



Report on the implementation of AEWA for the period 2018-2020

The 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 by the 7th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP7, 4-8 December 2018, Durban, South Africa) through Resolution 7.1 and modified by the Standing Committee at its 15th meeting (11-13 December 2019, Bristol, UK) as mandated by the MOP. This format has been compiled following the AEWA Annex 3 (Action Plan), the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 and resolutions of the MOP.

In accordance with article V(c) of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, each Party shall prepare to each ordinary session of the MOP a National Report on its implementation of the Agreement and submit that report to the Agreement Secretariat. By Resolution 7.1 of the MOP the deadline for submission of National Reports to the 8th Session of the MOP was set at 180 days before the opening date of MOP8, which was scheduled to take place on 5-9 October 2021 in Hungary; therefore the deadline for submission of National Reports was Thursday 8 April 2021.

As per Resolution 7.1 of the MOP, Chapter 3 of the National Report Format for MOP8 reports was developed as a stand-alone online reporting module, which was administered through a separate reporting process on the population status of AEWA-listed (native) and non-native species of waterbirds for the period 2013-2018. This reporting process was concluded on 30 June 2020 as agreed by MOP7. Therefore, this report does not contain Chapter 3.

The AEWA National Reports 2018-2020 were compiled and submitted through the AEWA Online National Reporting System, which is part of the broader CMS Family Online Reporting System. The CMS Family Online Reporting System was developed by the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) in close collaboration with and under the guidance of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat.

1. General Information

Name of reporting Contracting Party

>>> Republic of Belarus

Date of entry into force of AEWA in the Contracting Party

>>> 01.01.2016

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

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

>>> The Republic of Belarus, on the basis of Article XV of the Agreement, will not apply Annex 3 to the Agreement in relation to:

prohibition, indicated in the paragraph 2.1.2 (a) of the taking of birds belonging to the populations, listed in the Column B of the Table 1 during their various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned;

Prohibition, indicated in the paragraph 2.1.2 (b) of the use of all indiscriminate means of taking and the use of all means capable of causing mass destructions, as well as local disappearance of, or serious disturbance to, populations of a species, listed in the Column B of the Table 1 of the paragraph 4.1.4.

2. Institutional Information

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

Designated National AEWA Administrative Authority

Full name of the institution

>>> Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus

Name and title of the head of institution

>>> Andrei Pavlovich Khudyk – Minister of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus

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Designated National Focal Point (NFP) for AEWA matters

Name and title of the NFP

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Affiliation (institution, department)

>>> Biodiversity department of the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection

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

Name and title of the TC NFP

>>> Alexander Vasilievich Kozulin - Head of the Sector for International Cooperation and Scientific Support of Environmental Conventions

Affiliation (institution, department)

>>> Scientific & Practical Centre for Bioresources, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus

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

Name and title of the CEPA NFP

>>> Vitaliy Maratovich Korenchuk, Consultant of the Biodiversity department

Affiliation (institution, department)

>>> Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus

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Designated National Respondent (DNR) in charge of the compilation and submission of the AEWA National Report 2018-2020

Please select from the list below as appropriate.

Another person has been designated as the National Respondent

Name and title of the DNR

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>>> laboratory of ornithology, Scientific & Practical Centre for Bioresources, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus

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Other contributors to the AEWA National Report 2018-2020

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

>>> Maximenkov Mikhail, researcher, Sector for International Cooperation and Scientific Support of Environmental Conventions, Scientific & Practical Centre for Bioresources, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus

Pressures and Responses

4. Species Conservation

4.1 Legal Measures

1. 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))

Yes

Please indicate the outcome of this review

Relevant national legislation was not fully in line with the Agreement text and its annexes

Please describe the discrepancies that were identified.

>>> Hunting is still allowed for some species, in particular, for Common Pochard. The spring hunting is still allowed.

Please indicate whether the relevant domestic legislation was subsequently adjusted to be in line with the Agreement text and its annexes

Relevant national legislation was not adjusted. Please explain the reasons.

>>> The discussions are still ongoing

2. 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)?

See Appendix 1 / Appendix 2 / Appendix 3

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

No

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Decree of the Republic of Belarus on March 21, 2018 No. 112 (as amended by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 345 on September 16, 2020) approves the new edition of the Hunting Rules and the Rules for Hunting Enterprises. The rules introduced new mechanisms for regulating the environment of non-standardized hunting animals (waterfowl, field game, fur animals), including migrating geese and ducks.

3. Please confirm the protection status under your country's national legislation of 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).

Guidance on responding to this question:

- 1- Please click here and download the Excel file starting with your country's name. (**Notice:** before clicking on this hyperlink, please keep pressing the Ctrl button on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.)
- 2- Fill in the Excel template comprehensively;
- 3- Upload the completed Excel file as an attachment here. For uploading please click on the little blue icon below containing a paper clip.

I confirm that I have downloaded the Excel file with my country's name, filled it in as necessary and uploaded the completed file as an attachment to this question.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Belarus_Q3_AEWA_NR_2018-2020_PopColA.xlsx](#)

4. Please confirm whether there is an open hunting season for the AEWA Table 1, Column A, category 2 or 3 with an asterisk or category 4 populations that are regularly occurring in your country (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.1; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 1.1).

Guidance on responding to this question:

- 1- Please click here and download the Excel file starting with your country's name. (**Notice:** before clicking on this hyperlink, please keep pressing the Ctrl button on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.)

2- Fill in the Excel template comprehensively;

3- Upload the completed Excel file as an attachment here. For uploading please click on the little blue icon below containing a paper clip.

I confirm that I have downloaded the Excel file with my country's name, filled it in as necessary and uploaded the completed file as an attachment to this question.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Belarus_Q4_AEWA_NR_2018-2020_PopColA-Cat2_3_4.xlsx](#)

5. Please confirm whether taking is regulated for 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).

Guidance on responding to this question:

1- Please click here and download the Excel file starting with your country's name. (**Notice:** before clicking on this hyperlink, please keep pressing the Ctrl button on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.)

2- Fill in the Excel template comprehensively;

3- Upload the completed Excel file as an attachment here. For uploading please click on the little blue icon below containing a paper clip.

I confirm that I have downloaded the Excel file with my country's name, filled it in as necessary and uploaded the completed file as an attachment to this question.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Belarus_Q5_AEWA_NR_2018-2020_PopColB.xlsx](#)

6. Please indicate if any of the following modes of taking are prohibited in your country: snares, limes, hooks, live birds which are blind or mutilated used as decoys, tape recorders and other electronic devices, electrocuting devices, artificial light sources, mirrors and other dazzling devices, devices for illuminating targets, sighting devices for night shooting comprising an electronic image magnifier or image converter, explosives, nets, traps, poison, poisoned or anesthetic baits, semi-automatic or automatic weapons with a magazine capable of holding more than two rounds of ammunition, hunting from aircraft, motor vehicles, or boats driven at a speed exceeding 5 km p/h (18 km p/h on the open sea), other non-selective modes of taking. (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.2(b); AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 1.1)

Yes, one or more modes of taking have been prohibited

Please provide details to each mode of taking in the list below:

Snares

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> The new edition of the Hunting Rules, approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus on March 21, 2018 No. 112 (as amended by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 345 on September 16, 2020).

Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus dated 02.06.2006 No. 698 "On approval of the Rules for trapping wild animals for the purpose of keeping and (or) breeding in captivity, as well as introduction, reintroduction, acclimatization, crossbreeding".

Limes

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> The new edition of the Hunting Rules, approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus on March 21, 2018 No. 112 (as amended by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 345 on September 16, 2020).

Hooks

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> The new edition of the Hunting Rules, approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus

on March 21, 2018 No. 112 (as amended by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 345 on September 16, 2020).

Live birds which are blind or mutilated used as decoys

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> The new edition of the Hunting Rules, approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus on March 21, 2018 No. 112 (as amended by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 345 on September 16, 2020).

Tape recorders and other electronic devices

No

Electrocuting devices

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> The new edition of the Hunting Rules, approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus on March 21, 2018 No. 112 (as amended by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 345 on September 16, 2020).

Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus dated 02.06.2006 No. 698 "On approval of the Rules for trapping wild animals for the purpose of keeping and (or) breeding in captivity, as well as introduction, reintroduction, acclimatization, crossbreeding".

Artificial light sources

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> The new edition of the Hunting Rules, approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus on March 21, 2018 No. 112 (as amended by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 345 on September 16, 2020).

Mirrors and other dazzling devices

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> The new edition of the Hunting Rules, approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus on March 21, 2018 No. 112 (as amended by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 345 on September 16, 2020).

Devices for illuminating targets

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> The new edition of the Hunting Rules, approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus on March 21, 2018 No. 112 (as amended by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 345 on September 16, 2020).

Sighting devices for night shooting comprising an electronic image magnifier or image converter

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> The new edition of the Hunting Rules, approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus on March 21, 2018 No. 112 (as amended by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 345 on September 16, 2020).

Explosives

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> The new edition of the Hunting Rules, approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus on March 21, 2018 No. 112 (as amended by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 345 on September 16, 2020).

Nets

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> The new edition of the Hunting Rules, approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus on March 21, 2018 No. 112 (as amended by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 345 on September 16, 2020).

Traps

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> The new edition of the Hunting Rules, approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus on March 21, 2018 No. 112 (as amended by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 345 on September 16, 2020).

Poison

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> The new edition of the Hunting Rules, approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus on March 21, 2018 No. 112 (as amended by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 345 on September 16, 2020).

Poisoned or anaesthetic baits

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> The new edition of the Hunting Rules, approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus on March 21, 2018 No. 112 (as amended by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 345 on September 16, 2020).

Semi-automatic or automatic weapons with a magazine capable of holding more than two rounds of ammunition

No

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

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> The new edition of the Hunting Rules, approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus on March 21, 2018 No. 112 (as amended by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 345 on September 16, 2020).

Other non-selective modes of taking

Yes, fully

Please specify which other non-selective modes of taking have been prohibited

>>> The Hunting rules state the allowed regimes, modes and weapon of hunting. All other regimes, modes and weapon, not indicated in the Hunting Rules, are prohibited.

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> The new edition of the Hunting Rules, approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus on March 21, 2018 No. 112 (as amended by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 345 on September 16, 2020).

7. 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)

No

8. 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)

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

open the link in a new tab.

No

9. 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))

Yes

When was the review completed? Please attach a copy or provide a weblink, if available.

>>> The review of the legislation was only carried out before joining the Agreement. New Hunting Rules (approved in 2020) aimed at sustainable hunting.

What is the assessed level of enforcement and compliance?

High (almost full compliance)

Please provide details and reasons for the high level of compliance. Please describe in which areas enforcement and compliance are still insufficient.

>>> Belarus has signed the Agreement with few exceptions: spring hunting, use of lead shot, use of tape recorders and other electronic devices.

Have any measures been put in place to ensure strengthened enforcement and compliance?

Yes

Please describe the measures

>>> After discussions with the Ministry of Forestry, the decision was approved to prohibit the spring hunting for the Common Pochard; the summer-autumn hunting is still allowed for this species.

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

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

Yes

Please provide details.

>>> There is a legislation that envisages identification of key habitats, conservation of important biotopes of migrating species, concentration places during migrations, sustainable hunting.

4.2. Species Action and Management Plans

11. Please report on the progress of turning the International Single Species Action and Management Plans (ISSAP and ISSMP), as well as International Multi-species Action Plans (IMSAP), listed below, into National Action or Management Plans. (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.2; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 1.2 (d))

Please report on all listed ISSAP, ISSMP and IMSAP

Bean Goose / Anser fabalis

National Plan for Bean Goose / Anser fabalis

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> According to the National legislation, Management Plans development is envisaged only for nationally protected species.

Ferruginous Duck / Aythya nyroca

National Plan for Ferruginous Duck / Aythya nyroca

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> Ferruginous Duck in Belarus is a very rare species and it is impractical to develop a national action plan. To

protect the species, it is enough to ensure the protection of the identified nesting sites. To protect nesting sites, in accordance with the national legislation, a special passport and conservation obligations are developed for each breeding site and the site is transferred under the protection of the land user.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> Places of breeding are under protection

Please rate the degree of current implementation of the plan taking into account the time schedule of the ISSAP

Moderate implementation - some of the actions are underway as per the time schedule of the ISSAP

Corncrake / *Crex crex*

National Plan for Corncrake / *Crex crex*

NP in development

Please provide starting date and expected finalisation date

>>> It is planned to complete the development of the management plan in 2021.

Great Snipe / *Gallinago media*

National Plan for Great Snipe / *Gallinago media*

NP in place and being implemented

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

>>> In the Republic of Belarus, an action plan is being implemented to preserve a rare and endangered species in the Republic of Belarus - great snipe, approved by the decision of the Board of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus dated December 12, 2011. No. 117-P. The Management Plan is updated every 5 years. Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus is responsible for implementation of the National Plan and coordination of activities. All identified displaying grounds and breeding places are taken under protection (special protection obligations were prepared). The species was excluded from the list of hunting species.

Please rate the degree of current implementation of the plan taking into account the time schedule of the ISSAP

Advanced implementation - most of the actions are underway as per the time schedule of the plan

Black-winged Pratincole / *Glareola nordmanni*

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

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> The species is rare visitant. Development of the management plan is impractical.

Black-tailed Godwit / *Limosa limosa*

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

NP in development

Please provide starting date and expected finalisation date

>>> The National Plan will be finalized in 2021.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> All identified breeding places are taken under protection (special conservation orders were prepared).

12. 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)

No

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

Yes

Please provide details, including amount of funds donated

>>> Experts of the Scientific and Practical Center of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus for Biological Resources participated in the development of international action plans for Great Snipe, Black-tailed Godwit, geese species.

14. 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))

Yes

When was this review and prioritization completed?

>>> Review of the resources was conducted within the frameworks of the development and implementation of the international project UNDP-GEF "Conservation-oriented management of forests and wetlands to achieve multiple benefits". The project was prepared in 2017.

Please attach the review and prioritization or provide a weblink to it. If not available, please summarise the main points.

>>> National Action Plans are being developed for 15 globally threatened species, including 4 bird species.

Has a corresponding national resource mobilization plan been established?

Yes

When was this resource mobilization plan completed?

>>> There is no a separate plan. The mobilization was carried out within the frameworks of international projects, and the National Action Plan for the Biodiversity Conservation.

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

Yes

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

Belarus

Smew / Mergellus albellus

National Single Species Action Plan for Smew / Mergellus albellus

NSSAP in place and being implemented

Please provide details

>>> The Action Plan was developed in 2012 and is updated every 5 years.

Corncrake / Crex crex

National Single Species Action Plan for Corncrake / Crex crex

NSSAP in development

Please provide details

>>> The Action Plan will be finalized in 2021.

Eurasian Bittern / Botaurus stellaris

National Single Species Action Plan for Eurasian Bittern / Botaurus stellaris

NSSAP in place and being implemented

Please provide details

>>> The Action Plan was developed in 2012 and is updated every 5 years.

Black-tailed Godwit / Limosa limosa

National Single Species Action Plan for Black-tailed Godwit / Limosa limosa

NSSAP in development

Please provide details

>>> The Action Plan will be developed in 2021.

Great Snipe / Gallinago media

National Single Species Action Plan for Great Snipe / Gallinago media

NSSAP in place and being implemented

Please provide details

>>> The Action Plan was developed in 2012 and is updated every 5 years.

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

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

Yes

4.3 Emergency Measures

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

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

No emergency situation has occurred

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

No

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

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

Yes

4.4 Re-establishments

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

No

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

Partial

22. 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)

Yes

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

Common Goldeneye / Bucephala clangula

Projects for Common Goldeneye / Bucephala clangula

No plan in place, but the idea of re-establishment is being considered

Please provide information

>>> Plans were not developed, but measures were taken (installation of nest boxes) to restore the species population.

Smew / Mergellus albellus

Projects for Smew / Mergellus albellus

No plan in place, but the idea of re-establishment is being considered

Please provide information

>>> Plans were not developed, but measures were taken (installation of nest boxes) to restore the species population in the fishfarm Beloe.

23. Has your country used the AEWA conservation Guidelines on the translocation of waterbirds for conservation purposes?

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

No

4.5 Introductions

24. Does your country have legislation in place, which prohibits the introduction into the environment of non-native species of animals and plants which may be detrimental to migratory waterbirds? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.5.1)

Yes, and being enforced

Please provide the following details: title of legislation, year of adoption, institution that adopted it, institution that enforces it. Please clarify whether legislation applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

>>> Law of the Republic of Belarus of July 10, 2007 N 257-3 "On the Animal World" (Article 20: Unauthorized introduction (including resettlement) of wild animals into the lands, introduction, reintroduction, crossbreeding of wild animals is prohibited). In accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 20 of the Law of the Republic of Belarus of 10.07.2007 N 257-Z "On the Animal World", the introduction of wild animals is carried out with a permit issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection in the manner determined by the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus dated 31.03. 2010 № 488, if there is a conclusion of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus on the admissibility of the introduction of wild animals.

Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of March 31, 2010 N 488 "On approval of the Regulations on the procedure for issuing permits for the introduction, reintroduction, crossbreeding of wild animals".

Regulations on the procedure for carrying out measures to regulate the distribution and population size of plant species, the distribution and population size of which are subject to regulation, approved by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus dated 07.12.2016 N 1002.

The rules for regulating the distribution and population size of wild animals, approved by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of January 30, 2008 N 126.

Resolution of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus dated February 27, 2007 No. 16 "On the establishment of requirements for the keeping and (or) breeding of wild animals in captivity, as well as other requirements for the protection of wildlife objects" (contain requirements for the introduction of (including resettlement), reintroduction, acclimatization, crossbreeding of wild animals). The responsible organization - Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus.

25. Does your country impose legislative requirements on zoos, private collections, etc. in order to avoid the accidental escape of captive animals belonging to non-native species which may be detrimental to migratory waterbirds? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.5.2)

Yes, and being enforced

Please provide the following details: title of the document, year of adoption, institution that adopted it, institution that enforces it. Please clarify whether legislation applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

>>> The Law "On the Animal World". Requirements for keeping and (or) breeding wild animals in captivity are established by the decree of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus dated February 27, 2007 No. 16. According to this decree, the conditions for keeping wild animals must ensure their biological, species, physiological and individual needs, and also exclude the spontaneous exit of wild animals from their places of keeping.

The regulation, approved by the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of March 29, 2016 N 255, defines the procedure and conditions for registering objects for keeping and (or) breeding wild animals. The territorial body of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, with the participation of representatives of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus or another scientific organization with specialists in zoology, checks the conditions for keeping wild animals in captivity and draws up an act on the compliance of the conditions for keeping wild animals with the requirements for their

maintenance established by the legislation, indicating the maximum number of wild animals, the keeping and (or) breeding of which is possible at the inspected facility for keeping and (or) breeding wild animals. Requirements for the conditions for raising animals and for conducting veterinary measures in zoos (zoo nurseries) are established by the decree of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Belarus dated March 12, 2012 No. 17.

The responsible organization - Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus.

26. Has your country considered, developed or implemented programmes to control or eradicate non-native species of waterbird so as to prevent negative impacts on indigenous species? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.5.3)

Yes

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

Canada Goose / Branta canadensis

For Canada Goose / Branta canadensis

Control or eradication programme developed and being implemented

27. 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)

Yes

Please list the non-native species for which relevant action has been undertaken

>>> In 2016 the list of invasive alien species was revised and updated according to data of invasive species monitoring. Currently it includes 7 species of invasive plants and 13 invasive animal species.

Among alien animal species of high risk for wetland ecosystems are American mink, Raccoon dog, spinycheek crayfish. With its trophic plasticity, the raccoon dog continues to strongly influence the state of populations of terrestrial nesting wetland bird species.

Local executive and administrative authorities have developed and approved action plans on the restriction of distribution and numbers of the most aggressive alien plant species - Sosnowsky's hogweed *Heracleum sosnowskyi*, giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, Canadian goldenrod *Solidago canadensis*, *Acer negundo*, black locust *Robinia pseudoacacia*, wild cucumber *Echinocystis lobata*. Several of them grow in floodplains of rivers and lakes and thus threaten wetland ecosystems (Sosnowsky's and giant hogweeds, wild cucumber). Measures for eradication of these species were developed and are being implemented in practice.

Please provide further information for each relevant programme

>>> Assessment of the state of populations of invasive alien species is carried out within the framework of maintaining of the Cadasters of Flora and Fauna of the Republic of Belarus.

Strategy and Action Plan for the eradication of the most dangerous invasive alien plant species for 2018-2025 are developed and being implemented in the

Republic of Belarus.

State of invasive plant and animal species is monitored in Belarus within the frameworks of the National environment monitoring system; recommendations on prevention and minimization of damage from their distribution are being developed. A computer data bank has been created and works are carried out on inventory and mapping of habitats of invasive species. There is a Centre on Invasive Animal Species established and functioning. It is interdisciplinary scientific unit of the Academy of Sciences of Belarus (www.ias.by). The aims of the Centre establishment are: preparation, implementation and coordination of activities for detection, evaluation and prediction of the introduction and distribution of invasive animal and plant species on the territory of Belarus; development of measures for prevention, minimization and reduction of damage from distribution of these species; accumulation, compilation and provision of information to interested bodies and departments.

28. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on avoidance of introductions of non-native waterbird species?

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

No

4.6 Seabirds

The country has maritime territories and the AEWA seabird conservation priorities are relevant for the country:

No

Pressures and Responses

5. Habitat Conservation

5.1 Habitat Inventories

39. 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))

Yes

Please provide full reference, e.g. title, year, authors, etc. or a web link

>>> The inventory of the sites of international and national importance for the migratory waterbird species was implemented within the frameworks of the development of the Ramsar sites' network. It is envisaged by the Strategy for the

Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020, National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas till January 1, 2030; Scheme of Rational Allocation of Specially Protected Areas of Republican Importance till January 1, 2025; Strategy on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands, and the inventory was also carried out during implementation of these national strategies and plans.

Have you reviewed, confirmed and communicated to the AEWA Secretariat after MOP7 the inventory of known nationally and internationally important sites in your country?

No

40. If your country has identified or is currently identifying the networks of sites of international and national importance, were the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on the preparation of site inventories for migratory waterbirds used?

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

Yes

5.2. Conservation of Areas and Habitats

41. Has your country assessed the future implications of climate change for protected areas and other sites important for waterbirds (i.e. resilience of sites to climate change)? (Resolution 5.13)

For one or more single sites

Yes

Please give details as to where relevant information about these assessments have been published (either as publications or web-link).

>>> Study of the implications of climate change for protected areas and other sites are carried out in separate sites, and the data received are extrapolated to the whole Belarus' territory. The monitoring site for migrating waterbirds is in Turov town.

For the national protected area network

Yes

Please give details as to where relevant information about these assessments have been published (either as publications or web-link).

>>> Study of the implications of climate change for protected areas and other sites are carried out in separate sites, and the data received are extrapolated to the whole Belarus' territory. The monitoring site for migrating waterbirds is in Turov town.

42. 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)

Please report separately on internationally important sites, nationally important sites and buffer zones.

Reporting on designation and management of internationally important sites

Reporting on designation and management of nationally important sites. (Sites of national importance excludes the

sites already reported above as internationally important)

All sites of international importance

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

Total number

>>> 26

Total area (ha)

>>> 777.895

Number of internationally important sites under national protection designation

>>> 25

Area of international importance under national protection designation (ha)

>>> 748.542

Please rate the effectiveness of the national protection designation

High

Internationally important protected sites with a management plan in place which is being implemented

Number of sites

>>> 18

Area (in ha)

>>> 665.230

Please rate the effectiveness of the management measures

High

Internationally important sites with a management plan in place which is being implemented and includes management objectives related to maintaining or increasing the resilience of existing ecological networks, including resilience to climate change

Number of sites

>>> 4

Area (in ha)

>>> 91479.4

Please rate the effectiveness of the climate resilience measures

High

Please provide details and reasons for the high level of effectiveness.

>>> Mainly these are measures to restore and stabilize the water regime.

All sites of national importance

Total number

>>> 9

Total area (ha)

>>> 334270.8

Number of nationally important sites under national protection designation

>>> 3

Area of national importance under national protection area designation

>>> 235581.8

Please rate the effectiveness of the national protection designation

Moderate

Please provide details and reasons for the lower level of effectiveness.

>>> Some areas of national importance are fishfarms.

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

Number of sites

>>> 2

Area (in ha)

>>> 234909.8

Please rate the effectiveness of the management measures

Moderate

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

Number of sites

>>> 0

Area (in ha)

>>> 0

Examples of best practice (optional)

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

>>> Sporovsky Ramsar Site: During the period 2017-2020 the actions of the project UNDP-GEF "Wetlands" were implemented on the territory of the Ramsar site: economically sustainable methods of use and processing of mire vegetation

biomass (shrubs, reed, other mire grass) have been introduced at an area of 3,200 ha, contributing to restoration and maintaining of open fen mires.

As a part of the project "Landscape-oriented development of rural areas of the Yaselda river valley with the participation of the local population" the measures were implemented on development of private initiatives for sustainable use of biodiversity in the region, including territory of the Ramsar site.

DESIGNATION GAP FILLING

Yes

Please provide full reference or a web link, as well as details concerning the process and the status of this strategy / plan

>>> Designation of Areas of International Importance and development of the network of National Protected areas are envisaged by national environmental legislation (the National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas till January 1, 2030; Scheme of Rational Allocation of Specially Protected Areas of Republican Importance till January, 1, 2025) and international agreements (Ramsar Convention, Convention on Biodiversity Conservation, and other).

It is planned by the Target 8 of the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020 to ensure the protection and sustainable use of natural and near-natural ecological systems most important for landscape and biological diversity conservation (on the area of at least 22% of the Republic's territory) by means of optimization of the specially protected areas system (at least 8.8% of the Belarus' territory) and natural areas subject to peculiar protection (at least 13.2%).

Has it been implemented?

Yes, being implemented

Please provide details, including when it is expected to be concluded

>>> The main indicator of the development of the national network of protected areas for 2020 has been achieved: the share of the area of protected areas increased by 0.3% over the reporting period and amounted to 9% of the area of the Republic.

"Scheme of the National Ecological Network" is developed and approved by Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 108, dated March 13, 2018. The National Ecological network represents a complex of natural territories with special environmental management regimes, ensuring natural processes of movement of living organisms, maintaining ecological balance, preserving biological and landscape diversity, ensuring sustainable development of territories. The National Ecological Network includes 93 objects with the total area of 3.37 million hectares (16.2% of the country's territory).

As a part of the formation of a network of special environmental areas important for biodiversity conservation in Europe, the formation of the national Emerald Network continues, including 162 territories as of

01.01.2020, 155 of which were approved by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention as objects of the Emerald Network of Europe.
The network of Ramsar sites includes 26 territories.

MANAGEMENT GAP FILING

Yes

Please provide full reference or a web link, as well as details concerning the process and the status of this strategy / plan

>>> Necessity to improve management of protected areas, including Ramsar sites and other wetlands, through effective planning and complex management of nature resources is reflected in the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020, in the National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas till January 1, 2030, in the National Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2016-2020.

Has it been implemented?

Yes, being implemented

Please provide details, including when it is expected to be concluded

>>> In total, currently management plans were developed for 18 Ramsar sites, which is 69.2% from all Ramsar sites of Belarus.

44. 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)

Yes, fully

Please provide details

>>> Most of identified important sites for migratory waterbirds have national protection status in Belarus. Each protected area has regulatory document which states the regime of land and water use, indicating prohibitions. These documents are taken into account during preparation of local plans, schemes of economic use.

National Strategy for the Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2030 is the most important document defining the directions of the state's socio-economic policy, including policy issues in the water sector in the context of environmental management and environmental protection.

If available, please provide best practice examples of integration of the flyway site network into your country's water- and land-use policies and planning and decision-making processes

>>> The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus implements a unified state policy and is the governing body in the field of environmental protection, including use of water resources, conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. The Ministry coordinates activity of other Republican bodies of state administration, local executive and regulatory bodies in the sphere of environment.

45. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on the management of key sites for migratory waterbirds?

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

Yes

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

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

No

47. 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))

Yes

Please provide details on each partnership arrangement your country has been involved in

>>> Belarus cooperates with neighboring countries on issues of common transboundary water basins: with Russian Federation – on management of water basins of rivers Dnieper and Western Dvina, with Ukraine – rivers Dnieper, Pripjat, and Western Bug, with Poland – river Western Bug, with Lithuania – Neman River, with Latvia – Western Dvina River.

There is cooperation in the management of the transboundary Ramsar sites "Olmany – Perebrody Mires" and "Stokhid - Prypiat - Prostyl" (Belarus - Ukraine), "Kotra - Cepkeliai" (Belarus - Lithuania), the transboundary biosphere reserve "Western Polesie" (Belarus - Ukraine - Poland), the transboundary protected area "Zapovednoe Poozerye" including republican reserves "Osveiski" and "Krasny Bor" (Belarus) and the National Park "Sebezhsky" (Russia).

Have a specific project or projects been established under the partnership arrangement(s) to implementation of habitat management, creation and restoration projects in the wider environment?

Yes

Please provide details on each project initiative

>>> The joint management plan for the transboundary Ramsar site "Olmany – Perebrody Mires" (Belarus – Ukraine) was developed in the framework of the EU project "Creation of opportunities and conditions for joint management and sustainable use of natural resources of the transboundary Ramsar territory "Olmany – Perebrody Mires"".

There is exchange of experience in mire management between the Belarusian Ramsar sites "Zvanets", "Sporovsky Biological Reserve", "Olmany Mires Zakaznik" with the wetlands of Poland ("Biebrza"), Lithuania ("Zhuvintas",

"Neman Delta"), Ukraine ("Shatsk National Park"), Russia, Germany and other countries.

GEF-UNDP project "Conservation-oriented management of forests and wetlands to achieve multiple benefits" ("Wetlands") № 96096 (2017-2021);

Project "Polesie - Wildlife Without Borders: Protection of One of the Largest Natural Landscapes in Europe" (2019-2023). Frankfurt Zoological Society;

Project "River Bug Valley: Integration of the Ramsar Approach with other Spatial Forms of Protection (IBA, International Biosphere Reserve, Republican Landscape Reserve)" (2012-2020), donor: Ramsar Secretariat, Switzerland;

Pressures and Responses

6. Management of Human Activities

6.1. Hunting

48. 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)

Yes

Please provide details on how this is achieved and reference to the relevant legislation

>>> The Hunting Rules of the Republic of Belarus are aimed at rational use of hunting resources (Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus of March 21, 2018 No. 112 "On hunting and hunting management" in the new edition (Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus of September 16, 2020 No. 345)).

For example, in the event of a change in weather and (or) other conditions affecting the state of populations of game animals or their habitats, the Ministry of Forestry, in agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, may decide to change the hunting time established by these Rules without increasing the total length of the hunting season. In order to preserve certain species and (or) populations of animals and create favorable conditions for their reproduction, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, upon the proposal of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, and in agreement with the Ministry of Forestry, may establish restrictions and prohibitions on hunting individual species, in separate hunting grounds, during certain periods, as well as the use of individual tools and (or) methods of hunting.

49. 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))

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> There is a system for collection of harvest data, but the data are collected only by groups, not by separate species (Mallard, teals, geese, other ducks).

System for recording harvested game for each game waterfowl species is under preparation now in Belarus. It is being developed in the frameworks of the project "Development of the bag statistics of wildfowl species and studies of the breeding population of Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* in Belarus" funded by OMPO. It will cover the whole territory of Belarus and all game species.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Development of the strategy for sustainable use of game waterfowl species is hampered by the absence of reliable data on the amount of the harvested prey of different species. For example, harvested waterfowl are recorded by hunters only by groups - ducks, geese, or only by common and widely known groups - mallard, teals. The absence of a system for recording harvested birds by species is due to the inability of hunters to distinguish between waterfowl species. Therefore, the primary task of establishment of a system for recording harvested game waterfowl species is the preparation and publication of a special guide of a game waterfowl species for hunters, hunting agencies specialists and other stakeholders.

Currently, a specialized information system of the Ministry of Forestry is successfully functioning through the Internet in the Republic of Belarus, which is a combination of data banks, information technologies and a set of software and hardware tools, the use of which is aimed at the implementation of hunting permits. The Information System is the state information system, owned by the Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Belarus, and located in the Internet at <http://ihunt.by>. It provides information about hunting entities and the possibility for the user to purchase their services. Hunters must provide information about harvested prey when closing their hunting permits.

50. 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))

No

Please explain the reasons and barriers to introduction of legislation

>>> The Republic of Belarus has joined the AEWA Agreement with some exceptions, including the following: "The Republic of Belarus according to the Article XV of the Agreement will not apply the Annex 3 to the Agreement in respect of the paragraph 4.1.4 of the Annex 3 to the Agreement".

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

No

51. 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))

Yes

How would you rate the effectiveness of the measures?

Moderate

52. 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))

Partially

Please provide details

>>> Only the facts of poaching registered by the relevant authorities.

To assess the situation of illegal handling of wild birds (catching, shooting, keeping, destruction of nests, etc.), electronic databases of regional committees of natural resources and environmental protection and the Ministry of Internal Affairs on violations of the law in the field of environmental protection are used.

53. 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)

Yes

Please provide details and reference to the relevant legislation

>>> According to the The Hunting Rules of the Republic of Belarus (Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus of March 21, 2018 No. 112 "On hunting and hunting management" in the new edition (Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus of September 16, 2020 No. 345)), to obtain a hunting ticket, exams must be passed (test). A special hunting exam is a test on the knowledge of environmental legislation, prey identification, the biology of wild animals and birds, hunting rules in the Republic of Belarus, safety rules for hunting and handling hunting weapons, hunting tools, first aid, etc.

54. 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)

Yes

What do these cover?

Club Affiliation

Emergency closure of hunting in cases of exceptionally unfavourable or endangering conditions

Please provide details on each item selected above

>>> The perpetrators are brought to justice in accordance with Article 16.27 of the Code of the Republic on Administrative Offenses (Violation of the rules of hunting. Control over the protection and use of wild animals which are hunting objects, is carried out by the State Inspectorate for the Protection of Fauna and Flora under the President of the Republic of Belarus (Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus dated October 16, 2009 No. 510 "On improving control (supervisory) activities in the Republic of Belarus").

Please rate the degree of application of these best practice codes and standards:

High (almost always applied)

Please rate the effectiveness these best practice codes and standards in supporting enforcement of hunting laws and regulations:

High (very effective in supporting enforcement of hunting laws and regulations)

55. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on sustainable harvest of migratory birds?

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The Guidelines were used to prepare the following documents:

Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus dated 02.06.2006 N 698 establishing the procedure and conditions for trapping wild animals for the purpose of keeping and (or) breeding in captivity, introduction and other purposes;

Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus dated 02.06.2006 N 700, establishing the procedure and conditions for the removal of wild animals from their habitat for scientific, educational, and other purposes;

Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of 12.07.2013 N 610, establishing the procedure for issuing permits for the removal of wild animals from their habitat.

6.2. Ecotourism

56. 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))

Yes

Please describe and provide details

>>> Sustainable tourism development is envisaged by the State Program on Tourism Development "Belarus Hospitable" for 2016 - 2020, the State Program "Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources" for 2021 - 2025 (subprogram "Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity").

Incentive measures (subsidies, loans, etc.) are provided for organizations and individuals carrying out ecotourism activities in Protected Areas.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> As of the beginning of 2020, Belarus registered 2760 agro homesteads; 515,301.8 thousand tourists visited them in a year, which is 2.7 times higher than in 2010. In 2020 there were more than 600 green routes in the country.

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

Yes

Please describe how many initiatives are in place and provide details for each of them

>>> Ecological excursions and tours are conducted with the participation of foreign citizens with a visit to the floodplain wetlands of the Pripyatsky National Park.

Please rank the degree to which these initiatives are designed to deliver both conservation and community benefits:

Medium

Please rank the degree to which these dual benefits are being delivered in practice:

Medium

6.3. Other human activities

58. 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 78 in chapter 7 - Research and monitoring.

No

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

Yes and being implemented

Does this legislation apply to the entire country or only to particular states/provinces thereof?

Entire country

Please provide details

>>> The Law "On Environmental Protection" (article 58) of the Republic of Belarus states that Environmental Impact Assessment should be conducted for any planned economic and other activities that may have negative impact on the environment. Article 7 of the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On State Ecological Expertise, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment" provides that for economic and other activities planned for construction on Ramsar sites and within 2 kilometers of their borders, environmental impact assessment must be conducted.

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

Yes

Do the SEA/EIA processes include public participation?

Yes

60. 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)

Yes

Please describe each measure and provide details for each of them

>>> Application of incentive measures, stimulating rational use of water resources, is envisaged by the main strategic documents of the Republic of Belarus.

Article 23 of the Law of the Republic of Belarus of 10.07.2007 N 257-3 "On the Animal World" states that "when placing, designing, constructing, reconstructing, expanding, technical re-equipment, modernization, changing the production profile, dismantling and (or) demolition of objects and complexes which have harmful effects on objects of the animal world and (or) their habitat or posing a potential danger to them, the project documentation should provide measures to ensure the preservation of migration routes and places of concentration of wild animals." For the harmful effect on objects of the animal world and (or) their habitat (the death of objects of the animal world, a decrease in their number or biomass and (or) productivity (loss or gain), compensation payments are provided (Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus dated 07.02.2008 N "On approval of the Regulation on the procedure for determining the amount of compensation payments and their implementation").

National Strategy for the Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2030 (NSUR-2030) is the main political document in the area of Belarus' development; it includes political issues in the Water sector concerning ecological management and environmental protection. This document confirms a row of priorities such as: use of regulating measures and economic incentives to reduce the amount of drinking water used by industrial enterprises and to reduce amount of contaminants in wastewater discharged into waterbodies; applying of water saving technologies; reduction of water loss and unaccounted use of water; and raising awareness among population.

The document "System of measures to strengthen the technological potential of the national economy, allowing it to function on ecological "green" principles" was approved in the Republic of Belarus as an organizational document to encourage private sector. This document defines short-term (until 2015) and longterm

(2015-2020) technological, legal and economic measures for "greening", envisages applying of mechanism of "green" state procurements, as well as establishment of different incentives for use of new ecological technologies, including the possibility of reduction of annual environmental tax by the sum of "green" investments.

Besides, a row of other economic instruments is used in Belarus to provide incentives for increased rate of abundance of ecological legislation in industry and other sectors of economy. Some of these instruments are: environmental tax, tax for the use of natural resources, compensation for damage caused to the environment, payments for utilities (waste, water supply and sewerage, etc.). Financial incentives are used to attract investments to green technologies and to introduce the ecological management practice.

Incentive measures (subsidies, loans, etc.) are provided for organizations and individuals carrying out ecotourism activities in Protected Areas

Please rank the effectiveness of these measures:

High

61. 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))

Yes, all proposed projects

Where an SEA/EIA has identified a likelihood of significant negative impacts on migratory waterbirds, have steps been taken to avoid these impacts, including avoidance of protected areas and other sites of importance for migratory waterbirds?

Yes

Please describe the measures put in place

>>> By the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus dated August 31, 2011 No. 1158, amendments and additions were made to the Regulation on the procedure for determining the amount of

compensation payments and their implementation, approved by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus dated February 7, 2008 No. 168. When assessing the harmful impact and calculating the amount of compensation payments, the characteristics and scale of the actual or projected harmful impact are determined, the area of the harmful impact, the degree of change in the habitat of wild animals, the species composition of wild animals living in the territory of the harmful impact, their number and annual productivity are established. The calculation of the amount of compensation payments is carried out for each species and (or) group of objects of the animal world in the territory of harmful impact. Compensation payments are made by legal entities or individual entrepreneurs at their own expense to the income of the republican budget.

62. 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))

Yes

Please report the number of sites of national and international importance for migratory waterbirds in your country that are subject to adverse impact of development activities or other pressures. Please list those sites with their names, central geographic coordinates and observed impacts.

>>> 1. Olmany Mires - construction of the road (village Tereblich-Derzhinsk): the construction after completion locally changed the hydrological regime; supply of power lines to the border post (power transmission line does not have a negative impact on waterfowl in a particular case).

2. Sary Zhaden - construction of a road from Bukcha village - the final stage of construction.

Please report the number of sites of national and international importance for migratory waterbirds in your country where adverse impact of development activities or other pressures has been effectively avoided, mitigated or compensated. Please list those sites with their names, central geographic coordinates and the impacts that have been addressed.

>>> Pripyatsky National Park - not approved construction of wind turbine in the Pripyat floodplain (near village Lyaskovichy); construction of a gas pipeline in the area of the village of Borki across the Pripyat River in a closed way.

Please report the number of sites of national and international importance for migratory waterbirds in your country where no effective avoidance, mitigation or compensation has been implemented for adverse impact of development activities or other pressures. Please list those sites with their names, central geographic coordinates and observed impacts.

>>> There are no examples in the country where negative impacts have had serious negative impacts on waterfowl. All constructions on the territory of the Republic of Belarus are required to undergo an EIA and measures to reduce or prevent negative environmental impacts are included.

63. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on how to avoid, minimize or mitigate impact of infrastructural developments and related disturbance affecting waterbirds?

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

Yes

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

64.1. Are relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, scientific bodies, nongovernmental organisations and the energy sector, being regularly consulted in order to monitor jointly the impacts of power lines on waterbirds and to agree on a common policy of action?

Partially

Please provide details.

>>> The most vulnerable species in this aspect is White Stork. Almost half of White storks in Polesie region now nest on power line poles. To solve the problem, meetings were organized by the Ministry of Nature Protection with participation of representatives of the Ministry of Energy, State Production Association "Belenergo", JSC "Belselektrosetstroy" and the Scientific and Practical Center of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus for Bioresources and the public organization "Ahova Ptushak Batskashchyny" (BirdLife Belarus).

In 2017 the recommendations for installing artificial breeding platforms for White Stork were developed by the Scientific-Practical Center for Bioresources.

In 2020, the State Production Association "Belenergo" developed the standard of the enterprise STP "Design documentation for 0.4 and 10 kV racks for nesting birds with a platform."

64.2. Has a baseline of waterbird distribution, population sizes, migrations and movements (including those between breeding, resting and feeding areas) been established as early as possible in the planning of any power line project, over a period of at least five years, and with particular emphasis on those species known to be vulnerable to electrocution or collision?

Partially

Please provide details.

>>> In case of being established within the protected area, every construction project should go through the impact assessment. Most of the breeding habitats and migration stopovers of waterbirds are protected in Belarus.

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

Yes

Please provide details.

>>> The problem of White stork nesting on power lines affects primarily the southern part of the country. It is in the Brest and Gomel regions that about half of the storks' nests are on such poles. To solve the problem, power engineers install devices that isolate birds from dangerous elements of power lines. Gradually, there is a transition from metal to plastic barriers, the wires are replaced with insulated ones so that there are no short circuits.

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

Partially

64.5. Has, wherever possible, the construction of power lines along major migration flyways and in habitats of conservation importance* been avoided, where such construction is likely to have significant effects on waterbirds?

* such as Special Protection Areas under the EU Birds Directive, Important Bird Areas, protected areas, Ramsar sites, the West/Central Asian Site Network for Siberian Crane and other waterbirds and other critical sites as identified by the Critical Site Network (CSN) Tool for the African-Eurasian region.

Partially

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

Partially

Please provide details

>>> Minor adjustments in the route and construction technology are possible (for example, replacement with insulated wires - as in the Pinsk region). To protect power lines from birds on the territory of Belarus, barrage structures are currently most often used, the deterrent effect of which is based on the principle of interfering with birds when landing in problem areas.

64.7. Have those sections of existing power lines that are causing relatively high levels of waterbird injury and/or mortality due to electrocution and/or collision been identified?

Partially

64.8. 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?

Yes

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

No

64.10. Is there in your country regular monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of mitigation measures put in place to minimise the impact of power lines on waterbird populations?

No

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

No

65. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on how to avoid or mitigate impact of electricity power grids on migratory birds in the African-Eurasian region?

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

No

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

66.1. Has a national sensitivity and zoning mapping to avoid overlap of renewable energy developments with areas of importance for migratory waterbirds been developed in your country?

Being developed

66.2. Have any international environmental guidelines, recommendations and criteria been followed in your country for impact assessment of renewable energy developments and the utilization of renewable energy sources?

Yes

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

No

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

Yes

Operate wind farms in ways that minimise bird mortality, for example by introducing shortterm shutdowns during peak migration and minimising lighting in wind farms.

Yes

Dismantling of wind turbines in existing installations, should waterbird mortality have an effect on the population status of a species and other mitigation measures have proved insufficient.

Not applicable

Focusing research efforts on alleviating the negative effects on waterbirds from wind farms, such as the mapping of the main migration corridors and migration crossings for waterbirds also allowing the optimising of wind farm layouts.

Yes

66.6. Have any specific measures been put in place to assess, identify and reduce potential negative impacts of biofuel production on migratory waterbirds and their habitats?

Not applicable

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

Yes

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

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

Yes

68. 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)

Yes

70. 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)

Yes

Please provide details for each project / initiative

>>> National target 2 of the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020 is "To develop the technique of estimation of the cost value of biodiversity and ecosystem services and integrate them into projects of concepts, forecasts, programs, schemes of sectoral development, which realization is connected with biodiversity use and (or) could influence it".

The National Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2016-2020 envisages determination of the legal framework for creating a market for ecosystem services (2016-2020); improving the methodology for the valuation of ecosystem services (2017-2020).- involvement of the local population living on the territory of the Ramsar Sites and protected areas in the development of tourism activities. For this purpose, the Republic of Belarus has developed and adopted a "Complex of measures for the development and promotion of ecological tourism in specially protected natural areas for the period until 2025". Such programs are carried out in most protected areas and Ramsar sites (including birdwatching);

Are there any other examples or case studies in your country of policies and/or decision making that takes into account cultural and provisioning ecosystem services of migratory waterbirds?

Yes

Please provide details for each of them

>>> - sustainable use of natural resources of Ramsar sites (berries, mushrooms, medicinal plants) by the local population in order to receive additional income;

- sustainable use of mire biomass (trees and shrubs, reed, other mire grass);
- sustainable fishing;
- sustainable hunting.

Pressures and Responses

7. Research and Monitoring

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

Yes

Covering the breeding period

Guidance: Including pre- and post-breeding sites of concentration, such as moulting sites close to breeding areas

Partially

Please provide details. (incl. list the species covered OR not covered (whichever list is shorter))

>>> Population size is assessed periodically during the breeding period for Common Pochard and other duck species.

Is information on drivers of population trends also being collected?

Yes

Covering the passage period

Partially

Please provide details. (incl. list the species covered OR not covered (whichever list is shorter))

>>> The monitoring of waders and geese on migration in the Mid-Pripyat Reserve.

Is information on drivers of population trends also being collected?

No

Covering the non-breeding/wintering period

Partially

Please provide details. (incl. list the species covered OR not covered (whichever list is shorter))

>>> Monitoring of waterbirds throughout Belarus on wintering.

Is information on drivers of population trends also being collected?

Yes

72. 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))

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Data of winter counts were sent to Wetlands International.

73. Has your country supported, technically or financially, other Parties or Range States in designing appropriate monitoring schemes and developing their capacity to collect reliable waterbird population data? (Resolution 5.2)

No

74. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on waterbird monitoring?

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

Yes

75. 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)

Yes

Nationally

Yes

Internationally

Yes

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

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

No

78. 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 58 in chapter 6 - Management of human activities.

No

Are there plans to investigate the impact of lead fishing weights on waterbirds in your country?

No

Pressures and Responses

8. Education and Information

8.1. Communication, Education and Public Awareness

79. Has your country developed and implemented programmes for raising awareness and understanding on waterbird conservation and about AEWA specifically? (Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 4, Target 4.3 and AEWA Action Plan, paragraphs 6.1-6.4, Resolution 3.10, Resolution 5.5; Resolution 6.10)

Guidance: Such programmes should consist of a series of established, long-term communication activities, which are guided by clearly defined goals, target audiences and communication channels. A programme does not constitute a single, one-off communication activity, product or event. In other words, an established national programme to raise awareness and understanding on waterbird conservation and about AEWA would ideally be a number of targeted communication activities which are guided by a communication plan and are backed by sufficient human and financial resources.

Other

Please explain

>>> There is no separate special state program aimed specifically to raising awareness about AEWA. Plans to raise awareness of governmental bodies, the population, organizations, non-governmental organizations in the field of biodiversity conservation, including waterbirds and wetlands, are envisaged by national strategies aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity: the National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020, National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas till January 1, 2030, Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020.

Ecological routes in the Ramsar sites are being prepared and created. Wildlife watching tours, including bird watching tours, photo hunting and more are offered for tourists.

The distribution of the ecological product is facilitated by the Virtual Tour of the Protected Areas of Belarus, developed by the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus in 2018 to promote ecological and green tourism, covering the most significant Ramsar sites (zapovednytur.by).

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

No

81. Have measures been taken by your country to implement the provisions related to "Education and Information" in the AEWA Action Plan over the last triennium? (AEWA Action Plan, Paragraphs 6.1-6.4)

Yes

Please indicate which measures have been taken:

a. National training programmes have been arranged for personnel responsible for implementing AEWA

No

b. Training programmes and materials have been developed in cooperation with other Parties and/or the Agreement Secretariat

No

c. AEWA related information and training resources have been exchanged with other Parties and/or shared with the Agreement Secretariat

No

d. Specific public awareness campaigns for the conservation of populations listed in Table 1 have been conducted

No

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

Yes

83. 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)

No

Pressures and Responses

9. Implementation

84. 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))

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> It was decided not to elaborate the separate AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, but to include its measures and actions to achieve its goals to national strategic documents on nature conservation and sustainable use: Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity, National Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity, National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas, Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus, Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands, Strategy for the Implementation of the United Nations

Convention to Combat Desertification, National Action Plan on the Prevention of Land Degradation (including Soils).
Soils)

85. 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)

Report only on activities over the past triennium

No

86. 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))

Guidance: Such mechanism can be a dedicated cross-institutional working group, involving representatives of the civil society and other relevant stakeholders, aimed at planning, coordinating and reporting the implementation of the Agreement in the country. Alternatively, the implementation of AEWA at national level can be coordinated as an extension of larger national coordination mechanisms for other MEAs, such as National Ramsar Committees or CBD NBSAPs coordination.

Yes, it is operational on a regular basis

Please provide details

>>> Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection is the National Executing Agency for AEWA. There is an Interdepartmental Coordination Council for the implementation of the AEWA Agreement, which was created by order of the Ministry of Natural Resources dated 28.08.2015 No. 301-OD. At present, its composition is subject to revision (updating) in connection with changes in the structure and staffing table of employees of the central office of the Ministry of Natural Resources, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and other organizations. Ministry of Nature Resources ensures the coherence of national strategies for the implementation of relevant international treaties, close cooperation with the Convention on Biodiversity and other international environmental organizations in integration of nature conservation issues in different spheres of politics, consulting of national focal points.

Are priority capacity gaps addressed by the coordination mechanism?

Yes

Please rank the effectiveness of the national coordination mechanism for AEWA implementation:

Medium

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

No

88. Has your country concluded, or considered concluding, twinning schemes between sites with other countries, the sites of which share common migratory waterbirds or conservation issues? (Resolution 5.20)

Yes

Please provide details on each twinning arrangement

>>> There are 4 transboundary Ramsar sites: "Stokhid-Prypiat-Prostyr" (Belarus-Ukraine), "Kotra-Cepkeliai" (Belarus-Lithuania), "Adutiskis-Vileity" (Belarus-Lithuania), "Olmany - Perebrody Mires" (Belarus-Ukraine). Transboundary protected area "Augsdaugava-Braslav Lakes" (Belarus-Latvia) was established. In October 2017, an agreement was signed with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation

on the establishment of a transboundary protected area "Zapovednoe Poozerie", consisting of the republican protected areas "Osveyskiy" and "Krasny Bor" (Belarus) and "Sebezhskiy" National Park (Russia). The National Ecological Network is spatially integrated with the environmental networks of neighboring countries.

Coordination Councils were established to manage all transboundary Ramsar sites. The joint management plan has been developed for the Ramsar site "Kotra-Cepkeliai". Management plan for Belarussian-Polish-Ukrainian Biosphere Reserve "Pribuzhskoe Polesie" has been developed, which includes issues on conservation of wetlands of Ramsar site "Polesye Valley of River Bug". The joint management plan was developed for the Belarussian-Ukrainian transboundary Ramsar site "Olmany - Perebrody Mires", and a row of joint actions has been implemented there to regulate anthropogenic pressure and reduce fire hazard. Development of the management plan for transboundary Belarussian-Lithuanian site "Vileity- Adutiskis" is planned.

89. Are those officers in your country's government responsible for AEWA implementation co-ordinated and engaged with national processes contributing towards the Aichi Targets and the assessment of achieving these targets? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.4(a))

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Sector for International Cooperation and Scientific Support of Environmental Conventions was established in 2009 under the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, which provides support to the National Implementing Agency for Environmental Conventions in the planning and implementation of the Convention Strategies and ensures that activities implemented for realizations of the obligations of Belarus under the various environmental conventions and agreements, are incorporated into national programs and strategies and altogether contribute to achieving the Aichi Targets.

90. Are those officers in your country's government responsible for AEWA implementation co-ordinated and engaged with national processes contributing towards the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and the assessment of achieving these goals? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.4(a))

Yes

91. Are those officers in your country's government responsible for AEWA implementation co-ordinated and engaged with national processes to implementation and assess the delivery of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.4(a))

Yes

92. Are the AEWA priorities incorporated into your country's National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) and/or other similar strategic plans and policies (Resolution 6.3; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 5.5)?

92.1 NBSAP

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The brochure on the state of the biodiversity and progress in achieving Aichi targets and implementation was published in 2019.

92.2 Other strategic plans and policies

Yes

Please name the other strategic planning processes

>>> National Strategy for the Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2020, National Strategy for the Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2030, Program of Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus for 2016-2020. Sustainable hunting is envisaged by the State Program "Belarussian Forest" for 2016-2020; Sustainable tourism development - State Program on Tourism Development "Belarus Hospitable" for 2016 - 2020, the State Program "Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources" for 2016 - 2020 (subprogram "Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity").

Sustainable Development Goals

Yes

Aichi Targets

Yes

Strategic Plan for Migratory Species

Yes

95. Has your country donated funds to the AEWA Small Grants Fund (SGF) over the past triennium? (Resolution 7.1)

No

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

No

97. 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? (Resolution 7.11, Resolution 7.12)

Not Applicable: the country has no arrangement with the UN to provide JPOs

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

98.1 Did your country's government provide in the last triennium financial and/or in-kind resources to support national activities which are intended to achieve the objectives of this Agreement, particularly those in line with the AEWA Strategic Plan including the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa, and in accordance with your national plans, priorities and programmes?

No

98.2 Does your country's government have unpaid dues to the AEWA Trust Fund (annual assessed contributions to the Agreement's budget as approved by each session of the Meeting of the Parties)?

No

98.3 Has your country's government provided funding to support developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, to meet their obligations under AEWA, and the implementation of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027? Under this question please report for support provided outside of formal and established intergovernmental cooperation. For the latter, please refer to the next question 98.4.

No

98.4 Does your country's government participate in any South-South, North-South or triangular cooperation to enhance financial and technical support for the successful implementation of AEWA activities?

No

98.5 Does your country's government use innovative financing mechanisms for implementing the AEWA Strategic Plan such as a (national) Migratory Waterbirds Fund?

No

98.6 Does the implementation of AEWA in your country benefit from synergies between biodiversity-related conventions at national level, amongst others, through information sharing on potential funding opportunities and sharing of financial resources such as the Desertification Fund, Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund, and the Global Environmental Facility?

Yes

Please describe each synergetic arrangement and benefits acquired

>>> OMPO project "Development of the bag statistics of wildfowl species and studies of the breeding population of Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* in Belarus".

GEF-UNDP project "Conservation-oriented management of forests and wetlands to achieve multiple benefits" ("Wetlands") № 96096 (2017-2021) - ensuring sustainable management of floodplain meadow to maintain optimal state of habitats for waders.

The European Union project "Create opportunities and conditions for joint management and sustainable use of natural resources of the Transboundary Ramsar Site Olmany - Perebrody Mires" (Belarus - Ukraine, 2017-2018);

- Project "River Bug Valley: Integration of the Ramsar Approach with other Spatial Forms of Protection (IBA, International Biosphere Reserve, Republican Landscape Reserve)" (2012-2020), donor: Ramsar Secretariat, Switzerland;

Pressures and Responses

10. Climate Change

99. Please outline relevant climate change research, assessments and/or adaptation measures that are relevant to migratory waterbirds and which have been undertaken or planned in your country. (Resolution 5.13)

a. Research and studies of climate change impacts on waterbirds

Planned

Please provide details

>>> The absence of spring floods, dry autumn and non-snowy winters, the decrease in precipitation in the spring period is two times lower than the norm, which has been observed since 2015 - all these factors strongly affect the breeding of waterbirds. Today we are witnessing a decline in the numbers of the Black-tailed Godwit, European Curlew, Lapwing. All of these species are affected by climate change. We observe that absolutely suitable places for nesting are not occupied today due to very dry conditions.

Thus, the last expedition of ornithologists within the framework of the UNDP-GEF Wetlands project, which explored the floodplains of the rivers of the Mogilev and Gomel regions, found a decrease in the number of rare species of waders.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

<https://www.by.undp.org/content/belarus/ru/home/presscenter/pressreleases/- - - - - ----1.html>

b. Assessment of the potential vulnerability to climate change of key habitats used by waterbird species (including those outside protected area networks) (Please note that the question asks about habitats, rather than sites. Question 41 in Section 5, sub-section 5.2 investigates vulnerability of sites to climate change)

Undertaken

Please provide references or weblinks to any such work so as to facilitate their use as potential case-studies to assist other Contracting Parties

>>> As a result of global and regional climatic changes on the territory of Belarus in the last two decades, there has been a noticeable shift in weather and climatic conditions. As experts of the Institute of Nature Management of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus note, the climatic norm in the country has been exceeded by 1.3 °C. The greatest increase in temperature occurred during the winter and spring months. Climatic changes cause disturbances in the ecological balance and water balance of territories, changes in the species composition of flora and fauna. Climate change leads to the overgrowing of open meadows and marshes with reeds and trees and shrubs, rivers and lakes are also overgrown, the expansion of invasive alien species of animals and plants is expanding, which displace native species.

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

No relevant activities

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

Planned

Please provide details

>>> By 2022, it is planned to adopt a long-term development strategy with low greenhouse gas emissions and a national action plan for adaptation to climate change.

Under the Paris Agreement, Belarus has made voluntary commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 35% by 2030, including commitments to rewet and rehabilitate peatlands, which will entail a reduction in CO2 emissions throughout the country. The new law "On the protection and use of peatlands" will contribute to the fulfillment of these obligations, which will ensure the preservation of natural swamps and the carbon accumulated in them. The development of the law was facilitated by the UNDP-GEF projects Peatlands-2 and Wetlands.

e. National Action Plan for helping waterbirds adapt to climate change (as a separate implementation process or as part of a larger national framework for biodiversity adaptation to climate change. Please note that Question 42 in Section 5, sub-section 5.2 investigates national measures for increasing resilience of the ecological network for waterbirds to climate change).

Planned

Please provide details

>>> A new UNDP-GEF project "Preparation of the 7th national communication on the implementation of the UN

Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 3rd Biennial Report of the Republic of Belarus" will help to strengthen legislation in the field of combating climate change in Belarus. It is designed to help strengthen the national capacity for Belarus to fulfill its obligations under the Paris Agreement. The implementation of the project will make it possible to better take into account climatic aspects when developing national and sectoral strategies and programs in energy, industry, construction, and agriculture.

f. Other undertaken or planned relevant activities.

No

100. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on measures needed to help waterbirds to adapt to climate change?

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

No

Pressures and Responses

11. Avian Influenza

101. 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?

List challenges

>>> There are no recorded cases of infection on the territory of the country.

The main preventive measures to prevent avian influenza is to ensure the biological safety measures prescribed by regulatory documents at poultry facilities. In addition, there are periodically restrictions on the import into the country: live poultry, hatching eggs, wild, zoo and circus susceptible animals, poultry meat, egg powder, melange, albumin and other processed foods of chicken eggs, down and feathers, hunting trophies (game birds), other products.

12. Confirmation

Confirmation of information verification and approval for submission

Please confirm:

In addition a scanned copy of an official letter from the relevant state institution, approving the report for submission, can be attached.

I declare that the information provided in the Report on the implementation of AEWA for the period 2018-2020 has been verified and the report has been approved for submission by the appropriate state institution in the country.

Date of submission

>>> 08.04.2021