



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

>>> Bulgaria

Date of entry into force of AEWA in the Contracting Party

>>> 01.02.2000

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

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

>>> None

2. Institutional Information

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

Designated National AEWA Administrative Authority

Full name of the institution

>>> Ministry of Environment and Water

Name and title of the head of institution

>>> Emil Dimitrov - Minister

Mailing address - Street and number

>>> 22, Knyaginya Maria Luisa Blvd

Postal code

>>> 1000

City

>>> Sofia

Country

>>> Bulgaria

Telephone

>>> (+ 359 2) 988 25 77

Fax

>>> (+ 359 2) 986 25 33

E-mail

>>> cabinet.minister@moew.government.bg

Website

>>> <http://www.moew.government.bg>

Designated National Focal Point (NFP) for AEWA matters

Name and title of the NFP

>>> Mr. Valeri Georgiev, head of Biodiversity Unit

Affiliation (institution, department)

>>> Ministry of Environment and Water

Mailing address - Street and number

>>> 22, Knyaginya Maria Luisa Blvd

Postal code

>>> 1000

City

>>> Sofia

Country

>>> Bulgaria

Telephone

>>> (+359 2) 940 6151

Fax

>>> (+359 2) 988 5913

E-mail

>>> VTsGeorgiev@moew.government.bg

Website

>>> <https://www.moew.government.bg/>

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

Name and title of the TC NFP

>>> N/A

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

Name and title of the CEPA NFP

>>> N/A

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.

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

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))

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> The latest amendments to the Agreement text and its annexes have not affected the national legislation and no changes are needed.

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

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.

[Bulgaria_Q3_AEWA_NR_2018-2020_PopCoIA.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.

[Bulgaria_Q4_AEWA_NR_2018-2020_PopCoIA-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.

[Bulgaria_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

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Biodiversity_Act2018.pdf](#) - BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ACT (SEE ANNEX 5)

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

>>> Biological Diversity Act

Limes

Yes, fully

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

>>> Biological Diversity Act

Hooks

Yes, fully

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

>>> Biological Diversity Act

Live birds which are blind or mutilated used as decoys

Yes, fully

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

>>> National Biodiversity Act, Hunting and Game Preservation Act

Tape recorders and other electronic devices

Yes, fully

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

>>> National Biodiversity Act, Hunting and Game Preservation Act

Electrocuting devices

Yes, fully

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

>>> National Biodiversity Act

Artificial light sources

Yes, fully

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

>>> National Biodiversity Act, Hunting and Game Preservation Act

Mirrors and other dazzling devices

Yes, fully

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

>>> National Biodiversity Act, Hunting and Game Preservation Act

Devices for illuminating targets

Yes, fully

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

>>> National Biodiversity Act, Hunting and Game Preservation Act

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

>>> National Biodiversity Act, Hunting and Game Preservation Act

Explosives

Yes, fully

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

>>> National Biodiversity Act, Hunting and Game Preservation Act

Nets

Yes, fully

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

>>> National Biodiversity Act

Traps

Yes, fully

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

>>> National Biodiversity Act, Hunting and Game Preservation Act

Poison

Yes, fully

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

>>> National Biodiversity Act, Hunting and Game Preservation Act

Poisoned or anaesthetic baits

Yes, fully

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

>>> National Biodiversity Act, Hunting and Game Preservation Act

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

Yes, fully

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

>>> National Biodiversity Act

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

>>> National Biodiversity Act

Other non-selective modes of taking

No

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.

Yes

Please provide information on each species for which exemption was granted

Bulgaria

Exemption for Caspian Gull / *Larus cachinnans*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

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

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

>>> One nest

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

>>> N/A

Territorial coverage of the exemption

Guidance: Name the territory(ies) covered by the exemption

>>> Varna

Time span of the exemption

Guidance: indicate the period for which the exemption is/was valid

>>> 15.05-30.09.2019

Year when the exemption was granted

>>> 2019

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

>>> Exception is granted for removing nest from children's center because of aggressive bird

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))

No

Was a review undertaken before MOP7?

No

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.

>>> The Bulgarian legislation was elaborated following the legislation of the European Union, but the link to this publication is given in the Ministry of Environment and Water website as useful information in respect to management of NATURA 2000 sites.

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

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

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.

>>> Adopted by Order РД - 252/2.05.2018 of the Minister of Environment and Water

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

[NSSAP of Lesser White-fronted Goose \(*Anser erythropus*\) - \(in Bulgarian\)](#)

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

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.

>>> Adopted by Order РД - 347/12.05.2014 of the Minister of Environment and Water

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

[NSSAP for Ferruginous Duck \(*Aythya nyroca*\) - \(in Bulgarian\)](#)

Red-breasted Goose / *Branta ruficollis* National Plan for Red-breasted Goose / *Branta ruficollis*

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.

>>> Adopted by Order РД - 355/4.06.2018 of the Minister of Environment and Water

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

[NSSAP for Red-breasted Goose \(*Branta ruficollis*\) - \(in Bulgarian\)](#)

Corncrake / *Crex crex* National Plan for Corncrake / *Crex crex*

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> Not a priority species for Action Plan elaboration. The species is object to some of the Management plans for Special Protected Areas under the EU Bird Directive

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

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> Not a priority species for Action Plan elaboration.

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

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> Not a priority species for Action Plan elaboration.

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

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> Not a priority species for Action Plan elaboration.

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

NP in place and being implemented

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

[NSSAP for White-headed Duck \(Oxyura leucocephala\)](#) - (in Bulgarian)

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.

>>> Adopted by Order ПД - 347/12.05.2014 of the Minister of Environment and Water

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

NP in development

Please provide starting date and expected finalisation date

>>> The Multispecies AP for Colonial Breeding Waterbirds (covering *A. purpurea*, *A. ralloides*, *E. alba*, *E. garzetta*, *N. nycticorax*, *P. leucorodia*, *P. falcinellus*, *R. avosetta*, *G. pratincola*, *Ch. hybridus*, *Ch. niger*, *G. nilotica*, *S. hirundo*, *S. sandvicensis*, *S. albifrons*, *L. melanocephalus*) was assigned for development on 31 July 2020.

Dalmatian Pelican / Pelecanus crispus
National Plan for Dalmatian Pelican / Pelecanus crispus

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.

>>> Adopted by Order ПД - 888/28.11.2012 of the Minister of Environment and Water

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

[NSSAP for Dalmatian Pelican \(Pelecanus crispus\)](#) - (in Bulgarian)

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

Please provide details and reasons for the high degree of implementation.

>>> Bulgaria has two breeding colonies of Dalmatian Pelican and they are located in protected areas under special management and restricted for visitors.

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)

No

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

Bulgaria

Glossy Ibis / Plegadis falcinellus

National Single Species Action Plan for Glossy Ibis / Plegadis falcinellus

NSSAP in development

Please provide details

>>> The Multispecies AP for Colonial Breeding Waterbirds (covering *A. purpurea*, *A. ralloides*, *E. alba*, *E. garzetta*, *N. nycticorax*, *P. leucorodia*, *P. falcinellus*, *R. avosetta*, *G. pratincola*, *Ch. hybridus*, *Ch. niger*, *G. nilotica*, *S. hirundo*, *S. sandvicensis*, *S. albifrons*, *L. melanocephalus*) was assigned for development on 31 July 2020.

Eurasian Bittern / Botaurus stellaris

National Single Species Action Plan for Eurasian Bittern / Botaurus stellaris

NSSAP in place and being implemented

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

[NSSAP for Eurasian Bittern \(Botaurus stellaris\)](#) - (in Bulgarian)

Please provide details

>>> Approved by Order РД-347/12.05.2014 of the Minister of Environment and Water

Black-crowned Night-heron / Nycticorax nycticorax

National Single Species Action Plan for Black-crowned Night-heron / Nycticorax nycticorax

NSSAP in development

Please provide details

>>> The Multispecies AP for Colonial Breeding Waterbirds (covering *A. purpurea*, *A. ralloides*, *E. alba*, *E. garzetta*, *N. nycticorax*, *P. leucorodia*, *P. falcinellus*, *R. avosetta*, *G. pratincola*, *Ch. hybridus*, *Ch. niger*, *G. nilotica*, *S. hirundo*, *S. sandvicensis*, *S. albifrons*, *L. melanocephalus*) was assigned for development on 31 July 2020.

Squacco Heron / Ardeola ralloides

National Single Species Action Plan for Squacco Heron / Ardeola ralloides

NSSAP in development

Please provide details

>>> The Multispecies AP for Colonial Breeding Waterbirds (covering *A. purpurea*, *A. ralloides*, *E. alba*, *E. garzetta*, *N. nycticorax*, *P. leucorodia*, *P. falcinellus*, *R. avosetta*, *G. pratincola*, *Ch. hybridus*, *Ch. niger*, *G. nilotica*, *S. hirundo*, *S. sandvicensis*, *S. albifrons*, *L. melanocephalus*) was assigned for development on 31 July 2020.

Purple Heron / Ardea purpurea

National Single Species Action Plan for Purple Heron / Ardea purpurea

NSSAP in development

Please provide details

>>> The Multispecies AP for Colonial Breeding Waterbirds (covering *A. purpurea*, *A. ralloides*, *E. alba*, *E. garzetta*, *N. nycticorax*, *P. leucorodia*, *P. falcinellus*, *R. avosetta*, *G. pratincola*, *Ch. hybridus*, *Ch. niger*, *G. nilotica*, *S. hirundo*, *S. sandvicensis*, *S. albifrons*, *L. melanocephalus*) was assigned for development on 31 July 2020.

Great White Egret / *Ardea alba*

National Single Species Action Plan for Great White Egret / *Ardea alba*

NSSAP in development

Please provide details

>>> The Multispecies AP for Colonial Breeding Waterbirds (covering *A. purpurea*, *A. ralloides*, *E. alba*, *E. garzetta*, *N. nycticorax*, *P. leucorodia*, *P. falcinellus*, *R. avosetta*, *G. pratincola*, *Ch. hybridus*, *Ch. niger*, *G. nilotica*, *S. hirundo*, *S. sandvicensis*, *S. albifrons*, *L. melanocephalus*) was assigned for development on 31 July 2020.

Little Egret / *Egretta garzetta*

National Single Species Action Plan for Little Egret / *Egretta garzetta*

NSSAP in development

Please provide details

>>> The Multispecies AP for Colonial Breeding Waterbirds (covering *A. purpurea*, *A. ralloides*, *E. alba*, *E. garzetta*, *N. nycticorax*, *P. leucorodia*, *P. falcinellus*, *R. avosetta*, *G. pratincola*, *Ch. hybridus*, *Ch. niger*, *G. nilotica*, *S. hirundo*, *S. sandvicensis*, *S. albifrons*, *L. melanocephalus*) was assigned for development on 31 July 2020.

Pygmy Cormorant / *Microcarbo pygmaeus*

National Single Species Action Plan for Pygmy Cormorant / *Microcarbo pygmaeus*

NSSAP in place and being implemented

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

[NSSP for Pygmy Cormorant \(*Microcarbo pygmaeus*\) - \(in Bulgarian\)](#)

Please provide details

>>> Adopted by Order - 347/12.05.2014 of the Minister of Environment and Water

Pied Avocet / *Recurvirostra avosetta*

National Single Species Action Plan for Pied Avocet / *Recurvirostra avosetta*

NSSAP in development

Please provide details

>>> The Multispecies AP for Colonial Breeding Waterbirds (covering *A. purpurea*, *A. ralloides*, *E. alba*, *E. garzetta*, *N. nycticorax*, *P. leucorodia*, *P. falcinellus*, *R. avosetta*, *G. pratincola*, *Ch. hybridus*, *Ch. niger*, *G. nilotica*, *S. hirundo*, *S. sandvicensis*, *S. albifrons*, *L. melanocephalus*) was assigned for development on 31 July 2020.

Collared Pratincole / *Glareola pratincola*

National Single Species Action Plan for Collared Pratincole / *Glareola pratincola*

NSSAP in development

Please provide details

>>> The Multispecies AP for Colonial Breeding Waterbirds (covering *A. purpurea*, *A. ralloides*, *E. alba*, *E. garzetta*, *N. nycticorax*, *P. leucorodia*, *P. falcinellus*, *R. avosetta*, *G. pratincola*, *Ch. hybridus*, *Ch. niger*, *G. nilotica*, *S. hirundo*, *S. sandvicensis*, *S. albifrons*, *L. melanocephalus*) was assigned for development on 31 July 2020.

Mediterranean Gull / *Larus melanocephalus*

National Single Species Action Plan for Mediterranean Gull / *Larus melanocephalus*

NSSAP in development

Please provide details

>>> The Multispecies AP for Colonial Breeding Waterbirds (covering *A. purpurea*, *A. ralloides*, *E. alba*, *E. garzetta*, *N. nycticorax*, *P. leucorodia*, *P. falcinellus*, *R. avosetta*, *G. pratincola*, *Ch. hybridus*, *Ch. niger*, *G.*

nilotica, *S. hirundo*, *S. sandvicensis*, *S. albifrons*, *L. melanocephalus*) was assigned for development on 31 July 2020.

Little Tern / *Sternula albifrons*

National Single Species Action Plan for Little Tern / *Sternula albifrons*

NSSAP in development

Please provide details

>>> The Multispecies AP for Colonial Breeding Waterbirds (covering *A. purpurea*, *A. ralloides*, *E. alba*, *E. garzetta*, *N. nycticorax*, *P. leucorodia*, *P. falcinellus*, *R. avosetta*, *G. pratincola*, *Ch. hybridus*, *Ch. niger*, *G. nilotica*, *S. hirundo*, *S. sandvicensis*, *S. albifrons*, *L. melanocephalus*) was assigned for development on 31 July 2020.

Common Gull-billed Tern / *Gelochelidon nilotica*

National Single Species Action Plan for Common Gull-billed Tern / *Gelochelidon nilotica*

NSSAP in development

Please provide details

>>> The Multispecies AP for Colonial Breeding Waterbirds (covering *A. purpurea*, *A. ralloides*, *E. alba*, *E. garzetta*, *N. nycticorax*, *P. leucorodia*, *P. falcinellus*, *R. avosetta*, *G. pratincola*, *Ch. hybridus*, *Ch. niger*, *G. nilotica*, *S. hirundo*, *S. sandvicensis*, *S. albifrons*, *L. melanocephalus*) was assigned for development on 31 July 2020.

Whiskered Tern / *Chlidonias hybridus*

National Single Species Action Plan for Whiskered Tern / *Chlidonias hybridus*

NSSAP in development

Please provide details

>>> The Multispecies AP for Colonial Breeding Waterbirds (covering *A. purpurea*, *A. ralloides*, *E. alba*, *E. garzetta*, *N. nycticorax*, *P. leucorodia*, *P. falcinellus*, *R. avosetta*, *G. pratincola*, *Ch. hybridus*, *Ch. niger*, *G. nilotica*, *S. hirundo*, *S. sandvicensis*, *S. albifrons*, *L. melanocephalus*) was assigned for development on 31 July 2020.

Black Tern / *Chlidonias niger*

National Single Species Action Plan for Black Tern / *Chlidonias niger*

NSSAP in development

Please provide details

>>> The Multispecies AP for Colonial Breeding Waterbirds (covering *A. purpurea*, *A. ralloides*, *E. alba*, *E. garzetta*, *N. nycticorax*, *P. leucorodia*, *P. falcinellus*, *R. avosetta*, *G. pratincola*, *Ch. hybridus*, *Ch. niger*, *G. nilotica*, *S. hirundo*, *S. sandvicensis*, *S. albifrons*, *L. melanocephalus*) was assigned for development on 31 July 2020.

Common Tern / *Sterna hirundo*

National Single Species Action Plan for Common Tern / *Sterna hirundo*

NSSAP in development

Please provide details

>>> The Multispecies AP for Colonial Breeding Waterbirds (covering *A. purpurea*, *A. ralloides*, *E. alba*, *E. garzetta*, *N. nycticorax*, *P. leucorodia*, *P. falcinellus*, *R. avosetta*, *G. pratincola*, *Ch. hybridus*, *Ch. niger*, *G. nilotica*, *S. hirundo*, *S. sandvicensis*, *S. albifrons*, *L. melanocephalus*) was assigned for development on 31 July 2020.

Sandwich Tern / *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

National Single Species Action Plan for Sandwich Tern / *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

NSSAP in development

Please provide details

>>> The Multispecies AP for Colonial Breeding Waterbirds (covering *A. purpurea*, *A. ralloides*, *E. alba*, *E. garzetta*, *N. nycticorax*, *P. leucorodia*, *P. falcinellus*, *R. avosetta*, *G. pratincola*, *Ch. hybridus*, *Ch. niger*, *G. nilotica*, *S. hirundo*, *S. sandvicensis*, *S. albifrons*, *L. melanocephalus*) was assigned for development on 31 July 2020.

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.

No

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

>>> The Action Plans are elaborating according to the provision of the Regulation № 5 from 1.08.2003 on the terms and conditions to develop action plans for plant and animal species (SG No 73 from 2003).

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.

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> No emergency situation emerged.

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

Please explain the reasons

>>> No such project in place at present.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> No need for such re-establishments of species hence there is no need of such framework.

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)

No

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.

Yes

Please explain

>>> The guidelines is among the publication which have to be obligatory considered during development of the Multispecies AP for Colonial Breeding Waterbirds (covering *A. purpurea*, *A. ralloides*, *E. alba*, *E.garzetta*, *N. nycticorax*, *P. leucorodia*, *P. falcinellus*, *R. avosetta*, *G. pratincola*, *Ch. hybridus*, *Ch. niger*, *G.nilotica*, *S.*

hirundo, S. sandvicensis, S. albifrons, L. melanocephalus) assigned by the Ministry of Environment and Water.

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.

>>> Legislation:

1. Biological Diversity Act (SG No 77 from 2002, amended)
2. Regulation No 4 from 8.07.2003 on the terms and conditions for issuing permits for introduction of non-native or reintroduction of native animal and plant species into the nature. (SG No 65 from 2003).
3. Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species (into force since 1 January 2015) and related EU legislation.

The enforcing institutions are the Minister of Environment and Water and the Executive Forestry Agency

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> According to the National Biological Diversity Act (SG No 77 from 2002, amended) any introduction on non-native species could be executed only under permission from Director of the Executive Forestry Agency, for the hunting of species, and the Minister of Environment and Water for the others species including those, imported for breeding purposes. The Minister of Environment and Water has right to prohibit the introduction of non-native species which can be detrimental for the survival of the native species and can threaten their habitats.

The procedures of granting of permits for such introduction have been set under the provision of the Regulation No 4 from 8.07.2003 on the terms and conditions for issuing permits for introduction of non-native or reintroduction of native animal and plant species into the nature. (SG No 65 from 2003). .

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.

>>> Biological diversity Act.

The Regulation No 1 on the conditions on zoo licensing and the Regulation No 6 from 23 October 2003 minimum requirements and conditions for keeping animals in zoos and centers for breeding and reproduction of protected species (SG No 105 from 2003, amended) enforced by the Ministry of Environment and Water.

The enforcing institutions is the Minister of Environment and Water.

Legislation applies to entire country.

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)

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> No invasive species of waterbirds with established populations are recorded in Bulgaria.

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)

Not applicable

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

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

>>> The AEWA guidelines is not transposed in the national legislation. The management authority in such cases use the Regulation No 4 from 8.07.2003 on the terms and conditions for issuing permits for introduction of non-native or reintroduction of native animal and plant species into the nature. (SG No 65 from 2003). Also Bulgaria implements the REGULATION (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species.

4.6 Seabirds

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

Yes

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

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> No information

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

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> No information

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

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[IMPORTANT_SITES_IN_BULGARIA_For_AEWA_AP_T1.doc](#)

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

>>> No special publication exists. The presented sites are part of the National Protected Areas Network and incl. NATURA 2000 sites, Ramsar sites and Protected Areas sites with importance to the waterbird species.

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

Please explain the reasons

>>> The review is still underway

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.

No

Please explain the reasons. What has been used instead as a basis for the inventory?

>>> The network of wetlands of international importance had been identified under the provisions of Ramsar Convention. The network of sites of national importance are determined as Important Bird Areas (IBA) in Bulgaria (Kostadinova, I. and Gramatikov, M. (eds.), 2007 and part of them are protected areas designated under National Protected Areas Act. In most of the cases the sites designated for these different reasons are overlapping due to their true importance for the migratory bird species. The Natura 2000 sites are designated in the period 2002-2014 according to the EU Bird Directive. All designated sites are part of the national ecological network which includes Protected areas, Natura 2000 zones and the Ramsar sites.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> The presumptive negative effects on wetlands from

Climate change is expected to be as result of factors such as drought, changes in the quantity of and the distribution of precipitation, floods, and in less degree of temperature change itself. In general no specific scientific researches and published studies have been performed yet on the eventual future impact of the climate change over the biodiversity and protected areas (in particular wetlands) in Bulgaria.

For the national protected area network

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> The presumptive negative effects on wetlands from

Climate change is expected to be as result of factors such as drought, changes in the quantity of and the distribution of precipitation, floods, and in less degree of temperature change itself. In general no specific scientific researches and published studies have been performed yet on the eventual future impact of the climate change over the national protected area network.

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

>>> 11

Total area (ha)

>>> 49 912,43

Number of internationally important sites under national protection designation

>>> 11

Area of international importance under national protection designation (ha)

>>> 49 912,43

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

>>> 8

Area (in ha)

>>> 31123,93

All sites of national importance

Total number

>>> 110

Total area (ha)

>>> 2511933,57

Number of nationally important sites under national protection designation

>>> 33

Area of national importance under national protection area designation

>>> 19

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

Number of sites

>>> 26

Area (in ha)

>>> 34261,83

DESIGNATION GAP FILLING

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> All necessary areas are already designated taking into account the huge territorial coverage of the National Protected Areas Network. No special national strategy / action plan need. Also a final approach to the management of Natura 2000 protected sites has been approved, which envisages the establishment of new

structures for the management of the Natura 2000 network at national and regional level in Bulgaria and the introduction of the obligation to develop territorial plans for network management. In the territorial management plans will be included and the relevant specific conservation objectives and measures for all SPAs. The introduction of the new Natura 2000 management approach requires changes in the legislation and in that regard a procedure for amending and supplementing the Biological Diversity Act has been initiated. To date, the bill has been approved by the Council of Ministers and has been submitted for voting in the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria.

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

Please provide details

>>> Link to this publication is given in the Ministry of Environment and Water website as useful information in respect to management of NATURA 2000 sites.

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.

Yes

Please give examples of how you have used the CSN Tool

>>> For information

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))

No

Pressures and Responses

6. Management of Human Activities

6.1. 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))

Yes

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

Only some AEWA species occurring in your country

>>> The game waterfowl species that occur in the country from Table 1 are: Anser albifrons, Anas penelope, Anas crecca, Anas platyrhynchos, Anas acuta, Anas querquedula, Anas clypeata, Aythya fuligula, Galinago galinago.

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

The whole territory of your country

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

All forms of waterbird harvesting

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> The annual statistics on the results from the hunt is carried to by the by the Executive Forestry Agency which use web based reporting system according Art 91 of the Implementing Regulation to Hunting and Game Preservation Act for collecting data on the type, number and sex of the waterfowl species hunted during respective hunting seasons.

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))

Fully

When was lead shot use in wetlands banned?

>>> The Biological Diversity Act (SG No 77 from 2002, amended) ensures the prohibition of lead shot in the wetlands. The ban is in place since 1 June 2008. The prohibition is enforced by the Executive Forestry Board and covers all existing wetlands across the country.

What legislation is in place?

>>> The ban is introduced in Annex 5 'Prohibited methods and means of capture and killing and modes of transport' to National Biological diversity Act

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Biodiversity Act2018.pdf](#) - BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ACT

Who enforces this legislation?

>>> Both Ministry of Environment and Water and Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry,

Has assessment of compliance with the legislation been undertaken?

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?

Low

Please provide details

>>> Some injured birds annually are still received by the existing Rescue Centers created to save protected species. Some of them bear also gunshot wounds. Some of them are birds of prey, but also there are some injured waterfowl exist as geese, ducks and swans.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> The Bulgarian legislation provides administrative measures for reducing illegal killing and various offences against the protected and game species.

Biological Diversity Act (SG No 77 from 2002, amended) provides administrative fines for the following offences against the protected species:

1. all forms of deliberate capture or killing of specimens by whatever devices, means, or methods;
2. hunting and disturbance, particularly during the period of breeding, rearing, wintering and migration;
3. destruction or taking of eggs, even where abandoned; destruction of, damage to, or removal of nests;
4. damage to, or destruction of, breeding, resting or staging places;
5. taking of found dead specimens;
6. possession, keeping, movement, transport, export, trade and offering for sale or exchange of specimens taken in the wild;
7. stuffing, possession, exhibition to the public, movement, transport, export, trade and offering for sale or exchange of stuffed specimens.

Any licensed hunter who committed an offences listed above or using prohibited means and methods during hunting shall be punished with a respective fine and shall be divested of the right to hunt for a period of one to two years.

Where the violation has been committed in respect of an endangered species of world-wide or European-wide conservation concern, divesting of the right to hunt shall be for a period of three years.

If any of those is committed within special areas of conservation or affecting endangered species of animals of world-wide conservation concern, the fines provided shall be imposed double the amount.

The Hunting and Game Preservation Act (SG No 78 from 2000, amended) provides administrative fines for the following offences against the game species:

1. taking, carrying, transporting or concealment of game found live, wounded or killed or identifiable parts thereof without a written hunting permit;
2. killing or catching game without having a duly certified membership card or hunting licence, or with a hunting licence and duly certified membership card, but without a hunting permit, or outside the date, locality, game quantity or species limit specified by this permit;
3. killing or catching game during the time of prohibited hunting or at a location prohibited for hunting or by prohibited means or methods;
4. hunting without a duly certified hunting licence or with a hunting licence but without a written hunting permit or hunts outside the localities specified in this permit, without having killed or caught game.
5. killing or poisoning of game has taken place as a consequence of applying toxic preparations.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Hunting_and_Game_Preservation_Act2019.pdf](#) - HUNTING AND GAME PRESERVATION ACT

[Biodiversity_Act2018.pdf](#) - BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ACT

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

>>> Right of hunting have only hunters which passed a specialised training cours organised according the requirements set into Third chapter of Rules of Implementation to Hunting and Game Preservation Act and and successfully passed relevant exams.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[ImplReg-to-HGPAAct2019.pdf](#) - RULES ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HUNTING AND GAME PRESERVATION ACT

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)

No

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

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[EPA_2021.pdf](#) - ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

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

Entire country

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[EPA_2021.pdf](#) - Environmental Protection Act

Please provide details

>>> The Strategic Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA/EIA) are obligatory for the entire country. The national legislation covering this field is the National Environment Protection Act (SG No 91 from 2002, amended).

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> According the Environment Protection Act (SG No 91 from 2002, amended) EIA is carried out for plans, programs and investment proposals for construction, activities and technologies or their changes, upon which implementation are possible significant impacts over environment (incl. wetlands).

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[EPA_2021.pdf](#) - ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

Do the SEA/EIA processes include public participation?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> All SEA/EIA are subject to public consideration before to be provided for final decision respectively to the Ministry of Environment and Water or Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Water. Before the approval the SEA/EIA have to be put under consideration by the respective Advisory boards of the mentioned institutions. These Advisory boards are composed from different representatives of respective public institutions, scientist and NGO.

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?

No

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> All projects related to construction of Wind Generators are subject to the procedures of SEA or EIA. Since 2009, all wind generators, including single ones planned to be constructed in Natura 2000 sites, are subject to mandatory EIA/AA. The attention is paid to the location of each individual turbine and where appropriate, their arrangement is changed, which is reflected in the EIA/AA decision. The change in the legislation allowed repealing of several decisions for construction of wind power generators, and some of them lost its legal effect.

The most important measure taken for reduction of the wind farms impact was introduced by National Action Plan on Renewable Energy. The plan prohibits the construction of wind farms in the Important Birds Areas covered Natura 2000, protected sites under Natura 2000 as well as in neighboring areas, forming practically buffer zones around them.

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

Please provide details

>>> Link to this publication is given in the Ministry of Environment and Water website as useful information in respect to management of NATURA 2000 sites.

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?

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.

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Link to this publication is given in the Ministry of Environment and Water website as useful information in respect to management of NATURA 2000 sites.

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?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> A project named 'Mapping and determination of the conservation status of the habitats and species - Phase I. financed by the Operational Programme Environment 2007 - 2013 (OPE) of the EU European Regional Development Fund, Cohesion Fund has produced a Zoning map of the territory of Bulgaria in terms of opportunities for construction of wind turbines - Map of sensitive areas for birds. The results are published on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Water in 2013.

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

Please describe which guidelines, recommendations and criteria have been followed.

>>> Bern Convention: Wind farms and birds: an updated analysis of the effects of wind farms on birds, and best practice guidance on integrated planning and impact assessment;

Ramsar Convention: Resolution X.17 Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment: updated scientific and technical guidance

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

Yes

Please share information and lessons learnt from the post-construction monitoring.

>>> There is regular post-construction monitoring is carried out in the area of Kaliakra due to its location on the migratory flight way Via Pontica.

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

Please provide details

>>> Since spring 2018, an Early Warning System (EWS) has been set up and operates in the Kaliakra area (112 wind generators), where bird mortality risk studies are carried out as a result of the risk of collision with wind generators and the effect of this application is monitored.

EWS consists of three specialized high-tech radars: Bird Scan MS1, Deltatrack Radar System and Radar Robin having different features, and in a combination ensure efficient radar coverage and monitoring. Another key

component is the Meteorological data: wind speed and direction, visibility and barometric conditions. The third main section is the Experienced Field Ornithologists team presented by a Senior field ornithologist (SFO) and the field Ornithologists. The EWS is supported by the wind farms operational staff.

Radar (please note that EWS uses a very powerful tool of 3 different radar systems) offers unique possibilities to analyse bird movement on large special scales and on system wide level, increasing our ability to understand general movement patterns and making predictions for the future (Kelly & Horton, 2016).

Nocturnal bird migration over Europe is dominated by small passerines (Bloch et al. 1981, Rabenold 1993).

The ornithologist team can order the operator to stop turbines during the daytime. The operational staff of the windfarms works 24h. In case of observed birds' collision risk movements during night-time, the duty personnel can stop turbines. One of the windfarms is automatically stopped 24/7 by the site radar software.

The average altitude of nocturnal bird migration is between 500 and 600 meters above the ground level being above the zone of collision risk with the existing turbines in Kaliakra SPA, confirmed by the collected radar data relative to Kaliakra SPA. In addition to this scientifically based approach, the long-term monitoring of Saint Nikola wind farm over the last 10 years does not indicate bird collisions of nocturnal migrants with a conservation value.

The operator of the EWS has a binding agreement in case a wind farm is not following the shutdown orders to notify the Ministry of Environment and (MOEW) which have the authority to impose the measures for suspension.

The efficiency of EWS is evaluated in accordance with the above main targets in frequent intervals of time and is based on broad statistically representative data analyses. Follows the methodology developed in the United States (Morrison 1998) for monitoring bird collision with the turbines and will apply to all Wind Farms included or joined to IEWS; Independent third party experienced field ornithologist's team presented by the senior field ornithologist and the field ornithologists; Periodically performs assessment of the effectiveness of the search for victims of collision to determine the actual mortality; Annual assessment of the efficiency at the Population Level defined as the ratio of collision birds of the species concerned and the number of the population of that species for a given migration period passing through territory.

The observations, including assessments of efficiency, are reported weekly, monthly, seasonally and annually at the EWS website <https://kaliakrabirdmonitoring.eu>.

If the EWS is proven to be ineffective, the Minister order stipulates that the wind farms should follow the suspension orders issued by the Minister of Environment and Water.

These methodologies are described in the seasonal and annual reports of the EWS being made public at EWS website <https://kaliakrabirdmonitoring.eu>. The Technical Rules for the operation of the EWS are compliant with the Ministry instruction for setting EWSs and have been provided to MOEW.

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

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)

No Information

When and how do you intend to fill this information gap?

>>> The problem should be considered during the elaboration on amendment Act to the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act (SG No 41 from 2001, amended).

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

No monitoring schemes in place

Covering the passage period

No monitoring schemes in place

Covering the non-breeding/wintering period

Fully [Guidance: Coverage is full when all internationally and nationally important non-breeding/wintering sites are covered at least by one comprehensive annual count.]

Please provide details.

>>> Bulgaria participate in the annual International Waterbird Census (IWC) carried in January and co-ordinated by of Wetlands International. IWC is an integrate part of the National biodiversity monitoring system.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> The Bulgarian National biodiversity monitoring system is administrate by the Executive Environmental Agency of the Ministry of Environment and Water.

This system is a comprehensive mechanism for long-term study and summary of the changes in the biodiversity of Republic of Bulgaria. This is possible on the one hand through concerted and long-term monitoring of the biodiversity components, accompanied by collection, processing, storage and data transmission, and through system of assessment and analysis of impacts on the biodiversity, its status as well as the measures taken to prevent its loss on the other hand. The National biodiversity monitoring system is an essential tool to help in making management decisions related to the biodiversity conservation in Bulgaria at national level, at the same time it serves the information needs of the widest possible range of users.

Due to the complexity and scope of tasks, the scarcity (and lack in some cases) of scientific data on some areas and components of the biological diversity, as well as the insufficient administrative and financial capacity, the National biodiversity monitoring system is developed in accordance with "growth model". This means that the National biodiversity monitoring system is a flexible system that can expand and change over time - for example by adding or excluding monitoring objects, as well as analysis at later stages with the aim to adjust the priorities of the system.

The main objective of the National biodiversity monitoring system is to provide information that is necessary for effective national environmental policy.

The specific objectives of the National biodiversity monitoring system are:

1. Systematic monitoring of the biodiversity components and the processes affecting its status, using a scientifically reliable and practical methods for collecting and processing data.
2. Assessment and analysis of: the biodiversity state; the influence of the anthropogenic factors on its components; the measures taken to prevent its loss.
3. Implementation of national legislation and national strategic documents, the country's obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international treaties.
4. Early warning about processes and trends leading to damage and extinction of species and habitats.
5. Provision of information about the biodiversity state that are suitable for use by the general public.

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

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

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of funds.

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

Please provide details

>>> The International Waterfowl Census (IWC) as part of a national biodiversity monitoring system has targeted funding through the annual budget of the Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Water (RIEW), National Parks (NP) and Executive Environment Agency (EEA). The RIEW and NP provide experts and vehicle to support the teams formed mostly by scientists and birdwatchers from the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Researches at the Bulgarian Academy of Science and NGOs involved.

Internationally

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> No allocated funds.

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

Please explain the reason

>>> No allocated funds.

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

Yes

Please provide details; provide a reference or attach a file, if available

>>> The determination of pre-nuptial migration for the AEWA-listed species in Bulgaria has been part of the work with the European Commission for preparation of Key Concepts Document under EU Bird Directive.

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.

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> No administrative capacity.

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

Please explain the reasons

>>> No administrative capacity.

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)

No

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

Please explain the reasons

>>> Restricted budget.

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

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.

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> The implementation of AEWA is part of the overall bird protection policy and monitoring mechanisms which is coordinated by the Ministry of Environment and Water.

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)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> No allocated funds and low administrative capacity.

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

>>> Almost all officers in Biodiversity division, in the Ministry of Environments and Water are engaged to work in this field but in different extend.

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))

No

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> New National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan are expected to be finished in 2021.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> No allocated funds.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> No allocated funds

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

Please explain the reasons

>>> No allocated funds

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

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of administrative capacity and allocated funds.

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

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of administrative capacity and allocated funds

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

No relevant activities

Please explain the reasons

>>> Low administrative capacity and no allocated funds.

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

No relevant activities

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

No relevant activities

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

No relevant activities

Please explain the reasons

>>> The possible measures concerning adaptation on to the Climate Change are subject for consideration during the elaboration of the National Single Species Action Plans.

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.

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The guidelines is among the publication which have to be obligatory considered during development of the Multispecies AP for Colonial Breeding Waterbirds (covering *A. purpurea*, *A. ralloides*, *E. alba*, *E.garzetta*, *N. nycticorax*, *P. leucorodia*, *P. falcinellus*, *R. avosetta*, *G. pratincola*, *Ch. hybridus*, *Ch. niger*, *G.nilotica*, *S. hirundo*, *S. sandvicensis*, *S. albifrons*, *L. melanocephalus*) assigned by the Ministry of Environment and Water.

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

>>> The last case was reported to AEWA during the previous reporting cycle. It happened in the second half of March 2015 there was a case of Avian Influenza in the Dalmatian Pelican colony located in Srebarna Maintained Reserve. Till the end of April 2015 a number of 36 pelicans have died due to decease. In the same time 78 chicks were hatched in the colony and after the end of April no more died birds have been discovered. In this time this area was put under quarantine by the Bulgaria Veterinarian Authority. Since then there were no additional recorded cases.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> The Veterinary Authorities in Bulgaria have responded to any possible treat form Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza according to the existing veterinarian procedures.

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

>>> 13 April 2021