



## **Report on the implementation of AEW A 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 AEW A Annex 3 (Action Plan), the AEW A 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 AEW A-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 AEW A National Reports 2018-2020 were compiled and submitted through the AEW A 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/AEW A Secretariat.

# 1. General Information

## Name of reporting Contracting Party

>>> Hungary

## Date of entry into force of AEWA in the Contracting Party

>>> 01.03.2003

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

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

>>> No reservation entered by the Hungary itself. However, all EU reservations entered by the European Commission on behalf of the European Union could be apply to Hungary as well, although all affected populations are fully protected in Hungary.

The species:

Anser fabalis fabalis (Bean Goose, Taiga Bean Goose)

- North-east Europe/North-west Europe

(Hungary is not a Range State)

Clangula hyemalis (Long-tailed Duck)

- Iceland & Greenland (bre)6 1b

- Western Siberia/North Europe (bre)

Melanitta fusca (Velvet Scoter)

- Western Siberia & Northern Europe/NW Europe

Mergus serrator (Red-breasted Merganser)

- North-west & Central Europe (win)

## 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

>>> Biodiversity and Gene Conservation Department, Ministry of Agriculture

Name and title of the head of institution

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Mailing address - Street and number

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### Designated National Focal Point (NFP) for AEWA matters

Name and title of the NFP

>>> Pending

Affiliation (institution, department)

>>> Biodiversity and Gene Conservation Department , Ministry of Agriculture

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

Name and title of the TC NFP

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Affiliation (institution, department)

>>> Natura 2000 Unit, Department for Nature Conservation, Ministry of Agriculture

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

Name and title of the CEPA NFP

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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.

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

## **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.

>>> Mrs. Zsófia Szepesiné Kókány Ministry of Agriculture/Animal Health and Coordination Unit

# 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

**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.

[Hungary\\_Q3\\_AEWA\\_NR\\_2018-2020\\_PopCoIA\\_fin.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.

[Hungary\\_Q4\\_AEWA\\_NR\\_2018-2020\\_PopCoIA-Cat2\\_3\\_4\\_fin.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.

[Hungary\\_Q5\\_AEWA\\_NR\\_2018-2020\\_PopColB\\_fin.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

>>> Act No. 55 of 1996 on conservation of game, game management and hunting

Limes

Yes, fully

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

>>> Act No. 55 of 1996 on conservation of game, game management and hunting

Hooks

Yes, fully

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

>>> Act No. 55 of 1996 on conservation of game, game management and hunting

Live birds which are blind or mutilated used as decoys

Yes, fully

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

>>> Act No. 55 of 1996 on conservation of game, game management and hunting

Tape recorders and other electronic devices

Yes, fully

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

>>> Act No. 55 of 1996 on conservation of game, game management and hunting

Electrocuting devices

Yes, fully

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

>>> Act No. 55 of 1996 on conservation of game, game management and hunting

Artificial light sources

Yes, fully

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

>>> Act No. 55 of 1996 on conservation of game, game management and hunting

Mirrors and other dazzling devices

Yes, fully

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

>>> Act No. 55 of 1996 on conservation of game, game management and hunting

Devices for illuminating targets

Yes, fully

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

>>> Act No. 55 of 1996 on conservation of game, game management and hunting

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

>>> Act No. 55 of 1996 on conservation of game, game management and hunting

Explosives

Yes, fully

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

>>> Act No. 55 of 1996 on conservation of game, game management and hunting

Nets

Yes, fully

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

>>> Act No. 55 of 1996 on conservation of game, game management and hunting

Traps

Yes, fully

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

>>> Act No. 55 of 1996 on conservation of game, game management and hunting

Poison

Yes, fully

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

>>> Act No. 55 of 1996 on conservation of game, game management and hunting

Poisoned or anaesthetic baits

Yes, fully

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

>>> Act No. 55 of 1996 on conservation of game, game management and hunting

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

>>> Act No. 55 of 1996 on conservation of game, game management and hunting

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

>>> Act No. 55 of 1996 on conservation of game, game management and hunting

Other non-selective modes of taking

No

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



>>> There are no non-selective modes listed in Act No. 55 of 1996 other than the ones listed here. However, in the same legislation the following (selective) prohibited modes of taking are listed: arrow with a poisoned or explosive arrowhead, crossbow, usage of mufflers.

**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))

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Although there has been no formal review, domestic legislations (Act. No 53 of 1996 and Act. No 55 of 1996) comply with the obligations under the paragraphs above.

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.

>>> Our national nature conservation and hunting regulations are fully in line with these AEWA Guidelines.

**Optionally you can provide additional information on section 4.1. Legal Measures**

>>> The teal (*Anas crecca*) and goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) became fully protected species since 01.10.2012. At the same time, the greylag goose is huntable again. (Open season from 01.10. - 12. 31., daily bag limit 2 specimens)

Therefore currently only four wildfowl species (*Anser fabalis* - non-native, *Anser albifrons* - non-native, *Anser anser* - native, and *Anas platyrhynchos* - non-native) and the coot (*Fulica atra* - native) are huntable.

No change since 2012.

**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.

>>> The plan was approved and published in 2013

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

Anser erythropus

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

Full implementation - all actions are underway as per the time schedule of the plan

Please provide details and reasons for the full implementation.

>>> Please see link above.

### **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.

>>> The action plan produced by the Ministry of Agriculture in 2019

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

AYTHYA NYROCA

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

Full implementation - all actions are underway as per the time schedule of the plan

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

No NP, but actions implemented

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

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> The great snipe is a spring and autumn visitor in very small numbers, therefore specific NP is not required. However all management of this species and its habitats are fully in line with the requirement of ISSAP.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> Wetland (e.g. marsh) restorations throughout the country.

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

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> The black-winged pratincole is a very rare breeding bird in Hungary therefore specific NP is not required. However all management of this species and its habitats are fully in line with therequirement of ISSAP.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> Local restrictions on agricultural management in Collared Pratincole breeding sites during the breedingseason (when Black-winged Pratincoles occur or even breed, they are almost always associated with CollaredPratincoles)

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

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> No capacity so far, but the planned multispecies wader action plan of the European Union will cover this gap to some degree in the near future.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> Wetland (e.g. marsh) restorations throughout the country. Most actual and potential breeding sites are protected and part of the Natura 2000 network.

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

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

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> Unfortunately, the species became extinct in 1960s. Since then the white-headed duck is a visitor only extremely rarely, therefore species specific NP is not required. However all management of this species and its habitats are fully in line with the requirement of ISSAP.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> Wetland (e.g. marsh) restorations throughout the country.

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

NP in development

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

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))

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**

### **Hungary** **Common Pochard / *Aythya ferina*** **National Single Species Action Plan for Common Pochard / *Aythya ferina***

NSSAP in place and being implemented

Please provide details

>>> 2019

## **White Stork / *Ciconia ciconia***

### **National Single Species Action Plan for White Stork / *Ciconia ciconia***

NSSAP in place and being implemented

## **Kentish Plover / *Charadrius alexandrinus***

### **National Single Species Action Plan for Kentish Plover / *Charadrius alexandrinus***

NSSAP in place and being implemented

#### **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

Please provide details

>>> The AEWA Conservation Guidelines has been used partly for the preparation of the NSSAP but Hungary developed a unified structure for the NSSAP including the professional content since 2017.

### **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

>>> Because no emergency situation has occurred in Hungary.

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

>>> None of the above listed emergency situations occurred, however, the unusually arid periods in the first months of the years 2019 and 2020, followed by excess precipitation, resulted in dramatic downfall of nesting pairs of egrets and herons, especially the strictly protected white egret (*Ardea alba*). 20-40% of the specimens of known colonies succeeded in breeding. National park staff reported on this sad phenomenon from all parts of the country with considerable reed fields (traditional nesting sites of *A. alba*). Inventory is in progress.

### **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 re-establishment has taken place since Hungary's accession to AEWA.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Article 14 (2) of the Act on nature conservation No. 53 of 1996: "... the re-establishment of any wild species requires permission from the nature conservation authority."

**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.

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> see answer for 15.

## 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.

>>> The government offices are the responsible authorities. Regarding the Act on nature conservation No. 53 of 1996. since 2015: The range of the non-native invasive species that pose threat to Hungary determined by the Minister who responsible for the nature conservation. Importing, transferring, exporting, keeping, propagating, cultivating, breeding, cross-breeding, releasing into nature, utilising and inspecting of a non-native invasive species' are regulated by the 1143/2014/EU regulation. Permits, inspection, obligation, sanctioning task of any other invasive species regulation are performed by authorities that concerned by alien species or by nature conservation authorities. No place for appeal.

**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.

>>> 3/2001 joint Decree No. 3 of February, 2001 of KöM-FVM-NKÖM-BM on the detailed rules of establishment, operation and maintenance of Zoos and establishment for care of animals. The rules are enforced by nature conservation authorities.

**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**

**Egyptian Goose / *Alopochen aegyptiaca***

**For Egyptian Goose / *Alopochen aegyptiaca***

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)**

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> EU funding has been and will be secured for local eradication of invasive species, and there have been such projects in the reporting period, but they did not concentrate on aquatic weeds, rather on riverside, semi-aquatic habitats etc. and they were not focussed on waterbird habitat conservation.

A positive example is a currently running project of Balaton-felvidéki National Park Directorate: KEHOP-4.1.0-15-2016-00050, aiming to improve the ecological state of Hévíz Lake, also by eradicating invasive species (botanical and zoological data collected by Doronicum Ltd.) in an artificial waterway, Hévíz channel, originating at a thermal lake and ending at the strictly protected wetland Kis-Balaton (Ramsar site). In the frame of the project, 14 invasive aquatic weed species were removed in 2020.

## **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?

>>> Article 9 (4) of the Act No. 53 of 1996 on nature conservation: "The introduction of any living organism that is new to the flora or fauna of the country can only be permitted if their establishment does not change natural processes harmfully to native species." No introduction of non-native waterbird species has been planned or is being planned in the triennium. The permitting procedure in the case of introduction of non-native species is the nature conservation authority (except in the case of huntable species, where it is the hunting authority).

### **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

>>> In 1998 the MME (BirdLife Hungary) published a book titled Important Bird Areas in Hungary, which analyses the situation of wild birds in Hungary and focuses on the major conservation issues affecting birds and their habitats. New research carried out by BirdLife Hungary and its Partners suggest 43 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) for conserving a wide range of biodiversity.

- The Proposed Special Protection Areas of Birds and their Habitats in Hungary, published by MME in 2002, identifies the proposed national network of Special protection Areas (SPAs) for the Birds Directive Annex I species and the migratory birds, where birds and their habitats have to be maintained in a good conservation status.

SPAs were designated by the Government in October 2004. In 2007, the European Commission launched an infringement procedure against Hungary for insufficient designation of the SPA network. The Commission's arguments practically did not concern waterbirds, the focus was on raptors and other terrestrial species. Hungary replied to the Commission's arguments and in 2010, designated further sites (SPAs), after which the European Commission closed the infringement procedure, which means the network can be considered complete (including for waterbirds).

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

Please provide details

>>> The SPA network was identified in line with guidance from the European Commission and the provisions of the Birds Directive. Nationally protected areas were also designated much before the guidelines were approved.

### 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

>>> Lack of capacity.

**For the national protected area network**

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> Lack of capacity.

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

#### All sites of international importance

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

Total number

>>> 26

Total area (ha)

>>> 481618.9

Number of internationally important sites under national protection designation

>>> 26

Area of international importance under national protection designation (ha)

>>> 481648.8

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

>>> 14

Area (in ha)

>>> 180465.2

Please rate the effectiveness of the management measures

Moderate

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

>>> 0

Area (in ha)

>>> 0

#### All sites of national importance

Total number

>>> 20

Total area (ha)

>>> 378175.3

Number of nationally important sites under national protection designation

>>> 20

Area of national importance under national protection area designation

>>> 378175.3

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

Number of sites

>>> 10



Area (in ha)

>>> 232874

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

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Designation of nationally and internationally important sites includes the buffer zones of wetland habitats.

### **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)

>>> There is no outstanding example of management planning or implementation.

DESIGNATION GAP FILLING

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> All internationally and nationally important sites are designated.

MANAGEMENT GAP FILING

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> All internationally and nationally important sites are designated.

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, partially

Please provide details and reasons for partial integration

>>> The network of nationally and internationally important sites for waterbirds are taken into consideration during the river basin management planning, for example, but not every aspect is identified fully in line with nature conservation.

### **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

>>> The main elements of the guidelines have been incorporated into the management practice of the national park directorates responsible for the management of these 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.

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> The network of SPAs was elaborated based on the advice of MME/BirdLife Hungary and the data of the Hungarian national park directorates, as well as guidance from the European Commission and the criteria of the Birds Directive.

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

### **Optionally you can provide additional information on section 5.2. Conservation of Areas and Habitats**

>>> Internationally important sites (Special Protection Areas that overlap with Ramsar sites which are of international importance for waterbirds):

Balaton, Balatoni-berkek, Kis-Balaton, Bodrogzug - Kopasz-hegy - Taktaköz, Borsodi-sík, Béda-Karapancsa, Gemenc, Pacsmagi-tavak, Sárvíz völgye, Tatai Öreg-tó, Velencei-tó és Dinnyési-fertő, Fertő, Hortobágy, Kis-Sárrét, Alsó-Tisza-völgy, Csongrád-bokrosi Sóstó, Felső-kiskunsági szikes puszták és turjánvidék, Gátéri Fehér-tó, Izsáki Kolon-tó, Kiskunsági szikes tavak és az őrzégi turjánvidék, Ócsa (not an SPA, but an SAC and is nationally protected), Ipoly völgye, Hanság, Felső-Tisza, Cserebökényi-puszták, Tisza Alpár-Bokrosi ártéri öblözete

Nationally important sites (Special Protection Areas designated for waterbirds but not Ramsar sites plus 5 nationally important areas outside the SPA network)

SPAs:

Mórichelyi-halastavak, Hevesi-sík, Kesznyéten, Belső-Somogy, Nyugat-Dráva, Jászkarajenői puszták, Zámolyi medence, Szigetköz, Bihar, Jászság, Közép-Tisza, Szatmár-Bereg, Dévaványai-sík, Kígyósi-pusztá, Vásárhelyi és Csanádi-puszták

Plus 5 nationally important areas:

Pellérdi-halastavak, Sumonyi-halastavak, Baláta-tó TT, Sárosfői-halastavak TT, Tiszavasvári Fehér-szik TT

Sites with management plans in place:

Balatoni berkek, Kis-Balaton, Pacsmagi-tavak, Velencei-tó és Dinnyési-fertő, Fertő, Kis-Sárrét, Felső-kiskunsági szikes puszták és turjánvidék, Gátéri Fehér-tó, Izsáki Kolon-tó, Kiskunsági szikes tavak és az őrzégi turjánvidék, Cserebökényi-puszták, Tisza Alpár-bokrosi ártéri öblözete, Borsodi-sík, Hanság, Szigetköz, Kesznyéten, Bihar, Tiszavasvári fehér-szik

# 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

>>> Act No. 55 of 1996 on game protection, game management and hunting complies with the principle of sustainable use of waterbirds.

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)

All AEWA species occurring in your country

>>> Act No. 55 of 1996 on game protection, game management and hunting contained the obligation to establish the national game management database. This has been fulfilled and the Magyar Agrár- és Élettudományi Egyetem (MATE) is responsible for maintaining the database. All hunters have the obligation to yearly report the number of individuals /game species hunted on their hunting territory.

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

The whole territory of your country

>>> Yes, the whole territory means the territory of Hungary.

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

All forms of waterbird harvesting

>>> There is established system for the collection of harvest data for all harvesting activities.

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?

>>> June, 2005 Ministerial Decree No. 56/2005 (VI.25.) FVM, amending the implementation decree of the Act on game protection, game management and hunting, has been adopted. In compliance with the regulation the use of leadshot is forbidden by force of law at wetlands from 15th August, 2005.

What legislation is in place?

>>> Ministerial Decree No. 56/2005 (VI.25.) FVM, amending the No. 79/2004 (V.3) FVM

Who enforces this legislation?

>>> The rules are enforced by hunting authorities.

Has assessment of compliance with the legislation been undertaken?

No

If appropriate, please explain the reasons for not doing this.

>>> There has been no capacity for such an assessment.

Has measurement of impact of the legislation been undertaken i.e. where there was a problem of lead poisoning in waterbirds, has this been reduced?

No

If appropriate, please explain the reasons for not doing this.

>>> No lead poisoning in waterbirds has come to light.

**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?

High

Please provide details

>>> On the basis of Act No. 55 of 1996 on game protection, game management and hunting, in the case of small game hunting (including wildfowl) by foreign hunters, the hunting organisations are obliged to inform the regional nature conservation authority in advance about the time and location of the hunting in order to secure the nature conservation inspectors to check the legality of the hunting.

**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))**

No

**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

**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

Optional [Please upload links or examples]

>>> The best practice above is incorporated in the Hungarian legislation on hunting. Bird identification tests have been recently supplied with sufficient photo material.

**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 system of no or reduced waterfowl hunting zones (core areas) is incorporated in the Hungarian legislation on hunting. The harvest data system is fully in line with AEWA guidelines.

## **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

>>> Ecotourism activities organized by national park directorates are included in the national tourism strategy. One of the ecotourism services provided by park staff is birdwatching tours, often at wetlands.

**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

>>> Ecotourism opportunities provided by the national park directorates and private businesses for birdwatching tours and programmes to migratory waterbird hotspots.

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

Medium

Please provide details

>>> One of the reasons ecotourism is carried out at all is that it is incorporated in the national legislation on nature conservation (Act No. 53 of 1996) as one of the duties of national parks to demonstrate natural values and to educate visitors. When practised correctly, visitors can explore natural habitats under control (therefore develop interest and responsibility by gaining knowledge and experience). However, human presence always means some form of disturbance, thus tourism activities should always be thoroughly planned and controlled to be sustainable.

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

If appropriate, please provide further details.

>>> Although currently no restrictions on use of lead fishing weights, there are bans on angling in several important areas for migratory waterbirds.

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

>>> Overall regulation of environmental protection is ensured by the Act No. 53 of 1995. 314/2005 Governmental Decree lays down the detailed rules on Environmental Impact Assessment in Hungary.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Certain activities (which may negatively affect migratory waterbird species as well) are subject to obligatory detailed EIA, like the construction of motorways, highways, railways, public roads longer than 10 km, 220 kV power lines longer than 15 km. Other activities, like redistribution of land property (in case of protected areas, ecological corridors or lands larger than 300 hectares), alteration of intensive agricultural land-use, meliorization, establishment of animal husbandry facilities in certain cases, construction of 120 kV power lines and 2 MW wind turbine.

Do the SEA/EIA processes include public participation?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The public is involved in line with the EIA Directive of the EU.

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

>>> EIA is obligatory for projects reaching threshold levels in nationally protected areas as well as in Natura 2000 sites

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

Please provide information on the outstanding cases

>>> SEA/EIA are obligatory for certain projects in line with EU regulations, but there has been no project proposal in the reporting period that would have seriously affected waterbirds or their habitats.

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

Please explain why not

>>> SEA/EIA are obligatory for certain projects in line with EU regulations, but there has been no project proposal in the reporting period that would have seriously affected waterbirds or their habitats.

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))

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> Records on EIAs carried out are not collected nationally but at county level.

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

>>> The relevant EU legislation includes the main elements of the AEWA guidelines, and as an EU member state, Hungary applies EU legislation.

## **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?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The relevant stakeholders are consulted annually in the frame of the Accessible Sky programme (national scheme for the bird-friendly conversion of the power line system in Hungary), running since 2008.

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 most cases, the five-year period is far too long for the developers who have strong lobbying power. Shorter timeframes are available for baseline surveys.

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.

>>> Most of the important waterbird sites are Special Protection Areas under the EU Birds Directive, where Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive applies, and thus risks have to be avoided and mitigated.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Protected areas, SPAs etc are considered by the authorities under legislation when deciding about consenting to a new power line.

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.

Yes

Please provide details.

>>> No power line construction in important waterbird habitats is known to have taken place in the reporting period.

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?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> In the frame of the Accessible Sky programme, bird-safe designs are jointly planned by conservationists and electric engineers.

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?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> In the frame of the Accessible Sky programme, a number of priority power lines have been retrofitted (e.g. marked) from EU co-financing. Some power lines are presently buried underground or will be buried in the near future.

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

Please provide details.

>>> In the frame of the Accessible Sky programme, a number of priority power lines have been retrofitted (e.g. marked) from EU co-financing. Some power lines are presently buried underground or will be buried in the near future.

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

Partial

Please provide details.

>>> There is no capacity for regular monitoring, but campaigns

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?

Partial

Please provide details.

>>> The effectiveness of some mitigation measures are checked on an irregular basis by national park staff

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

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

>>> It is not included in the National Biodiversity Strategy, however, it is included in the National Nature Conservation Master Plan.

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

>>> The guidelines have been incorporated in the implementation of the Accessible Sky programme.

## **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 national sensitivity and zoning map of protected areas, Natura 2000 network etc. was produced in 2007 for wind farms.

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.

>>> Guidance document on Wind Energy Developments and Natura 2000 by the European Commission.

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.

>>> Post-construction monitoring is usually prescribed in permits, but results are not known to have been published.

Has adverse effect on migratory waterbirds and their habitats been identified?

No

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

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> The regulation provides for avoidance and mitigation of damage, but no such case occurred in the reporting period.

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

>>> By placing wind farms outside SPAs

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.

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Data collection on the effects of wind turbines on waterbirds has not been carried out due to lack of capacity.



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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Wind farms are known to be conflicting with terrestrial birds in Hungary, such as raptors or Great Bustard, but their effect on waterbirds has not been studied due to lack of capacity.

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?

No

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

>>> Lack of capacity

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?

No

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

>>> It is not included in the National Biodiversity Strategy, however, it is included in the National Nature Conservation Master Plan.

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.

No

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

>>> EU guidance is used.

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)

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> Hungary is a landlocked country, so marine fishing is not relevant. However, angling has a negative effect on especially mute swans (*Cygnus olor*), as several specimens get injured regularly by getting entangled in lines and/or swallowing hooks. It is a consistently occurring problem; unless getting help, the specimens weaken and eventually die of either starvation or infections.

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)

No

## 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))

>>> Monitoring schemes are in place but there is no capacity to cover each wetland. At most of the wetlands, all AEWA species are covered. Monitoring is carried out by national park staff, NGO's and volunteers.

#### Covering the passage period

Partially

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

>>> Monitoring schemes are in place but there is no capacity to cover each wetland. At most of the wetlands, all AEWA species are covered. Monitoring is carried out by national park staff, NGO's and volunteers.

#### Covering the non-breeding/wintering period

Partially

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

>>> In Hungary there is a monitoring program for waterfowl, called "Hungarian Waterfowl Censuses". Monitoring is carried out 8 months a year (from August to April) aiming to detect the dynamics of breeding birds and migratory birds and carrying out synchronic censuses on Ramsar and important migratory sites. In the frame of this program 51 species are monitored. The program covers the most important wetlands, fishponds and lakes in Hungary, 23 main areas in total. Almost all of them are Ramsar sites and these are internationally and nationally important non-breeding/wintering sites.

There is also a goose census carried out in November to record all of the goose species, native and migratory, present in the country. Key species are Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*) and Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*).

Is information on drivers of population trends also being collected?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The national waterfowl monitoring program includes protected and strictly protected waterbird species. It is carried out by national park directorates and other participants 8 month a year aiming to detect the dynamics of breeding and migratory birds and carrying out synchronic censuses on Ramsar and other important migratory sites, monitoring of the effectiveness of nature conservation programs, monitoring nature conservation activities.

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)

Yes

Which country(ies) were supported?

>>> Austria (see details below)

Please provide details

>>> Cooperation took place between Fertő-Hanság National Park (Hungary) and Austrian project partners in the frame of two Interreg projects: Vogelwarte/Madárvárta 1 (2013-2015) and Vogelwarte/Madárvárta 2 (2016-2020). During these years 676 specimens of *Anser anser* got banded (177 in 2018-2020), out of which 33 (12) specimens were equipped with GPS trackers. Numerous recoveries and data from the trackers provided

remarkable amount of information on the ecology, migration routes, stepping stones, breeding, spatial distribution of the species. Tagging took place at Ramsar sites close to the Austrian-Hungarian border in both countries. Hungarian staff aided their Austrian colleagues with bands (colour rings), training on catching and banding geese, and with human resources (Hungarian teams carrying out the field work). During the second project, between 2016-2019, 6375 specimens of 44 waterbird species (including shorebirds) were banded.

**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

Please provide details

>>> The monitoring system is fully in line with the AEWA Guidelines for a waterbird monitoring protocol.

**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

>>> National waterfowl monitoring carried out 8 months a year (August through April) was financed by the Ministry of Agriculture.

**Internationally**

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of financial resources.

**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

>>> Lack of financial resources.

**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

Please provide reason(s)

>>> Lack of financial resources.

# 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.

Yes, being implemented

Please describe the awareness programmes which have been developed. Please upload any relevant sample materials which have been developed and add contact details of a contact person for each programme.

>>> Awareness-raising is a long-practised activity in the country:

its elements are partly in the acts on the media, on public education, on environmental protection and nature conservation, in concepts on public health, family policy and youth policy and are applied in connection with our accession to international conventions (Aarhus Convention) on the access to information.

CEPA was incorporated into some sectoral policies (e.g. National Environmental Programme, Vásárhelyi plan, National River Basin Management Plan under the Water Framework Directive) aiming at raising awareness of natural values and services and integrating their protection.

“Forest school network”: educational institutions that provide nature conservation training and education.

Visitor centres operate in the territory of each national park directorate.

No special support for biodiversity awareness raising but the theme is included into environmental education programmes and activities supported by the government and local governments and main organisers are visitor centres of national parks, NGOs, schools.

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

No

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)

Yes

Is the National CEPA Focal Point from the government or non-governmental sector?

Government

Has the AEWA CEPA Focal Point begun coordinating national implementation of the AEWA Communication Strategy?

No

Please explain reasons

>>> Lack of capacity

How can the cooperation between the appointed AEWA CEPA Focal Point and the Ramsar CEPA Focal Points be described?

There is very close cooperation

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

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of capacity.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of capacity.

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)

Yes

Has this funding or support been on the national or international level?

Please provide details in the corresponding box below

National Level Funding and Support

>>> EU co-financing sources have been allocated for the support of, for example, the establishment of visitor centres (including at wetlands), nature trails, educational programs.

# 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

>>> Lack of capacity

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

Please explain the reasons

>>> In 2014, Russia contacted with Hungary - inter alia - on the conservation of wildfowl populations and on the possible ratification of the Agreement. Hungary gave some detailed information on this issue to Russia. Unfortunately, no any further interest

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

>>> National coordination takes place for numerous things covered by AEWA (for example drafting of legislation on waterbird hunting) even though this coordination is not taking place specifically for AEWA.

Are priority capacity gaps addressed by the coordination mechanism?

No

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

High

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

>>> Hungary has four transboundary Ramsar sites: Lake Fertő/Neusiedl with Austria, Ipoly/Ipel, Baradla Cave system and Upper Tisza Ramsar sites with Slovakia (see site descriptions at: <http://www.ramsar.org/sites-countries/the-ramsar-sites> The transboundary Mura-Dráva-Duna Biosphere Reserve was established with Croatia in 2013.

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

>>> Biodiversity and Gene Conservation Department is responsible for both AEWA and CBD.

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 NBSAP contains, for example, among its goal "15.1 Protection of surface and sub-surface waters on land, pursuant to the Water Directive Framework.", "15.3 Preventing the deterioration of the state of surface and sub-surface waters so that the communities of creatures living in waters and land creatures depending on water can adequately react to external loads.", and "By 2020, creating healthy water ecosystems that can offer adequate services for the system, biodiversity, and well-being."

92.2 Other strategic plans and policies

Yes

Please name the other strategic planning processes

>>> National Nature Conservation Master Plan (An annex of the National Environmental Programme).

Please provide details

>>> Among a number of other tasks laid down by the "National Nature Conservation Master Plan", the following "main line of actions" specifically refers to AEWA: Implementation of the tasks defined in the species protection plans approved by the AEWA in relation to Hungary and preservation of major water world habitats. Continuation of the ban on the use of lead shuts in wet habitats."

Sustainable Development Goals

No

Aichi Targets

No

Strategic Plan for Migratory Species

No

**94. How would your country suggest promoting further links between the biodiversity MEAs to which your country is a Contracting Party, so as to make your work more efficient and effective?**

>>> Increased harmonisation of reporting obligations would help our work.

**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

>>> Lack of funding opportunities.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of funding opportunities.

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

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of capacity.

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

>>> Lack of financing.

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 capacity.

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 capacity.

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?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> GEF funding has been used for a wetland restoration project by the Danube-Drava NP Directorate, in the early 2000s, but no other project is known since then.



## 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

>>> Lack of capacity

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)

No relevant activities

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

Planned

Please provide details

>>> The 2nd National Climate Change Strategy identifies among the short-term actions that climate change vulnerability analyses should be carried out for the most important habitat types and their key species.

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

>>> The 2nd National Climate Change Strategy identifies among the short-term actions that the water retaining ability of wetlands should be restored and possibly water supply opportunities should be elaborated. Water reservoirs along the Tisza River should be operated taking into consideration ecological aspects. Climate change vulnerability analyses should be carried out for the most important habitat types and their key species.

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

>>> Lack of capacity

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

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

>>> Lack of capacity

## **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

>>> Challenges as regards control of HPAI are mostly practical and logistical (eg. the density of the poultry population and the fact, that although we have enhanced the surveillance system in wild birds, we couldn't find many dead wild birds).

List required further guidance or information

>>> From the animal health point of view, the online reporting system of the EU and the OIE represent a sufficient and detailed database. No further guidance or information is required.

## **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**

>>> 28.06.2018.