



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

>>> ITALY

Date of entry into force of AEWA in the Contracting Party

>>> 01.09.2006

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.

>>> Reservation has been done for recently listed species by AEWA and that are part of Bird Directive in the category Hunttable species; reservation includes the Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*), the Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*), the Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*), the Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*), the Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), the Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), the Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*), the Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) and the Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*).

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 for the Ecological transition - Directorate-general for Nature Heritage

Name and title of the head of institution

>>> General Director Mr Antonio Maturani

Mailing address - Street and number

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Designated National Focal Point (NFP) for AEWA matters

Name and title of the NFP

>>> Marco Valentini

Affiliation (institution, department)

>>> Directorate general for Natural Heritage

Mailing address - Street and number

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E-mail

>>> Valentini.marco@minambiente.it

Website

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

Name and title of the TC NFP

>>> Mr Alessandro Andreotti

Affiliation (institution, department)

>>> Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA)

Mailing address - Street and number

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>>> alessandro.andreotti@isprambiente.it

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>>> <http://www.isprambiente.gov.it>

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.

>>> The report has been prepared by the Italian Focal Point Mr. Marco Valentini (Directorate-generale of Natural Heritage with the collaboration of Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) under coordination of Mr. Alessandro Andreotti and with collaboration of Mr. Simone Pirrello

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

>>> In Italy, Common Pochard and Lapwing are still listed among those species that can be hunted according to the national law 157/1992, art. 18. Notwithstanding, the Italian Ministry for the Environment formally requested Regional Administrations to protect Common Pochard and Lapwing when issuing their annual hunting regulations. The protection of both species has been assured on most part of the nation.

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

Please explain the reasons

>>> In Italy, it is not necessary to apply different measures for different populations of the same species.

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.

[Italy_Q3_AEWA_NR_2018-2020_PopCoIA_\(2\).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.

[Italy_Q4_AEWA_NR_2018-2020_PopCoIA-Cat2_3_4_\(1\).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.

[Italy_Q5_AEWA_NR_2018-2020_PopColB \(1\).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

>>> Law 157/1992, art. 21

Limes

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law 157/1992, art. 21

Hooks

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law 157/1992, art. 13

Live birds which are blind or mutilated used as decoys

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law 157/1992, art. 21

Tape recorders and other electronic devices

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law 157/1992, art. 21

Electrocuting devices

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law 157/1992, art. 13

Artificial light sources

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Not explicitly mentioned in existing law

Mirrors and other dazzling devices

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Not explicitly mentioned in existing law

Devices for illuminating targets

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Not explicitly mentioned in existing law

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Night shooting is not allowed. The hunting day starts one hour before sunrise and ends at sunset

Explosives

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law 157/1992, art. 13

Nets

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law 157/1992, art. 21

Traps

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law 157/1992, art. 21

Poison

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law 157/1992, art. 21

Poisoned or anaesthetic baits

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law 157/1992, art. 21

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

>>> Law 157/1992, art. 13

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

>>> Law 157/1992, art. 21

Other non-selective modes of taking

No

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

>>> None

Please explain the reasons

>>> List of prohibited taking methods is considered complete

If one or more non-selective modes of taking have not been prohibited, please explain the reasons

>>> List of prohibited taking methods is considered complete

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

Italy

Exemption for Greylag Goose / *Anser anser*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(a) To prevent serious damage to crops, water and fisheries

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

>>> 100

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

>>> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

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

>>> Bologna Administration

Time span of the exemption

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

>>> from 2018-10-01 to 2018-11-30

Year when the exemption was granted

>>> 2018

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

>>> shooting to kill to reinforce scaring

Exemption for Gadwall / *Mareca strepera*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

>>> 150

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

>>> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

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

>>> Toscana, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Puglia, Lombardia, Veneto

Time span of the exemption

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

>>> from 2018-01-01 to 2020-12-31

Year when the exemption was granted

>>> 2018-2020

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

>>> Research carried out by Università di Pisa with the aim to track individual movements by deploying GPS data loggers

Exemption for Mallard / *Anas platyrhynchos*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

>>> 138

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

>>> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

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

>>> Toscana, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Emilia Romagna, Lombardia, Veneto

Time span of the exemption

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

>>> from 2019-01-01 to 2020-12-31

Year when the exemption was granted

>>> 2019-2020

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

>>> This species has been considered in two studies, one of the University of Pisa and one of ISPRA in collaboration with IZSve, both having the purpose of studying movements of individuals by deploying GPS data loggers.

Exemption for Northern Pintail / *Anas acuta*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

>>> 124

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

>>> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

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

>>> Friuli Venezia Giulia, Puglia, Lombardia, Veneto, Toscana

Time span of the exemption

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

>>> from 2018-01-01 to 2020-12-31

Year when the exemption was granted

>>> 2018-2020

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

>>> This species has been considered in two studies, one of the University of Pisa and one of ISPRA, both having the purpose of studying movements of individuals by deploying GPS data loggers.

Exemption for Common Teal / *Anas crecca*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

>>> 50

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

>>> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

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

>>> Friuli Venezia Giulia, Puglia, Lombardia, Veneto, Toscana

Time span of the exemption

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

>>> from 2018-01-01 to 2019-12-31

Year when the exemption was granted

>>> 2018-2019

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

>>> Research carried out by Università di Pisa to deploy GPS data loggers

Exemption for Corncrake / *Crex crex*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

>>> 25

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

>>> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

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

>>> Friuli Venezia Giulia

Time span of the exemption

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

>>> from 2019-05-01 to 2019-07-15

Year when the exemption was granted

>>> 2019

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

>>> Research carried out by Università di Udine with the aim to track individual movements by deploying PTTs, Argos, and GPS loggers

Exemption for Common Coot / *Fulica atra*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

>>> 80

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

>>> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

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

>>> Friuli Venezia Giulia and Toscana

Time span of the exemption

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

>>> from 2019-07-01 to 2020-12-31

Year when the exemption was granted

>>> 2019-2020

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

>>> Research carried out by Università di Pisa with the aim to track individual movements by deploying tracking devices. Once the logger was applied, individuals were kept in captivity up to 24h to verify individual response to the device.

Exemption for White Stork / *Ciconia ciconia*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

>>> 40

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

>>> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

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

>>> Sicilia

Time span of the exemption

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

>>> from 2019-01-01 to 2020-12-31

Year when the exemption was granted

>>> 2019-2020

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

>>> Research carried out by Università di Catania and Università di Pisa

Exemption for Eurasian Spoonbill / *Platalea leucorodia*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

>>> 200

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

>>> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

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

>>> Emilia Romagna

Time span of the exemption

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

>>> from 1 April to 31 July

Year when the exemption was granted

>>> 2019-2020

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

>>> Research carried out by ISPRA, Università di Pavia, and IUCN-SSC Spoonbill Research Group

Exemption for Glossy Ibis / Plegadis falcinellus

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

>>> 30

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

>>> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

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

>>> Emilia Romagna

Time span of the exemption

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

>>> from 1 May to 31 July

Year when the exemption was granted

>>> 2019

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

>>> Research carried out by ISPRA

Exemption for Purple Heron / Ardea purpurea

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

>>> 30

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

>>> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

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

>>> Lombardia

Time span of the exemption

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

>>> from 1 May to 30 June

Year when the exemption was granted

>>> 2018-2020

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

>>> Research carried out by Università di Pavia

Exemption for Great Cormorant / *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(a) To prevent serious damage to crops, water and fisheries

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

>>> 9894

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

>>> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

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

>>> Municipalities of Bologna and Torino, Parco Po Delta Emilia Romagna, Liguria, Lombardia, Toscana, and provinces of Bolzano, Trento, Sud Sardegna, Belluno, Cagliari, Cuneo, Modena, Oristano, Sassari, Treviso, Vercelli

Time span of the exemption

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

>>> from 1 January to 15 March and from 1 October to 31 December

Year when the exemption was granted

>>> 2018-2020

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

>>> shooting to kill to reinforce scaring

Exemption for Eurasian Oystercatcher / *Haematopus ostralegus*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

>>> 50

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

>>> 10

Territorial coverage of the exemption

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

>>> Veneto

Time span of the exemption

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

>>> from 2018-08-21 to 2020-12-31

Year when the exemption was granted

>>> 2018-2020

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

>>> Research carried out by Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia

Exemption for Pied Avocet / *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

>>> 50

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

>>> 10

Territorial coverage of the exemption

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

>>> Veneto

Time span of the exemption

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

>>> from 2018-08-21 to 2020-12-31

Year when the exemption was granted

>>> 2018-2020

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

>>> Research carried out by Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia

Exemption for Eurasian Dotterel / Eudromias morinellus

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

>>> 80

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

>>> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

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

>>> Veneto, Provincia Autonoma di Trento

Time span of the exemption

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

>>> from 15 August to 15 September

Year when the exemption was granted

>>> 2019

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

>>> Research carried out by Max Planck Institut fur Ornithologie and Muse

Exemption for Common Ringed Plover / Charadrius hiaticula

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

>>> 60

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

>>> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

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

>>> Toscana

Time span of the exemption

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

>>> from 2018-01-01 to 2020-12-31

Year when the exemption was granted

>>> 2018-2020

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

>>> Research carried out by Università di Pisa, Dipartimento di Biologia, with the aim to tracking individual movements by deploying VHF data loggers

Exemption for Kentish Plover / *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

>>> 12

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

>>> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

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

>>> Veneto

Time span of the exemption

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

>>> from 2018-08-21 to 2020-12-31

Year when the exemption was granted

>>> 2018-2020

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

>>> Research carried out by Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia

Exemption for Curlew Sandpiper / *Calidris ferruginea*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

>>> 45

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

>>> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

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

>>> Toscana

Time span of the exemption

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

>>> from 2018-01-01 to 2020-12-31

Year when the exemption was granted

>>> 2018-2020

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

>>> Research carried out by Università di Pisa, Dipartimento di Biologia, with the aim to tracking individual movements by deploying VHF data loggers

Exemption for Dunlin / *Calidris alpina*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

>>> 60

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

>>> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

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

>>> Toscana

Time span of the exemption

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

>>> from 2018-01-01 to 2020-12-31

Year when the exemption was granted

>>> 2018-2020

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

>>> Research carried out by Università di Pisa, Dipartimento di Biologia, with the aim to tracking individual movements by deploying VHF data loggers

Exemption for Eurasian Woodcock / *Scolopax rusticola*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

>>> 211

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

>>> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

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

>>> Calabria, Campania, Emilia Romagna, Liguria, Molise, Puglia, Sicilia, Municipality of Torino and province of Forlì-Cesena

Time span of the exemption

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

>>> from 1 January to 15 April and from 1 October to 31 December

Year when the exemption was granted

>>> 2018-2020

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

>>> Researches carried out by Università di Padova and Università di Milano with the aim of tracking individual movements by deploying GSM and Argos devices

Exemption for Common Snipe / *Gallinago gallinago*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

>>> 90

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

>>> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

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

>>> Lombardia, Toscana, Calabria

Time span of the exemption

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

>>> from 2018-10-01 to 2020-12-31

Year when the exemption was granted

>>> 2018-2020

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

>>> Research carried out by Università di Pisa with the aim to track individual movements by deploying tracking devices. Once the logger was applied, individuals were kept in captivity up to 24h to verify individual response to the device.

Exemption for Wood Sandpiper / *Tringa glareola*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

>>> 60

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

>>> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

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

>>> Toscana

Time span of the exemption

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

>>> from 2018-01-01 to 2020-12-31

Year when the exemption was granted

>>> 2018-2020

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

>>> Research carried out by Università di Pisa with the aim to track individual movements by deploying VHF devices.

Exemption for Slender-billed Gull / *Larus genei*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

>>> 50

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

>>> 10

Territorial coverage of the exemption

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

>>> Veneto

Time span of the exemption

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

>>> from 2018-08-21 to 2020-12-31

Year when the exemption was granted

>>> 2018-2020

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

>>> Research carried out by Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia

Exemption for Mediterranean Gull / *Larus melanocephalus*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

>>> 50

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

>>> 10

Territorial coverage of the exemption

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

>>> Veneto

Time span of the exemption

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

>>> from 2018-08-21 to 2020-12-31

Year when the exemption was granted

>>> 2018-2020

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

>>> Research carried out by Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia

Exemption for Yellow-legged Gull / *Larus michahellis*

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

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

>>> 535

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

>>> 1390

Territorial coverage of the exemption

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

>>> Toscana, Lazio, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Emilia Romagna, Basilicata, Calabria

Time span of the exemption

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

>>> from 2018-01-01 to 2020-12-31

Year when the exemption was granted

>>> 2018-2020

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

>>> There is an ongoing control plan to remove nests and eggs from the roof of the houses in order to remedy citizens' complaints. Various Universities are carrying out studies with the aim of monitoring individual movements through the use of GPS loggers.

Exemption for Common Gull-billed Tern / *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

>>> 85

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

>>> 10

Territorial coverage of the exemption

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

>>> Veneto, Sardegna

Time span of the exemption

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

>>> from 2018-08-21 to 2020-12-31

Year when the exemption was granted

>>> 2018-2020

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

>>> Researches carried out by ISPRA and by Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia

Exemption for Common Tern / *Sterna hirundo*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

>>> 30

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

>>> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

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

>>> Emilia Romagna

Time span of the exemption

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

>>> from 1 May to 31 July

Year when the exemption was granted

>>> 2019

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

>>> Research carried out by ISPRA and Istituto Ornitologico di Zagabria (Croatia)

Exemption for Sandwich Tern / *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

>>> 50

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

>>> 10

Territorial coverage of the exemption

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

>>> Veneto

Time span of the exemption

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

>>> from 2018-08-21 to 2020-12-31

Year when the exemption was granted

>>> 2018-2020

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

>>> Research carried out by Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia

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

>>> A process to boost the enforcement and compliance with the domestic legislation relevant for AEWA implementation is ongoing in the framework of the National Action Plan to tackle IKB. The National Action Plan was formally approved in 2017 and is currently being implemented.

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.

No

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

>>> Italian Legislation is in accordance with the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC

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

Ferruginous Duck / *Aythya nyroca*

National Plan for Ferruginous Duck / *Aythya nyroca*

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

Please explain the reasons for the lack of implementation. When was the plan approved and published?

Please provide a web link or attach a file, if available.

>>> The plan was published in 2007. The plan was only partially implemented because it is not legally binding.

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

[National Action Plan for the Ferruginous Duck](#)

Corncrake / *Crex crex*

National Plan for Corncrake / *Crex crex*

No NP and no action implemented

Great Snipe / *Gallinago media*

National Plan for Great Snipe / *Gallinago media*

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> Not relevant in Italy

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

>>> Tiny breeding population is granted with protection and local management measures

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> Incentive for keeping water level suitable for this species in rice fields in Piedmont

Eurasian Curlew / *Numenius arquata*
National Plan for Eurasian Curlew / *Numenius arquata*

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> Eurasian curlew has a limited wintering population

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

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> Species is considered extinct; some reintroduction projects failed for the time being

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

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> Nesting colonies are surveilled and surveyed, with a good percentage in Protected areas

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

Please explain the reasons.

>>> Species action plans are not a priority for the Ministry of the Ecological Transition

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)

No

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

>>> In Italy two SSAP have been drafted before the adoption of the AEWA Guidelines (for the following species: *Larus audouinii* and *Numenius tenuirostris*) and two thereafter (for the following species: *Marmaronetta angustirostris* and *Aythya nyroca*).

For the preparation of these latest SSAPs, we followed the criteria reported in the AEWA Guidelines to: 1) identify the species of major concern, 2) produce a status report as a background document for each species, 3) define the required actions. We did not follow the proposed format, in order to maintain the same editorial format of the previous SSAPs.

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.

Emergency situation has occurred

Please provide information on each emergency situation which occurred

Botulism

Indicate when the emergency situation took place

>>> September - October 2019

Indicate where the emergency situation took place (including geographical coordinates)

>>> Valle Mandriole - Po Delta Park (lon 12.225 - lat 44.536)

Indicate which species were affected by the emergency situation and the estimated magnitude of the impact

Northern Shoveler / *Spatula clypeata*

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

< 10%

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

< 10%

Gadwall / *Mareca strepera*

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

< 10%

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

< 10%

Mallard / *Anas platyrhynchos*

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

< 10%

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

< 10%

Common Teal / *Anas crecca*

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

< 10%

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

< 10%

Common Moorhen / *Gallinula chloropus*

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

< 10%

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

< 10%

Common Coot / *Fulica atra*

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

< 10%

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

< 10%

Pied Avocet / *Recurvirostra avosetta*

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

< 10%

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

< 10%

Common Snipe / *Gallinago gallinago*

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

< 10%

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

< 10%

Spotted Redshank / *Tringa erythropus*

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

< 10%

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

< 10%

If a waterbird site has been affected, indicate area of habitat impacted (in hectares)

>>> 260

Have emergency response measures been implemented?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> A daily input of 65000 squared meters of water have been introduced in Valle Mandriole from the neighbor Reno river for 9 consecutive days. Moreover, hunting has been interrupted for almost 1 month in order to

avoid exchange of waterbirds with nearby wetlands.

Field for additional information (optionally, you can provide additional information on the emergency case)
>>> More than 2100 individuals were found dead

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.

No

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

>>> In Italy some task forces are involved in facing emergency situations not only for birds. Many NGOs, stakeholders, Regional Administrations, along with ISPRA and Ministry of Environment cooperate in order to identify and tackle emergency situations for different animal species, including migratory waterbirds.

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 formal register is maintained, but ISPRA hosts documentation on re-establishment programs carried on in Italy.

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

Partial

Please provide details

>>> Any project for the re-establishment of species listed in the Annex IV of the Habitats Directive must be authorised by Regional Administrations (Decree no 357/97, Art. 12). Authorization are not requested for the re-establishment of birds (Decree no 102/2019).

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

Yes

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

Marbled Teal / Marmaronetta angustirostris

Projects for Marbled Teal / Marmaronetta angustirostris

Re-establishment plan developed and being implemented

Please provide information on the time frame and the objectives of the project. Please provide a web link or attach a file, if available. Please provide contact details of any person or organisation coordinating its implementation. Please list any activities and/or achievements over the past triennium.

>>> In recent times, the first nesting pair of Marbled Duck was recorded in wester Sicily in 2000. Since then, the species has regularly bred with a very small number of pairs (1-2 in Sardinia and 1-3 in Sicily in the last years). A national Action Plan was published in 2007. A re-inforcement/re-establishment project was launched in 2019, in the framework of the LIFE project Marbled Duck PSSO. The project aims at accelerating the natural process of colonization of the Marbled Duck in Sicily through the release of captive-bred individuals coming from Valencia (Spain). The first release is foreseen in spring 2021.

The organization coordinating the project is the German Foundation STIFTUNG PRO ARTENVIELFALT (Foundation Pro Biodiversity).

Contact person: Carlo Cappuzzello carlo.cappuzzello@spa-it.org

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

<http://>

[LIFE PSSO](#) - Re-establishment project of the Marbled Duck in Sicily

Has your country informed the AEWA Secretariat in advance of this re-establishment project? (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.

No

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

>>> In Italy the translocations of birds must follow national guidelines based on IUCN criteria.

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.

>>> Three decrees have been recently approved on this issue.

1_ Title of legislation: Decree no. 230/2017 - Adeguamento della normativa nazionale alle disposizioni del regolamento (UE) n. 1143/2014 del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio del 22 ottobre 2014, recante disposizioni volte a prevenire e gestire l'introduzione e la diffusione delle specie esotiche invasive.

year of adoption: February 2018.

Institution that adopted it: Italian Government.

Institution that enforces it: Ministry of Environment and Ministry of the Interior.

The Decree is applied to the entire country, although penalties and prohibitions apply to exotic species of EU concern only.

2_ Title of legislation: Decree no. 102/2019 Regolamento recante ulteriori modifiche dell'articolo 12 del decreto del Presidente della Repubblica 8 settembre 1997, n. 357, concernente attuazione della direttiva 92/43/CEE relativa alla conservazione degli habitat naturali e seminaturali, nonché della flora e della fauna selvatiche. (19G00108).

year of adoption: July 2019.

Institution that adopted it: President of the Republic.

Institution that enforces it: Ministry of Environment and Regional Administrations.

The Decree regulates the release of species into the wild. The introduction of exotic species is prohibited, without prejudice to specified derogations.

3_ Title of legislation: Decree no. 2 aprile 2020. Criteri per la reintroduzione e il ripopolamento delle specie autoctone di cui all'allegato D del Decreto del Presidente della Repubblica 8 settembre 1997, n. 357 e per l'immissione di specie e di popolazioni non autoctone.

year of adoption: April 2020.

Institution that adopted it: Ministry of the Environment.

Institution that enforces it: Ministry of Environment; Regional Administrations, Parks, ISPRA.

The Decree provides guidelines for the release of species into the wild.

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.

>>> Title of legislation: Decree no. 230/2017 - Adeguamento della normativa nazionale alle disposizioni del regolamento (UE) n. 1143/2014 del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio del 22 ottobre 2014, recante disposizioni volte a prevenire e gestire l'introduzione e la diffusione delle specie esotiche invasive.

year of adoption: February 2018
Institution that adopted it: Italian Government
Institution that enforces it: Ministry of Environment and Ministry of the Interior
The Decree is applied to the entire country, although penalties and prohibitions apply to exotic species of EU concern only.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Italy implements Zoo Directive, and in this respect all specimens should be kept trying to avoid any accidental escape.

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

African Sacred Ibis / Threskiornis aethiopicus

For African Sacred Ibis / Threskiornis aethiopicus

Control or eradication programme developed, but not being implemented properly or at all

Please explain the reasons for the lack of implementation. When was the programme approved and published? Please provide a web link or attach a file, if available.

>>> In 2020, a management plan has been developed and the procedure for its approval is currently ongoing.

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

[Management plan of the African Sacred Ibis](#) - Management plan of the African Sacred Ibis (Threskiornis aethiopicus) updated to 2021-01-12

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

>>> Yes at local level. Life project Sos Tuscan Wetland aims to control IAS in Tuscany's wetlands, in order to restore threatened habitats.

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.

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The AEWA guidelines have not been formally adopted, but the principles are taken into account when evaluating translocation programs. Furthermore, national guidelines on introduced vertebrates (including birds) have been produced by the Ministry for the Environment. The guidelines include management priorities for all known introduced 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.

>>> Trainee sessions for the fishery industry have been planned in a document edited by the Ministry of Environment, Unioncamere, and ISPRA in 2017. These trainee sessions provide information to fishermen on

how to identify and record data on seabird by-catch.

When and how do you plan to fill these data gaps?

>>> The process is still ongoing and it is not yet foreseen a date for its conclusion

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

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> Trainee sessions for the fishery industry have been planned in a document edited by the Ministry of Environment, Unioncamere, and ISPRA in 2017. These trainee sessions provide information to fishermen on how to identify and record data on seabird by-catch.

When and how do you plan to do that?

>>> The process is still ongoing

32. Has your country undertaken steps towards the adoption/application of measures to reduce the incidental catch of seabirds and combat Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing practices in the Agreement Area? (Resolution 3.8)

Yes

Please provide short description of all actions

>>> Trainee sessions for the fishery industry have been planned in a document edited by the Ministry of Environment, Unioncamere, and ISPRA in 2017. These trainee sessions provide information to fishermen on how to identify and record data on seabird by-catch. This monitoring system, once implemented, should allow to introduce measures to reduce seabird by-catch.

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

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> No harvest is taking place for sea birds

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

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> No harvest is taking place for sea birds

When and how do you plan to do that?

>>> No harvest is taking place for sea birds

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

Yes

Have you prioritised them for action?

Yes

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

Not Applicable

Please explain the reasons.

>>> Italy is not a country bordering the North or Baltic Sea

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))

Partially

Please describe the progress

>>> Italy has identified a network of important wintering sites for those species/populations listed in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan.

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

Yes

Please confirm when this process was concluded and when the inventory was communicated to the AEWA Secretariat

>>> The inventory has been sent to AEWA Secretariat on 8 February 2021

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Sites of international importance were identified on the basis of IWC counts. Important stopover or nesting sites were not included in the inventory.

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 issue of the inventory of important habitats for species listed in Table 1 has been done considering the stepwise procedure described in the guidelines

Optionally, you can provide additional information on section 5.1. Habitat Inventories

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

<http://>

5.2. Conservation of Areas and Habitats

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

For one or more single sites

Yes

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

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

[Change We Care Project](#)

For the national protected area network

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> Being a cross-cutting issue this matter is assessed on a global approach

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)

>>> 302431

Number of internationally important sites under national protection designation

>>> 23

Area of international importance under national protection designation (ha)

>>> 244181

Please rate the effectiveness of the national protection designation

- High

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

>>> The effectiveness is high because the area that is not protected yet regards two large lakes in the North Italy where seabirds do not encounter significant threats

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

Number of sites

>>> 14

Area (in ha)

>>> 204250

Please rate the effectiveness of the management measures

- Moderate

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

>>> There are still some management plans to be issued and implemented

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

>>> 14

Area (in ha)

>>> 204250

Please rate the effectiveness of the climate resilience measures

- Moderate

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

>>> There are still some management plans to be issued and implemented

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> The total area of international important sites with a management plan is referred to the whole territory covered by the plan, especially SPA/SCI, that in many cases concern a larger area than wetlands.

All sites of national importance

Total number

>>> 145

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

>>> There are no provisions in our legislation that oblige to set buffer zones around waterbird sites.

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)

>>> see link below

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

[LIFE Lagoon Refresh](#)

DESIGNATION GAP FILLING

No

MANAGEMENT GAP FILING

No

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.

No

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

>>> The EU Directives (92/43 Habitat and 09/147 Birds) and the national relevant legislation (Decree 17 October 2007) already provide enough guidance that substantially fulfils the aims of the AEWA Guidelines

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

>>> In the past triennium we did not develop any activities that required the use of the CSN Tool.

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

>>> Currently, there are no information on the areas of protected sites of national importance, and on the areas covered by management plans.

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

>>> Law no. 157/92, art. 1, claims that hunting is allowed whether it will not contrast with conservation needs of wildlife.

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

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)

>>> Hunters must fill in a personal card at the end of the hunting day, marking the number of harvested birds for each species. The information required in the personal cards change in accordance with regional regulations (in some cases data are grouped for similar species, for example ducks, rails, etc.).

Pursuant to Decree of 9 November 2012, Regional Authorities have to collect and transmit bag data recorded on the hunting cards to the Ministry of Environment and ISPRA. However, controls of hunters are generally inadequate, and then the hunting bags obtained from the cards can be unreliable and underestimated.

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))

Partially

When was lead shot use in wetlands partially banned?

>>> Lead shot use has been partially banned since the 2008/09 hunting season.

What legislation is in place?

>>> Decree 17 October 2007, issued by the Ministry for the Environment.

Who enforces this legislation?

>>> The ban is enforced by District Police Corps and Carabinieri Forestali. However, the enforcement of the ban is problematic, because the detention of lead ammunition is still allowed inside the wetlands.

What proportion of the country's territory (or wetlands) is covered by the ban?

>>> Decree 17 October 2007 contemplates hunting limitations within SPAs, in particular, the ban of the use of lead shot inside wetlands and within 150 m from their shores.

The use of lead shot is still allowed in wetlands outside SPAs. The ban covers about 45% of the overall wetland surface.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> The European Commission approved a ban on the use of lead ammunition in wetlands that will come into force on February 15, 2023 (Commission Regulation (EU) 2021/57 of 25 January 2021). Therefore, also in Italy

lead ammunition will be totally banned in or around wetlands in two years.

Has assessment of compliance with the legislation been undertaken?

No

Please explain the reasons for not doing this

>>> Since the use of lead shot is still allowed in wetlands outside SPA, an assessment of the ban effectiveness is problematic.

The best way to assess the compliance with the legislation is to examine the shot embedded in bagged waterbirds. Notwithstanding, in Italy the finding of lead shot along with lead-free shot is not a proof of non-compliance. Birds could have been injured by lead shot outside SPA and then killed by lead-free ammunition. For these reasons, an assessment of compliance with the legislation has not been carried out yet.

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

>>> We do not have information on the incidence of lead poisoning before the introduction of the ban. Therefore, we can not assess the effect of the restriction on bird populations.

Field for additional information (optional)

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Andreotti et al 2018 - Economic assessment of bird mortality induced by Pb gunshot - STOTEN final.pdf](#) - Economic assessment of wild bird mortality induced by the use of lead gunshot in European wetlands

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

Yes

How would you rate the effectiveness of the measures?

Moderate

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

>>> The effectiveness of the measures is moderate because of the lack of adequate financial resources locally, that would allow to increase the surveillance on the ground.

Please provide details

>>> Surveillance for illegal taking is carried out by Carabinieri Forestali and District Police Corps. The penalties are listed in the Law no 157/92.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Italy is carrying out a series of activities in order to implement the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds. A national Action Plan on Illegal Killing of birds has been approved in 2017. A national steering committee has been established to coordinate all actors playing a role in tackling the IKB; local coordination units have been created in seven black-spots where illegal activities against birds are more intense. Some black-spots include wetlands important for waterbirds (Po Delta, Lesina and Varano Lakes, south-western Sicily).

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

Partially

Please provide details

>>> Some NGOs estimated the number of waterbirds illegally killed as a consequence of their campaigns on the ground to monitor illegal actions against waterbirds.

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

>>> Law no 157/92, art. 22, states that the hunting license is issued to the person who has passed a test which

includes questions on bird identification

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

Please explain the reasons

>>> Our legislation is not based on a best practices approach.

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.

No

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

>>> The Italian hunting law follows the prescriptions of the EU Birds Directive (no 2009/147/CE) and the "Guide to sustainable hunting under the Birds Directive" of the European Union.

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

>>> There are 7 National parks and 5 Regional parks with the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism (ECST) part II. Some of them include wetlands and therefore waterbird-related ecotourism is considered and implemented.

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

>>> There are many initiatives in the whole territory. All parks and National reserves including wetlands carried out ecotourism initiatives to promote and increase awareness of wetlands and waterbirds.

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

High

Please provide details

>>> Local NGOs and private societies promote the sustainable use of wetlands and their importance for waterbird communities to schools and other visitors.

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

High

Please provide details and the reasons for successful delivery

>>> There are both conservation and community benefits deriving from these initiatives.

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.

>>> There is no legislation in place on this issue for the time being

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> In the framework of the REACH Regulation, the European Commission has recently started an initiative to ban the use of lead fishing weights across the Union. Italy is supporting such initiative.

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

[ECHA restriction proposal on lead fishing weights](#)

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

>>> EIAs have been implemented with Law no 349/86, and Technical Standards for their issues have been introduced by DPCM 27/12/1988. During years, Italian legislation has evolved and changed accordingly to new UE Directives regarding SEA/EIA.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The Decree no 152/06 ratified the Directives 85/337/EEC (on Environmental Impact Assessment), and 01/42/EC (on the Assessment of the Effects of certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment). The Decree no 357/97, as modified and integrated by Decree 120/03, defined more constraints in the EIA procedures for plans and projects significantly affecting all Natura 2000 sites.

Do the SEA/EIA processes include public participation?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The Decree no 152/06, by which Italy ratified the Directives 85/337/EEC (on Environmental Impact Assessment), and 01/42/EC (on the Assessment of the Effects of certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment), contemplates the public participation. It provides for the involvement of public administrations and large public in collecting and assessing data useful to issue the SEA/EIA.

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

>>> When a developmental activity may be detrimental for sites included in the Natura2000 network, an assessment of the implication for the sites (VINCA procedure) must be issued, pursuing the art. 6 of DPR 12/03/2003, n. 120.

Please rank the effectiveness of these measures:

High

Please provide details and the reasons for the high effectiveness

>>> Overall, current legislation regarding SEA/EIA/VINCA is effective in controlling for adverse impacts of developmental activities on sites important for waterbirds.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Initiatives are carried out to improve the effectiveness of procedures, e.g., increasing the training of personnel in local administrations, improving risks evaluation and monitoring systems, raising awareness of the link between human health and environment.

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

>>> see link below

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

Projects requiring EIA

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?

Partially

Please describe the measures put in place

>>> SEA/EIA recommend to avoid (if possible) protected areas and other sites of importance in any project, but this suggestion is not always followed.

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.

>>> It is not necessary because any adverse impact of developmental activities on important sites for waterbirds are considered during the various steps that lead to the issue of SEA/EIA

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

>>> It is not relevant

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

>>> In all cases in which a developmental activity may produce adverse impacts on important sites for waterbirds, there have been measures taken in order to avoid, mitigate or compensate such negative effects.

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

>>> There are no cases

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

>>> see link below

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

Legislation SEA/EIA used in Italy

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

>>> In 2011, ISPRA published the guidelines on the development of linear infrastructures, dealing with the fragmentation of the territory deriving from the linear infrastructures address and best practices for the impacts prevention and reduction.

Since then, several joint initiatives have been promoted to monitor the impacts of power lines on birds and adopt mitigation measures.

Terna, Italy's primary transmission and dispatching operator responsible for maintaining high-voltage power lines, supported a monitoring program to assess the impact of a new power connector on migratory birds passing through the Strait of Messina. Monitoring activity was carried out for three years (2015-2018) by 12 ornithologists from Ornithologica (a no-profit organization) by means of visual observations and two radar devices.

In the framework of the LIFE Project LIFE Egyptian vulture, E-distribuzione, the main Italian company managing medium-voltage power lines, published specific guidelines to mitigate the risk of electrocution for birds. In the same project, E-distribution is securing power lines in south western Sicily (Mazara del Vallo), where a relevant number of wild storks died from electrocution.

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

[E-distribuzione guidelines to mitigate the risk of electrocution](#)

[Terna monitoring results](#)

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.

>>> SEA/EIA procedures normally require an ante-operam monitoring, as to acquire information on waterbird distribution, population sizes, migrations and movements

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?

Partially

Please provide details.

>>> Normally, mitigation measures are foreseen.

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

>>> The guidelines published by ISPRA on the development of linear infrastructures take into account for this issue. For example, it is recommended to build new power lines as far as possible from wetlands.

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.

>>> The guidelines published by ISPRA recommend to build new power lines as far as possible from wetlands.

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

>>> The guidelines published by ISPRA recommend the use of high voltage isolators designed to reduce the risk of electrocution. This isolators can be used in the new power infrastructures, but there is not a legal constraint.

However, all new medium-voltage power lines erected by E-distribuzione are now bird-safe designed (elicord

cables).

Among the mitigation measures to prevent collisions, are used dissuaders, that due to their size and the noise generated when touched by wind, render the power lines more easily perceived by birds in flight.

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

>>> Those sections of power lines causing high risk of injury/mortality of waterbirds have been identified by different LIFE and Regional projects.

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?

Partially

Please provide details.

>>> This is not always done because of the lack of funding.

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.

>>> The monitoring is at local scale and carried out within LIFE or Regional projects.

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 monitoring is at local scale and carried out within LIFE or Regional projects.

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?

>>> The main measures contained in Resolution 5.11 were already implemented by the relevant Italian legislation.

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

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

No

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

>>> The national guidelines have been published in 2008

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?

No

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

>>> There is not a zoning mapping aimed at finding the areas where the renewable energy developments could cause an adverse impact on migratory waterbirds. However, the Decree 17 October 2007 of the Ministry of the Environment states that is prohibited to construct new windfarms within the SPAs.

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?

No

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 included in the Environmental impact assessment process

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

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> In Italy, there is no study which highlighted the negative impacts of the renewable energy installations on migratory waterbirds.

66.5. Please indicate whether any of the following measures have been put in place to reduce the potential negative impact of terrestrial and marine windfarms on migratory waterbirds:

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> These provisions are not included in national legislation, but can be taken into account for specific Environmental impact assessment

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

>>> These provisions are not included in national legislation, but can be taken into account for specific Environmental impact assessment

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

>>> These provisions are not included in national legislation, but can be taken into account for specific Environmental impact assessment

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?

>>> This is not among national priorities, also taking into account the limited production of renewable energy from biofuel

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The main measures contained in Resolution 5.11 were implemented by the relevant Italian legislation.

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?

>>> In Italy, the SEA/EIA decisions also take into account for this issue.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> There are evidences that bycatch represents a threat for some waterbirds (in particular herons, cormorants and grebes), but quantitative data are not available.

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))

>>> Monitored breeding populations of: *Phalacrocorax carbo* 2011-2020, *Platalea leucorodia* 1989-2020, *Larus audouinii* 1997-2020, Ardeidae (northern Italy) 1981-2020, *Charadrius alexandrinus* 2010-2020, *Haematopus ostralegus* 1990-2020, *Phoenicopterus roseus* 1994-2020, *Gelochelidon nilotica* 2019-2020.

Is information on drivers of population trends also being collected?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> There are local information on this issue, mainly linked to conservation projects or in those sites where the monitoring of breeding populations occur regularly.

Covering the passage period

Partially

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

>>> Some sites are covered with monthly counts by qualified counters, within local projects. All species identified are counted.

Is information on drivers of population trends also being collected?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> There are local information on this issue, mainly linked to conservation projects or in those sites where the counting of passage populations occurs regularly.

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.

>>> Mid-winter bird counts (IWC) are regularly carried out in the Italian wetlands through a network of qualified counters, coordinated by ISPRA. A national database collects the data that are periodically processed. The last report at a national level has been published in 2014.

Is information on drivers of population trends also being collected?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Information on this issue are collected by conservation projects aiming at increasing the presence of the wintering populations in a certain site.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The IWC national database and other databases on breeding populations (i.e. *Charadrius alexandrinus*) hosted and managed by ISPRA allow the Ministry of Environment to provide information to stakeholders and decision-making at different levels. The IWC national database was recently used to identify sites of international importance for waterbirds.

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 funding

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.

No

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

>>> Monitoring protocols were set before the publication of the AEWA Guidelines. However the criteria that were used to establish the monitoring protocols are similar to those proposed by AEWA.

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 Ministry for the Environment is supporting ISPRA, the institution in charge of the national coordination of IWC counts.

Internationally

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of funding.

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 funding

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)

>>> No, this action is not among national priorities. The European Commission has recently started an initiative to ban the use of lead fishing weights across the Union, therefore this threat will be likely overcome.

Pressures and Responses

8. Education and Information

8.1. Communication, Education and Public Awareness

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

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

Other

Please explain

>>> No national campaign was promoted in order to inform the public opinion about AEWA. However, MiTE published on its website a detailed report that explains contents and provisions of the AEWA Agreement. Parks, local Administrations and NGOs are carrying out a vast array of educational and informative activities concerning wetlands and their birds. Initiatives have been undertaken also in the framework of the World Migratory Bird Day promoted by UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and CMS. Finally, many LIFE Projects are carrying out activities for raising awareness and understanding on waterbird conservation.

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

>>> As for other MEAs, we do not deem necessary to charge this task to specific person.

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

Yes

Please indicate which measures have been taken:

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> It was not necessary. Personnel of Parks, local Administrations, and NGOs already have fully expertise to convey information to citizen on the importance of wetlands and their birds.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> No training programmes and materials have been developed in the last triennium, but materials regarding the Illegal Killing of Birds have been produced in the previous triennium.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> No AEWA related information have been exchanged with other Parties, but an exchange of information regarded topics included in AEWA (e.g. contrasting Illegal killing of birds, as mentioned in the previous point)

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

Yes

How can the effectiveness of the measures be rated?

Moderate

Please provide details

>>> In the past triennium, the national monitoring of the Kentish plover population has been carried out, along with captures and markings with coloured rings and tracking devices. Many local NGOs have been involved in these activities and they promote awareness campaigns to inform citizen on the conservation concerns of this species.

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

Yes

Please describe the activity/activities briefly and upload any sample materials, links or photos available related to the activity/event.

>>> A total of 32 official events have been carried out in Italy in the past triennium during the WMBD (see links below).

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

[WMBD 2020 - Events in Italy](#)

[WMBD 2019 - Events in Italy](#)

[WMBD 2018 - Events in Italy](#)

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

>>> Italy has not so far provided any funding nor support because of the lack of the appropriate financial resources.

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

>>> Not yet carried out

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

>>> A proper strategy on this issue hasn't been developed.

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

>>> A coordination is guaranteed with Ministry of the Environment as competent national authority for most of the MEAs

Are priority capacity gaps addressed by the coordination mechanism?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> There are not relevant gaps to be fulfilled, as the National legislation and current monitoring framework is effective to comply with AEWA strategic plan

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

High

Please provide details and the reasons for the high effectiveness

>>> the ongoing activities put in place by the National coordination mechanism are effective to implement AEWA

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> It is not necessary in Italy

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, this is not among national priorities

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

>>> All officers dealing with MEAs are part of the process implementing CGD targets

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> All officers dealing with AEWA are part of the process implementing SDGs targets

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

Please provide details

>>> All officers dealing with AEWA are part of the process implementing and assessing SPMS deliveries

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

>>> As all actions dealing with species conservation

92.2 Other strategic plans and policies

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Only in NBSAP

Sustainable Development Goals

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Most SDG targets are already achieved by the National Legislation. Italian Government signed International Agreements that aimed at improving the life quality of the EC citizens.

Aichi Targets

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Most Aichi targets are already achieved by the National Legislation.

Strategic Plan for Migratory Species

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Most targets of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species are already achieved by the National Legislation.

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?

>>> We don't have any specific suggestions.

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 appropriate financial resources.

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 appropriate financial resources.

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

>>> In the previous triennium, a significant grant has been pledged by the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea to the CMS Secretariat in order to develop a European-African Atlas of Bird migration. This project will contribute to the development and concept of the global atlas of animal migration, foreseen in the PoW of CMS. The bird migration atlas will be largely - but not exclusively - based on data stored at the EURING Data Bank (ring-recoveries) and Movebank (full tracks gathered through different technologies). The analytical component will foresee a standard treatment of ring-recoveries and more detailed insights for those taxa featured by specially relevant datasets, in terms of spatio-temporal coverage. Most deliverables will be represented by web applications, with a synthesis offered also as a printed volume. Web tools will be designed in order to take into account different typologies of data from individually identified animals, which will offer analytical tools which will be easy to be adapted to other groups of taxa within the wider context of the CMS Family of conservation instruments.

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 funding

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

>>> Not among National priorities

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

>>> Not among National Priorities

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

>>> This was not the case in Italy

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

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

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

[Change We Care Project](#)

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

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of funding.

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

No relevant activities

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of funding.

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

No relevant activities

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of funding.

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 funding.

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.

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> Because of lack of appropriate financial resources, it was not possible to implement such AEWA Guidelines

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 early detection system in place is extremely weak. It is based on passive surveillance in waterfowl under the assumption that each H5 or H7 HPAI strain retains a high lethality rate in waterfowl also.

Moreover, avian flu is perceived as a problem for poultry or human health due its zoonotic potential. The possible demographic effect of HPAI on endangered waterfowl species is not taken into account and thus not even discussed at the level of Environmental or Veterinary Agencies.

The possible role of hunting and hunters in the spread of HPAI strains is neglected. However, artificial feeding in hunting estates increasing waterfowl densities and hunters back and forth movements from wetlands could increase dispersion risks and contamination.

By now the number of HPAI detected in wildlife are just the tip of an iceberg of an unknown size. By experience, when HPAI are detected, waterfowl populations are heavily infected.

List required further guidance or information

>>> The most important point would be to define the minimum number of suspect cases that should be reported in peace time according to the size and the distribution of waterfowl in each involved or at risk country, similarly to what has been done for ASF in wild boar. A number of duck to be routinely tested in order to give a target to the involved personnel; the number should result from coupling the natural mortality during the observation period and the probability to detect dead animals. The data could help in estimating the sensitivity of the detection system and thus to forecast how many positive animals are needed to detect the virus and thus to properly evaluate the epidemiological situation including the risk posed by HPAI in poultry and in conservation.

Detection system = $1 - (1 - \text{System sensitivity})^{\text{cases}}$

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

>>> 19.04.2021