as to whether they have legally binding proficiency testing in place for hunters, including, amongst other things, bird identification.

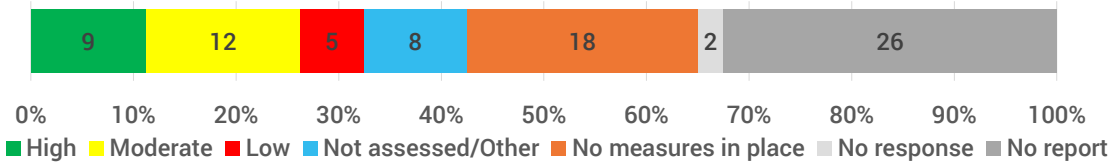
Of the 15 Parties (28% of RP; 19% of CP) that did not have legally binding proficiency testing in place, two Parties (Egypt and Syria) stated that this was in progress, while five Parties (Albania, Côte d'Ivoire, Eswatini, Rwanda and Uganda) explained that either hunting of waterbirds was illegal, or that there was no hunting in their country. Malawi mentioned that they had only recently joined AEWA. The remaining seven Parties did not specify a reason in their comments or did not provide further information.

Strategic Plan Target 2.2: The provisions of the AEWA Action Plan that relate to the use and management of migratory waterbirds (Paragraph 4.1), including harvesting, are transposed into all Parties' domestic legislation and enforced effectively

Indicator: Percentage of Parties that have transposed all of the legal measures required in Paragraph 4.1 of the AEWA Action Plan into domestic legislation (Parties that have fulfilled all requirements described in Q48, Q49, Q50, Q51 and Q53)



Indicator: Degree of enforcement and effectiveness of legislation (average across Q50 and Q51)



Party responses to enforcement and effectiveness

Q50 (fully banned lead shot only)	Excellent : 0	Good: 4	Moderate: 1	Low: 0	Not at all: 0	Not assessed: 11	Not fully banned: 35	No response: 2	No report: 26
Q51		High: 14	Moderate: 23	Low: 10	Not at all: 0	Other (illegal taking low): 4	No measures : 1	No response: 1	No report: 26

Q54. Are best practice codes and standards for hunting in place in your country in support of enforcement of hunting laws and regulations? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.7; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 2.3)

Twenty-six Parties (49% of Reporting Parties (RP); 33% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that best practice codes and standards for hunting are in place in support of enforcement of hunting laws and regulations (Figure 5.12). Sixteen Parties selected 'Club affiliation', and 15 Parties selected 'Emergency closures of hunting in exceptional conditions'; ten Parties reported having both in place. Eight Parties also reported other codes as well as or instead of these two, including a

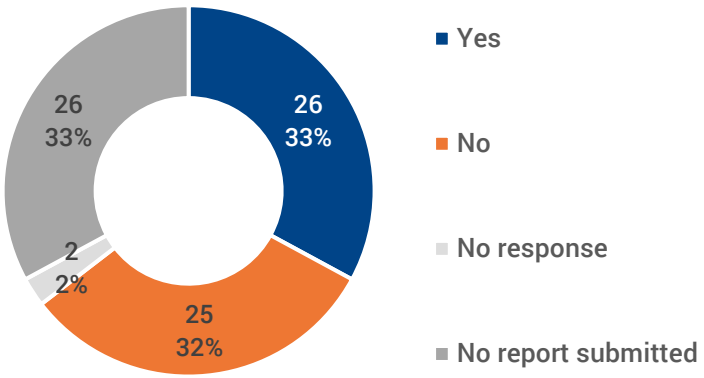


Figure 5.12. Party responses to whether they had in place best practice codes and standards for hunting in support of enforcement of hunting laws and regulations.

hunters' code of ethics, hunting associations, game management plans, further training, quotas, bans on threatened species, publication of legislation updates in hunting magazines, and a mobile app to report and monitor hunting.

Fourteen of the 26 Parties with best practice codes in place reported that these codes had a "very high" or "high" degree of application (Figure 5.13). In terms of effectiveness, 12 Parties reported that their regulations were highly effective in supporting enforcement of hunting laws and regulations.

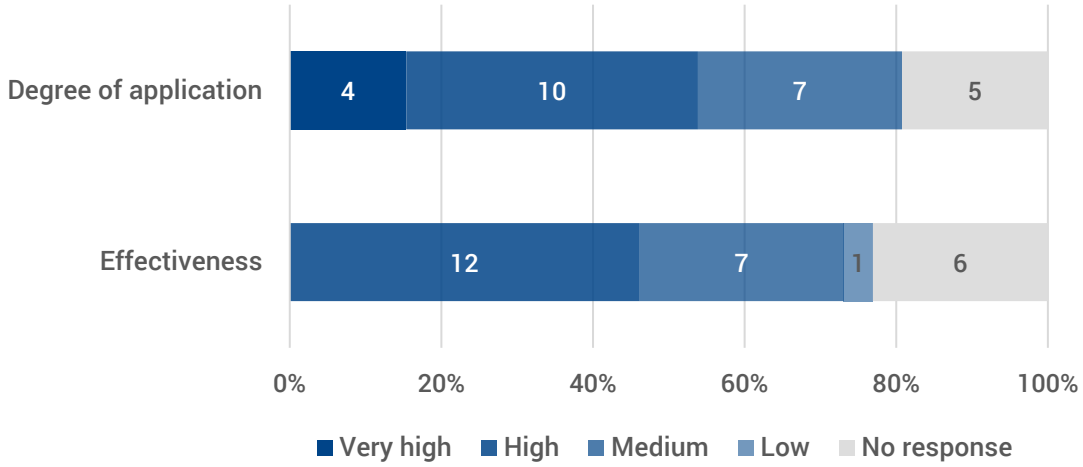


Figure 5.13. Party responses rating (a) the degree of application of their best practice codes and standards (very high = always applied; high = almost always applied; medium = more applied than not applied), and (b) the effectiveness of these best practice codes and standards in supporting enforcement of hunting laws and regulations (high = very effective; medium = effective to some extent; low = not effective).

The 25 Parties (47% of RP; 32% of CP) that did not have best practice codes for hunting in place provided varied reasons for this (Figure 5.14). The most commonly reported reasons were that there is no hunting (Côte d'Ivoire, Eswatini, Rwanda and Uganda), that the issue is being considered (Egypt, South Africa and Sweden), and that there is a hunting licence exam which covers best practice (France, Lebanon and Ukraine).

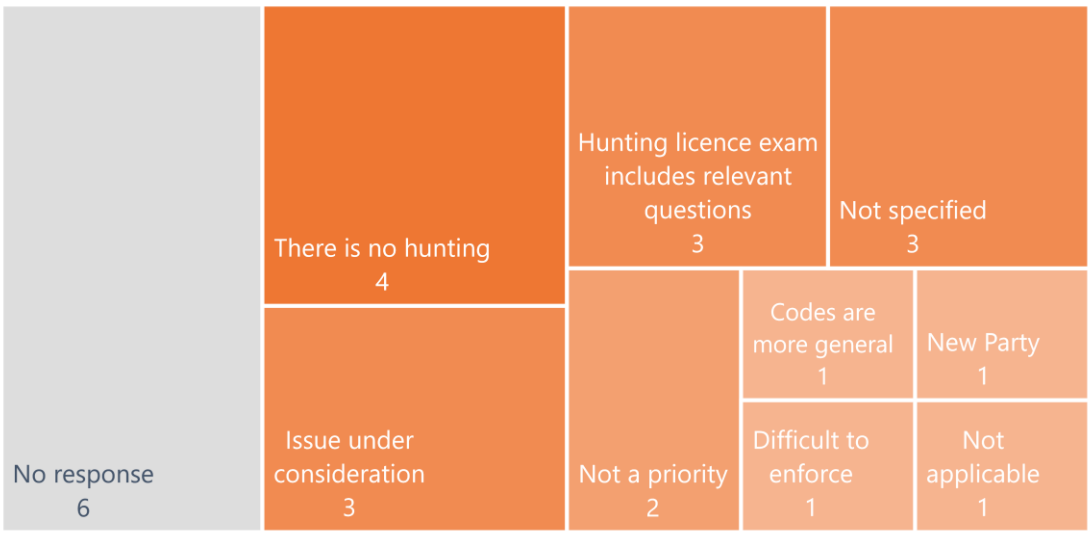
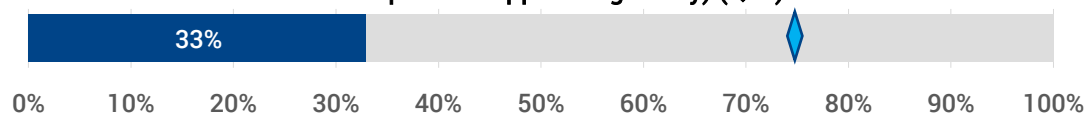


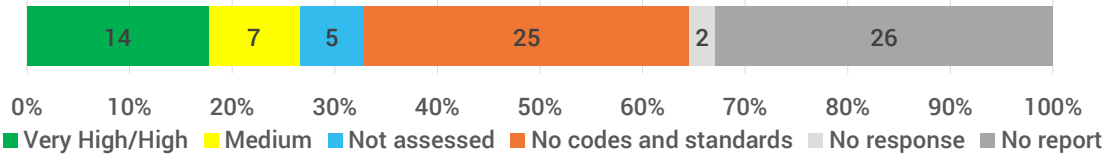
Figure 5.14. Party responses as to why they did not have best practice codes and standards for hunting in support of enforcement of hunting laws and regulations in place.

Strategic Plan Target 2.3: Best-practice codes and standards for waterbird hunting are in place and applied to support enforcement of hunting laws and regulations, including customary law where appropriate and consistent with AEWA objectives, in ensuring sustainable use of migratory waterbirds in at least three-quarters of Contracting Parties

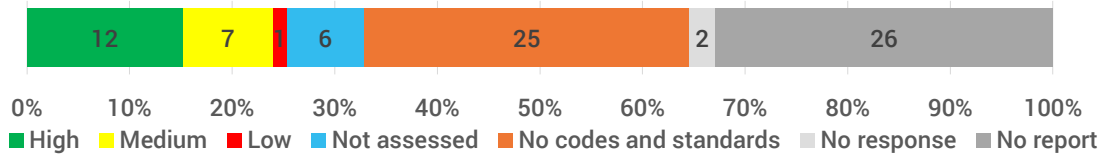
Indicator: Percentage of Parties to AEWA for which there is national coverage of best-practice codes or standards for waterbird hunting (recognising that such codes and standards may be developed and applied regionally) (Q54)



Indicator: Traffic-light assessment of extent to which codes/standards are applied (Q54)



Indicator: Traffic-light assessment of extent to which codes/standards are effective (Q54)



Party responses to rating the extent to which codes/standards are applied and effective

Application	Very high: 4	High: 10	Medium: 7	Low: 0	Not at all: 0	Not assessed: 5	No codes/ standards: 25	No response: 2	No report: 26
Effectiveness		High: 12	Medium: 7	Low: 1	Not at all: 0	Not assessed: 6	No codes/ standards: 25	No response: 2	No report: 26

Ecotourism

Q56. Is wetland- and waterbird-related ecotourism integrated into your country's national tourism development strategies or other relevant national strategies? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.2.1; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 2.5(c))

Thirty-six Parties (68% of Reporting Parties (RP); 45% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that wetland- or waterbird-related ecotourism was integrated into their country's national tourism development strategies (Action 2.5(c) of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027) (Figure 5.15). Of the 10 Parties that reported that such ecotourism was not part of their

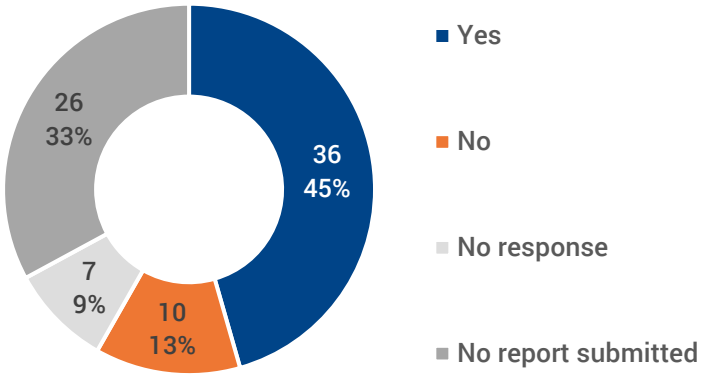


Figure 5.15. Party responses as to whether they have wetland- or waterbird-related ecotourism integrated into their country's national tourism development strategies.

strategies, two anticipated that it would be included as part of future strategies (Ethiopia and Egypt). Reasons for not having integrated such ecotourism into their tourism development strategies were that it was not seen as a priority by the tourism industry (France, Slovenia and Switzerland), that no tourism strategy was in place (Czech Republic) or that it did not involve such level of detail (Sweden).

Q57. Are there existing ecotourism initiatives in your country specifically based on migratory waterbirds and their habitats? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 2.5)

Twenty-eight Parties (53% of Reporting Parties (RP); 35% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that there are existing ecotourism initiatives in their country specifically based on migratory waterbirds and their habitats (Figure 5.16; Table 5.1).

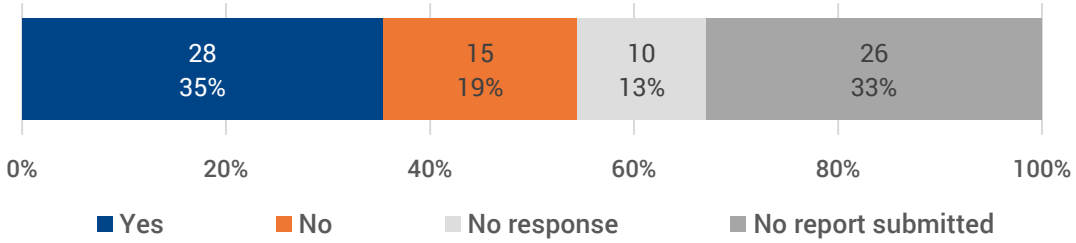


Figure 5.16. Party responses as to whether they had existing ecotourism initiatives in their country specifically based on migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

Table 5.1. Number of reported existing ecotourism initiatives specifically based on migratory waterbirds and their habitats. Four Parties gave no further response to this question.

Party	Number reported
Norway	Dozens
Czech Republic	Several tens
Serbia	7
Belgium	3
South Africa	Several
Slovenia	Very few
Belarus, Botswana, Morocco	1
Netherlands	Unknown
Albania, Croatia, Denmark, Egypt, France, Ghana, Italy, Latvia, Lebanon, Niger, Rwanda, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland	Unspecified

The 28 Parties with existing ecotourism initiatives in their country specifically based on migratory waterbirds and their habitats were asked to rank the degree to which these initiatives are designed to deliver both conservation and community benefits, and following that, to rank also the degree to which these dual benefits were being delivered in practice (Figure 5.17).

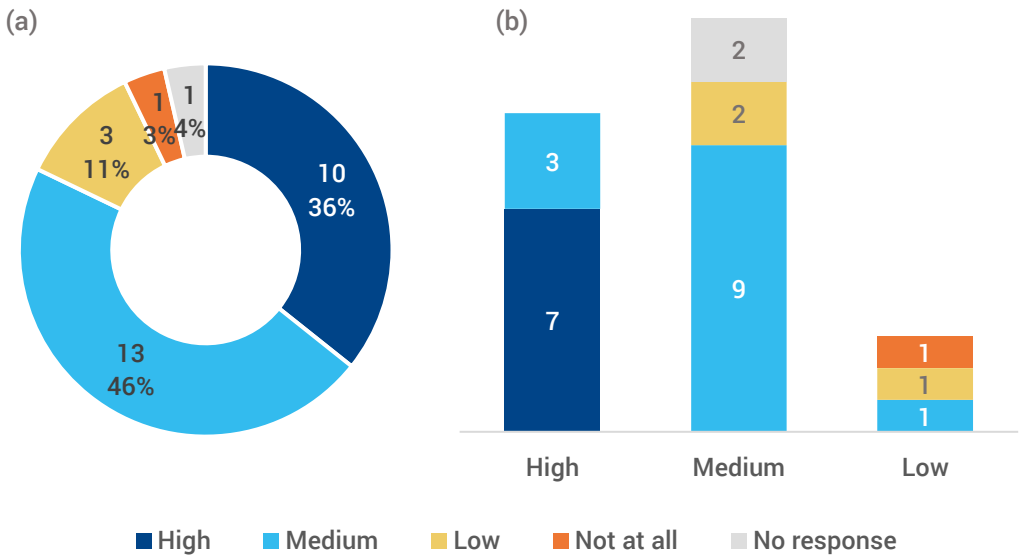


Figure 5.17. (a) Responses from Parties with existing ecotourism initiatives specifically based on migratory waterbirds and their habitats, when asked to rank the degree to which these initiatives are designed to deliver both conservation and community benefits. (b) Responses from Parties which selected either "high", "medium" or "low" to question (a) when asked to rank the degree to which these dual benefits were being delivered in practice.

Two Parties (Czech Republic and Morocco) stated that their initiatives were designed to include community and conservation benefits to a "medium" degree, yet delivery of such benefits in practice was "low." In explanation, Morocco stated that it requires the involvement of the private tourism sector, alongside marketing efforts on an international scale. The Czech Republic did not comment.

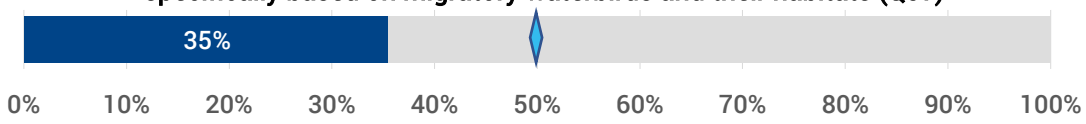
Three Parties (Belgium, France and Niger) stated that their ecotourism initiatives were designed to include community and conservation benefits to a "low" degree. Belgium, rating delivery of any benefits as "medium", explained that initiatives come mostly from the nature reserve management; the surrounding rural community is often not involved and do not always support conservation initiatives where they conflict with agriculture. France and Niger rated the delivery of any benefits as "low" and "not at all" respectively, without providing further details on either design or delivery.

The Netherlands stated that their ecotourism initiatives were "not at all" designed to deliver conservation and community benefits, explaining that nature areas are hosted by nature management organisations, which generally do not include community benefits as part of the design.

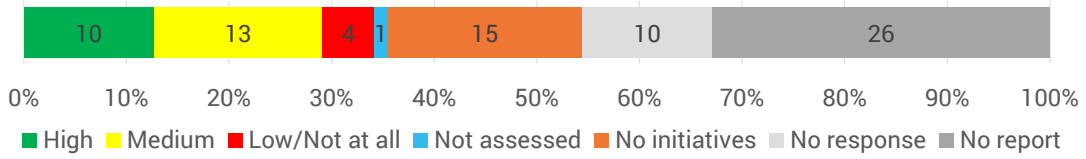
Of the 15 Parties (28% of RP; 19% of CP) which did not have any existing ecotourism initiatives in their country specifically based on migratory waterbirds and their habitats, seven Parties (Czech Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland) commented that ecotourism initiatives exist, but are not focused on waterbirds specifically. Ethiopia noted a low focus on tourism, and Syria stated that waterbird-related ecotourism initiatives were in progress.

Strategic Plan Target 2.5: Waterbird-related ecotourism is promoted in at least half of the Contracting Parties following the model/example of at least three ecotourism pilots focusing on migratory waterbirds that exemplify benefits to local communities as well as for the conservation status of AEWA populations and their habitats.

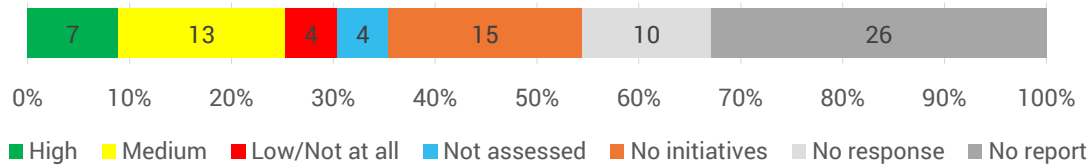
Indicator: Percentage of Parties to AEWA reporting the existence of ecotourism initiatives specifically based on migratory waterbirds and their habitats (Q57)



Indicator: Traffic-light assessment of extent to which these initiatives are <u>designed to deliver both</u> conservation and community benefits (Q57)



Indicator: Traffic-light assessment of extent to which these <u>dual benefits are being delivered in practice</u> (Q57)



Party responses rating the extent to which initiatives are designed for, and deliver, both conservation and community benefits

Design	High: 10	Medium: 13	Low: 3	Not at all: 1	Not assessed: 1	No initiatives: 15	No response: 10	No report: 26
Delivery	High: 7	Medium: 13	Low: 3	Not at all: 1	Not assessed: 4	No initiatives: 15	No response: 10	No report: 26

Other Human Activities

Q58. 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 66 in chapter 7. Research and monitoring.

The vast majority of reporting Parties (83% of Reporting Parties (RP); 56% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) had not introduced restrictions on the use of lead fishing weights in their country (Figure 5.18), while only

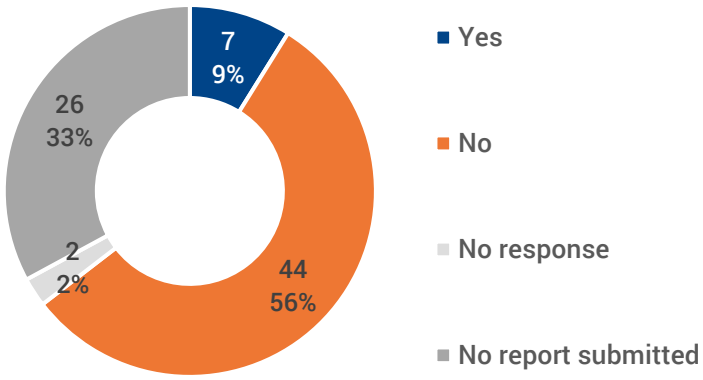


Figure 5.18. Party responses as to whether they had introduced restrictions on the use of lead fishing weights in their country.

seven Parties (Algeria, Denmark, Egypt, North Macedonia, Senegal, Tanzania and Zimbabwe) (13% of RP; 9% of CP) reported that they had done so (Figure 5.18).

Among the Parties which had not introduced lead fishing weight restrictions, six Parties (Côte d'Ivoire, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Syria and Uganda) implied that such regulations were not applicable (Figure 5.19), with some explaining that there is no fishing using lead in their countries. Five Parties reported that they had taken measures outside of the legislation, such as undertaking awareness-raising with relevant stakeholders (Belgium, Estonia and France), best-practice guidelines laid out in the fishing code (Central African Republic), and research into lead alternatives (the Netherlands). 'Other' reasons included that the legislation is being reviewed (Mali), that the topic is relatively new (Latvia), or requires a comprehensive assessment in order to make such a decision (Croatia), or that the outcome of an EU decision on restrictions is awaited (Slovakia).

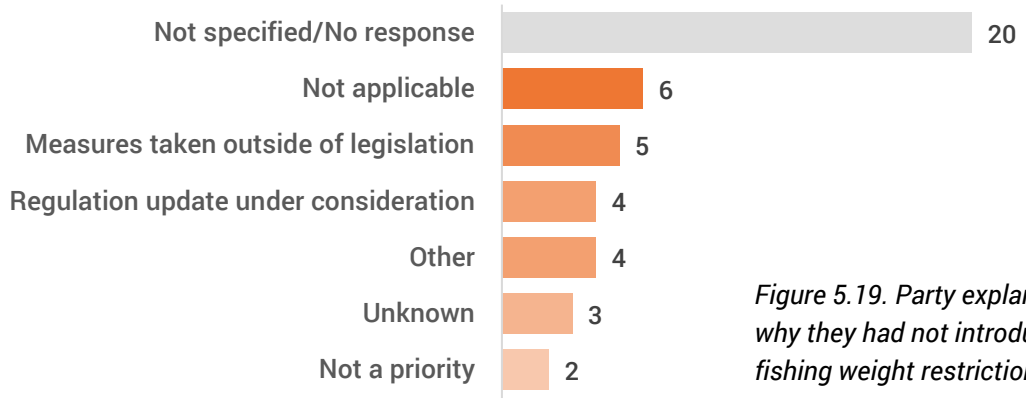
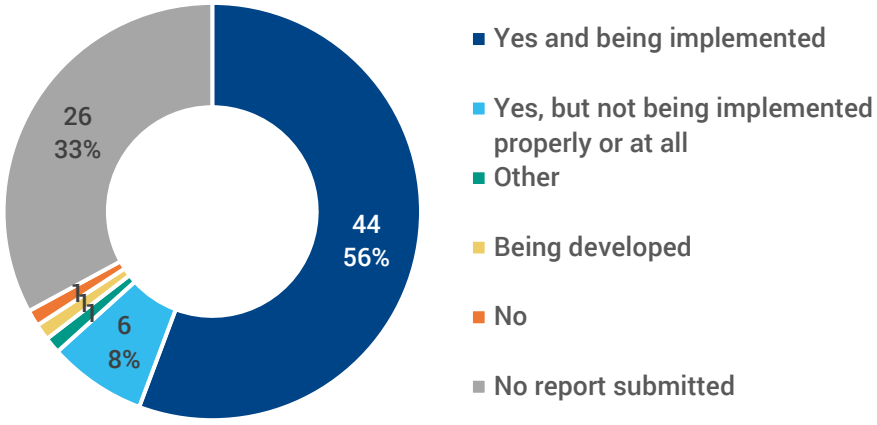


Figure 5.19. Party explanations as to why they had not introduced lead fishing weight restrictions.

Q59. Does your country have legislation in place which provides for Strategic Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA/EIA) of activities potentially negatively affecting natural habitats or wildlife? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.3.1; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 3.5)

Forty-four Parties (83% of Reporting Parties (RP); 56% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) responded that they had legislation in place which provides for Strategic Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA/EIA) of activities potentially negatively affecting natural habitats or wildlife, and that this was being implemented (Figure 5.20).

Figure 5.20. Party responses as to whether they had legislation in place which provides for Strategic Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Assessment of activities potentially negatively affecting natural habitats or wildlife.



Six Parties (11% of RP; 8% of CP) stated that such legislation was in place, but not being implemented properly or at all. Niger reported that such legislation was being developed. North Macedonia selected "other", specifying that SEA/EIA was not obligatory. Switzerland reported that they did not have such legislation, clarifying that they had legislative provisions for EIA but not SEA.

Among the 44 Parties which reported having effectively implemented SEA/EIA legislation, 41 reported that their legislation covered the entire country, while Cyprus noted that coverage included the area effectively controlled by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus (Figure 5.21). All 44 Parties reported that their SEA/EIA processes considered waterbirds and their habitats, and only one Party (Algeria) did not have a process that included public participation (Figure 5.21).

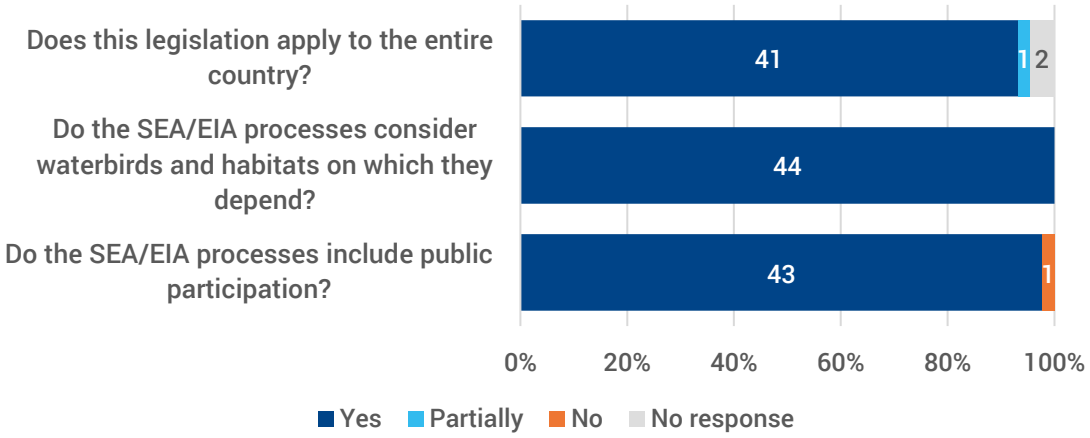


Figure 5.21. Further detail from the 44 Parties which responded having legislation in place which provides for Strategic Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA/EIA) of activities potentially negatively affecting natural habitats or wildlife, and that it is being implemented.

Among the six Parties which had SEA/EIA legislation in place, but reported that it was not implemented properly, four reported that their legislation applied to the entire country (Albania, Central African Republic, Portugal and Syria), while Ethiopia stated that it only applied to particular states/provinces, and Moldova did not respond (Figure 5.22). Four Parties reported that their legislation considered waterbirds and the habitats they depend on (Albania, Central African Republic, Ethiopia and Portugal), and a similar number reported that their SEA/EIA processes included public participation (Albania, Central African Republic, Portugal and Syria), while Ethiopia stated that theirs did not.

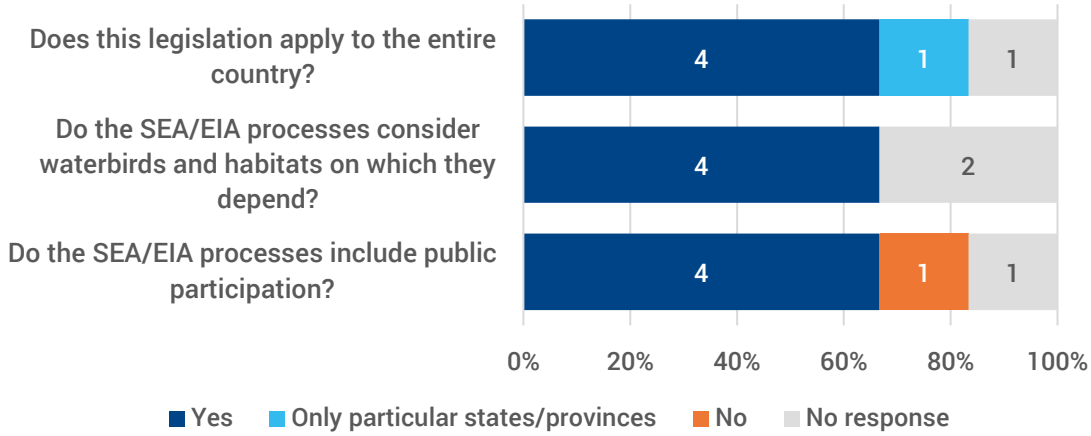


Figure 5.22. Further detail from the six Parties which responded having legislation in place which provides for Strategic Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA/EIA) of activities potentially negatively affecting natural habitats or wildlife, but that it is not being implemented properly or at all.

These six Parties were also asked to explain why their legislation was not being implemented. Central African Republic stated that the implementing texts of the relevant law are not yet available. Albania reported that sometimes the legislation is not properly implemented, particularly at coastal areas. Syria stated that while all projects and activities should be subject to SEA/EIA, it was sometimes overlooked, or the depth of the EIA is not effective enough. Ethiopia explained that institutional set up and co-ordination for enforcement of the legislation is weak.

Niger, the only Party which reported that SEA/EIA legislation was being developed, reported that this future legislation is intended to cover the entire country, would consider waterbirds and habitats on which they depend, and that the processes would be open to public participation.

Q60. Are there any other legal and/or administrative measures in your country to avoid, mitigate and compensate for adverse impacts of development activities on the sites of national and international importance for migratory birds? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 3.5)

Twenty-seven Parties (51% of Reporting Parties (RP); 34% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that there are other legal and/or administrative measures in place to avoid, mitigate and compensate for adverse impacts of development activities on the sites of national and international importance for migratory birds (Figure 5.23). Of these, 16 Parties rated their measures as highly effective (Figure 5.23). Examples of other measures included spatial planning (South Africa, Switzerland and Portugal), general prohibition on disturbance of biodiversity (Denmark, Spain, the Netherlands, Czech Republic and Slovakia), protected area regulations (Tanzania), water resources acts (Norway), and stiffer penalties to offenders (Zimbabwe). Belarus and Serbia provided detailed lists of legislative acts designed to conserve nature. Several Parties (Albania, Croatia, Egypt, Italy, Latvia, Syria, Uganda and Ukraine) stated their EIA procedures and related regulatory framework.

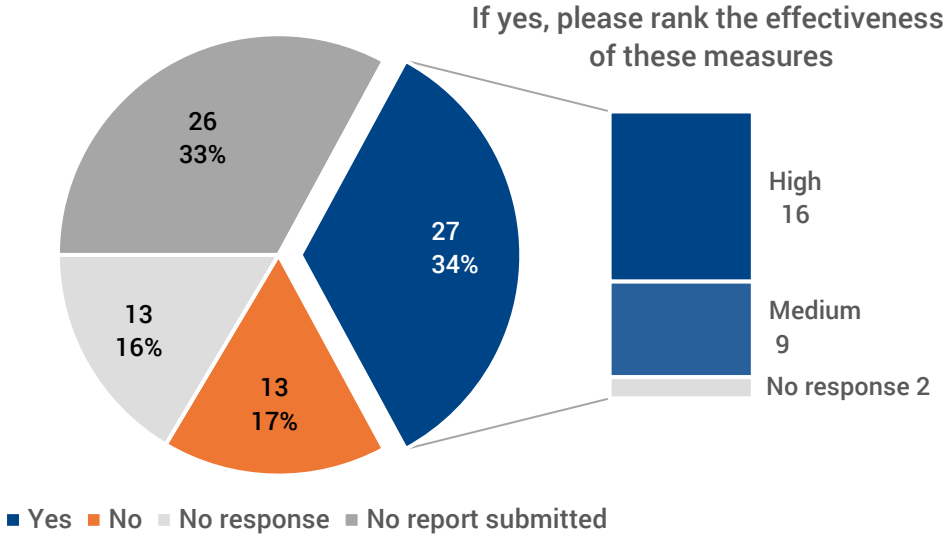


Figure 5.23. Party responses as to whether they had other legal and/or administrative measures in place to avoid, mitigate and compensate for adverse impacts of development activities on the sites of national and international importance for migratory birds.

Four of the nine Parties who rated the effectiveness of such measures as "medium" provided a further explanation. Egypt cited a lack of resources, and Uganda reported inadequate enforcement. Syria reported a shortage of funding, with more training and support needed to undertake assessments and monitor applicability. South Africa described various challenges, including: inadequate and inconsistent methodologies for defining significant and cumulative impacts; the use

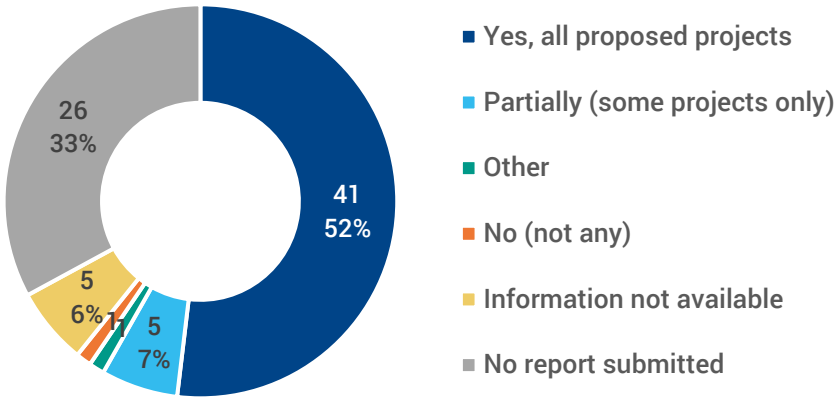
of untested/speculative mitigation strategies; the viability of restoration as a mitigation strategy; identifying optimal offsets; and inadequate authorisation conditions and monitoring of compliance and implementation. They added that they are working with partner organisations to develop Best Practice Guidelines for the Mitigation Hierarchy and on biodiversity offsets.

Of the 13 Parties which reported not having other legal and/or administrative measures in place to avoid, mitigate and compensate for adverse impacts of development activities on the sites of national and international importance for migratory birds, five Parties considered that the existing laws and procedures on SEA/EIA or protected areas were already sufficient. Two Parties (North Macedonia and Togo) noted a lack of funding, and Lebanon stated that the relevant law was awaiting implementation decrees.

Q61. In the last three years, has your country used SEA/EIA for all relevant projects, including energy sector projects such as renewable energy developments and power lines installation, to assess the impact of proposed projects on migratory waterbird species listed on Table 1 and/or habitats/sites on which they depend? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.3.1; Resolution 5.11 and Resolution 5.16; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 3.5(b))

Forty-six Parties (87% of Reporting Parties (RP); 58% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) stated that they either fully or partially used SEA/EIA for all relevant projects to assess the impacts on migratory waterbirds and their habitats (Action 3.5(b) of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027) (Figure 5.24), with 41 of these Parties having applied it to all proposed projects.

Figure 5.24. Party responses as to whether they had used SEA/EIA for all relevant projects to assess the impact of proposed projects on migratory waterbird species listed on Table 1 and/or habitats/sites on which they depend.



Where an SEA/EIA had identified a likelihood of significant negative impacts on migratory waterbirds, Parties were asked whether steps had been taken to avoid these impacts, including avoidance of protected areas and other sites of importance for migratory waterbirds. Of the 41 Parties who used SEA/EIA for all relevant projects, twenty-eight Parties reported having taken such steps (Figure 5.25).

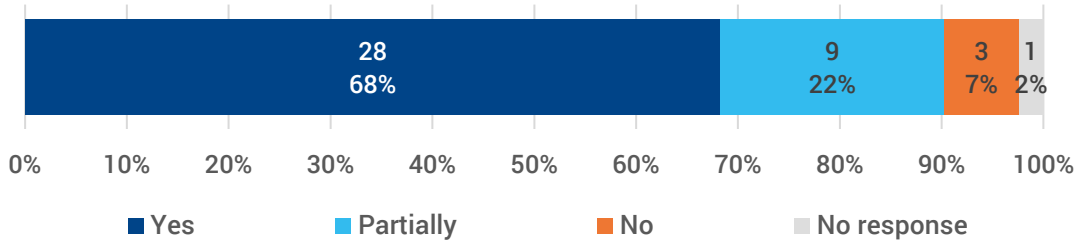


Figure 5.25. Responses from Parties which had used SEA/EIA for all projects, as to whether steps have steps been taken to avoid impacts, including avoidance of protected areas and other sites of importance for migratory waterbirds, following an SEA/EIA which has identified a likelihood of significant negative impacts on migratory waterbirds.

Among the five Parties who used SEA/EIA for only some projects, three Parties (Czech Republic, Lebanon and Senegal) confirmed that steps had been taken to avoid any identified impacts. One Party (Niger) reported that steps had partially been taken, and Côte d'Ivoire provided no response to the follow-up question.

Only one Party (Moldova) stated that they had not used SEA/EIA for any projects to assess the impacts on migratory waterbirds and their habitats. They mentioned that there was only some information, and that this was in the EU project to create an Emerald Network in Moldova.

Q62. Do you maintain a record of the cases of adverse impacts of development activities and other pressures on sites of national and international importance for migratory waterbirds in your country? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 3.5(a))?

Sixteen Parties (30% of Reporting Parties (RP); 20% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that they maintain a record of the cases of adverse impacts of development activities and other pressures on sites of national and international importance for migratory waterbirds in their country (Action 3.5(a) of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027) (Figure 5.26).

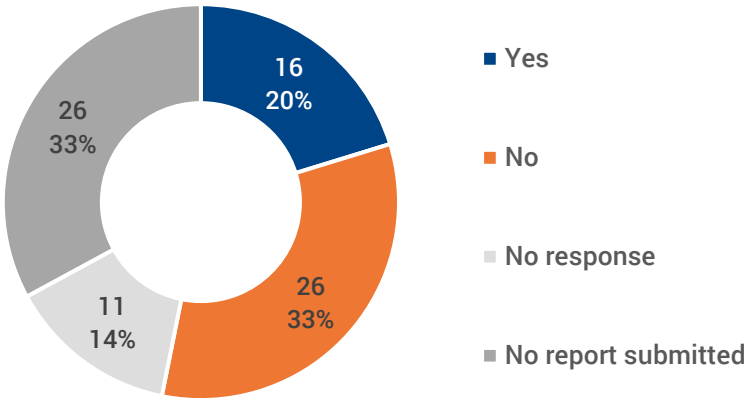


Figure 5.26. Party responses as to whether they maintain a record of the cases of adverse impacts of development activities and other pressures on sites of national and international importance for migratory waterbirds in their country.

The 16 Parties which responded that they did keep such a record of adverse impacts were asked a series of follow-up questions relating to sites of national and international importance for migratory waterbirds (Figure 5.27). No Parties reported any known sites at which no effective avoidance, mitigation of compensation had been implemented for adverse impact of development activities. Four Parties (Belarus, Botswana, Croatia and Rwanda) reported that there were sites at which such pressures had been effectively avoided, mitigated or compensated.

The 26 Parties (49% of RP; 33% of CP) which did not keep a record of adverse impacts of development on waterbirds and their habitats were asked to estimate figures for the same series of follow-up questions relating to sites of national and international importance for migratory waterbirds (Figure 5.28). Three Parties (Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia) reported that there were sites at which no effective avoidance, mitigation or compensation had been implemented for adverse impact of development activities. Three Parties (Albania, Egypt and Serbia) reported that there were sites at which such pressures had been effectively avoided, mitigated or compensated.

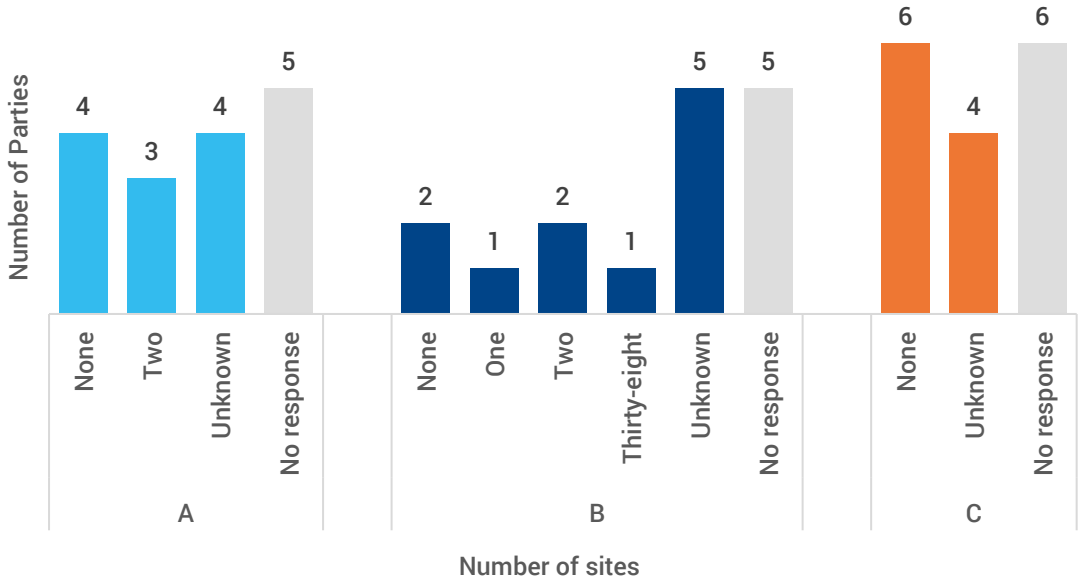


Figure 5.27. Number of Parties who maintain a record of the cases of adverse impacts of development activities and other pressures on sites of national and international importance for migratory waterbirds, reporting as to the number of sites: (A) subject to adverse impact of development activities or other pressures; (B) where adverse impact of development activities or other pressures has been effectively avoided, mitigated or compensated; (C) where no effective avoidance, mitigation or compensation has been implemented for adverse impact of development activities or other pressures.

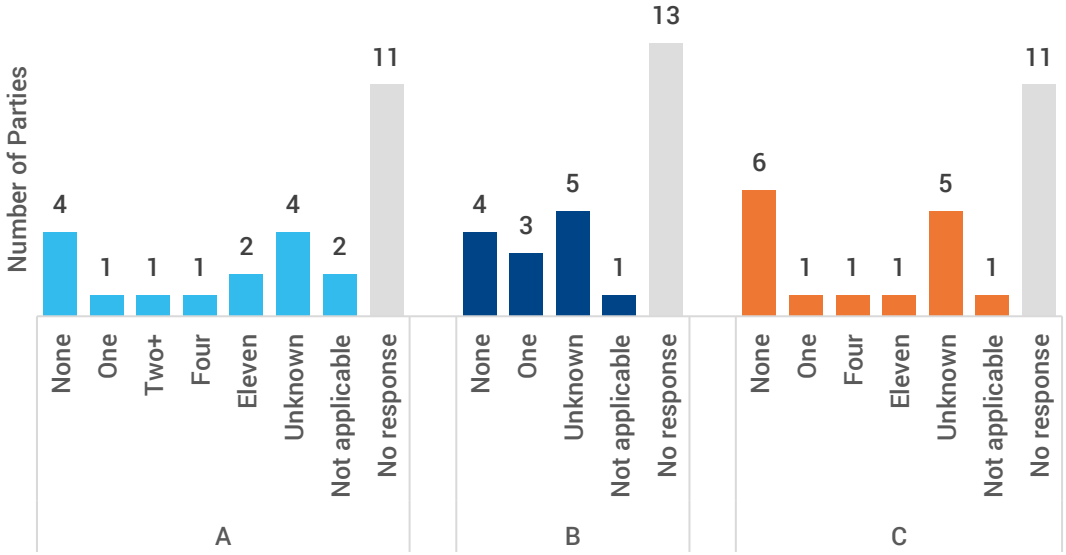


Figure 5.28. Number of Parties who do not maintain a record of the cases of adverse impacts of development activities and other pressures on sites of national and international importance for migratory waterbirds, reporting as to estimated number of sites in the categories (A) - (C) as defined in the figure above.

The most common reason why Parties did not maintain a record of adverse impacts of development on waterbirds and their habitats was that they had another monitoring system in place instead of a central register (6 Parties; Belgium, Egypt, France, Morocco, Norway and Uganda). Four Parties stated that such a record was not necessary, either because sites are located in national parks so there is almost no development (Central African Republic), because adverse impacts are considered prior to development as part of the SEA/EIA or planning process (Italy and the Netherlands), or

because no serious cases had been reported (Niger). Two Parties (Lebanon and Slovakia) noted a lack of resources, while one Party (Ukraine) did not maintain such a record because it was not legally obliged to do so.

Strategic Plan Target 3.5: Legal or administrative measures are in place at national level – and being implemented effectively – to avoid, mitigate and compensate for adverse impacts of development activities and other pressures, including the impacts of climate change, on sites of national and international importance for migratory waterbirds in all Contracting Parties.

Indicator: Number of Parties that have adopted legal or administrative measures to avoid, mitigate and compensate for adverse impact of development and other pressures on flyway network sites (Parties who responded yes to either Q59 or Q60 or both)

Number of flyway network sites that are threatened with adverse impacts from development (Q62) — *35*

Number of flyway network sites where specific threats have been avoided, mitigated or compensated (Q62) — *46*

Number of flyway network sites with known specific threats where no effective avoidance, mitigation or compensation measures have been implemented (Q62) — *16*

Q64. Please report on the implementation of Resolution 5.11 on Power Lines and Migratory Waterbirds.

Q64.1. 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?

Twenty-five Parties (47% of Reporting Parties (RP); 32% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that they were fully consulting relevant stakeholders on a regular basis to jointly monitor the impacts of power lines on waterbirds and to agree a common policy of action, while 20 Parties (38% of RP; 25% of CP) reported partially doing this (Figure 5.29). Six Parties (11% of RP; 8% of CP) responded not doing so: Central African Republic explained that there have been no cases of major electrification in areas with

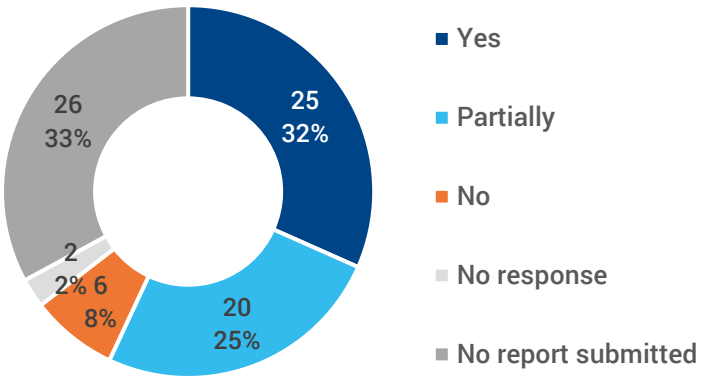


Figure 5.29. Party responses as to whether relevant stakeholders were being regularly consulted in order to monitor jointly the impacts of power lines on waterbirds and to agree on a common policy of action.

large waterbird populations, and Niger commented that this was “little known”; the other four (Bulgaria, Ethiopia, Iceland and Malawi) did not provide details.

Q64.2. 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?

Twenty-one Parties (51% of Reporting Parties (RP); 27% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that they had fully established a baseline of waterbird distribution, population sizes, migrations and movements as early as possible in the planning of any power line project, over a period of at least five years (Figure 5.30), and 17 Parties (32% of RP; 21% of CP) stated that they had partially done so. Twelve Parties (23% of RP; 15% of CP) reported that they had not done this, with one stating that this was in progress (Syria), and two Parties citing a lack of capacity and resources to carry this out (North Macedonia and Uganda). One Party (Albania) stated that it did not have an appropriate SEA/EIA process, and one (Niger) commented that monitoring of power lines was poor. Two Parties (Central African Republic and Zimbabwe) noted that they had no power line projects underway.

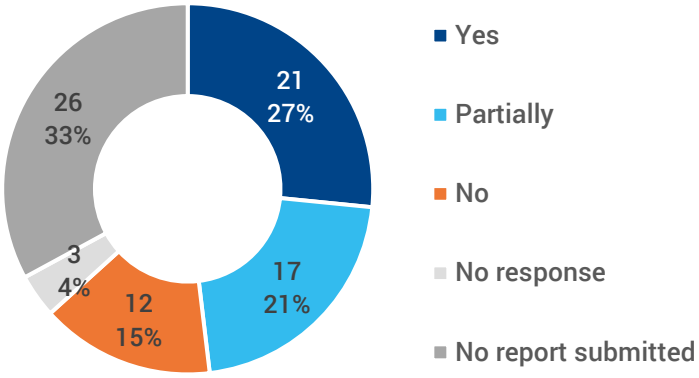


Figure 5.30. Party responses as to whether they had established a baseline of waterbird distribution, population sizes, migrations and movements, early in the planning of any power line project, over a period of at least five years.

Q64.3 If such studies, as described in the question above, have identified any risks, has every effort been made to ensure these are avoided?

Twenty-two Parties (49% of reporting applicable Parties - from herein referred to as “RAP”) reported that they had made every effort to avoid risks to waterbirds once such risks were identified, while 10 Parties (22% of RAP) responded that they had partially done so (Figure 5.31). Ten Parties (22% of Reporting Parties (RP); 12.5% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) stated that this was not applicable, whether because no such studies were undertaken, only minor effects were recognised, no power line projects were underway, or overlap between waterbird distribution and electrification sites was low. Three Parties reported not having made every effort to avoid identified risks: Albania commented that the appropriate SEA/EIA process for such matters is missing, and implementation is a concern; Côte d’Ivoire noted that no study has been undertaken to plan appropriate measures to avoid risks;

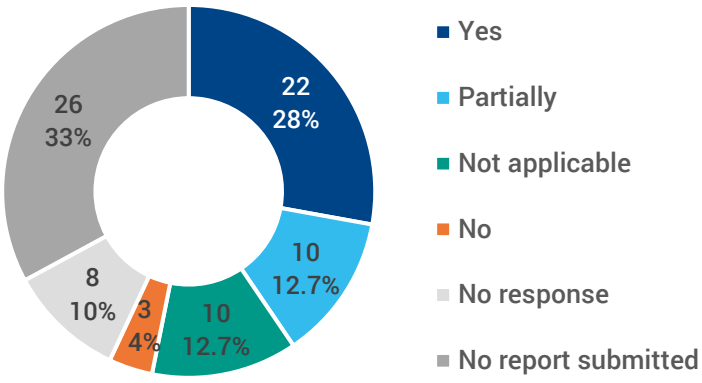


Figure 5.31. Party responses as to whether they had made every effort to avoid risks to waterbirds once such risks were identified.

and North Macedonia noted that risk avoidance was not requested by the ministry issuing the environmental permit.

Q64.4. Have the location, route and direction of new power lines been designated on the basis of national zoning maps?

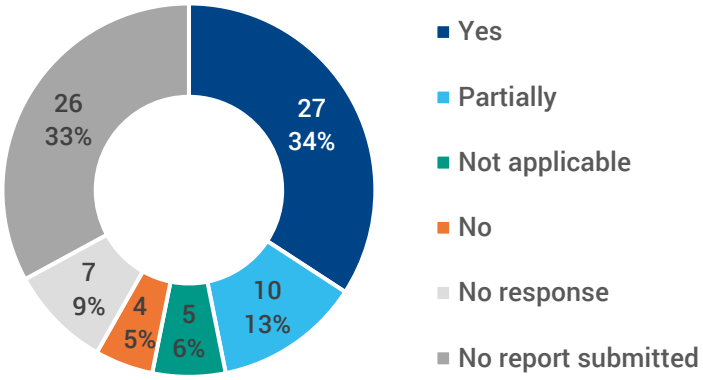


Figure 5.32. Party responses as to whether the location, route and direction of new power lines has been designated on the basis of national zoning maps.

Twenty-seven Parties (56% of reporting applicable Parties (RAP)) reported that the location, route and direction of new power lines was fully designated on the basis of national zoning maps, while 10 Parties (21% of RAP) reported that this was partially the case (Figure 5.32). Four Parties reported that the location, route and direction were not designated based on national zoning maps: Albania noted the lack of an appropriate SEA/EIA process; North Macedonia commented that this is not required by the Ministry responsible for AEWA implementation, while Uganda explained that this process was hindered by limited financial resources. Iceland did not provide any explanation.

Q64.5. 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?

Twenty-five Parties (56% of reporting applicable Parties (RAP)) reported that, wherever possible, the construction of power lines along major migration flyways and habitats which might have significant impacts on waterbirds has been avoided, while seven Parties (16% of RAP) stated that this was partially the case (Figure 5.33). Four Parties (Albania, North Macedonia, Togo and Uzbekistan) reported that this had not been done, with two providing reasons: Albania cited their lack of an appropriate and implemented SEA/EIA process, while North Macedonia commented that not enough attention is paid to waterbirds by the banks funding such projects, and that the procedures needed to stop such projects are not adequately in place. Eight Parties (Belgium, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger, Tanzania and Zimbabwe) considered this question not applicable due to the lack of new powerline projects, the fact that construction of power lines does not take this aspect into account, or having no records indicating any negative impacts which would warrant this.

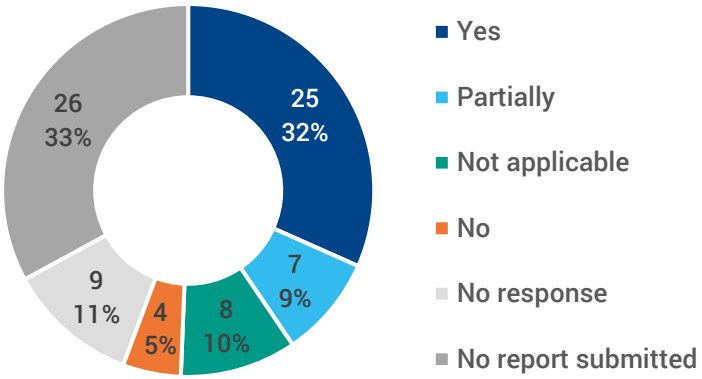


Figure 5.33. Party responses as to whether, if possible, the construction of power lines along major migration flyways and in habitats of conservation importance has been avoided, where such construction is likely to have significant effects on waterbirds.

Q64.6. Are bird-safe designs in the construction of new power infrastructure, including measures designed to reduce electrocution and collisions being used in your country?

Twenty-seven Parties (51% of Reporting Parties (RP); 34% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that they had used bird-safe designs in the construction of new power infrastructure, while 11 Parties (21% of RP; 14% of CP) stated that they had partially done this (Figure 5.34). Eleven Parties responded that such designs were not used, noting lack of enforcement and lack of financial resources as primary reasons for not having such designs in place. Côte d'Ivoire and Niger noted that this was not a primary concern, and Zimbabwe commented that it had no relevant projects. Morocco stated that this was under consideration.

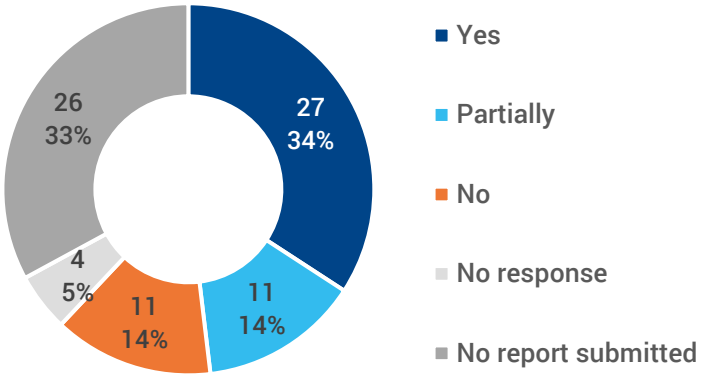


Figure 5.34. Party responses as to whether or not they had used bird-safe designs in the construction of new power infrastructure.

Q64.7. 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?

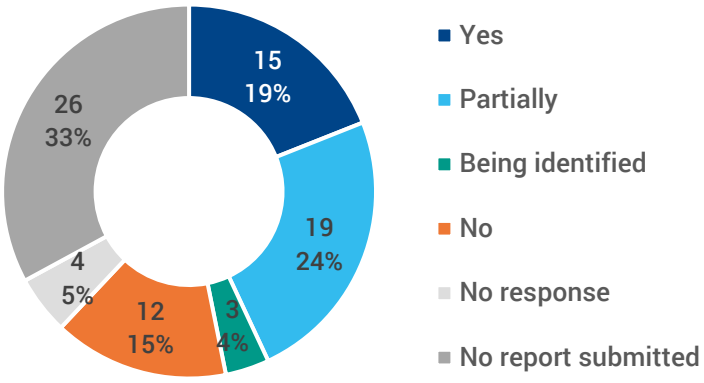


Figure 5.35. Party responses as to whether they had identified sections of existing power lines which cause relatively high levels of waterbird injury and/or mortality due to electrocution and/or collision.

Fifteen Parties (28% of Reporting Parties (RP); 19% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported having fully identified sections of existing power lines which are causing relatively high levels of waterbird injury and/or mortality due to electrocution and/or collision, while 19 Parties stated that this was partially done and three Parties that this was being done (Figure 5.35). Among the 12 Parties (23% of RP; 15% of CP) which had not done this, the most common reason was a lack of resources, cited by Egypt, Lebanon, Rwanda and Uganda, although Egypt added that despite this, there were still enough data available for the main sensitive habitats, and Uganda commented that while this had hindered identification of high-mortality areas, waterbird electrocutions were few and often isolated. Three Parties (Egypt, Lebanon, Rwanda and Uganda) commented that electrocutions/collisions were not identified as a major threat, and one Party (Zimbabwe) stated that it had no power line projects. Albania noted that this has not been carried out as it did not have the relevant data.

Q64.8. 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?

Ten Parties (23% of reporting applicable Parties (RAP)) reported that they had fully modified areas identified as causing relatively high levels of waterbird injury/mortality as a matter of priority, and 14 Parties (33% of RAP) stated that they had partially done so (Figure 5.36). Ten Parties (19% of Reporting Parties (RP; 13% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) stated that the question was not applicable, while 10 Parties (23% of RAP) stated that they had not prioritised such modification. Two Parties (Côte d'Ivoire and Sweden) commented that power lines were not considered a threat, and one Party (Niger) noted that this was not a primary concern. One Party stated that the EIA/SEA process was not well implemented (Albania), and one Party (Uganda) cited a lack of financial resources to carry out this activity.

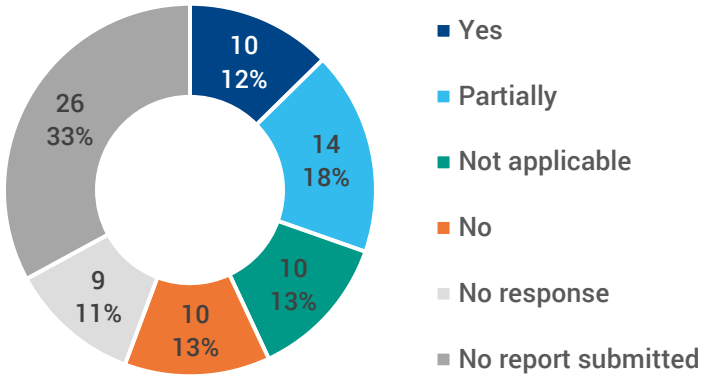


Figure 5.36. Party responses as to whether they had modified any areas identified as causing relatively high levels of waterbird injury/mortality as a matter of priority.

Q64.9. Is there in your country regular monitoring and evaluation of the impact of power lines on waterbird populations at the national scale?

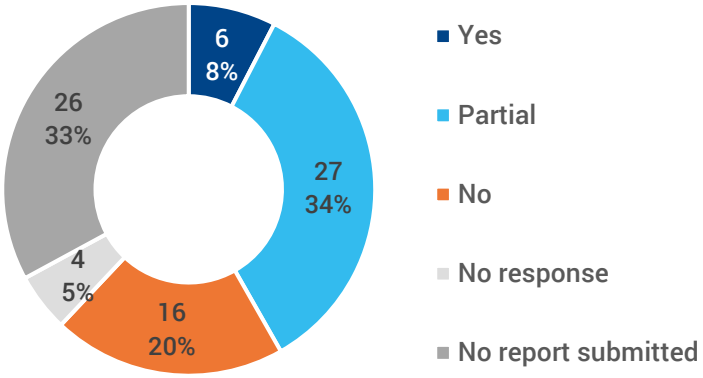


Figure 5.37. Party responses as to whether they undertook regular monitoring and evaluation of the impact of power lines on waterbird populations at the national scale.

Six Parties (11% of Reporting Parties (RP); 8% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that there was regular monitoring and evaluation of the impact of power lines on waterbirds at the national scale, and 27 Parties (51% of RP; 34% of CP) stated that this was partially in place (Figure 5.37). Sixteen Parties (30% of RP; 20% of CP) reported no such national monitoring and evaluation. The most commonly cited barrier to implementation was a lack of resources, reported by Eswatini, Lebanon, Rwanda and Uganda. Two Parties (Croatia and Switzerland) stated that site-specific monitoring was undertaken. North Macedonia noted a lack of interest from authorities, Sweden explained that such monitoring was not a priority, and Zimbabwe commented that they had no power line projects underway.

Q64.10. 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?

Nine Parties (19% of reporting applicable Parties (RAP)) stated that they undertake regular monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of mitigation measures put in place to minimise the impact of power lines on waterbirds, while 16 Parties (35% of RAP) reported that they partially did so (Figure 5.38). Seven Parties (13% of Reporting Parties (RP); 9% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that the question was not applicable, while 12 Parties (26% of RAP) reported that no such monitoring and evaluation occurs. Two Parties (Albania and Norway) mentioned having other types of monitoring in place, and one stated that such monitoring was not a priority (Sweden). One Party (North Macedonia) commented that there was no interest from the authorities for this activity, and two Parties (Lebanon and Rwanda) did not have the human or financial resources to carry out such monitoring.

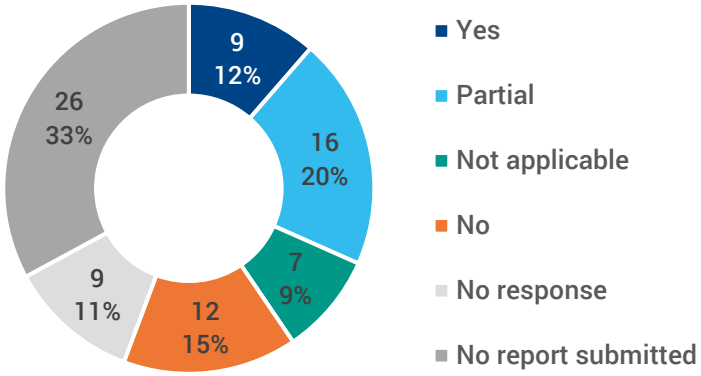


Figure 5.38. Party responses as to whether they undertake regular monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of mitigation measures put in place to minimise the impact of power lines on waterbird populations.

Q64.11. Have the measures contained in Resolution 5.11 been included in your country's National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and relevant legislation?

Twenty-three Parties (43% of Reporting Parties (RP); 29% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that the measures contained in Resolution 5.11 had been included in their National Biodiversity Strategies, Action Plans and relevant legislation, while an equal number (43% of RP; 29% of CP) reported not having done so (Figure 5.39).

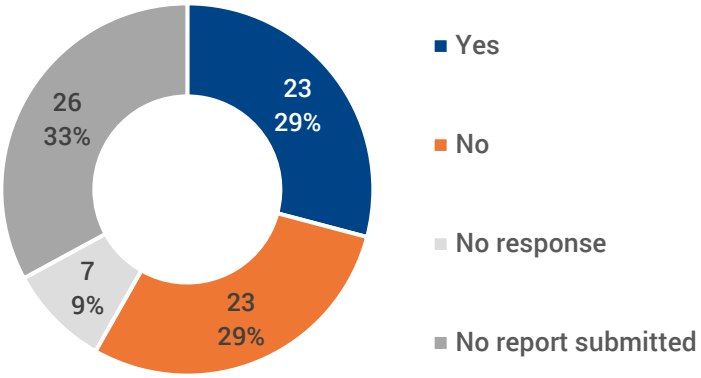


Figure 5.39. Party responses as to whether measures contained in Resolution 5.11 had been included in their NBSAPs and relevant legislation.

Among the reasons provided for not doing so, four Parties (Egypt, Italy, Latvia and Sweden) gave some indication that existing legislation or other measures were considered to adequately address the topic, and two (Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe) responded that this was not relevant as they had no power line projects. Three Parties (Ghana, Nigeria and Spain) reported that this was in progress or in consideration. Two Parties indicated reasons relating to a lack of regulatory framework: Slovenia stated that while some measures contained in Resolution 5.11. are being implemented as a part of SEA or EIA procedures, a National Biodiversity Strategy had not yet been adopted; Mali provided a detailed response, noting that a gap analysis has identified several constraints at the systemic, institutional and individual levels. Two Parties (Albania and North Macedonia) noted a lack of awareness of the AEWA Resolution at the appropriate decision level. Other reasons categorised

included a lack of financial resources (Belgium), finalisation of strategy prior to the adoption of Resolution 5.11 (Estonia), and being a new AEWA Party (Malawi).

Q66. Please report on the implementation of Resolution 5.16 on Renewable Energy and Migratory Waterbirds.

Q66.1. 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?

Twenty-three Parties (43% of Reporting Parties (RP); 29% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that they had developed national sensitivity and zoning mapping to avoid overlap of renewable energy developments with areas of importance for migratory waterbirds (Figure 5.40), and a further twelve Parties (23% of RP; 15% of CP) stated that this was being developed.

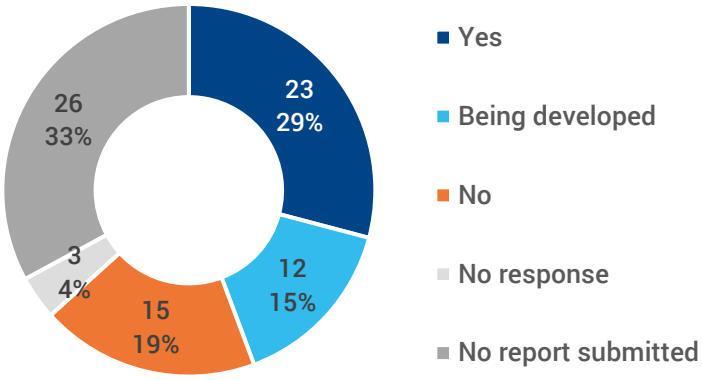


Figure 5.40. Party responses as to whether they had developed national sensitivity and zoning mapping to avoid overlap of renewable energy developments with areas of importance for migratory waterbirds.

Of the 15 Parties (28% of RP; 19% of CP) that stated that this had not been done, a third noted a lack of resources or capacity as one of the main constraints to implementation (Croatia, Egypt, Niger, North Macedonia and Uganda). Croatia added that guidelines for this are planned within the next few years, while Egypt added that there is no urgent need for national maps as there is little or no overlap, but that maps for important and high sensitivity areas had already been produced. Three Parties (Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi and Tanzania) reported a lack of information, such as the as-yet unknown impacts of solar power on migratory waterbirds. Three Parties (Cyprus, Italy and Slovenia) indicated other measures were used to avoid impact, including assessment of developments as part of EIA/SEA processes, or prohibiting new windfarms within SPAs.

Q66.2. 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?

Thirty-five Parties (66% of Reporting Parties (RP); 44% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that they had followed international environmental guidelines, recommendations, and criteria for impact assessments of renewable energy developments and the utilization of renewable energy sources (Figure 5.41). Only four of the nine Parties (17% of RP; 12% of CP) that reported that they had not done this provided reasons, noting either well-established EIA

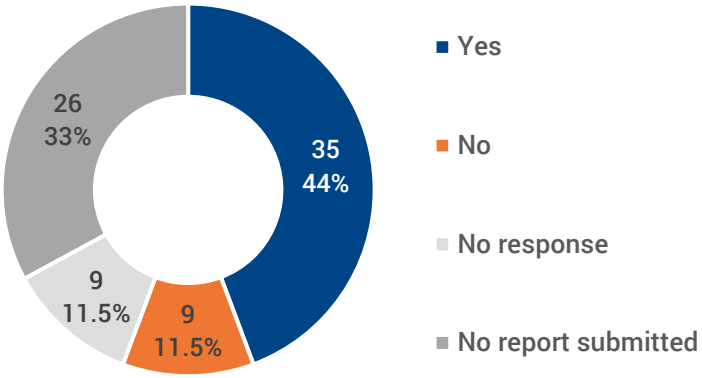


Figure 5.41. Party responses as to whether they had followed international environmental guidelines, recommendations, and criteria, for impact assessment of renewable energy developments and the utilization of renewable energy sources.

procedures (Denmark), variable quality of EIAs (North Macedonia), limited experience (Albania) or lack of information (Malawi).

Q66.3. Is post-construction monitoring being undertaken of the renewable energy installations and associated infrastructure in your country?

Twenty-seven Parties (51% of Reporting Parties (RP); 34% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) stated that they have been undertaking post-construction monitoring of renewable energy installations and associated infrastructure (Figure 5.42). Of these, nine (Botswana, Egypt, Finland, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Serbia, South Africa and Spain) reported that adverse effects on migratory waterbirds and their habitats had been identified, and all nine stated that mitigation measures were being implemented.

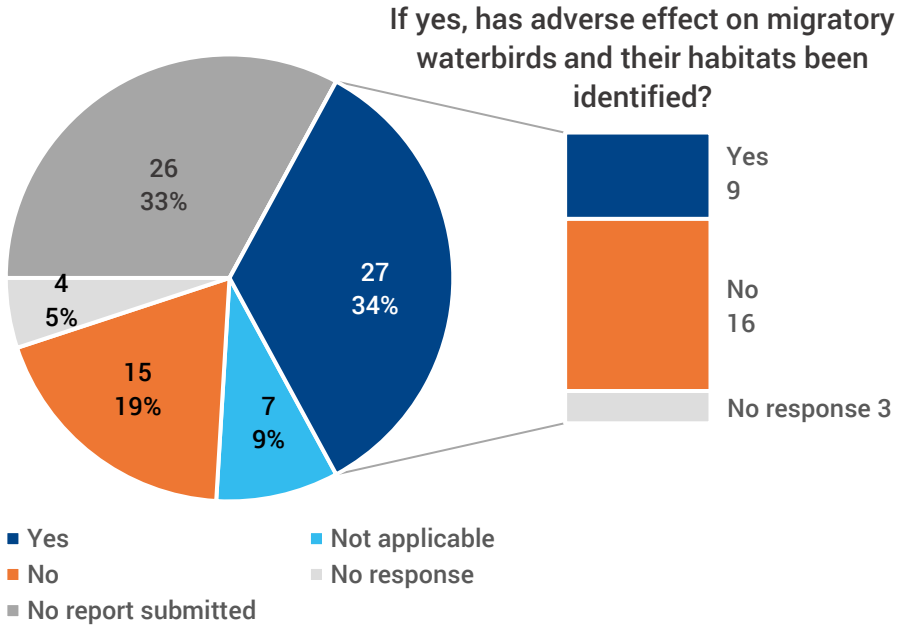


Figure 5.42. Party responses as to whether they had been undertaking post-construction monitoring of renewable energy installations and associated infrastructure, and further responses from those who had, as to whether adverse effects had been identified.

Among the 15 Parties (28% of RP; 19% of CP) reporting that there had been no post-construction monitoring of renewable energy installations and associated infrastructure, a lack of resources (Czech Republic, Mali and Ukraine) and a lack of implementation (Albania and Zimbabwe) were cited as the primary reasons for not doing so. Other explanations included lack of political will (North Macedonia), such monitoring was not required by legislation (Latvia), that monitoring was only applied for select projects (Sweden), or that mitigation measures were taken by equipping visual signalling devices (Moldova).

Q66.4. Where damage cannot be avoided or mitigated, has compensation for damages to biodiversity been provided?

Sixteen Parties (30% of Reporting Parties (RP); 20% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that they had compensated for damages to biodiversity when damage could not be avoided or mitigated (Figure 5.43). Among the 19 Parties (36% of RP; 24% of CP) that reported not having provided any compensation, lack of financial resources was the primary reason, cited by 5 Parties (Albania, Czech Republic, Ghana, Mali and Uganda) Two Parties (Denmark and Finland) stated that large adverse effects had been avoided, and another two (Eswatini and Ukraine) reported that there was no

mitigation policy. Latvia cited a lack of data, Syria commented that it was a work in progress, and Zimbabwe stated that compensation was not applicable.

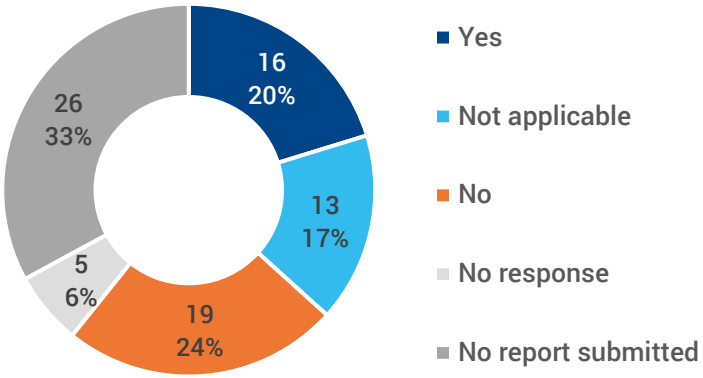


Figure 5.43. Party responses as to whether they had compensated for damages to biodiversity when damage could not be avoided or mitigated.

*Q66.5. 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:*

- *Q66.5.1) Operate wind farms in ways that minimise bird mortality, for example by introducing short-term **shutdowns** during peak migration and minimising lighting in wind farms;*
- *Q66.5.2) **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;*
- *Q66.5.3) 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.*

Of the three aspects to reduce the potential negative impacts of windfarms suggested, focused research efforts on alleviating negative effects was the most commonly implemented, reported by 24 Parties (45% of Reporting Parties (RP); 30% of all Contracting Parties (CP); Figure 5.44). The vast majority of Parties considered Q66.5.2 'Not applicable', whether because no wind turbines existed in the country, or because situations where mortality was affecting a population's conservation status had not been detected; only three Parties (Estonia, North Macedonia and Romania) reported having measures in place to dismantle wind turbines in this event (6% of RP; 4% of CP). Additionally, 11 Parties (21% of RP; 14% of CP) reported taking other measures as well as, or instead of, the three provided in the questionnaire.

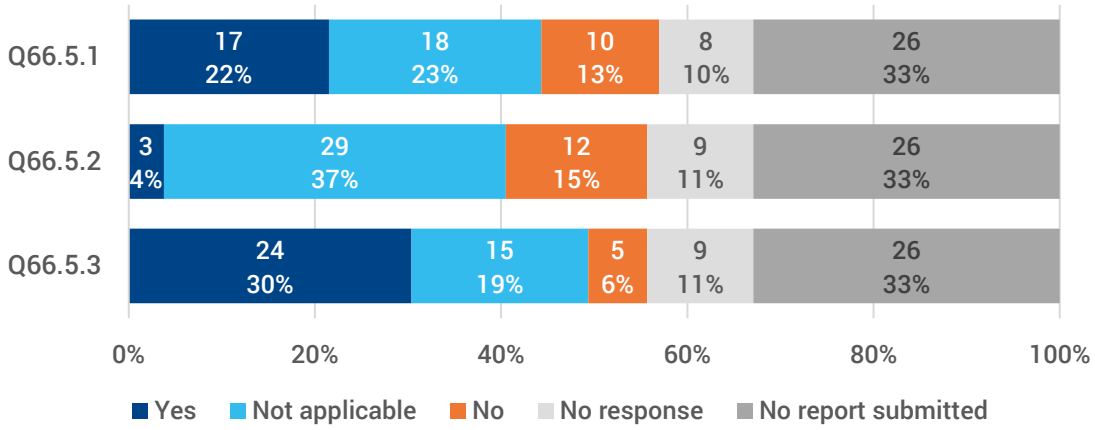


Figure 5.44. Party responses in regards to whether any of the following measures have been put in place to reduce the potential negative impact of terrestrial and marine windfarms on migratory waterbirds: Q66.5.1) Operate wind farms in ways that minimise bird mortality; Q66.5.2) Dismantling of wind turbines should waterbird mortality have an effect on the population; and Q66.5.3) Focusing research efforts on alleviating the negative effects on waterbirds from wind farms.

For each of the three aspects of measures to reduce the potential negative impact of windfarms on migratory birds, the Parties that had not put in place such measures were asked to provide reasons. (Figures 5.45-47).

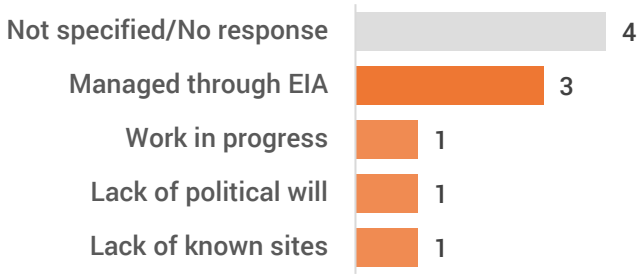


Figure 5.45. Party responses as to why they had not taken measures to operate wind farms in ways that minimise bird mortality.

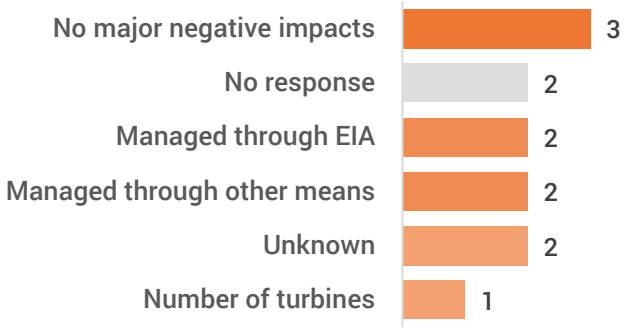


Figure 5.46. Party responses as to why they did not undertake dismantling of wind turbines in existing installations, should waterbird mortality have an effect on the population status of a species and other mitigation measures have proved insufficient.

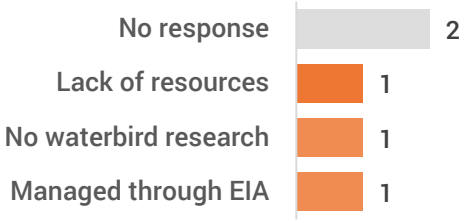


Figure 5.47. Party responses as to why they had not focused research efforts on alleviating the negative effects on waterbirds from wind farms.

Q66.6. 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?

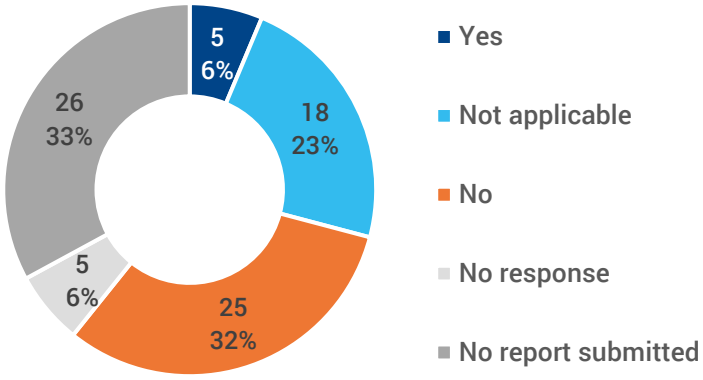


Figure 5.48. Party responses as to whether they had put specific measures in place to assess, identify and reduce potential negative impacts of biofuel production on migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

Only five Parties (Botswana, Finland, Mali, Serbia and Zimbabwe) (9% of Reporting Parties (RP); 6% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that specific measures had been put in place to assess, identify and reduce potential negative impacts of biofuel production on migratory waterbirds and their habitats (Figure 5.48); however, a large proportion of Parties (34% of RP; 23% of CP) said that this was not applicable in their country because there was no biofuel production (11 Parties). Twenty-five Parties (47% of RP; 32% of CP) had not put any such measures in place for varying reasons (Figure 5.49).

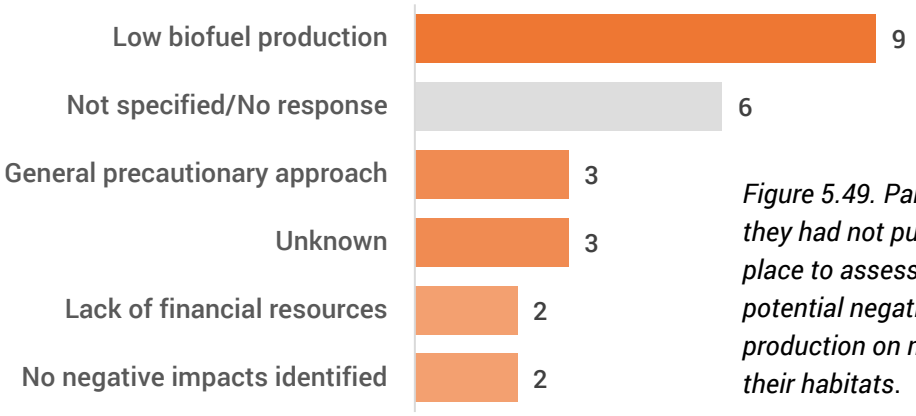


Figure 5.49. Party responses as to why they had not put specific measures in place to assess, identify and reduce potential negative impacts of biofuel production on migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

Q66.7. Have the measures contained in Resolution 5.16 been included in your country's National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and relevant legislation?

Twenty-four Parties (45% of Reporting Parties (RP); 30% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that they had included the measures contained in Resolution 5.16. in their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and relevant legislation (Figure 5.52). Twenty Parties (38% of RP; 25% of CP) reported that they had not done so, seven of whom (Algeria, Croatia, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Spain and Syria) reported that this was in progress or will be under consideration in the next revision of the NBSAP (Figure 5.51). 'Other' reasons included where the measures are applied on a project basis (Latvia), existing legislation is considered adequate (Sweden) and being a new Party (Malawi).

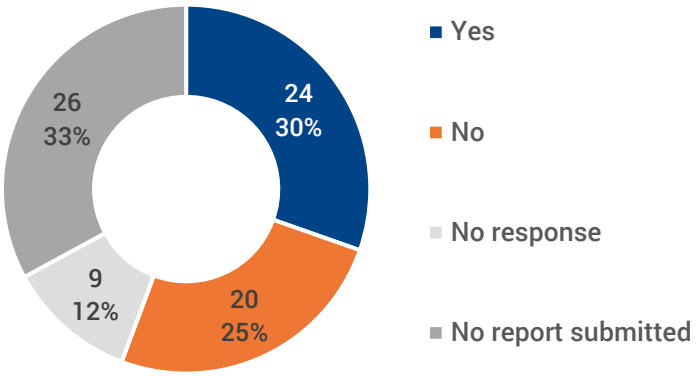


Figure 5.50. Party responses as to whether they had included the measures contained in Resolution 5.16. in their NBSAPs and relevant legislation.

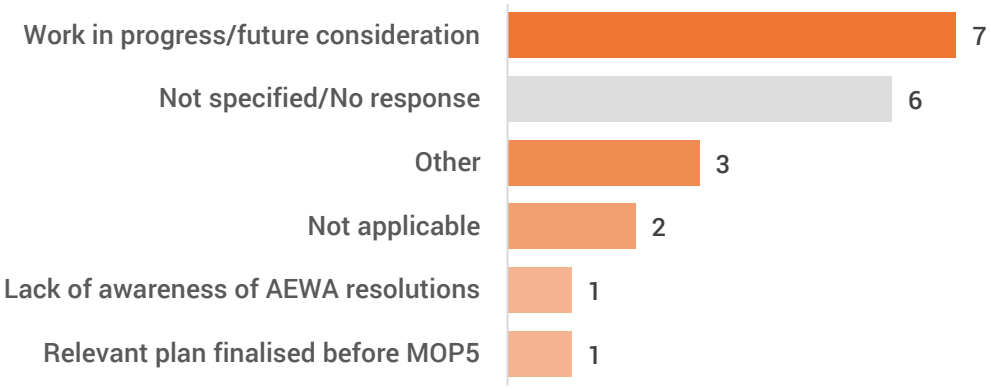


Figure 5.51. Party responses as to why they had not included the measures contained in Resolution 5.16. in their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and relevant legislation.

Q68. Is by-catch of waterbirds in fishing gear taking place in your country? (Resolution 3.8) (Please respond to this question only with respect to species, which are NOT considered seabirds. Seabird by-catch is dealt with in section 4.6 Seabirds)

Twenty-one Parties (40% of Reporting Parties (RP); 27% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that by-catch of waterbirds in fishing gear was taking place in their country, and a further 12 Parties (23% of RP; 15% of CP) did not have the information available to assess whether this was occurring (Figure 5.52). Six Parties (Belgium, Jordan, Malawi, Rwanda, Serbia and Slovakia) reported that the question was not applicable, with only two Parties (Belgium and Slovakia) giving details, explaining that this was because only fishing gear with low risk of bycatch was used.

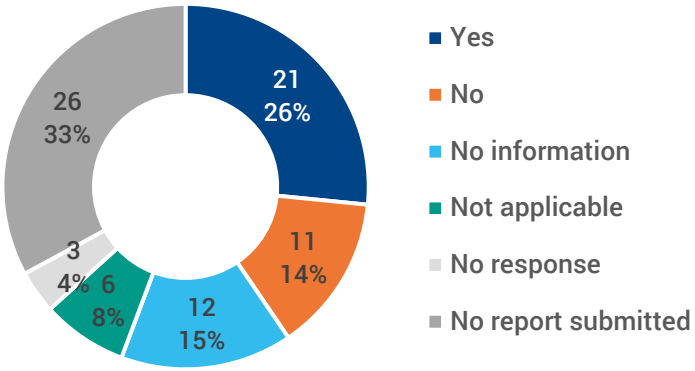


Figure 5.52. Party responses as to whether by-catch of waterbirds in fishing gear is taking place in their country.

Q69. 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).

Just over half of the 21 African Reporting Parties had implemented regulations on agrochemicals known to have adverse impact on waterbirds, particularly around important waterbird sites, and had implemented training of relevant target groups on proper use of such agrochemicals (Figure 5.53). However, less than half (38% of respondents) had taken steps to control the use of avicides in areas frequented by populations listed in Table 1 of the Agreement (Figure 5.53).

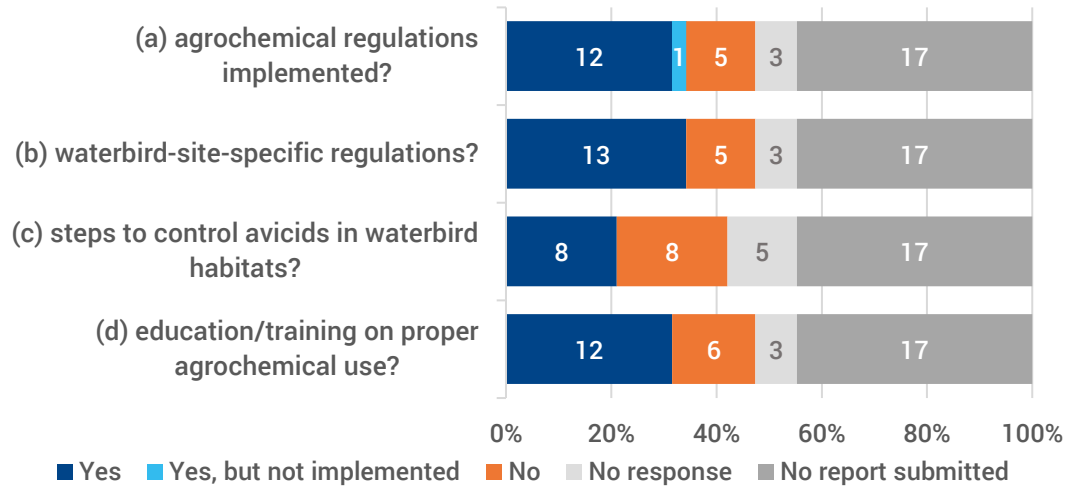


Figure 5.53. Responses from African Parties (n=38) regarding the implementation of Resolution 5.12 on Adverse Effects of Agrochemicals on Migratory Waterbirds in Africa: (a) Have relevant government authorities developed and implemented regulations on the trade and application of agrochemicals known to have a direct or indirect adverse effect on waterbirds?; (b) Is the use of such agrochemicals regulated around nationally and internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds, particularly in wetlands, also taking into account run-offs from agriculture affecting aquatic ecosystems?; (c) Are there any steps undertaken to control or reduce the use of avicides in areas frequented by populations listed in Table 1 of the Agreement?; (d) 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?

Egypt was the only Party that had regulations in place on the trade and application of agrochemicals that were not currently being implemented; however, it noted that steps had been taken targeting the rational use of agrochemicals.

Regarding the lack of development and implementation of regulations on agrochemicals reported by five Parties, three (Malawi, Nigeria and Togo) stated that there was no information on this aspect, Uganda explained that limited financial resources constrained coordination with relevant government agencies and stakeholders on the application of agrochemicals, and Ethiopia stated that it was not considered a priority.

On the fact that the use of such agrochemicals was not regulated around nationally and internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds in five Parties, Ethiopia explained that this was due to a weak institutional set up and weak coordination among different institutions. Malawi reported that no such studies had been done. Morocco stated that while use of chemicals near important bird sites is not regulated, if negative environmental impacts occur, the damage is investigated and mitigation measures implemented. Nigeria commented that awareness was being raised on safe practices in the use of agrochemicals and control of run-off. Togo did not respond.

Regarding the lack of steps undertaken by eight Parties to control or reduce the use of avicides in areas frequented by populations listed in Table 1 of the Agreement, three Parties (Ghana, Malawi and Uganda) stated that they had no information on avicide use, and two Parties (Nigeria and Rwanda) reported that avicides were either not commonly used, or not used at all. Ethiopia noted a weak institutional set up for implementation, while South Africa commented that they were in the process of establishing a working group on poisoning. Togo did not respond.

Among the six Parties who reported that no education or training had been implemented for relevant target groups on the proper use of agrochemicals that may have possible adverse effect on waterbirds, Egypt cited a lack of financial resources, although noted that steps had been taken targeting rational use. Ethiopia again cited a weak institutional arrangement for implementation. Malawi stated that they are a new Party. Morocco noted undertaking more general awareness-raising, education and training campaigns aimed at farmers on the use of pesticides. Two Parties (Kenya and Togo) did not respond.

Q70. Has any project / initiative been implemented in your country that promotes the integration of cultural and provisioning ecosystem services of migratory waterbirds into policy and decision-making affecting them or their habitats? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 2.6)

Eleven Parties (21% of Reporting Parties (RP); 14% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that they had implemented a project or initiative that promotes the integration of cultural and ecosystem provisioning services of migratory waterbirds into policy and decision-making affecting them or their habitats (Figure 5.54). Of these Parties, five (Algeria, Belarus, Botswana, Portugal and Romania) stated that there were also other examples of policies and/or decision-making that takes into account cultural and provisioning ecosystem services of migratory waterbirds. The only Party that provided further information on these examples was Belarus, which described the measures allowed for sustainable use of Ramsar sites by locals for supplementary income.

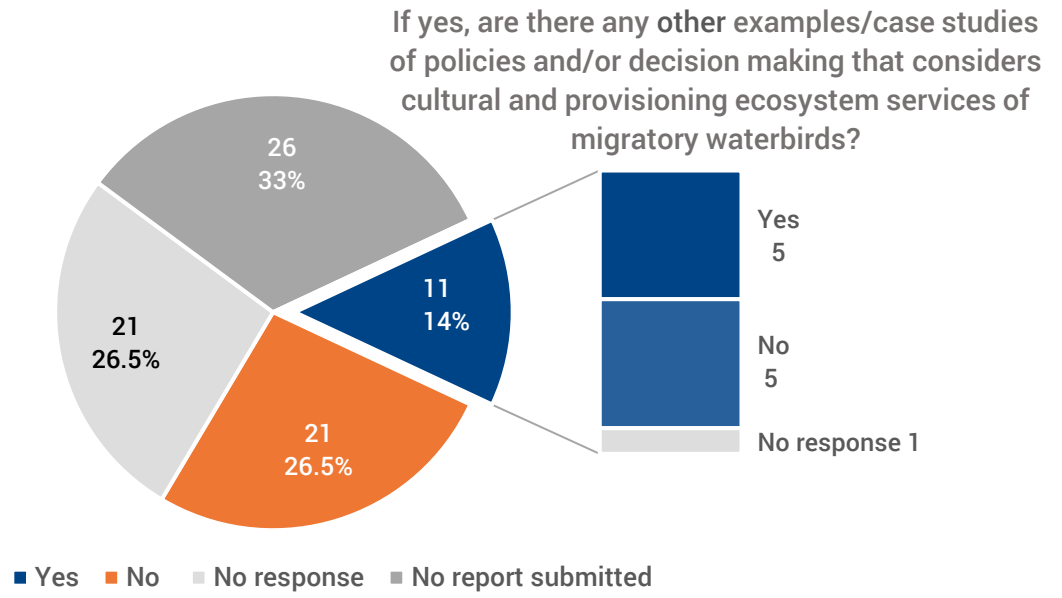
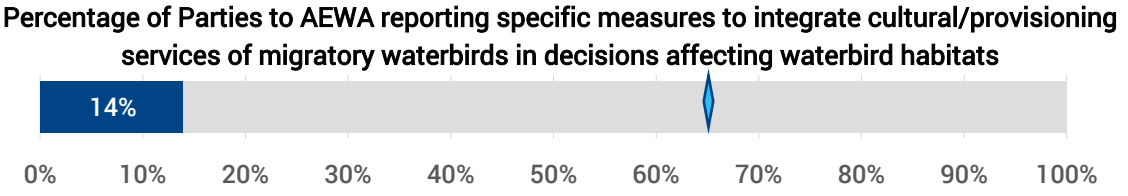


Figure 5.54. Party responses as to whether they had implemented a project or initiative in their country that promotes the integration of cultural and ecosystem provisioning services of migratory waterbirds into policy and decision-making affecting them or their habitats.

Twenty-one Parties (40% of RP; 26.5% of CP) reported not having implemented any project or initiative that promotes the integration of cultural and ecosystem provisioning services of migratory waterbirds into policy and decision-making affecting them or their habitats. Three Parties (the Netherlands, Slovakia and Tanzania) commented that ecosystem services considered had a wider biodiversity focus, and two Parties (Croatia and the Czech Republic) considered this a low priority activity. Three Parties noted the lack of resources as a barrier to implementation (Serbia, Slovenia and Uganda). Other reasons included where the Party cited that they are a new Party (Malawi), where this measure is in progress (Syria) or to be considered in the future (Morocco), and where such a project was carried out prior to this triennium (Zimbabwe).

Strategic Plan Target 2.6: Consideration of the ecosystem services derived from migratory waterbirds is integrated into policy and decision-making processes that affect waterbird habitats in at least two-thirds of AEWA Parties



Razorbill/ *Alca torda*/ jaro2020/ Adobe Stock

VI. RESEARCH AND MONITORING

Parties were asked eight questions to assess their efforts on waterbird monitoring programmes and research. One question provides a baseline for assessing progress towards the AEWA Strategic Plan in future reporting cycles, on the use of monitoring data to inform national level implementation; currently, moderate efforts are made in this regard. Additional work is required towards establishing more comprehensive research and monitoring schemes for AEWA species across all Parties, and a focus on Party support for both national and international monitoring schemes is also needed.

Q71. Does your country have waterbird monitoring schemes for the AEWA species in place? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Actions 1.4(a) and 1.4(b))

Forty-two Parties (79% of Reporting Parties (RP); 53% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) confirmed that waterbird monitoring schemes for AEWA species are in place in their country (Actions 1.4(a) and 1.4(b) of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027) (Figure 6.1). Nine Parties (Algeria, Belgium, Botswana, Cyprus, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Switzerland, Zimbabwe; 17% of RP; 11% of CP) confirmed full coverage during all three periods (breeding, passage and non-breeding/wintering) and 33 Parties (62% of RP; 42% of CP) reported either full or partial coverage during at least one of the three periods. This indicates that further work is required on Strategic Plan Action 1.4(a), with a specific focus on monitoring schemes for all three periods.

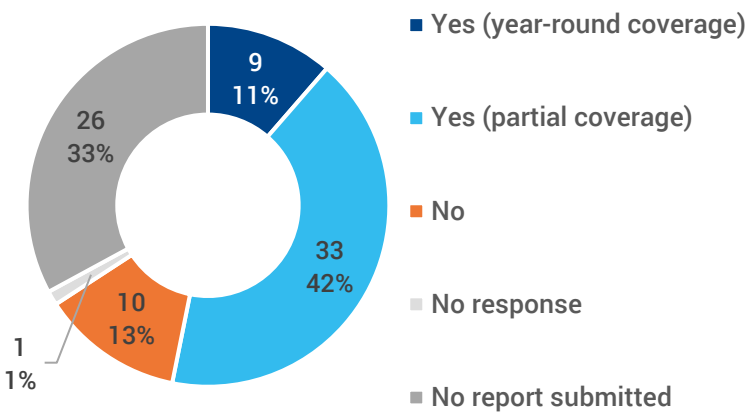


Figure 6.1. Party responses as to whether waterbird monitoring schemes are in place for AEWA species for the breeding, passage and non-breeding/wintering periods.

Overall, coverage by monitoring schemes was similar across all three periods (Fig 6.2). Parties reported the highest coverage during the non-breeding/wintering period (full coverage for 26% of CP; partial coverage for 24% of CP) and lowest coverage during the breeding period (full coverage for 18% of CP; partial coverage for 27% of CP). For those Parties with full or partial waterbird monitoring schemes in place for at least one of the three periods, information on the drivers of population trends (Strategic Plan Target 1.4(b)) was collected on average 52% of the time, although this was highest during breeding period monitoring and much lower during passage period monitoring (Figure 6.3).

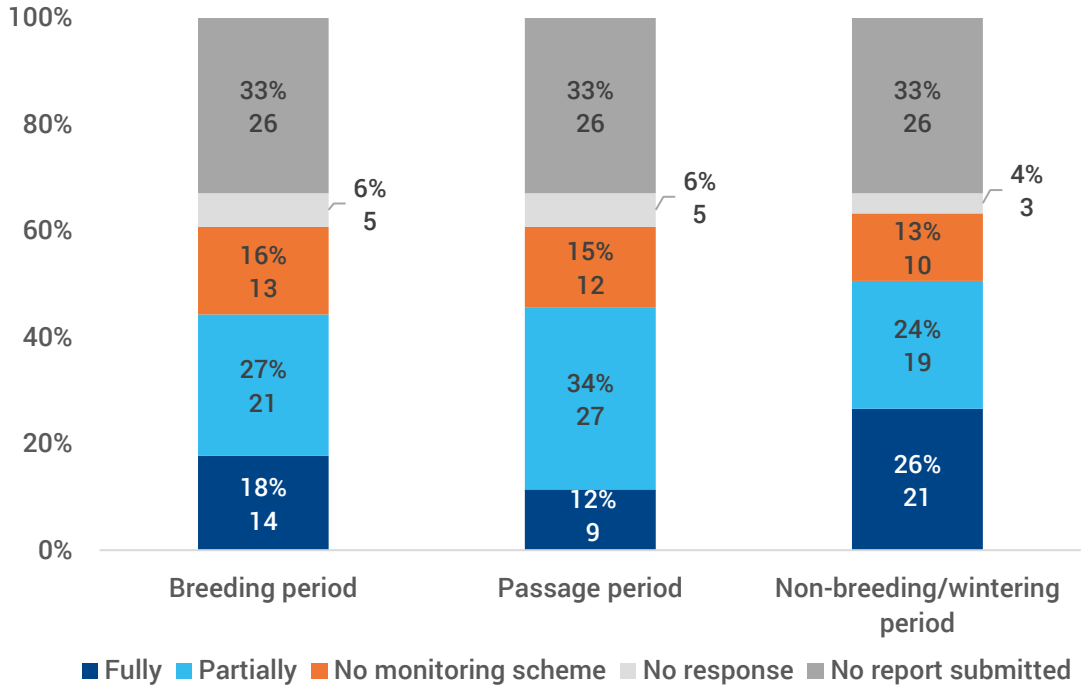


Figure 6.2. Number and proportion of Parties with monitoring schemes covering breeding, passage, and non-breeding/wintering periods. ('No monitoring scheme' includes Parties that reported having no schemes in place overall, combined with Parties that reported no monitoring schemes for a specific period).

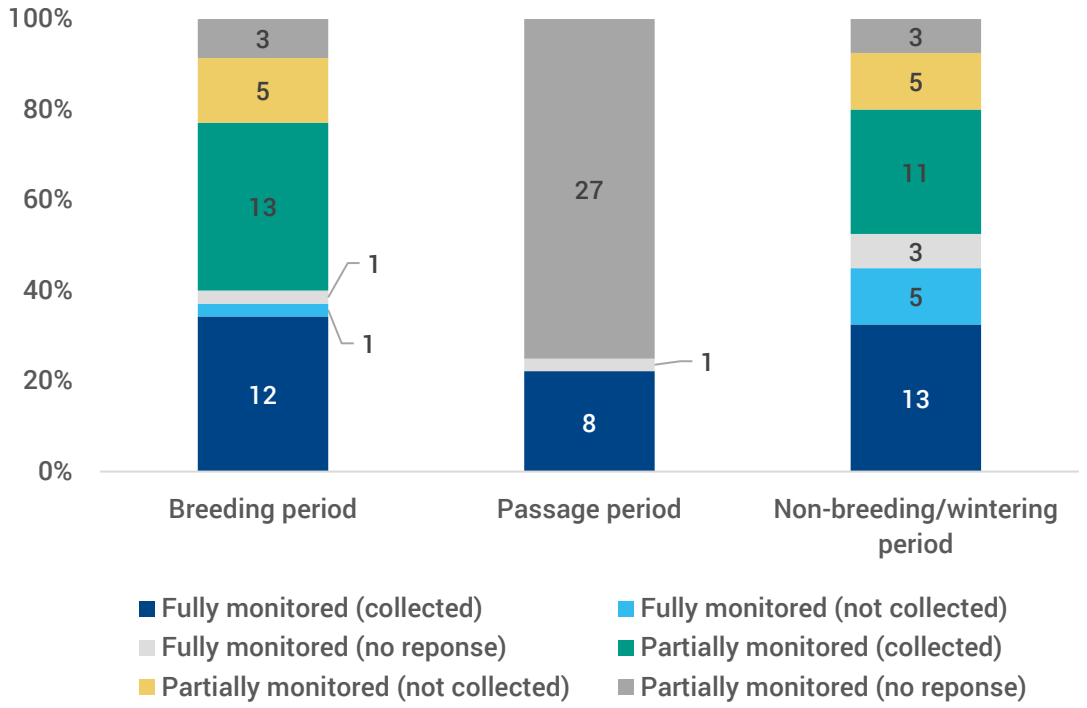


Figure 6.3. Number of Parties with full or partial monitoring schemes in place, which collect information on the drivers of population trends, covering each period.

Ten Parties (Central Africa Republic, Eswatini, Lebanon, Niger, North Macedonia, Rwanda, Serbia, Syria, Togo, Uganda; 19% of RP; 13% of CP) reported that there were no specific waterbird monitoring schemes for AEWA species in place during any period. Parties without waterbird monitoring schemes, or those with monitoring schemes that do not cover all three periods, explained that this partial and/or lack of coverage was predominantly due to a lack of funding and dependence on partner organisations (Figure 6.4). One Party (Mali) did not provide a response.

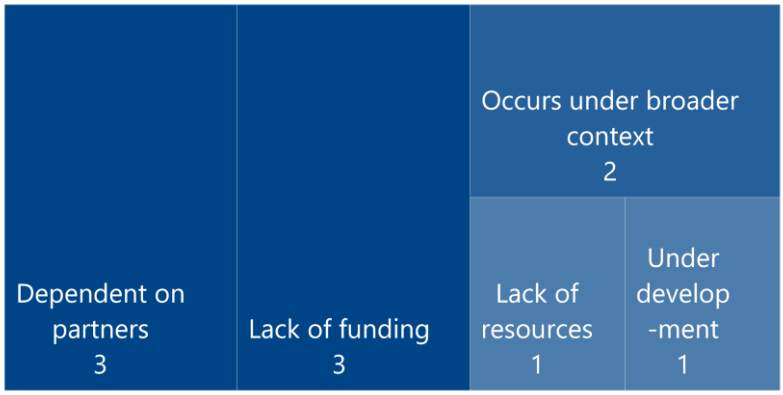


Figure 6.4. Explanations provided by the Parties as to why waterbird monitoring schemes are not in place.

Q72. Is data collected through the International Waterbird Census or other relevant monitoring schemes being actively used in your country to inform national-level implementation of AEWA? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 1.5(a))

Forty Parties (75% of Reporting Parties (RP); 51% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported using data collected through the International Waterbird Census (IWC) or other relevant monitoring schemes to inform national-level implementation of AEWA (Action 1.5(a) of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027; Figure 6.5).

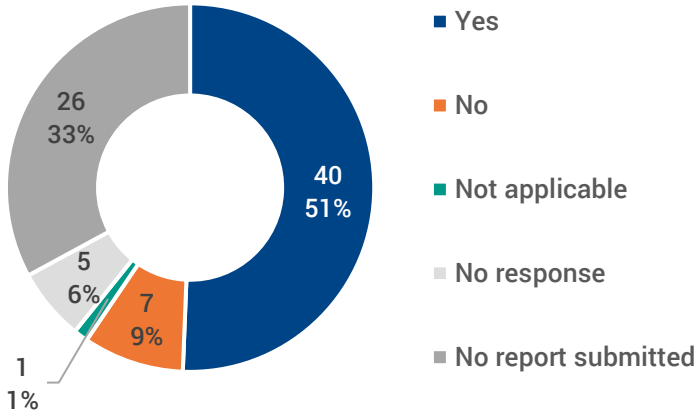


Figure 6.5. Party responses as to whether they use data collected through the International Waterbird Census or other relevant monitoring schemes to inform national-level implementation of AEWA.

Seven Parties (Central African Republic, Eswatini, Lebanon, North Macedonia, Rwanda, Togo, Uzbekistan; 13% of RP; 9% of CP) reported they did not use IWC and/or other relevant data in their decision-making, explaining this was largely due to a lack of funding, as well as a lack of and/or limited access to appropriate data (Figure 6.6). Uzbekistan cited the use of government and/or other sources of monitoring data to inform national-level implementation of AEWA in lieu of IWC data, whilst Syria considered the question not applicable due to a lack of national monitoring programmes.

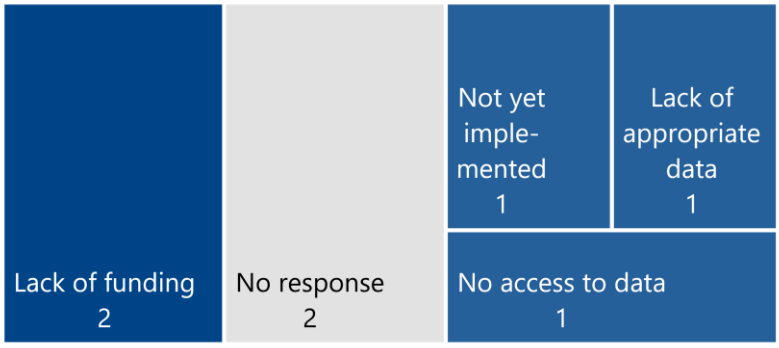
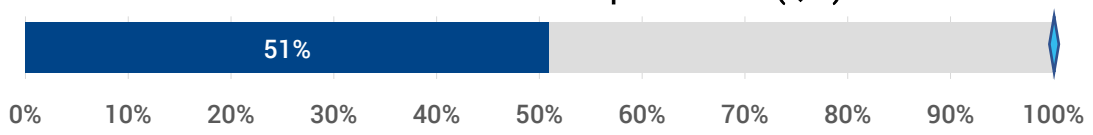


Figure 6.6. Explanations provided by the Parties as to why data collected through the International Waterbird Census or other relevant monitoring schemes is not used to inform national-level implementation of AEWA.

Strategic Plan Target 1.5: Decision-making for national and flyway-level conservation and management of waterbird populations is based on the best-available monitoring data.

Indicator: Percentage of Parties confirming their use of IWC and/or other relevant monitoring data to inform national-level implementation (Q72)



Q73. 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)

Eight Parties (Albania, Denmark, France, Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Switzerland, Tanzania; 15% of Reporting Parties (RP); 10% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported providing other Parties or Range States with technical or financial support to design appropriate monitoring schemes and develop their capacity to collect reliable waterbird population data (Figure 6.7). Seven of these Parties went on to provide details of this support (Table 6.1).

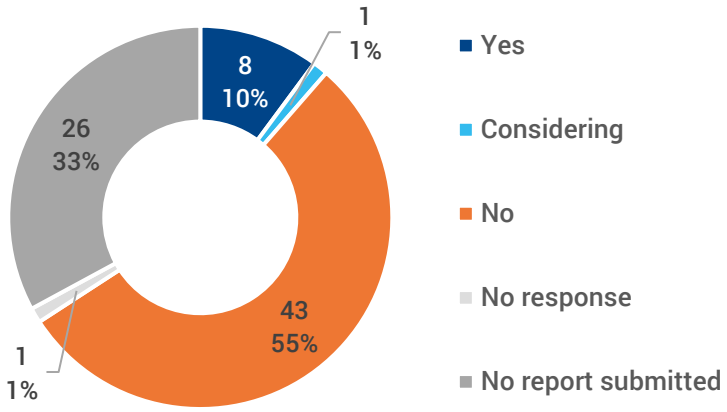


Figure 6.7. Party responses as to whether they supported, technically or financially, other Parties or Range States in designing appropriate monitoring schemes and developing their capacity to collect reliable waterbird population data.

One Party, Ethiopia, reported that they were considering support for another Party (specifically technical support for neighbouring countries). Of the 43 Parties that reported no provision of support to other Parties or Range States, the most cited explanations were lack of or resources and/or funding (Figure 6.8).

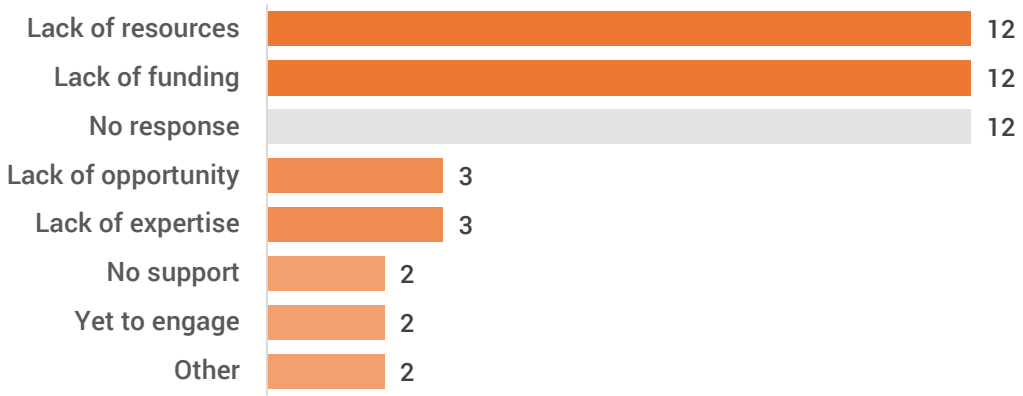


Figure 6.8. Explanations provided by Parties as to why support (technical or financial), has not been provided to other Parties or Range States in designing appropriate monitoring schemes (Note: Parties may have provided more than one answer).

Table 6.1 Details of Party support (technical or financial) provided to other Parties or Range States in designing appropriate monitoring schemes and developing their capacity to collect reliable waterbird population data. Activities falling outside the triennium 2018-2020 have been excluded.

Party providing support	Party or Range State receiving support		Details
Albania	Kosovo		Initiation of the International Waterbird Census
France	Chad Egypt Mali	Senegal Sudan	A partner within the RESSOURCE project for Sahelian wetlands (including workshops, on-site and indoor training)
Netherlands	Various (southern and eastern Europe)		Cooperation in the European Bird Census Council (involving knowledge sharing used extensively in the Waddensea Flyway Initiative)
Norway	Denmark Greenland Iceland	Sweden United Kingdom	Scientific collaboration involving an exchange of data, techniques, and funds
South Africa	Botswana Lesotho Namibia	Swaziland Zimbabwe	- Cooperation within the Southern African Bird Atlas Project, which has enabled 13 Regional Atlas Committees to be set up. - Delivered training in the use of citizen science programmes (BirdLasser and Southern African Bird Atlas Project) through partner NGOs. - Provided training in the identification of Key Biodiversity Areas to interested stakeholders
Switzerland	Various		Elaboration of the 8th report of the conservation of migratory waterbirds
Tanzania	Various		Technical support during regional meetings (e.g. East Africa Community, Southern African Development Community)

Q75. Has your government provided over the past triennium funds and/or logistical support for the International Waterbird Census and/or other waterbird monitoring scheme at international or national level? (Resolution 6.3)

Thirty-two Parties (60% of Reporting Parties (RP); 40% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) confirmed that funds and/or logistical support had been provided for the International Waterbird Census and/or other waterbird monitoring schemes at the international or national level (Figure 6.9). All 32 Parties provided support at the national level, whilst only 16 (50%) also gave support at the international level (Figure 6.9). Lack of funding was the primary reason cited by Parties that did not provide support at the international or national level (Figure 6.10).

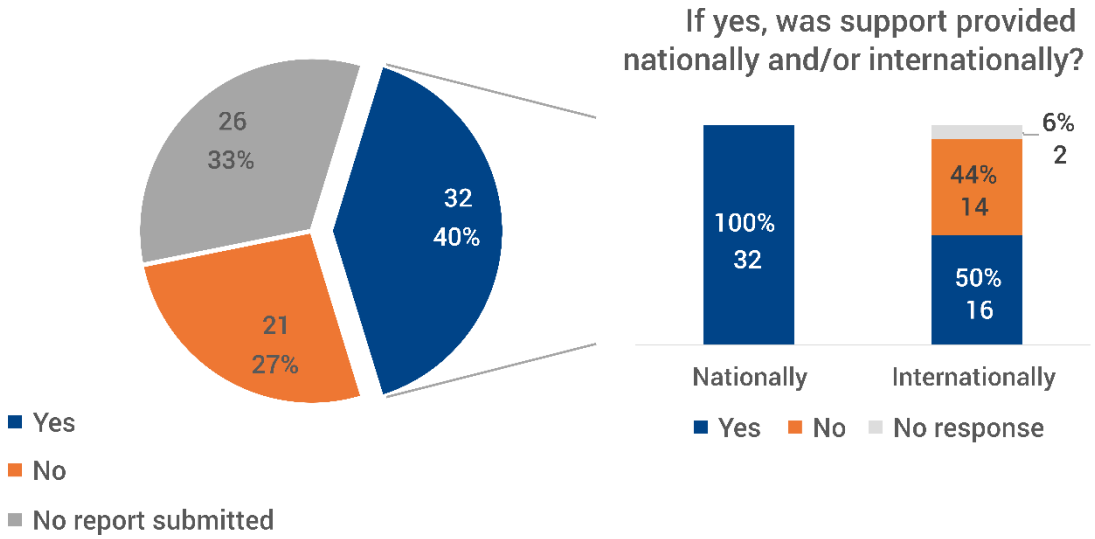


Figure 6.9. Party responses as to whether their governments have provided, over the past triennium, funds and/or logistical support for the International Waterbird Census and/or other waterbird monitoring schemes at international or national level.

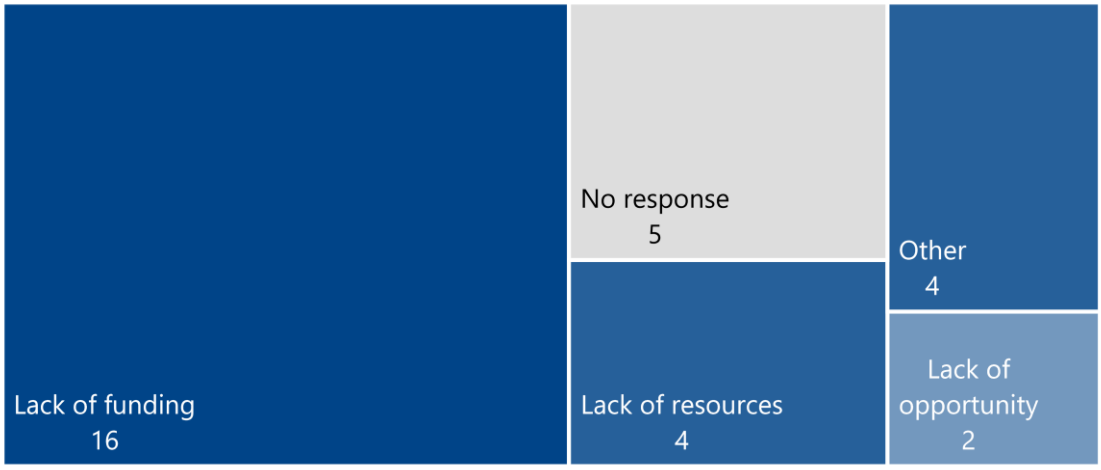


Figure 6.10. Explanations provided by Parties as to why their government has not provided over the past triennium funds and/or logistical support for the International Waterbird Census and/or other waterbird monitoring schemes (Note: Parties may have provided more than one answer).

Q76. Has your country donated funds to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Fund in the past triennium (Resolution 6.3, Resolution 7.7)?

Three Parties (Czech Republic, Netherlands, and Switzerland: 6% of Reporting Parties (RP); 4% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that they donated funds to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Fund in the past triennium (Figure 6.11). Switzerland noted their support through contributions to Wetlands International. Of the Parties that did not donate to the African-Eurasian

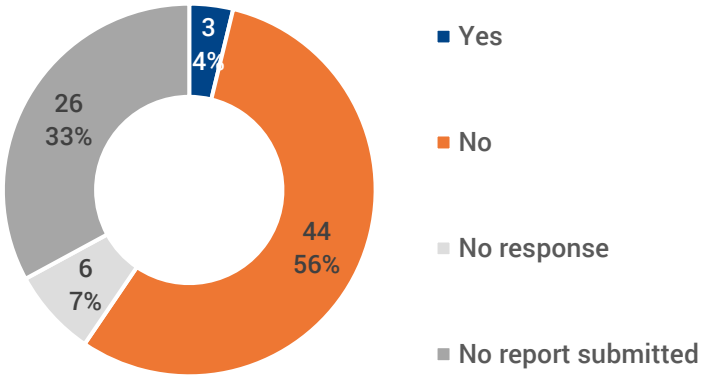


Figure 6.11. Party responses as to whether they have donated funds to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Fund in the past triennium.

Waterbird Fund, lack of funds was the major explanation given (Figure 6.12).

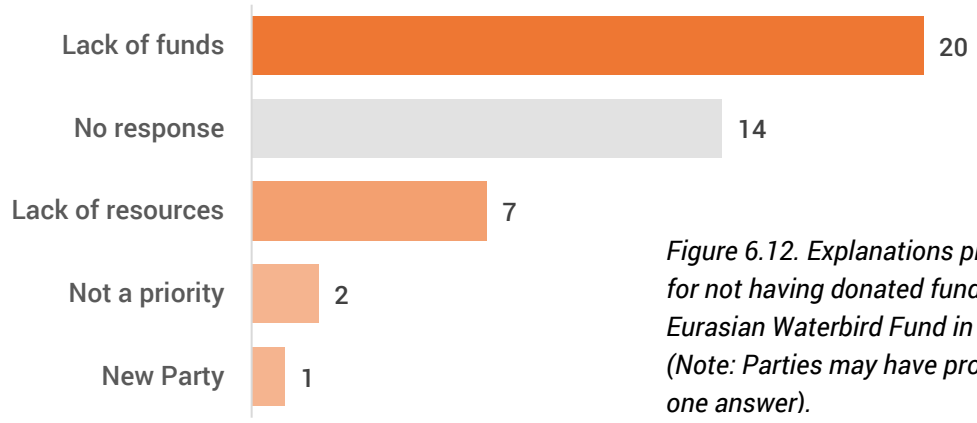


Figure 6.12. Explanations provided by Parties for not having donated funds to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Fund in the past triennium (Note: Parties may have provided more than one answer).

Q77. (Applicable to African Contracting Parties only) Were the periods of breeding and of pre-nuptial migration for all AEWA-listed species and their respective populations occurring on the territory of your country identified at national level? (Resolution 7.8)

Of the 21 African Contracting Parties that provided National Reports (out of 38 African Contracting Parties), only five Parties (Botswana, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, South Africa) confirmed that periods of breeding and of pre-nuptial migration for all AEWA-listed species, and their respective populations, occurring on their territory were identified at the national level (Figure 6.13). Two Parties (Algeria, Tanzania) reported partial identification, and two further Parties (Egypt, Eswatini) confirmed such identification was being planned but not yet in place. Among those African Contracting Parties that reported not having such identification, only five provided details (Central African Republic, Malawi, Rwanda, Togo, Uganda), citing lack of resources and/or funds, as well as a lack of expertise.

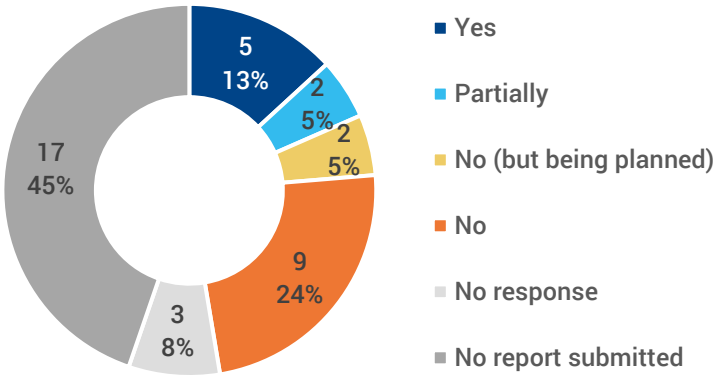


Figure 6.13. Responses from African Parties (n=38) as to whether they have identified at national level periods of breeding and pre-nuptial migration for all AEWA-listed species and their respective populations occurring on their territory.

Q78. 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 47 in chapter 6. Management of human activities.

Two Parties (Romania and South Africa; 4% of Reporting Parties (RP); 3% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that they have investigated the impact of lead fishing weights on waterbirds in their country (Figure 6.14). South Africa noted there is evidence of a negative impact on waterbirds and indicated that one AEWA listed species, the Cape Gannet (*Morus capensis*), was affected, although the primary focus of the investigation into lead fishing weights is their impact on crocodiles. Romania reported that there is no evidence of a negative impact of the use of lead fishing weights on waterbirds in their country.

Of the 47 Parties that indicated they had not investigated the impact of lead fishing weights, seven Parties (Botswana, Eswatini, France, Portugal, Syria, Tanzania, Uzbekistan) reported they had plans to investigate the impact (Figure 6.14). Parties noted that whilst lead fishing weights were not a current priority, investigations would be carried out in-country in future, with Tanzania stating that this was contingent dependent on availability of funds.

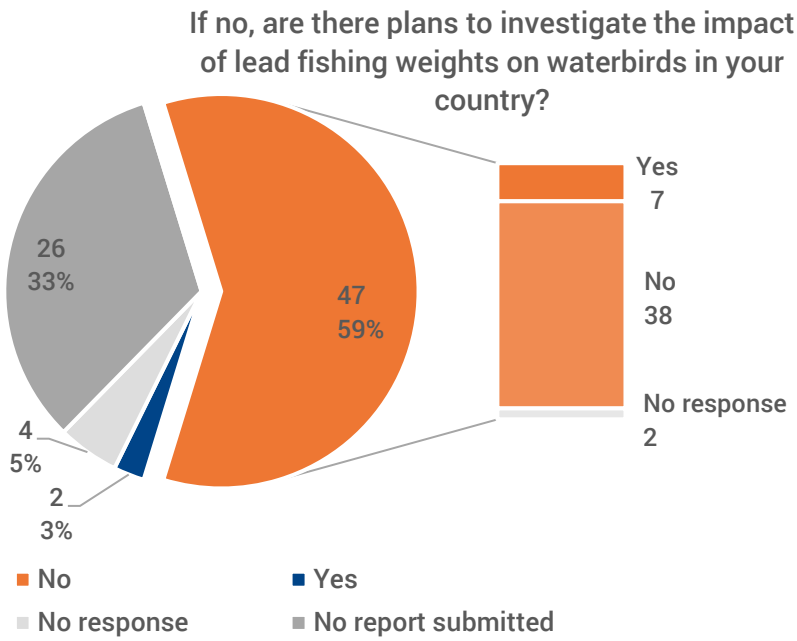


Figure 6.14. Party responses as to whether they have investigated the impact of lead fishing weights on waterbirds in their country, and, for those yet to investigate this impact, the number of Parties with plans to do so in the future.

Thirty-eight Parties (81%) reported no plans to investigate the impact of lead fishing weights on waterbirds in their country, citing a limited need as the most common explanation, whether because the use of lead fishing weights is not widespread and/or does not occur within their country (Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Latvia, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Uganda, Zimbabwe), or because the practice is outlawed within their country (Denmark, Egypt) (Figure 6.15). Other common explanations included a lack of funding and/or resources, as well as differing research priorities.

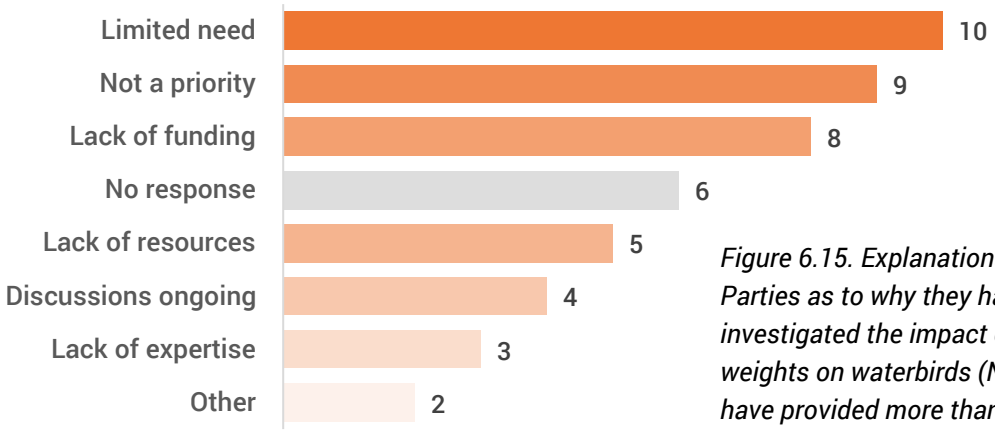


Figure 6.15. Explanations provided by Parties as to why they have not investigated the impact of lead fishing weights on waterbirds (Note: Parties may have provided more than one answer).

King Eider/ *Somateria spectabilis*/ AGAMI/ Adobe Stock

VII. EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

AEWA Parties were asked five questions to assess their efforts on education and information programmes regarding waterbirds and AEWA. Moderate efforts are being made in public awareness raising campaigns and engagement, and a third of Parties have appointed a National AEWA Focal Point for Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA). However, measures to implement the provisions around Education and Information in the AEWA Action Plan, particularly relating to training programmes and resources, remain low, as does funding and support for implementing the AEWA Communication Strategy.

Communication, Education and Public Awareness

Q79. Has your country developed and implemented programmes for raising awareness and understanding on waterbird conservation and about AEWA specifically? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraphs 6.1-6.4; Resolution 3.10; Resolution 5.5; Resolution 6.10)

Twenty-four Parties (45% of Reporting Parties (RP); 30% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that they had programmes in place for raising awareness and understanding on waterbird conservation and AEWA in their countries (Figure 7.1). Of these, 23 Parties (43% of RP; 29% of CP) reported that the programme is being implemented and one Party (Czech Republic) reported that the programme was not currently being implemented due to financial constraints.

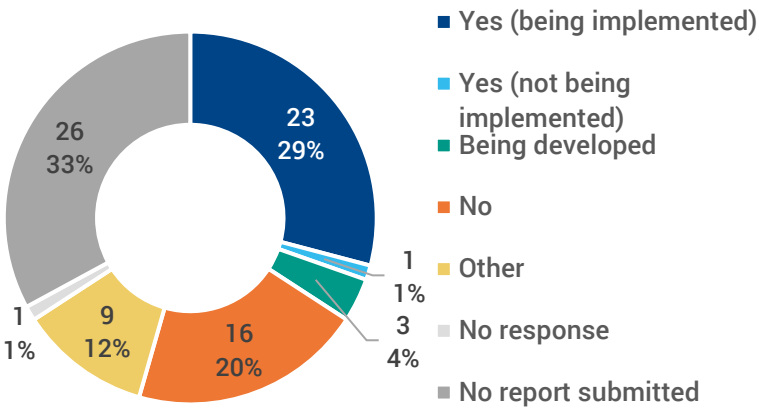


Figure 7.1. Party responses as to whether programmes raising awareness and understanding of waterbird conservation and AEWA have been developed and implemented.

Of the 23 Parties that reported programmes were in place and being implemented, only Kenya, Romania, Syria and Zimbabwe (8% of RP; 5% of CP) reported that the programmes specifically focus on AEWA and the provision of its Action Plan. Amongst the three Parties that reported they were developing programmes, all three noted that the programmes would specifically focus on AEWA and the provision of its Action Plan. Slovakia commented that this was part of their national strategy for implementation of the CMS and its daughter agreements which will be finalised by the end of 2021. Uzbekistan and Georgia did not give an exact timeframe for the development of their programmes.

All nine Parties (17% of RP; 11% of CP) that responded 'Other' to this question stated that there were no awareness-raising programmes specific to AEWA (Belarus, Egypt, Estonia, Italy, Latvia, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo and Ukraine). However, they all reported that there are outreach activities raising awareness of nature conservation being developed and/or implemented in their country and that these are likely to include wetlands and waterbirds.

Sixteen Parties (30% of RP; 20% of CP) reported that they do not have a programme for raising awareness of waterbirds and AEWA (Figure 7.1). The most commonly cited reason for not having a programme was a lack of resources to develop or implement such programmes (Figure 7.2).

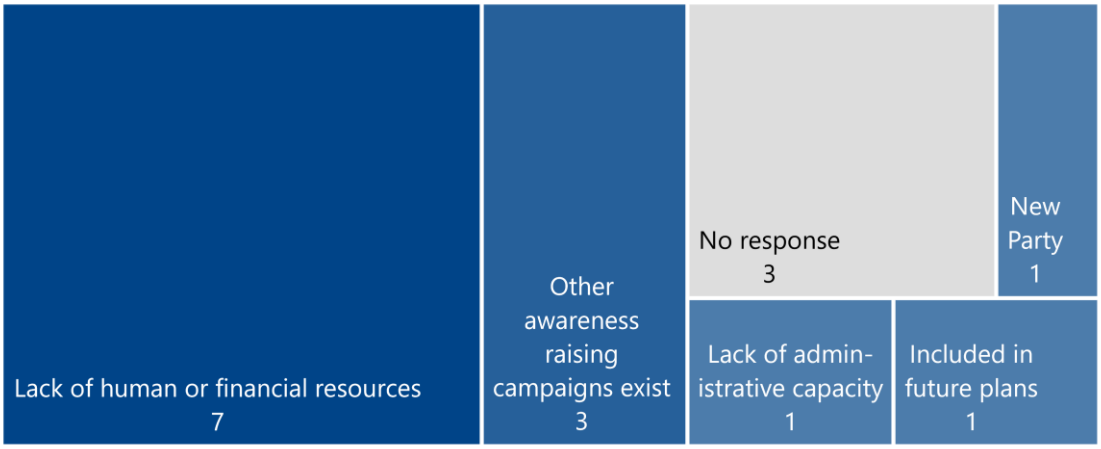


Figure 7.2. Explanations provided by Parties regarding the absence of programmes for raising awareness and understanding on waterbird conservation and AEWA.

Q80. Has a National AEWA Focal Point for Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) been nominated by your country? (Resolution 5.5; Resolution 6.10)

Twenty-seven Parties (51% of Reporting Parties (RP); 34% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that they have appointed a National AEWA Focal Point for Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) for their country (Figure 7.3). Of these, 20 Parties (38% of RP; 25% of CP) reported that the appointee was from the government, whereas seven Parties (13% of RP; 9% of CP) reported that they were from the non-governmental sector (Central African Republic, Czech Republic, Kenya, North Macedonia, South Africa, Ukraine and Zimbabwe) (Figure 7.3).

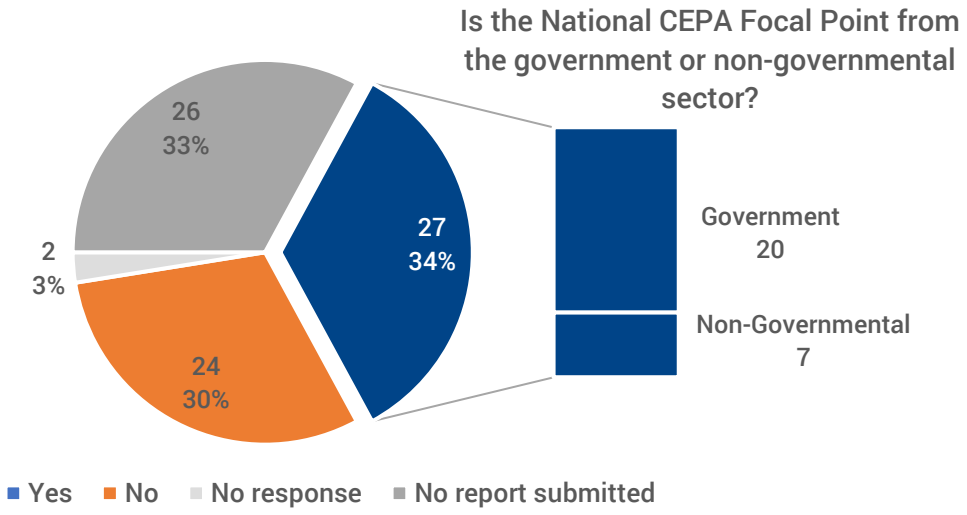


Figure 7.3. Party responses as to whether they have nominated a National AEWA CEPA Focal Point and further responses as to whether this nomination is from the government or non-governmental sector.

Of the 27 Parties that have nominated a CEPA Focal Point, 11 Parties (21% of RP; 14% of CP) reported that the CEPA Focal Point has begun coordinating national implementation of the Communication Strategy, whereas 16 Parties (30% of RP; 20% of CP) reported that coordination has not yet begun. All 27 of these Parties described the cooperation between the appointed AEWA CEPA Focal Point and the Ramsar CEPA Focal Point (Figure 7.4).

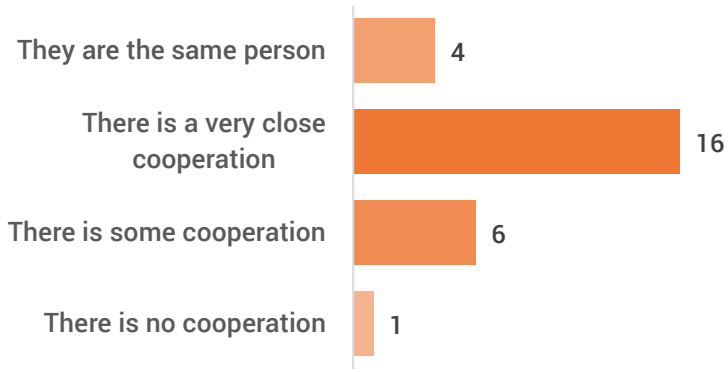


Figure 7.4. Responses of the 27 Parties with a National AEWA CEPA Focal Point regarding the level of cooperation between this appointee and the Ramsar CEPA Focal Point.

Q81. 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)

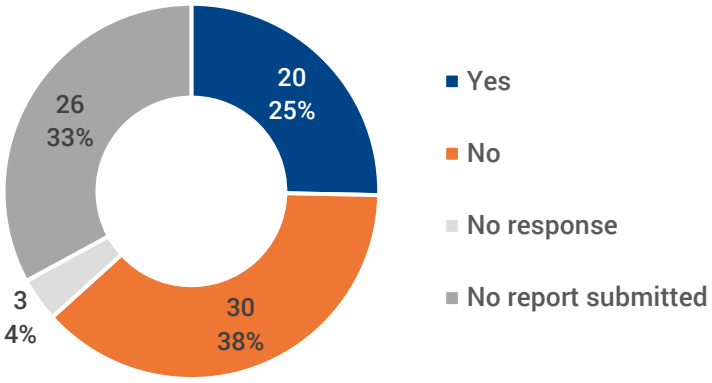


Figure 7.5. Responses from Parties as to whether they have taken measures to implement provisions related to 'Education and Information' in the AEWA Action Plan over the last triennium.

Twenty Parties (38% of Reporting Parties (RP); 25% of all Contracting Parties (CP) reported that they have taken measures to implement provisions related to Education and Information in the AEWA Action Plan (Figure 7.5).

Figure 7.6 summarises the responses of the 20 Parties having taken measures, as to which of these they have taken to implement provisions related to Education and Information in the AEWA Action Plan.

Of the 20 Parties that have taken measures to implement 'Education and Information' provisions, nine Parties (17% of RP; 11% of CP) have arranged national training programmes for the personnel responsible for implementing AEWA (Figure 7.6). When asked to rate

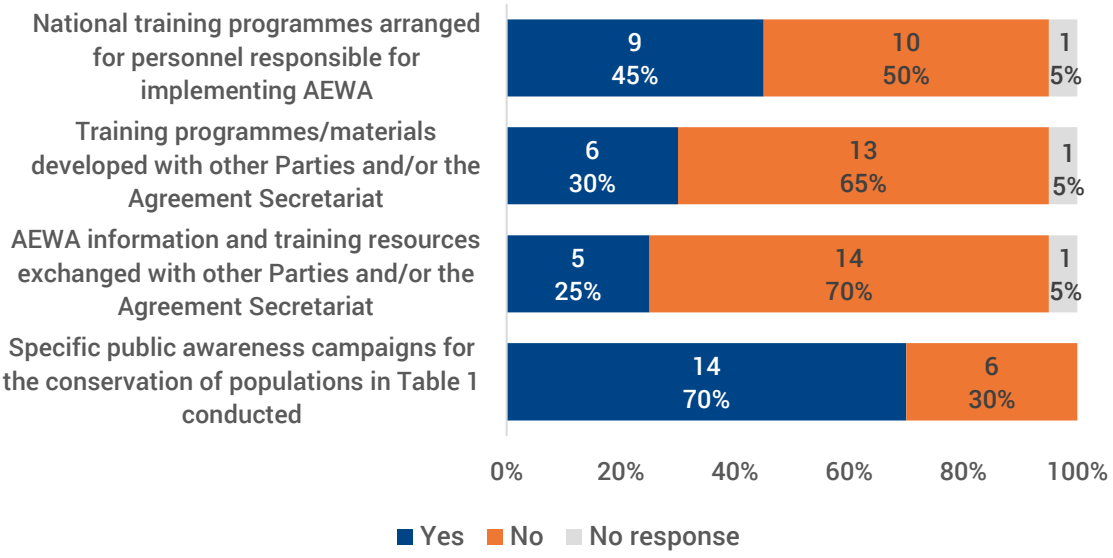


Figure 7.6. Responses from 20 Parties that have measures to implement 'Education and Information' provisions as to which measures they have taken as part of these provisions.

the effectiveness of this measure, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire and Switzerland responded 'High', whereas Algeria, Eswatini, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Rwanda reported effectiveness to be 'Moderate' (Figure 7.7). Parties that had not arranged national training programmes for personnel reported a range of reasons summarised in Figure 7.8.

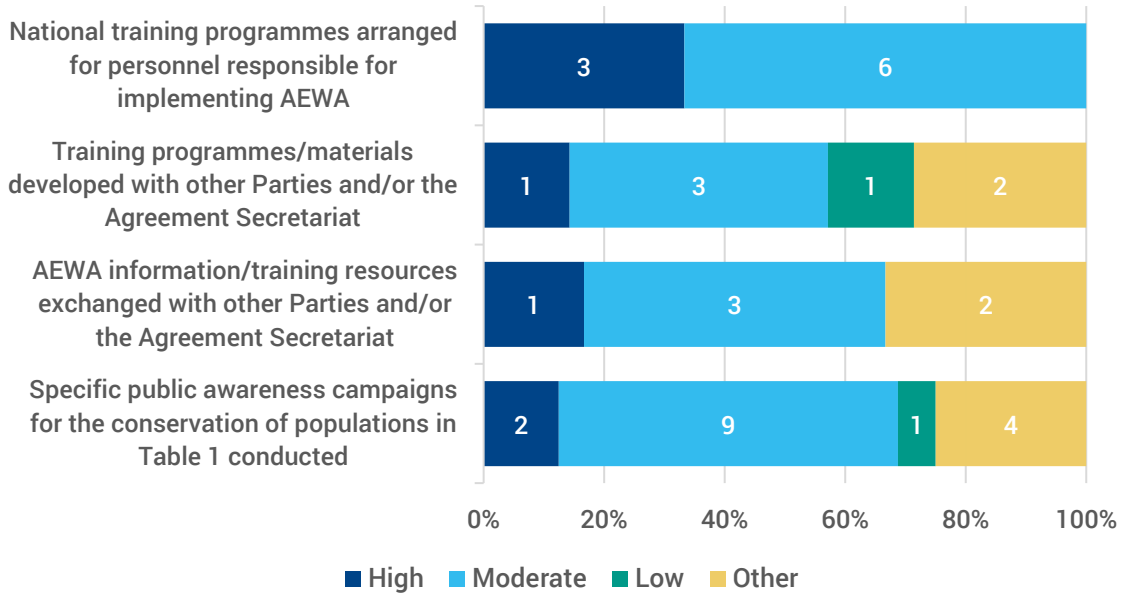


Figure 7.7. Effectiveness of the measures taken to implement 'Education and Information' provisions, as assessed by the Parties having taken such measures (note some Parties selected more than one category when rating the effectiveness of these measures).

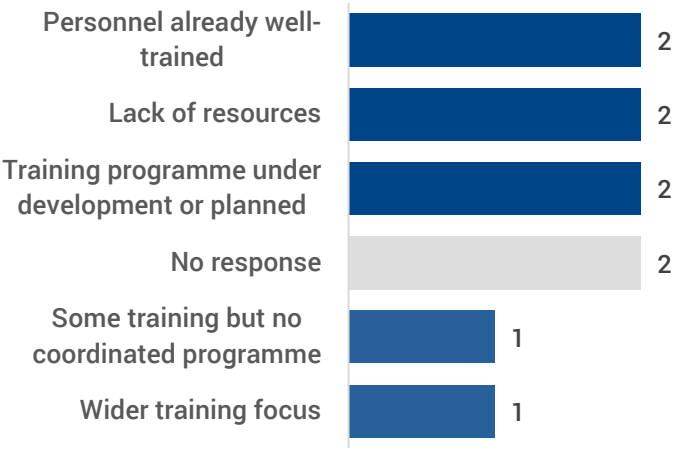


Figure 7.8. Further details provided by Parties as to why they have not arranged training programmes for personnel responsible for implementing AEWA.

Of the 20 Parties that have taken measures to implement 'Education and Information' provisions, six Parties (11% of RP; 8% of CP) have developed training programmes and materials in cooperation with other Parties and/or the Agreement Secretariat (Figure 7.6). Of these, Algeria rated the effectiveness of this measure as 'High' and Kenya, Romania and Ukraine rated the measure's effectiveness as 'Moderate' (Figure 7.7). Ghana reported that the development of training programmes and materials had a 'Low – Other' effectiveness. Tanzania rated the effectiveness of this measure as 'Other' as they have not conducted a review to determine this. Among the thirteen Parties reporting that they had not developed materials in cooperation with other Parties and/or the Secretariat, the most commonly cited reasons for this included a lack of resources, no developed

training programme and reports that Parties had implemented this measure previously, but not in this triennium (Figure 7.9).

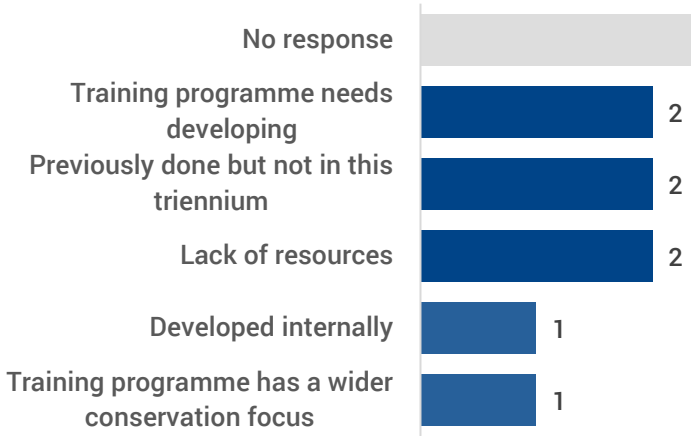


Figure 7.9. Further details provided by Parties as to why they have not developed training programmes and materials in cooperation with other Parties and/or the Agreement Secretariat.

Of the 20 Parties that have taken measures to implement 'Education and Information' provisions, five Parties (9% of RP; 6% of CP) reported exchanging AEWA-related information and training resources with other Parties and/or sharing these with the Secretariat (Figure 7.6). When asked to rate the effectiveness of this measure, Algeria rated it as 'High' and Kenya, Romania and Ukraine rated it as 'Moderate' or 'Moderate – Other' (Figure 7.7). Tanzania rated the effectiveness of this measure as 'Other' as they have not conducted a review to determine this. Of the 14 Parties that have not exchanged resources with other Parties or the Secretariat, nine Parties provided explanations (Figure 7.10). The most commonly cited reason for this was that training information and resources were shared internally in the country and/or as part of a wider focus rather than specifically AEWA focussed.

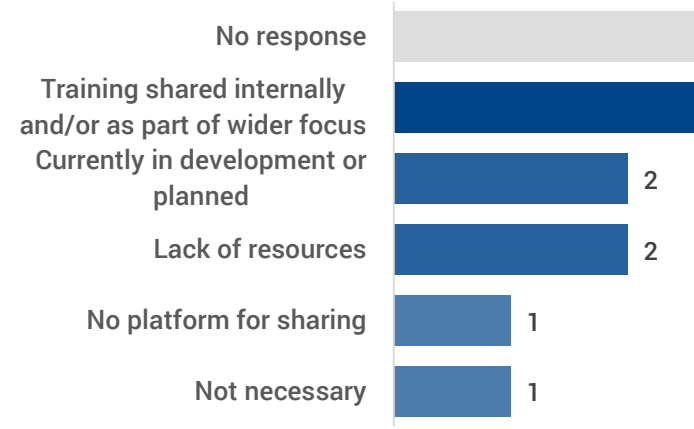


Figure 7.10. Further details provided by Parties as to why they have not exchanged information and training resources with other Parties and/or the Secretariat.

Of the 20 Parties that have taken measures to implement 'Education and Information' provisions, 14 Parties (26% of RP; 18% of CP) conducted specific public awareness campaigns for the conservation of populations listed in Table 1 of the Agreement (Figure 7.6). Of these, two Parties (Botswana and South Africa) reported that this measure is highly effective, nine Parties (Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Finland, Georgia, Italy, Nigeria, Romania, Ukraine and Zimbabwe) reported that this measure is moderately effective, and only Rwanda rated this measure as 'Low' in terms of effectiveness (Figure 7.7). Estonia and Belgium have not evaluated the effectiveness of this measure and therefore reported 'Other' in response to this question. Four of the six Parties that had not conducted specific public awareness campaigns reported that awareness-raising activities exist, but they have a wider conservation focus and are not specifically focused on AEWA species

(Eswatini, Kenya, Switzerland and Tanzania), while Ghana cited inadequate resources as an impediment to this measure and Belarus did not give any further details.

Q82. Have World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) activities been carried out in your country during this reporting cycle? (Resolution 5.5)

Thirty-eight Parties (71% of Reporting Parties (RP); 48% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported conducting activities to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day during the last triennium (Figure 7.11).

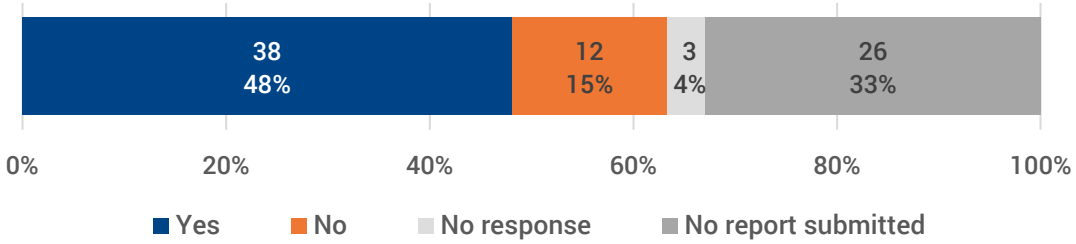


Figure 7.11. Responses from Parties as to whether World Migratory Bird Day activities were carried out in their country during the last triennium.

Q83. Has your country provided funding and/or other support, as appropriate (e.g. expertise, network, skills and resources) towards the implementation of the AEWA Communication Strategy and/or towards priority CEPA activities in the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027? Please consider both national and international funding and different types of support provided. (Resolution 6.10)

Eleven Parties (21% of Reporting Parties (RP); 14% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that they had provided funding and other support for the implementation of the AEWA Communication Strategy (Figure 7.12). Of the eleven Parties that have provided funding and other support for the implementation of the AEWA Communications Strategy, six Parties (Algeria, Botswana, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe) reported that they provided funding and support on a national level only, four Parties (Estonia, Norway, Senegal and Ukraine) reported that the funding or support had been on both a national and international level and one Party (Switzerland) reported that this was on an international level only.

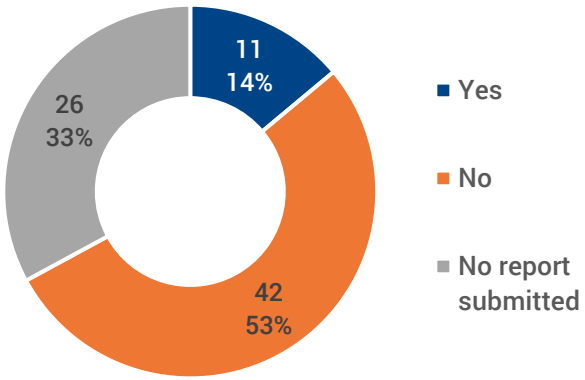


Figure 7.12. Responses from Parties as to whether funding and/or support has been provided towards the implementation of the AEWA Communication Strategy.

Horned Grebe/ *Podiceps auritus*/ Kersti Lindström/ Adobe Stock

VIII. IMPLEMENTATION

AEWA Parties were asked 15 questions to assess their efforts on implementing AEWA. Good efforts are being made in promoting the relevance of AEWA implementation in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Aichi Target and the Strategic Plan on Migratory Species (SPMS) delivery and coordinating with national processes relevant to this, as well as incorporating AEWA priorities into NBSAPs or similar. Further progress is required particularly in undertaking national assessments of resources for the delivery of the AEWA Strategic Plan, identifying and prioritising capacity gaps for implementation, and resource mobilisation for international support of AEWA activities.

Q84. Have you undertaken a national assessment of the resources needed for the delivery of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.6.(b))

Following MOP7, only seven Parties (13% of Reporting Parties (RP); 9% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that they have undertaken a national assessment of the resources needed for the delivery of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, (Action 5.6(b) of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027) (Figure 8.1).

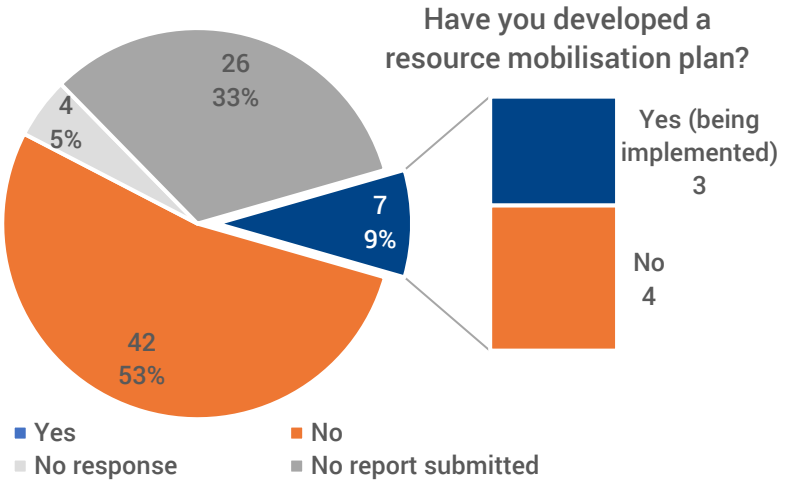


Figure 8.1. Party responses as to whether they have undertaken a national assessment of the resources needed for the delivery of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 and further responses as to whether Parties that have undertaken a national assessment have developed a resource mobilisation plan.

Of these seven Parties, three Parties (6% of RP; 4% of CP) reported that they have developed a resource mobilisation plan that is being implemented and the remaining four Parties (8% of RP; 5% of CP) reported that they have not developed such a plan (Figure 8.1). Of the three Parties currently implementing a resource mobilisation plan, Switzerland rated the degree of implementation as 'High, most of the resources are secured', while Georgia and Botswana rated it as 'Medium, some resources are secured'. Three of the four Parties that have undertaken a national assessment but have not developed a resource mobilisation plan gave further details on why this had not been done: Kenya reported that the plan is pending completion of the resource assessment, South Africa cited that the plan is currently under development and Slovakia commented on possible future funding sources. Romania did not give a reason as to why they have not yet developed a resource mobilisation plan.

The most commonly cited reason for not having undertaken a national assessment of the resources needed for the delivery of the AEWA Strategic Plan, was a lack financial and human resources (Figure 8.2). 'Other' reasons given by Parties include where the Party did not consider this assessment a priority, where the assessment is underway or is planned to be carried out in the future, and where the strategic plan is not yet internalised at country level.

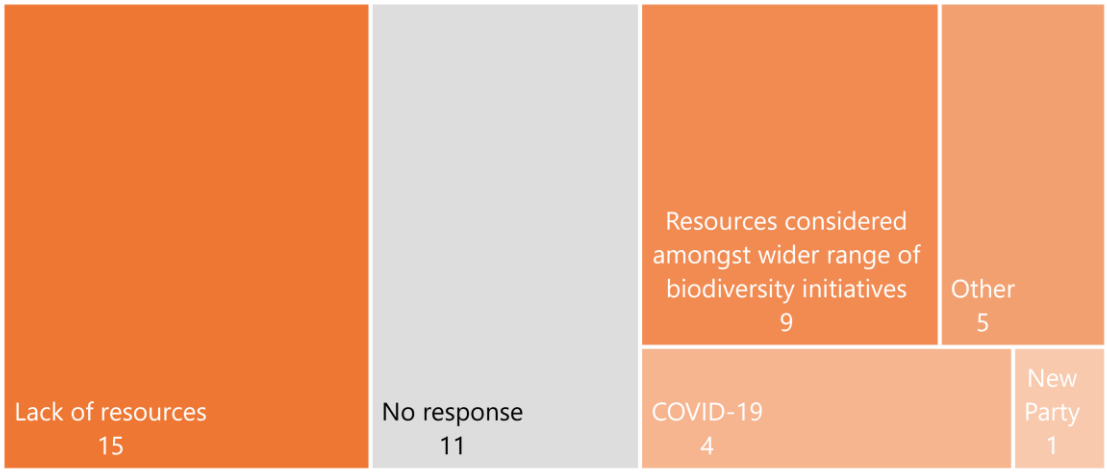
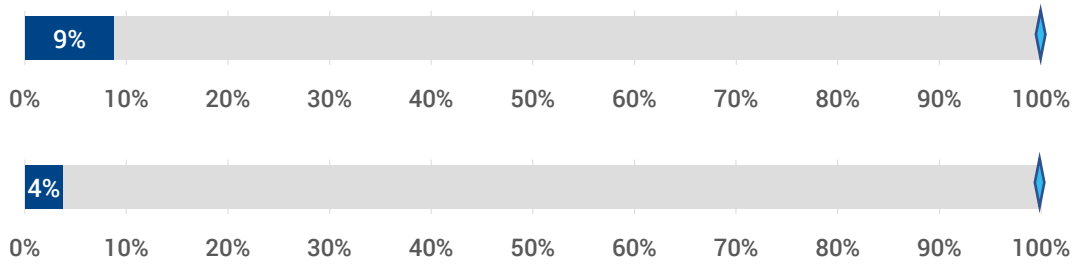


Figure 8.2. Responses provided by the Parties as to why they had not undertaken a national assessment of the resources needed for the delivery of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 (Note: Parties may have provided more than one answer)

Strategic Plan Target 5.6: The resources required for coordination and delivery of the Strategic Plan at international and national levels have been assessed as realistically as possible and corresponding resource mobilisation plans implemented.

Indicator: Number of Contracting Parties that have (i) assessed resource requirements at national level; and (ii) implemented resource mobilisation plans (Q84)



Q85. Has your country approached non-contracting party range states to encourage them to accede to the Agreement? (Resolution 3.10; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 5.2)

Only three Parties (6% of Reporting Parties (RP); 4% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) confirmed having approached non-contracting party Range States to encourage them to accede to the Agreement (Figure 8.3). Kenya reported that they have held informal discussions with South Sudan, South Africa reported approaching Angola and Namibia, and France reported approaching Mozambique and Poland. Estonia commented that while they had not formally approached non-contracting Parties, informal discussions have taken place.

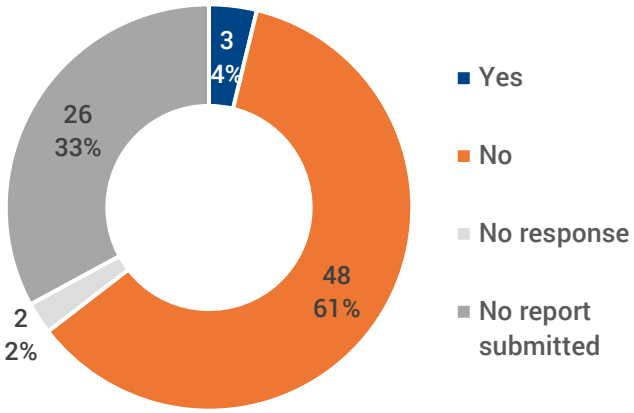


Figure 8.3. Party responses as to whether or not they had approached non-contracting Parties to encourage them to ratify the Agreement.

Of the 48 Parties that had not approached non-contracting party Range States, 34 provided reasons for not having done so (Figure 8.4). The predominant reason given by ten of the Parties (Albania, Croatia, Denmark, Latvia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Tanzania) was a lack of resources, including financial, administrative and human resources (19% of RP; 13% of CP). Morocco commented that their country does not have a seat on AEWA bodies but that the North African representative on the AEWA Technical Committee is very willing to engage in such discussions, particularly with African and Arab non-contracting party Range States.

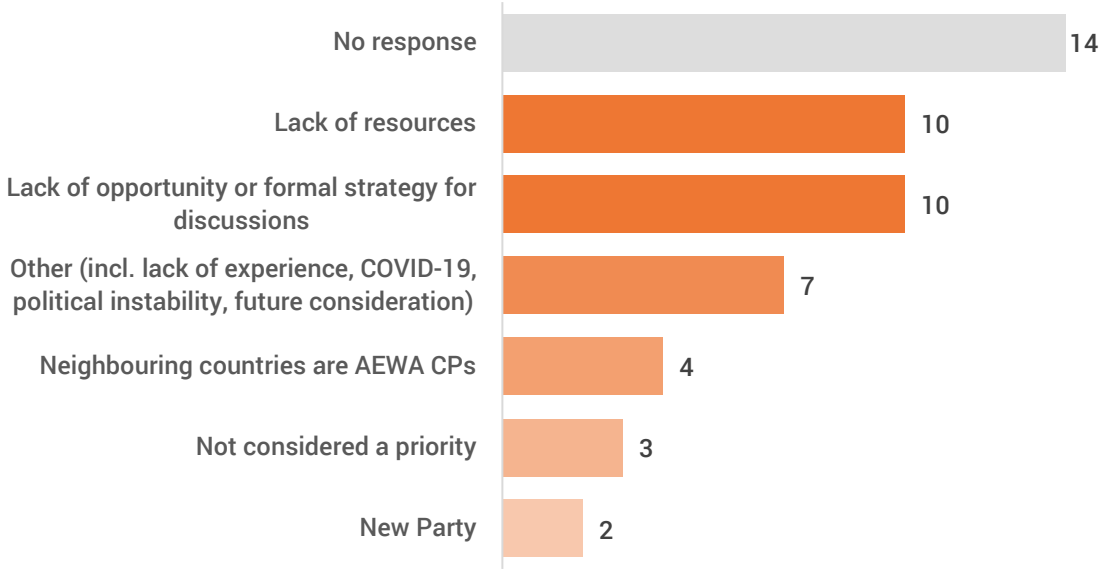


Figure 8.4. Responses provided by the Parties as to why they have not approached non-contracting party Range States to encourage them to accede to the Agreement. (Note: Parties may have provided more than one answer)

Q86. Does your country have in place a national coordination mechanism for implementation of AEWA, possibly linking to national coordination mechanisms for other biodiversity Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)? (Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.3(b))

Twenty-eight Parties (53% of Reporting Parties (RP); 35% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported having a fully operational coordination mechanism in place, with an additional five Parties (9% of RP; 6% of CP) reporting that a mechanism was in place but is not operational (Figure 8.5).

Of the five Parties that reported the mechanism was in place but not operational, Zimbabwe cited a lack of personnel as the reason for this. Moldova, Georgia, Togo and Senegal gave further details of national coordination within their countries but did not give a specific reason as to why the mechanism is not operational.

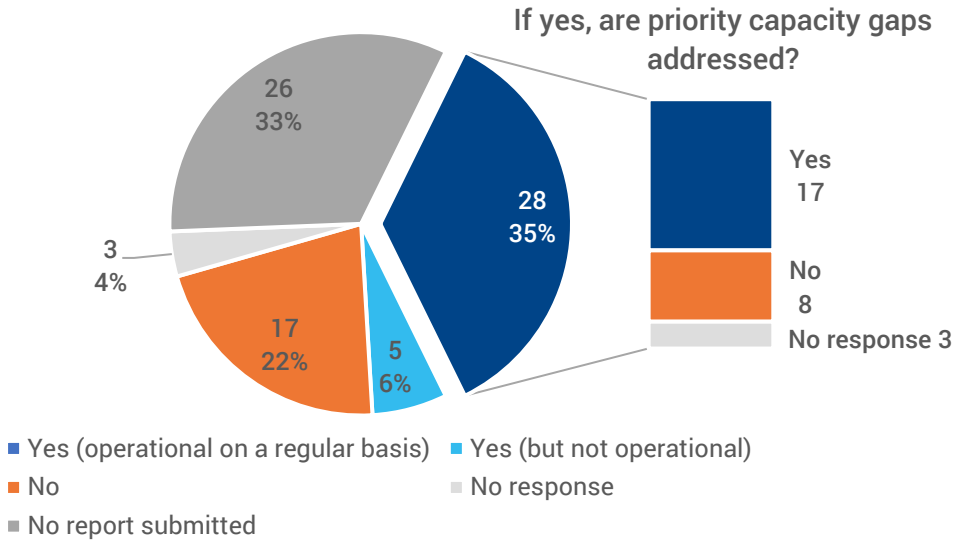


Figure 8.5. Party responses as to whether they have a national coordination mechanism in place for implementation of AEWA, and further responses from Parties that have a national coordination mechanism in place as to whether priority capacity gaps are assessed.

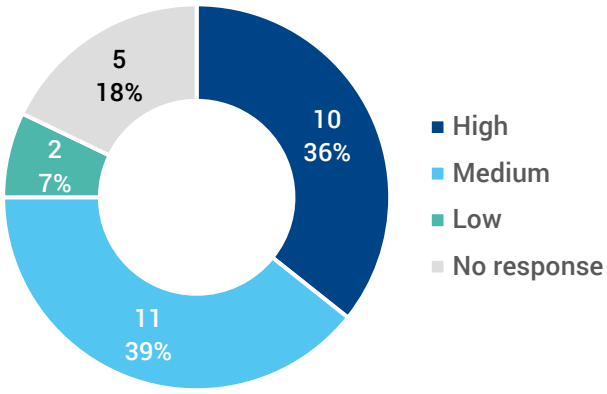


Figure 8.6. Effectiveness ranking of their national coordination mechanism for the implementation of AEWA, for the 28 Parties that had reported having such a mechanism in place.

The 28 Parties with an operational national coordination mechanism for AEWA implementation were also asked if it addresses priority capacity gaps, and 17 of these Parties (32% of RP; 22% of CP) confirmed that priority capacity gaps are addressed by the coordination mechanism (Figure 8.5).

In addition, these 28 Parties were asked to rank the effectiveness of the mechanism. Ten Parties (19% of RP; 13% of CP) reported the effectiveness as 'High' (Botswana, Czech Republic, Finland, Italy, Kenya, Latvia, Netherlands, Niger, Romania and Slovenia) (Figure 8.6).

Seventeen Parties (32% of RP; 22% of CP) reported no national coordination mechanism for the implementation of AEWA (Figure 8.5). However, the existence of alternative coordination systems was the most common reason for this lack of national coordination mechanism (Figure 8.7). Reasons categorised as 'Other' include Morocco's report that although there is no mechanism in place, the AEWA Focal Point also covers a range of biodiversity MEAs,

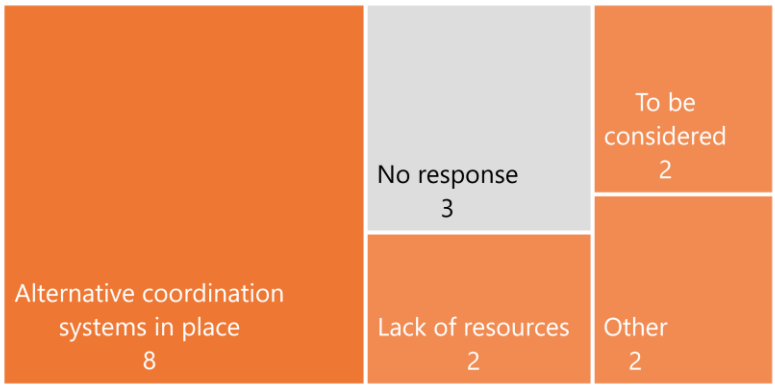


Figure 8.7. Party responses as to why they do not have a national coordination mechanism for AEWA implementation in their country.

and Côte d'Ivoire commenting that they will be consulting with various stakeholders in relation to waterbird management in the near future.

Q87. Have you undertaken a national assessment of the capacity needs for AEWA implementation? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.3.(e))

Following MOP7, only six Parties (Botswana, Kenya, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia and Uzbekistan, 11% of Reporting Parties (RP); 8% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) have undertaken a national assessment of the capacity needs for AEWA implementation (Action 5.3(e) of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2017) (Figure 8.8). Of these, three Parties (Botswana, Moldova and Romania 6% of RP; 4% of CP) reported that they have developed and are implementing a prioritised national action plan to fill significant capacity gaps and one Party (Slovakia) reported that this prioritised national action plan has been developed but is not being implemented (Figure 8.8). Slovakia reported that this was due to the assessment of capacity needs being partly included in the Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000 in their country.

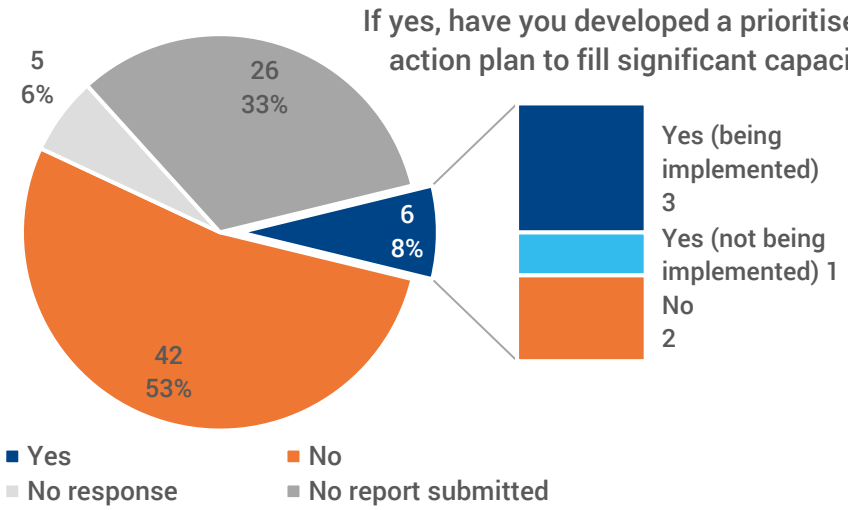


Figure 8.8. Party responses as to whether they have undertaken an assessment of the capacity needs for AEWA implementation, and further responses from Parties that have undertaken an assessment as to whether they have developed a prioritised national action plan to fill significant capacity gaps.

Two Parties (4% of RP; 3% of CP) reported that they have undertaken a national assessment of the capacity needs for AEWA implementation but have not developed a prioritised national action plan. Uzbekistan did not provide a reason for not having developed this action plan and Kenya reported that this was pending completion of the national assessment, which has been initiated.

Of the 42 Parties that did not provide a response as to whether they have undertaken a national assessment of the capacity needs for AEWA implementation, 33 Parties provided a reason (Figure 8.9). The most commonly cited reason was a lack of resources (13 Parties, 25% of RP; 16% of CP).

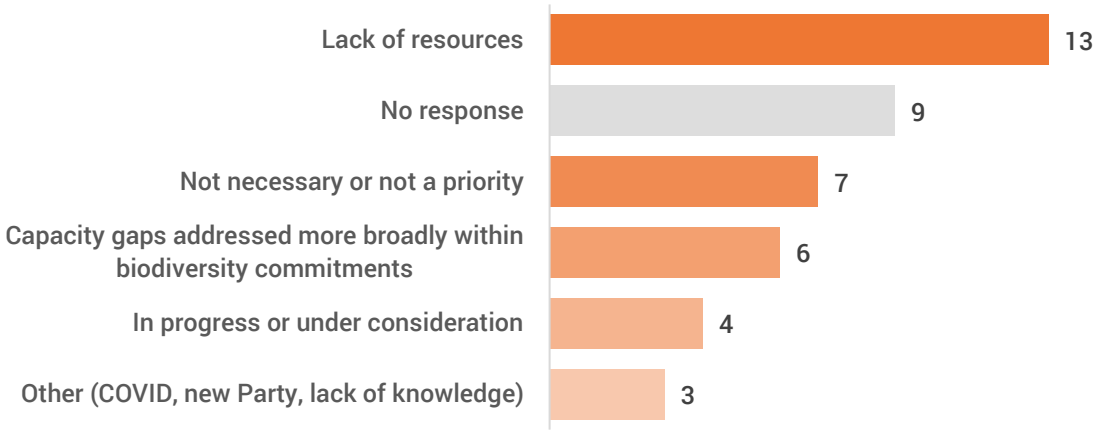
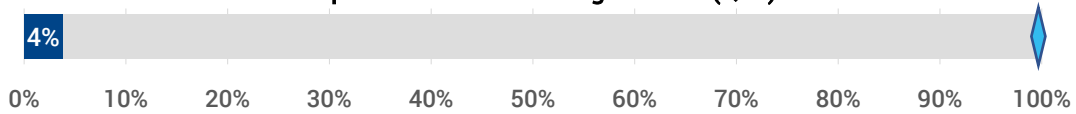


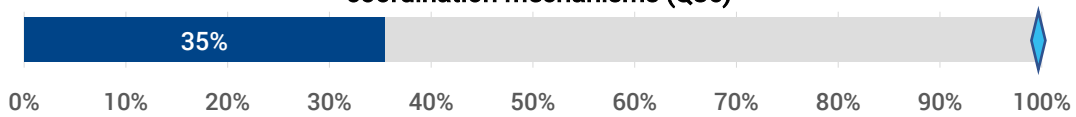
Figure 8.9. Party responses as to why they have not undertaken a national assessment of the capacity needs for AEWA implementation.

Strategic Plan Target 5.3: Initiatives are in place to address at least two-thirds of the priority capacity gaps restricting implementation of AEWA.

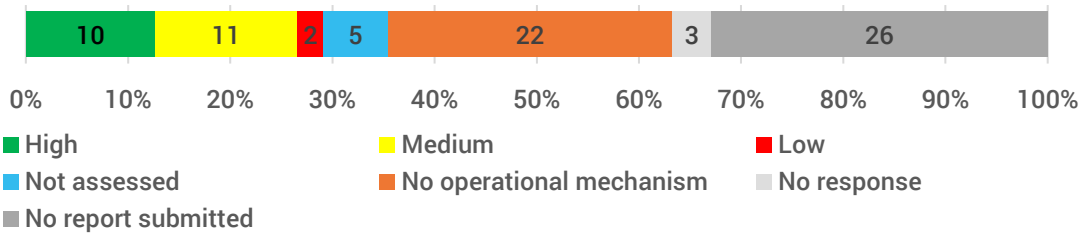
Indicator: Number of Contracting Parties that have identified and prioritised capacity gaps for implementation of the Agreement (Q87)



Indicator: Number of Contracting Parties that have established national AEWA implementation coordination mechanisms (Q86)



Traffic light assessment of the effectiveness of operational national coordination mechanisms (Q86)



Party responses to assessment of effectiveness of operational coordination mechanisms

High: 10	Medium: 11	Low: 2	Not at all: 0	Not assessed: 5	No operational mechanism: 22	No response: 3	No report: 26

Q88. 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)

Twenty-three Parties (43% of Reporting Parties (RP); 29% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported having concluded, or considered concluding, twinning schemes between sites with other countries (Figure 8.10).

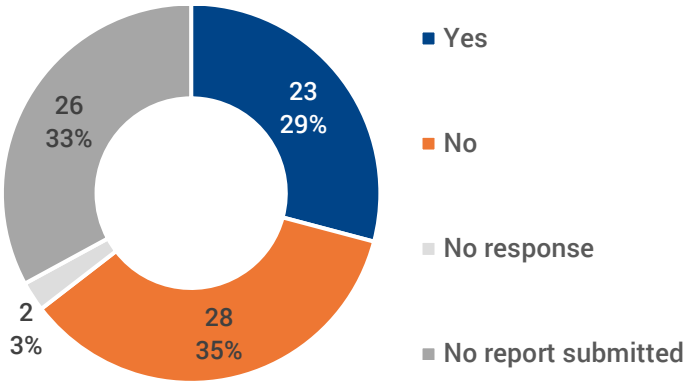


Figure 8.10. Party responses as to whether they have concluded, or considered concluding, twinning schemes between sites with other countries.

Q89, 90 & 91. Are those officers in your country's government responsible for AEWA implementation coordinated and engaged with national processes contributing towards the Aichi Targets (Q89), Sustainable Development Goals (Q90) and Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 (Q91) and the assessment of achieving these targets? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.4(a))

Forty-two Parties (79% of Reporting Parties (RP); 53% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that their officers were coordinated and engaged with the Aichi Targets (Q89), forty-one Parties (77% of RP; 52% of CP) reported coordination and engagement with the SDGs (Q90) and thirty-five Parties (66% of RP; 44% of CP) reported coordination and engagement with the SPMS (Q91) (AEWA Strategic Action Plan 2019-2017, Action 5.4(a)) (Figure 8.11).

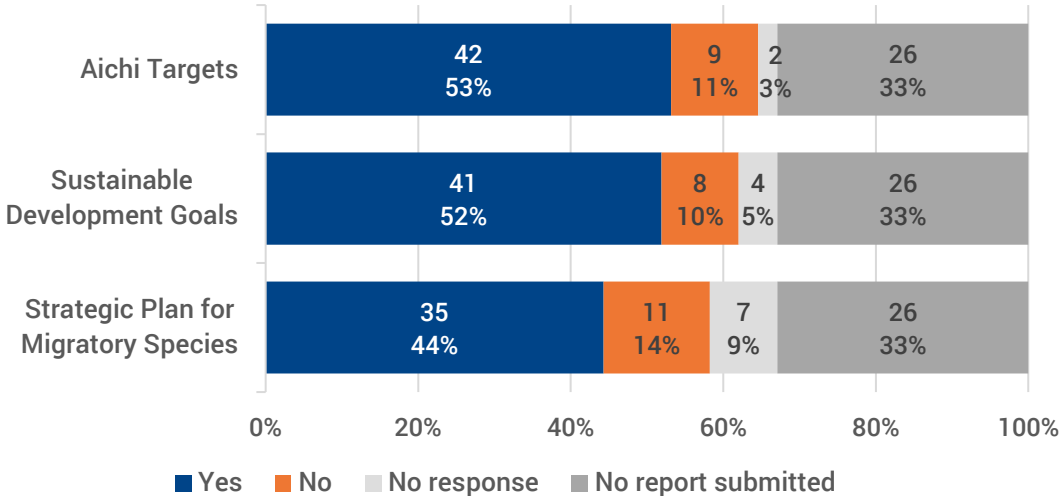


Figure 8.11. Party responses as to whether the officers in their government responsible for AEWA implementation were coordinated and engaged with national processes to implement and assess the delivery of the Aichi Targets, SDGs and SPMS.

Figure 8.12 summarises the reasons given by Parties as to why the officers in their country's government responsible for AEWA implementation were not coordinated and engaged with national processes contributing towards the Aichi Targets, SDGs and SPMS. Overall, the most commonly cited reason was a lack of resources. Reasons categorised as 'Other' included a new Party that needs to develop its national strategic plan before engaging with any of the three objectives (Malawi), and instances where the question was considered not applicable (Iceland), where SDGs are implemented in a wider context (Slovenia) and where the Party has no national processes in relation to the Aichi Targets (Ethiopia).

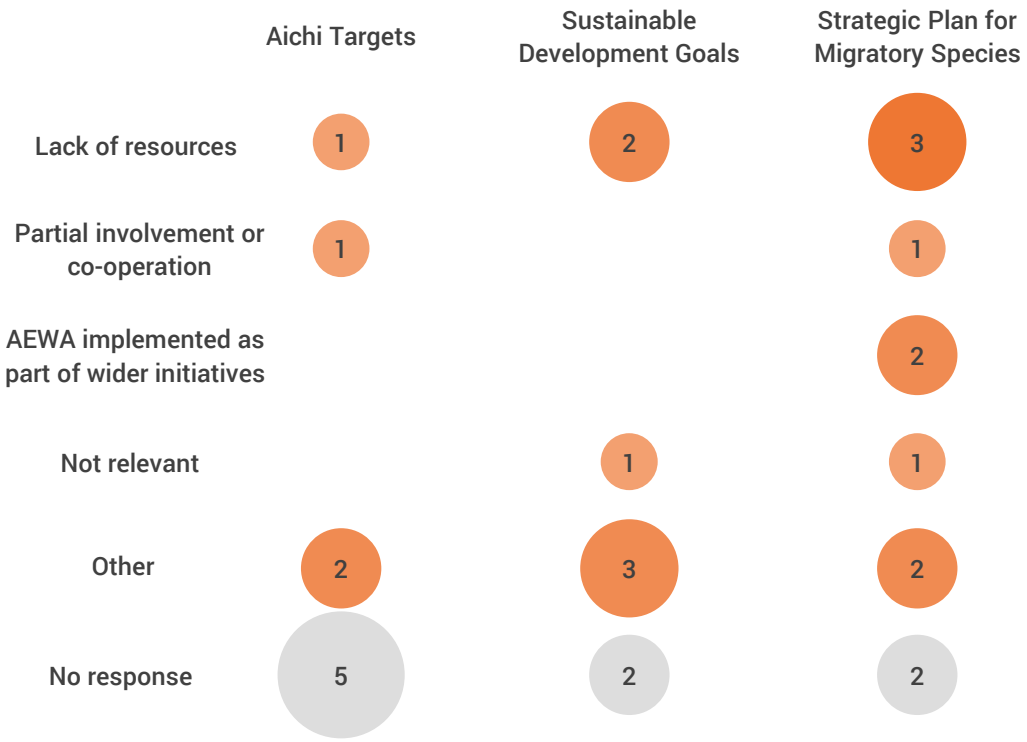
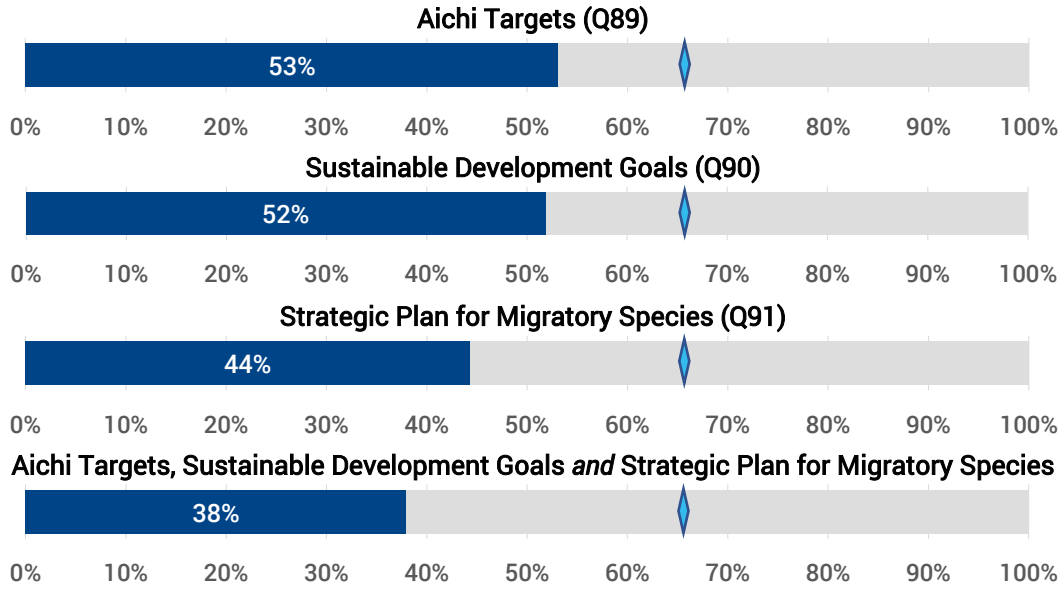


Figure 8.12. Party responses as to why the officers in their government responsible for AEWA implementation in their country were not coordinated and engaged with national processes to implement and assess the delivery of the Aichi Targets, SDGs and SPMS.

Strategic Plan Target 5.4: Conservation of migratory waterbirds is integrated into national implementation policies and plans related to the SDGs, Aichi Targets/Post-2020 biodiversity framework, the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species and the Ramsar Strategic Plan in at least two-thirds of Contracting Parties and the contribution of AEWA to these global frameworks is recognised and supported.

Indicator: Number of Contracting Parties reporting inclusion of AEWA focal points in national processes relating to SDGs, Aichi Targets/Post-2020 biodiversity framework and the SPMS



Q92. Are the AEWA priorities incorporated into your county's National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) and/or other similar strategic plans and policies (Resolution 6.3; AEWA Strategic Plan, Target 5.5)?

Overall, 43 Parties (81% of Reporting Parties (RP); 54% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) confirmed having incorporated AEWA priorities into either their NBSAP only (13 Parties, 25% of RP; 16% of CP), or other strategic plans and policies only (5 Parties, 9% of RP; 6% of CP) or both (25 Parties, 47% of RP; 32% of CP; Figure 8.13). Six Parties (11% of RP; 8% of CP) did not respond to either option (Central African Republic, Cyprus, Ghana, Jordan, Mali and Nigeria).

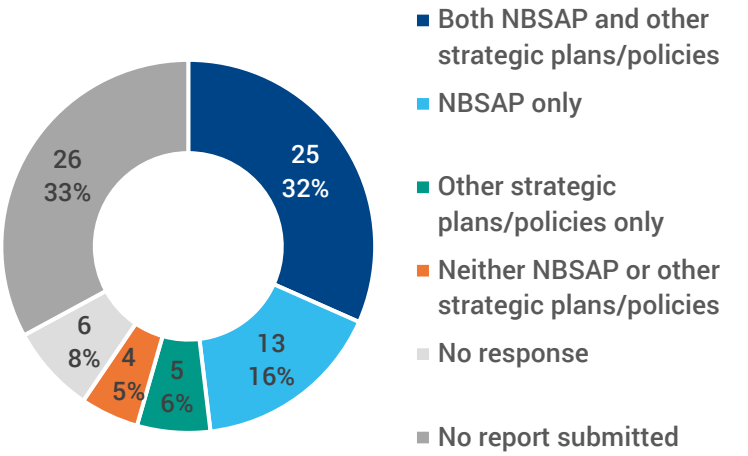


Figure 8.13. Party responses as to whether the AEWA priorities were incorporated into their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) and/or other strategic plans and policies. N.B. 'NBSAP only' includes where 'No' or 'No response' was given in response to other strategic plans policies, 'Other strategic plans/policies only' includes where 'No' or 'No response' was given in response to NBSAPs and 'Neither NBSAP or other strategic plans/policies' includes where 'No' or 'No response' was given in response to both NBSAP and Other strategic plans/policies.

Figure 8.14 summarises the breakdown of responses for the NBSAP and the other strategic plans and policies separately.

Thirty-eight Parties (72% of RP; 48% of CP) reported having incorporated AEWA priorities into their NBSAP (Figure 8.14); a further three Parties that reported not having done so explained that their NBSAP is under development (Bulgaria, Iceland and Ukraine). Of the remaining five Parties that have not incorporated AEWA priorities into their NBSAP, Latvia and the Netherlands reported that these priorities were already incorporated into other initiatives, Ethiopia reported that their NBSAP has a more general biodiversity focus, Malawi stated that they have not yet carried out an assessment as they are a new Party and North Macedonia did not give an explanation. Thirty Parties (57% of RP; 38% of CP) reported having incorporated AEWA priorities into other strategic plans and policies (Figure 8.14). Of the 13 Parties that reported not having done this, seven gave a reason (Albania, Croatia, Czech Republic, Lebanon, Malawi, Serbia and Syria) (Figure 8.15).

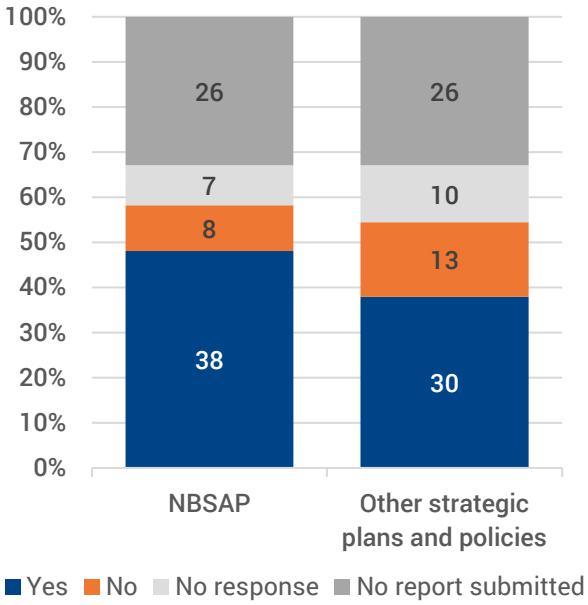


Figure 8.14. Party responses as to whether the AEWA priorities were incorporated into their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) or other strategic plans and policies.

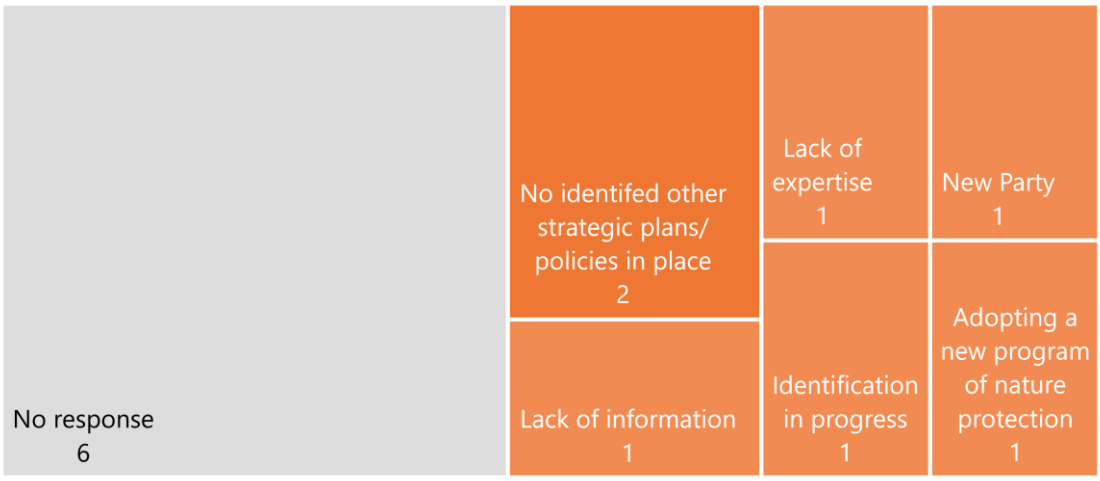
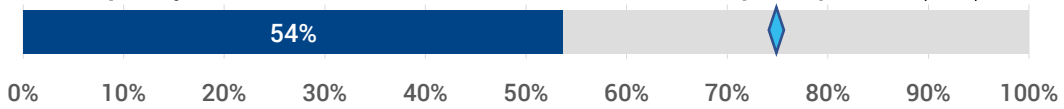


Figure 8.15. Party responses as to why they have not incorporated AEWA priorities into other strategic plans and policies.

Strategic Plan Target 5.5: Conservation of migratory waterbirds is integrated into the new generation of NBSAPs and/or similar national plans/policies by at least three-quarters of Contracting Parties.

Indicator: Percentage of Parties reporting that migratory waterbird conservation priorities are explicitly addressed in NBSAPs and/or similar national plans/policies (Q92)



Q93. Please report any activity undertaken to promote with the development agency of your country or other appropriate governmental body, including the national focal points for other relevant global processes, the relevance of AEWA implementation in the context of SDG, Aichi Targets and Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 (SPMS) delivery and to stress the need to better integrate actions for waterbird and wetland conservation within relevant development projects (Resolution 7.2).

Overall, 33 Parties (62% of Reporting Parties (RP); 42% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported that their country had undertaken activities to promote the relevance of AEWA implementation in the context of at least one of SDG, Aichi Targets and SPMS delivery to their development agency or other appropriate governmental body. Twenty-four Parties (45% of RP; 30% of CP) reported that they have undertaken such activities in the context of all three areas. Eleven Parties (21% of RP; 14% of CP) reported that they have not undertaken any activities in the context of any of the three areas.

Figure 8.16 summarises the responses of Parties as to whether they have promoted the relevance of AEWA implementation in the context of each delivery area. In total, 31 Parties (58% of RP; 39% of CP) reported they have promoted the relevance of AEWA implementation in the context of SDGs and 28 Parties (53% of RP; 35% of CP) reported that they have promoted the relevance of AEWA implementation in the context of the Aichi Targets or SPMS.

Among the Parties that reported not having promoted the relevance of AEWA implementation in the context of SDGs (13 Parties) or Aichi Targets (15 Parties), the most commonly cited reasons were that this activity was not considered a priority, and a lack of resources or expertise (Figure 8.17). Of the 15 Parties that reported not having promoted the relevance of AEWA implementation in the context of SPMS delivery, an equal number of Parties reported this was due to not considering this

issue a priority or stating that migratory species issues are already covered by domestic legislation. Reasons categorised as 'Other' included where the Party reported that the Aichi Targets or SDGs have already been achieved, where the Party is in the process of promoting AEWA implementation, or needing to develop a national strategic plan first.

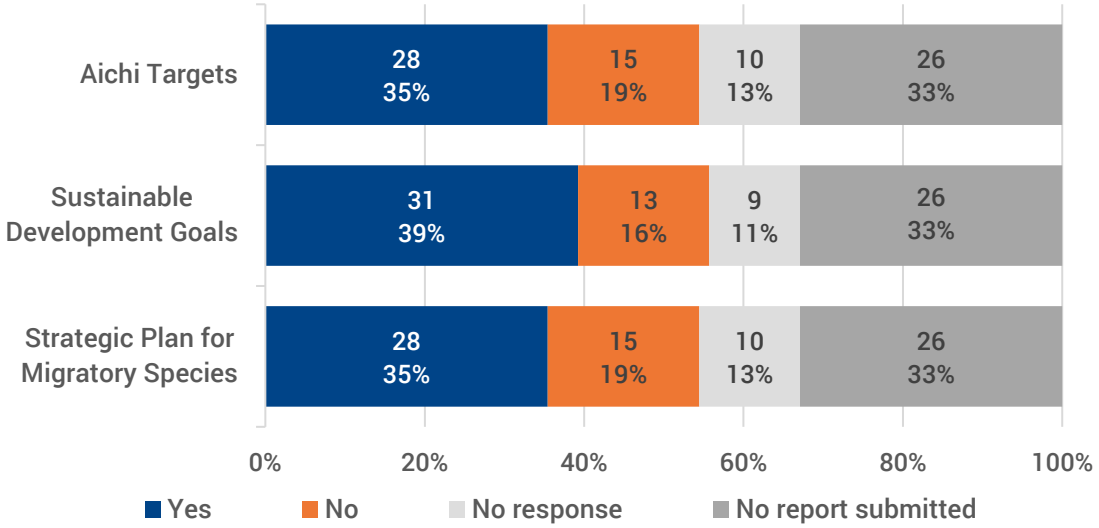


Figure 8.16. Party responses as to whether they have undertaken activities to promote the relevance of AEWA implementation in the context of Aichi Targets, SDGs and SPMS delivery to their development agency or other appropriate governmental body.

Figure 8.17. Responses given by Parties for not having undertaken activities to promote the relevance of AEWA implementation in the context of Aichi Target, SDG or SPMS delivery to their development agency or other appropriate governmental body.

Q94. 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?

Overall, thirty-five Parties (66% of Reporting Parties (RP); 44% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) provided relevant suggestions or comments on promoting further links between the biodiversity MEAs. Serbia noted that a lack of financial and administrative resources made promoting links more difficult, while Malawi referred to the need to implement AEWA in their country before suggestions could be made.

Coordination between focal points of different MEAs at a national level:

An increased coordination at a national level was most commonly suggested (19 Parties, 36% of RP; 24%% of CP), primarily through establishing effective coordination and communications platforms (12 Parties, 26% of RP; 18% of CP). This included ensuring regular communications between MEA focal points (Zimbabwe) and creating a Ministerial MEA office to link all biodiversity agreements (Botswana). Six Parties reported positive experiences in promoting links between MEAs at a national level, through focal points working for the same Ministry or Department (Lebanon, Senegal), being in charge of several MEAs at a time (Czech Republic), cooperating across Ministries and focal points (Algeria, Rwanda, South Africa), and/or being part of national working groups (Czech Republic). Croatia and Tanzania highlighted the importance of designing NBSAPs to accommodate the priorities of MEAs and ensure effective implementation. Niger and Rwanda highlighted continuous training provisions for all biodiversity stakeholders to ensure understanding of AEWA guidelines, allowing for the sharing of best practices and encouraging links between MEAs.

Coordination between MEAs at an international level:

Eleven Parties (21% of RP; 14% of CP) provided inputs on improving coordination between MEAs at an international level. Identifying linkages and synergies between MEAs for cooperation and joint implementation was the most common suggestion (Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Latvia, Mali, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland). Working Groups and joint meetings were suggested, and partnerships such as IPBES, the CBD's Biodiversity Liaison Group, and the CBD's informal advisory group on synergies among biodiversity-related conventions, were highlighted as existing platforms for advising on priorities and more efficient implementation across MEAs. Other suggestions included creating joint initiatives for cross-cutting subjects with a subject lead (France) and developing strong information exchange mechanisms (Ethiopia). Moldova and Slovenia suggested that MEAs work towards common strategic planning, while Georgia highlighted the importance of implementing joints projects that are priorities for all Parties. Slovenia also proposed increasing collaboration between expert and technical bodies across MEAs and the exchange of all results, including interim results. Switzerland suggested mapping the targets of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 to the actions included in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and Ramsar 4th Strategic Plan 2016-2024, as has already been done with the Aichi targets, in order to support the identification of synergy areas between MEAs.

Improvement of the reporting process across MEAs:

Seven Parties (13% of RP; 9% of CP) suggested improvements to the reporting process, principally harmonising and streamlining reporting obligations to reduce workloads (Belgium, Egypt, Ghana, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland). Standardisation was proposed, either by creating and using standardised indicators to show how well goals are being reached (Belgium), or by shifting from qualitative to properly formulated quantitative questions, making results easier to evaluate (Sweden). Ghana and Egypt suggested common reporting mechanisms between MEAs and Switzerland suggested updating the Online Reporting System (ORS) to increase accessibility of data

and information submitted in National Reports to the wider CMS family. Switzerland also commented that further development of the ORS should include connectivity with the Data Reporting Tool for MEAs (DaRT) to ensure Parties can re-use information and data for multiple MEAs.

In addition to the above suggestions, Ukraine proposed having more information and documentation in other languages and Spain suggested having common financial instruments. Eswatini and Kenya identified the need to improve national personnel capacity to support MEA implementation.

Q95 & Q96. Has your country donated funds to the AEWA Small Grants Fund over the past triennium (Resolution 7.1) (Q95) or donated other funding or provided in-kind support to activities coordinated by the AEWA Secretariat (Q96)?

None of the Parties reported donating funds to the AEWA Small Grants Fund over the past triennium (Figure 8.18). Thirteen Parties (25% of Reporting Parties (RP); 16% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported donating other funding or in-king support to activities coordinated by the AEWA Secretariat (Figure 8.19).

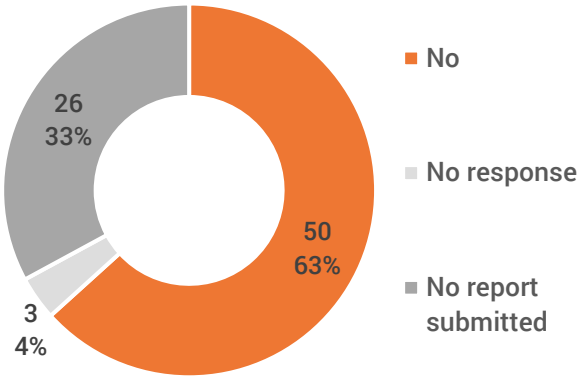


Figure 8.18. Party responses as to whether they have donated funds to the AEWA Small Grants Fund over the past triennium.

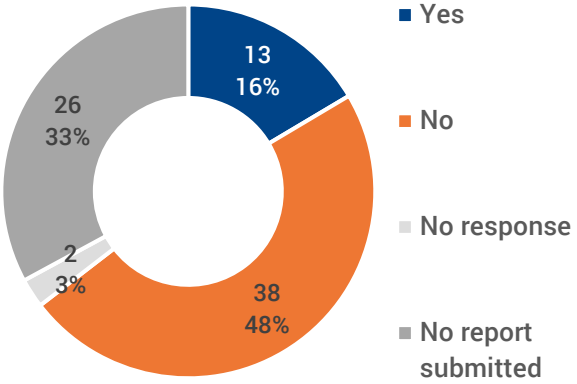


Figure 8.19. Party responses as to whether they have donated other funding or provided in-kind support to activities coordinated by the Secretariat over the past triennium.

Q97. Has your country prioritised and allocated a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) to the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat for Technical Committee support or for any other area of work? (Resolutions 7.11, and 7.12)

None of the Parties have prioritised and allocated a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) to the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat for Technical Committee support or for any other areas of work (Figure 8.20).

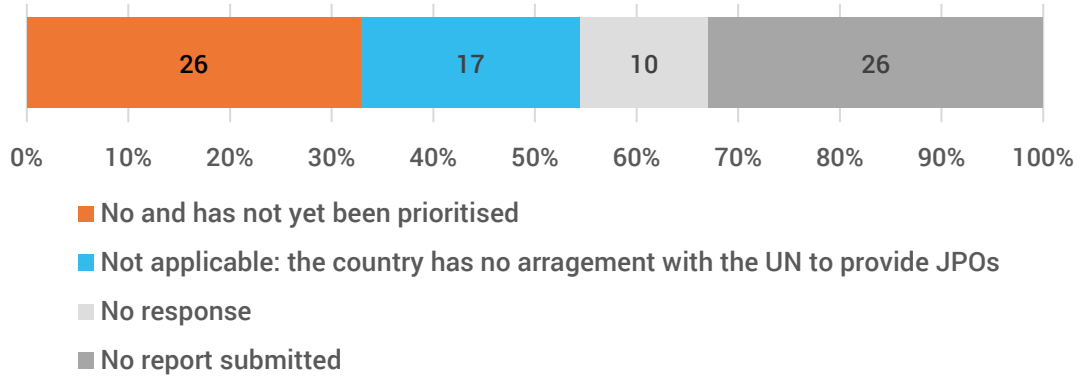


Figure 8.20. Party responses as to whether they have prioritised and allocated a Junior Professional Officer to the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat for Technical Committee support or any other area of work.

Q98. Please report on the implementation of Resolution 6.21 on Resource mobilisation for the implementation of AEWA.

Parties were asked to provide details on the implementation of Resolution 6.21 on Resource mobilisation for the implementation of AEWA, which are considered together in the section below, covering the following questions:

- *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? (Q98.1)*
- *Does your country's government have unpaid dues to the AEWA Trust Fund (annual assessed contributions to the Agreements budget as approved by each session of the Meeting of the Parties)? (Q98.2)*
- *Has your country's government provided funding to support developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, to meet their obligations under AEWA, and the implementation of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027? (Q98.3)*
- *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? (Q98.4)*
- *Does your country's government use innovative financing mechanisms for implementing the AEWA Strategic Plan such as a (national) Migratory Waterbirds Fund? (Q98.5)*
- *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? (Q98.6)*

Thirteen Parties (25% of Reporting Parties (RP); 16% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported having unpaid dues to the AEWA Trust Fund (Figure 8.21, Q98.2).

In relation to national Resource mobilisation, twenty-seven Parties (51% of RP; 34% of CP) reported that they had provided financial and/or in-kind resources to support national activities which are intended to achieve the objectives of this Agreement in the last triennium (Figure 8.21, 98.1). Only five Parties (Algeria, Belgium, Togo, South Africa and Zimbabwe, 9% of RP; 5% of CP) reported having innovative financial mechanisms in place for implementing the AEWA Strategic Plan (Figure 8.21, Q98.5). Twenty-one Parties (40% of RP; 27 of CP) reported that implementation of AEWA in their country benefitted from synergies between biodiversity-related conventions at a national level through information sharing and sharing of financial resources (Figure 8.21, Q98.6).

In relation to the questions on international Resource mobilisation, only four Parties (France, Niger, Sweden and Switzerland, 8% of RP; 5% of CP) reported having provided funding to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition (Figure 8.21, Q98.3). Twelve Parties (23% of RP; 15% of CP) reported having participated in South-South, North-South or triangular cooperation to enhance financial and technical support for the successful implementation of AEWA activities (Figure 8.21, Q98.4).

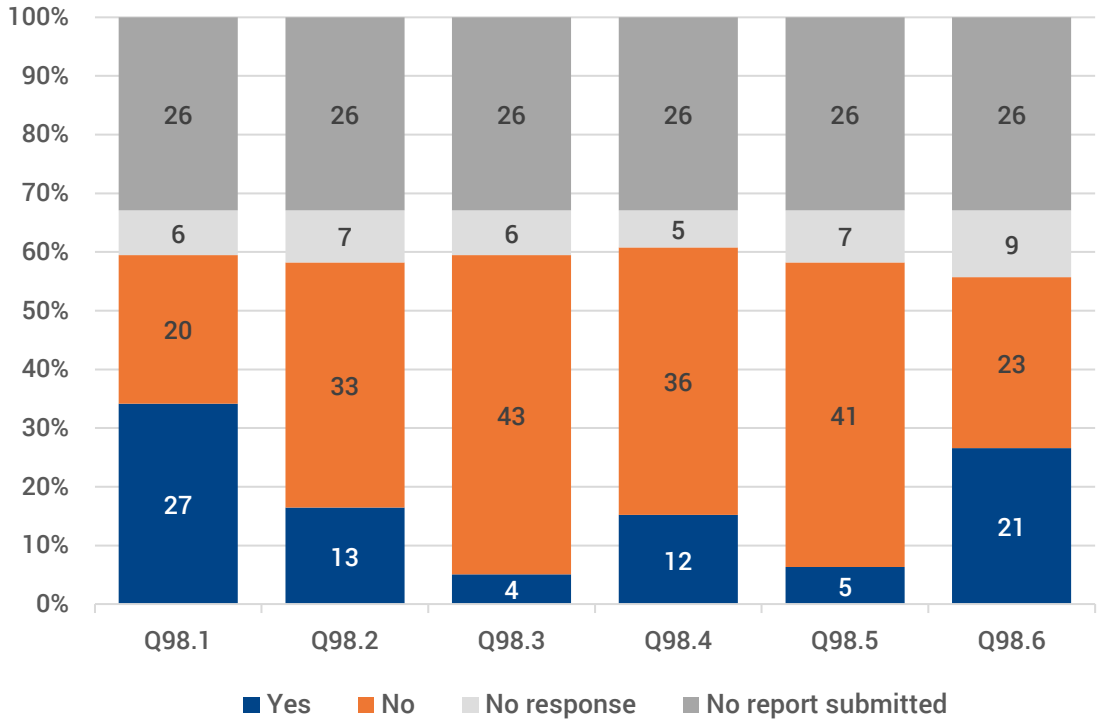


Figure 8.21. Party responses on the implementation of Resolution 6.21 on Resource mobilisation for the implementation of AEWA as to whether or not, in the last triennium, they: have provided financial or in-kind resources to support national activities (Q98.1); have unpaid dues to the AEWA Trust Fund (Q98.2); provided funding or support to developing countries/countries with economies in transition (Q98.3); participated in any South-South, North-South or triangular cooperation to enhance financial/technical support for AEWA activities (Q98.4); used innovative financing mechanisms (Q98.5); or identified synergies between biodiversity-related conventions at a national level, benefitting the implementation of AEWA, through information sharing and sharing of financial resources (Q98.6)

IX. CLIMATE CHANGE

Q99. 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)

Parties were asked to report on five specific activities regarding climate change research, assessments and/or adaptation measures relevant to migratory waterbirds in their country:

- *Research and studies of climate change impacts on waterbirds (Q99.a)*
- *Assessment of the potential vulnerability to climate change of key habitats used by waterbird species (including those outside protected area networks) (Q99.b)*
- *Assessment of the potential vulnerability of waterbird species to climate change (Q99.c)*
- *Review of relevant national conservation policies relevant to waterbirds and climate change (Q99.d)*
- *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) (Q99.e)*

The number of reporting Parties that have undertaken each of the above measures ranged from four (*National Action Plan*: 8% of Reporting Parties (RP); 5% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) to 20 (*Research of climate change impacts*: 38% of RP; 25% of CP; Figure 9.1), while the number of Parties reporting they have planned relevant activities ranged from 12 (*Assessment of habitat vulnerability*: 23% of RP; 15% of CP) to 18 (*Review of relevant national policies*: 34% of RP; 23% of CP).

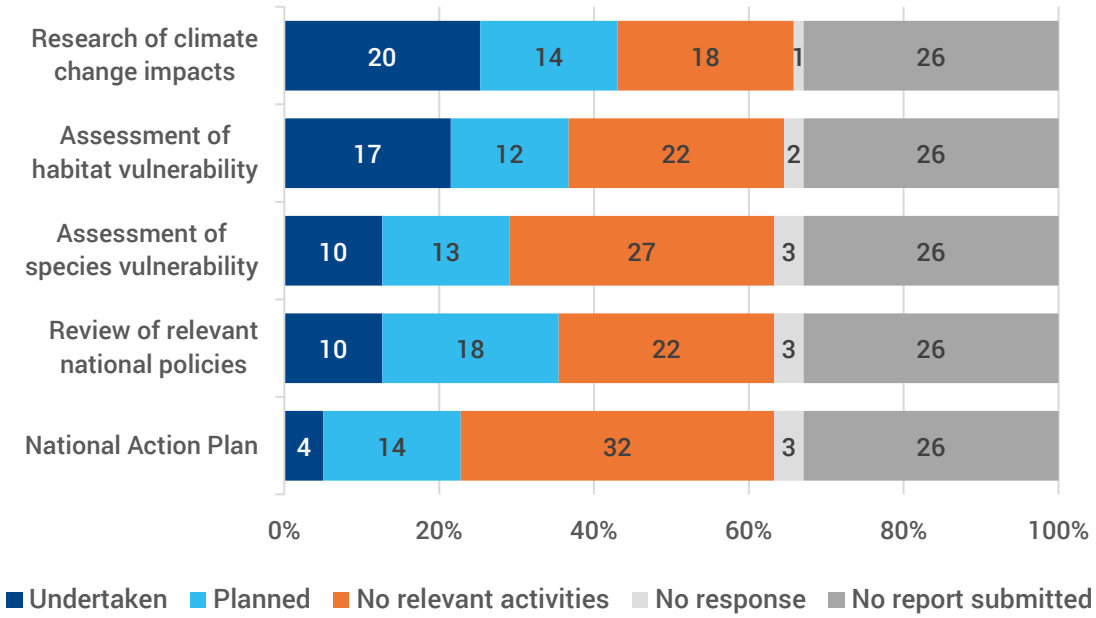


Figure 9.1. Party responses to whether they have undertaken any climate change research, assessments and/or adaptation measures relevant to migratory waterbirds.

The most popular activities, reported as having been undertaken or planned by more than half of the reporting Parties, were research of climate change impacts (34 Parties, 64% of RP; 43% of CP), assessments of habitat vulnerability (29 Parties, 55% of RP; 37% of CP) and a review of relevant national policies (28 Parties, 53% of RP; 35% of CP). Eleven Parties (21% of RP; 14% of CP) reported

having planned or undertaken all five activities, while twelve Parties (23% of RP; 15% of CP) reported not having undertaken or planned any,

Other undertaken or planned relevant activities (Q99.f)

In addition to reporting on the five activities described in the previous questions, Botswana, Finland, Georgia, Rwanda and Sweden (9% of Reporting Parties (RP); 6% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported having undertaken or planned other activities relevant to climate change and waterbirds (Figure 9.2); all but Botswana gave further details of these, ranging from restoration/rehabilitation of wetlands and buffer zones as part of climate change adaptation, to protected area management programmes that include development of adaptation plans, and procurement of monitoring equipment and training.

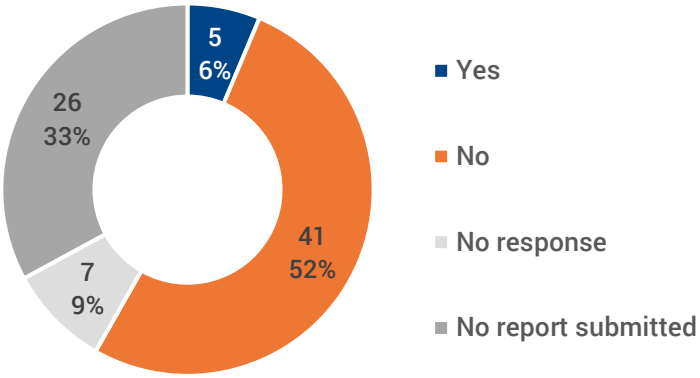


Figure 9.2. Party responses to whether they have undertaken or planned any other relevant activities in relation to climate change and waterbirds.

X. AVIAN INFLUENZA

Q101. 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?

Challenges identified in responding to the spread of HPAI

Twenty Parties (38% of Reporting Parties (RP); 25% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) reported on challenges in responding nationally to the spread of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) (Table 10.1). The most commonly cited challenge was the inadequacy of monitoring and reporting systems (10 Parties), followed by a lack of financial and technical capacity (8 Parties). An additional 16 Parties (30% of RP; 20% of CP) reported that there had been no recent challenges; eight of these Parties noted that no cases of HPAI had been detected in their country over the last triennium. Nine Parties reported occurrence of the pathogen, but did not indicate any specific challenges.

Table 10.1. Challenges faced in responding to the spread of HPAI in the last triennium, and the number of Parties reporting each challenge, in descending order.

Challenges	No. Parties	Parties
Inadequate systems in place for monitoring and reporting	10	Albania, Belgium, Egypt, Estonia, Ghana, Italy, Mali, Nigeria, Sweden, Zimbabwe
Lack of financial/technical capacity	8	Egypt, Eswatini, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zimbabwe
Lack of human expertise resources (including insufficient coordination/cooperation among stakeholders)	4	Ghana, Mali, Slovenia, Uganda
Difficulty in raising public awareness	4	Cyprus, Estonia, Italy, Nigeria
Inadequate preparedness and response capacity	2	South Africa, Syria
Limited scientific knowledge of virus (e.g. impact of behaviour of migratory birds on epidemiology)	1	France
Difficulty in comparing monitoring results amongst Parties (i.e. non-standard methods)	1	France
Preventing captive birds escaping into the wild	1	Botswana
Difficulties controlling spread from migratory birds from other countries	1	Botswana

Further guidance or information required in responding to the spread of HPAI

Thirty-seven Parties (70% of RP; 47% of CP) responded to the question relating to the need for further guidance on HPAI, of which 14 Parties (26% of RP; 18% of CP) stated that no further guidance or information was needed and 11 Parties did not provide suggestions of areas where further guidance or information might be required.

Twelve Parties responded that further guidance or information was required; within these responses, four themes were identified regarding key areas of improvement (Figure 10.1).

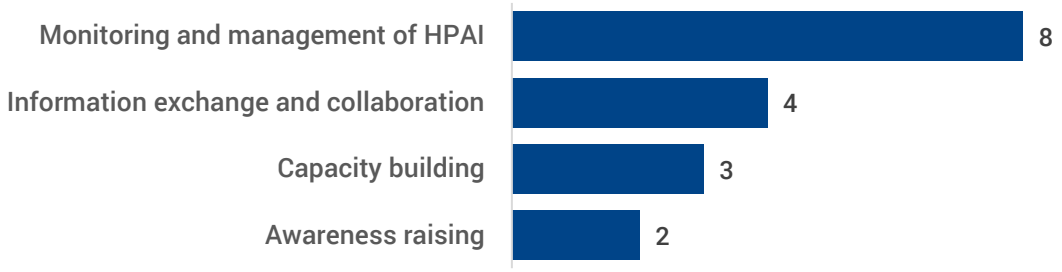


Figure 10.1. Key areas of improvement identified by the 12 Parties which reported that further guidance or information was required in responding to the spread of HPAI (Note: Parties may have provided more than one answer)

1. **Improvement of the monitoring and management of HPAI:** Eight Parties specified the need to strengthen prevention measures, monitoring and management of the pathogen. Three Parties (Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Ukraine) stated the need for strengthened surveillance of avifauna, including of waterbirds at stopover sites. Ukraine specified that support was needed to develop and implement waterbird monitoring in the Azov-Black Sea region to identify whether waterbirds are potential carriers of avian influenza. A further two Parties (Eswatini and Mali) stated the need for preventative monitoring systems, such as an early warning system. Italy sought a definition of the minimum number of suspected HPAI cases that should be reported according to the population size and distribution of waterbirds in each at-risk country, and also suggested routine testing be carried out to determine the sensitivity of detection systems. Albania reported the need for specific training on detecting avian influenza in waterbirds during monitoring and on the institutional response needed if cases were found. France suggested guidance on how to adapt monitoring protocols according to the level of HPAI risk.
2. **Research, information exchange and collaboration**: Four Parties referred to the need for enhanced information exchange between countries and from the AEWA Secretariat, and for collaboration among stakeholders. Morocco and Ukraine reported the need for readily available and up-to-date information on HPAI, such as evidence-based case studies in different languages for AEWA Parties with high HPAI risk, as well as a list of all countries affected by HPAI and current information on the status of avian influenza at a global level. Algeria mentioned needing more coordination with AEWA regarding prevention. Ukraine and France highlighted that more collaborative actions were needed, including more cooperation between ornithologists and veterinarian specialists and the need for increased information sharing among EU countries to compare monitoring protocols. France also suggested investigating how migratory bird behaviour might be influencing the spread of the virus on a regional scale.
3. **Capacity building:** Three Parties (Mali, Niger, Tanzania) highlighted the need for capacity building to effectively prepare for and address the spread of HPAI in their countries. Tanzania stated that financial support and equipment was required for their emergency response plans to operate effectively. Mali noted that resources were needed to implement an early warning system and contingency plan, and further noted they required guidance on how to minimise the risk of contamination between migratory waterbirds and poultry across an area as vast as the Inner Niger Delta.
4. **Need for awareness raising:** Two Parties (Albania and Senegal) indicated that awareness raising in relation to HPAI was needed within their countries. Albania specified that awareness raising among public institutions and ornithologists was needed.

XI. USE OF AEWA GUIDELINES

Throughout the AEWA National Report, Parties were asked to report on whether they had used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines. The overall usage of AEWA Guidelines is summarised below. The 13 *AEWA Guidelines*, are as follows:

- *on National Legislation for the Protection of Species of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats (Q10)*
- *for the preparation of National Single Species Action Plans for migratory waterbirds (Q16)*
- *on identifying and tackling emergency situations for migratory waterbirds (Q19)*
- *on the translocation of waterbirds for conservation purposes (Q23)*
- *on avoidance of introductions of non-native waterbird species (Q28)*
- *on the preparation of site inventories for migratory waterbirds used (Q40)*
- *on the management of key sites for migratory waterbirds (Q45)*
- *on sustainable harvest of migratory birds (Q55)*
- *on how to avoid, minimise or mitigate impact of infrastructural developments and related disturbance affecting waterbirds (Q63)*
- *on how to avoid or mitigate impact of electricity power grids on migratory birds in the African-Eurasian region (Q65)*
- *Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment (Resolution 6.11) (Q67)*
- *for a waterbird monitoring protocol (Q74)*
- *on measures needed to help waterbirds to adapt to climate change (Q100)*

The number of reporting Parties using each of the Guidelines ranged from three (Q23; *Guidelines on translocations*: 6% of Reporting Parties (RP); 4% of all Contracting Parties (CP)) to 34 (Q74; *Guidelines for a waterbird monitoring protocol*: 64% of RP; 43% of CP; Figure 11.1). Over half of the reporting Parties are using the *AEWA Guidelines for a waterbird monitoring protocol* (34 Parties, 64% of RP; 43% of CP) and the *AEWA Guidelines for site inventories* (27 Parties, 51% of RP; 34% of CP), while less than half of the reporting Parties reported using the remaining eleven AEWA Guidelines (Figure 11.1).

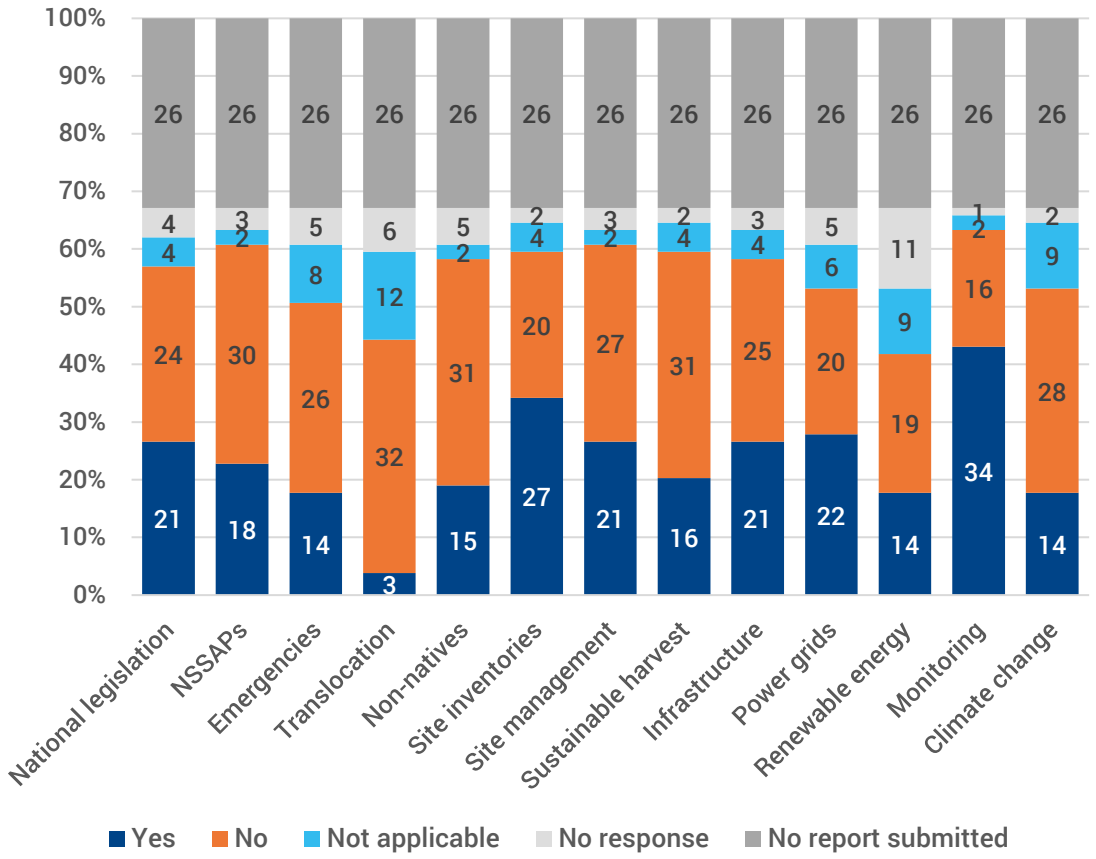


Figure 11.1. Responses from the 53 reporting Parties as to which AEWA Guidelines are in use in their country.

Figure 11.2 summarises the reasons given by the reporting Parties as to why they are not using each of the AEWA Guidelines or considered them not applicable to their country. In the majority of cases, reporting Parties that did not use the AEWA Guidelines stated that alternative guidelines, such as national guidelines, those drafted by NGOs (e.g. BirdLife International), MEAs (Ramsar and CITES) or by the EU had been implemented instead (depending on the Guideline, 9-66% of reporting Parties that did not use the Guideline). It was noted that these guidelines often tend to overlap with AEWA Guidelines. In many instances, AEWA Guidelines were developed after national guidelines had already been established and implemented. Thirty Parties (57% of RP; 38% of CP) reported that translocations were not required in their country, hence the low reported usage of these Guidelines by only three Parties: Bulgaria, Norway and Rwanda (6% of RP; 4% of CP).

Reasons categorised as 'Other' include recent adoption of the AEWA Action Plan, descriptions of other relevant actions taken, guidelines used but not specifically for waterbirds, lack of expertise, lack of understanding of the AEWA Guidelines and where no specific reason was given in the response. For *Guidelines for the preparation of NSSAPs*, responses categorised as 'Other' included where Ghana, the Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria and Serbia reported that they do not have an NSSAP (9% of RP; 63% of CP) and Zimbabwe reporting that there was no AEWA ISSAP developed during the review period. Only the Netherlands gave a further explanation on this, reporting that this was due to the prioritisation of the EU Birds & Habitats Directive.

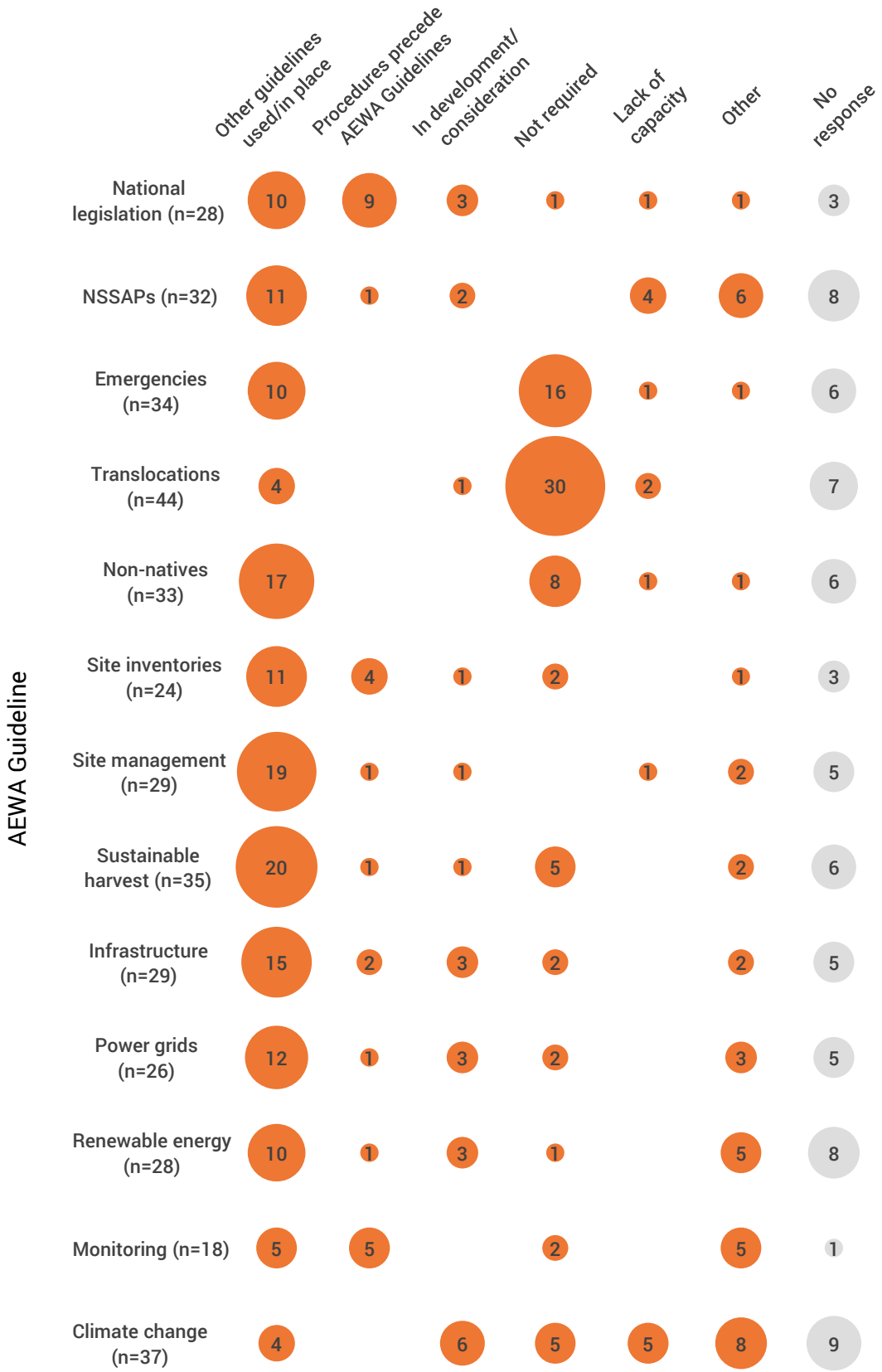


*Figure 11.2. Responses regarding reasons for **not** using the AEWA Guidelines by Parties that selected 'No' or 'Not applicable' in relation to the use of each of the Guidelines.*

CONCLUSION

At MOP7 in 2018, Parties adopted a new Strategic Plan for the period 2019 to 2027, divided into five main objectives around *Species Conservation and Recovery, Sustainable Use, Flyway Networks, Habitat Conservation* and *Improved Knowledge, Capacity and Awareness.* National Reports provide an important mechanism to monitor progress towards the objectives over the lifetime of the Strategic Plan through 16 of the 27 associated targets. As this is the first reporting cycle in the period covered by this new Strategic Plan, conclusions from this report can help to prioritise and structure efforts over the coming triennium to ensure progress is made. Based on the assessment of the 53 National Reports received, the Party responses indicate that efforts are ongoing towards achieving a number of targets, but that more work is needed in areas across all five objectives of the Strategic Plan.

In particular, Parties are actively working to promote and integrate migratory waterbird priorities into various national processes, such as National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans or similar national plans (Target 5.5), national processes relating to delivery of Sustainable Development Goals, Aichi Targets and the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (Target 5.4), and in legal or administrative measures relating to human development activities in order to avoid, mitigate and compensate for any adverse impacts on waterbirds and their habitats (Target 3.5). In addition, Parties are making use of relevant monitoring data, such as International Waterbird Census data, to inform national level implementation (Target 1.5).

A variable degree of progress is demonstrated in relation to the conservation of waterbird habitats. A moderate number of Parties (30) have identified the network of all sites of national and international importance for waterbird populations relevant to their country, but few of these have reviewed, confirmed and communicated their network of sites to the Secretariat (Target 3.1). A large area of important sites is legally protected through designation as protected areas; however, the proportion of sites with management plans in place is low, indicating that an increased focus is needed on improving the effectiveness of protection (Target 3.3). More focus is also needed in relation to integrating the need to maintain the integrity of flyway sites into water- and land-use planning and decision-making (Target 3.4). In addition, a limited number of decision-making processes affecting their habitats integrate ecosystem services derived from waterbirds (Target 2.6), although Parties are making efforts to develop related ecotourism initiatives (Target 2.5).

Further focus is needed by Parties on transposing all legal measures in the AEWA Action Plan into domestic legislation (Targets 1.1 and 2.2), with a view to ensuring full legal protection for Column A populations and sustainable use for other populations across their range. It is promising that best practice codes for hunting are in place in a number of Parties (Target 2.3). However, there were low numbers of species where it could be confirmed that full protection, regulation of take or effective implementation of national Single Species Action Plans (Target 1.2) were in place for relevant populations at flyway level, although full evaluation towards these aims is challenging due to reporting gaps. While Parties have established national AEWA implementation coordination mechanisms (Target 5.3), a low number of Parties have assessed the resources required for delivery of the Strategic Plan, implemented a resource mobilisation plan (Target 5.6), or identified and prioritised capacity gaps for AEWA implementation (Target 5.3).

The areas highlighted above, particularly those most directly linked to integrating species conservation and effective protection of their habitats in decision-making, should be considered priority areas for future action, cooperation and capacity building to support Parties in meeting their commitments. As insufficient resources and capacity were some of the most frequently reported barriers to implementation, adequate assessments of resource needs and subsequent resource

mobilisation will be key to realising the overall aim of the Agreement to "*maintain or to restore migratory waterbird species and their populations at a favourable status throughout their flyways*".

ANNEXES

Annexes A1-A13

Additional Tables and Figures A1-A13, referred to throughout this report and providing more detail for certain parts of the analysis which have been summarised here, are available in a companion text-based document (Word document or pdf).

Annexes – raw data

Raw data submitted by the reporting Parties, including categorical answers and accompanying free text details, can be consulted in a companion Excel document. This has been divided into the chapters contained in the report. Note that the document has been annotated where a categorical answer has been changed for the purpose of this analysis on the basis of the accompanying free text provided by the Party.