



## **Report on the implementation of AEW A for the period 2018-2020**

The format for reports on the implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) for the period 2018-2020 was approved by the 7th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP7, 4-8 December 2018, Durban, South Africa) through Resolution 7.1 and modified by the Standing Committee at its 15th meeting (11-13 December 2019, Bristol, UK) as mandated by the MOP. This format has been compiled following the AEW A Annex 3 (Action Plan), the AEW A Strategic Plan 2019-2027 and resolutions of the MOP.

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

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

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

# 1. General Information

## **Name of reporting Contracting Party**

>>> Lebanon

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

>>> 01/12/2002

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

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

>>> None

## 2. Institutional Information

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

### Designated National AEWA Administrative Authority

Full name of the institution

>>> Ministry of Environment

Name and title of the head of institution

>>> Dimyanos Kattar, Minister of Environment

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

Name and title of the NFP

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Affiliation (institution, department)

>>> Ministry of Environment, Service of Natural Resources

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

Name and title of the TC NFP

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

Name and title of the CEPA NFP

>>> Nomination in process

## **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.

>>> Mr. Jeff Gerges, Environmental Specialist, Department of Ecosystems, Service of Natural Resources, Ministry of Environment.

# 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

>>> Due to lack of technical and financial resources.

**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

>>> Due to lack of technical and financial resources.

**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.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Lebanon\\_Q3\\_AEWA\\_NR\\_2018-2020\\_PopColA.xlsx](#)

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

#### **Guidance on responding to this question:**

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

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Lebanon\\_Q4\\_AEWA\\_NR\\_2018-2020\\_PopColA-Cat234.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.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Lebanon\\_Q5\\_AEWA\\_NR\\_2018-2020\\_PopColB.xlsx](#)

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

Yes, one or more modes of taking have been prohibited

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

Snares

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Lebanese hunting law number 580 dated 25/2/2004

Limes

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Lebanese hunting law number 580 dated 25/2/2004

Hooks

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Lebanese hunting law number 580 dated 25/2/2004

Live birds which are blind or mutilated used as decoys

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Lebanese hunting law number 580 dated 25/2/2004

Tape recorders and other electronic devices

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Lebanese hunting law number 580 dated 25/2/2004

Electrocuting devices

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Lebanese hunting law number 580 dated 25/2/2004

Artificial light sources

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Lebanese hunting law number 580 dated 25/2/2004

Mirrors and other dazzling devices

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Lebanese hunting law number 580 dated 25/2/2004

Devices for illuminating targets

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Lebanese hunting law number 580 dated 25/2/2004

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

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Lebanese hunting law number 580 dated 25/2/2004

Explosives

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Lebanese hunting law number 580 dated 25/2/2004

Nets

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Lebanese hunting law number 580 dated 25/2/2004

Traps

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Lebanese hunting law number 580 dated 25/2/2004

Poison

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Lebanese hunting law number 580 dated 25/2/2004

Poisoned or anaesthetic baits

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Lebanese hunting law number 580 dated 25/2/2004

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

>>> The Lebanese hunting law number 580 dated 25/2/2004

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

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Lebanese hunting law number 580 dated 25/2/2004

Other non-selective modes of taking

No

**7. Has your country granted exemptions from any of the above prohibitions in order to**

**accommodate livelihoods uses? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.2(b); AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 1.1)**

No

**8. Were any exemptions granted to the prohibitions required by paragraphs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 of the AEWA Action Plan? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.3; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 1.1)**

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

No

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Due to lack of technical and financial resources.

Was a review undertaken before MOP7?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Due to lack of technical and financial resources.

**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?

>>> The Lebanese hunting law and its implementation decisions issued regularly take into consideration in general the various measures stated in different international treaties including specifically AEWA. However, if specific legal measures will be taken for migratory waterbirds species, the AEWA guidelines will be used.

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

>>> Article 13 of the Lebanese Hunting Law (580/2004) states that scientific researchers are allowed to capture birds and animals and to take eggs for research purposes. For that, they should obtain a special license from the Ministry of Environment upon a request submitted to the National Center for Scientific Research.

Till now, no special license from the Ministry of Environment has been issued regarding capturing of birds and animals and taking of eggs by scientific researchers for research purposes.

**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**

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lebanon has not yet developed national plans for different species due to lack of technical and financial resources.

**Corncrake / Crex crex**

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

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lebanon has not yet developed national plans for different species due to lack of technical and financial resources.

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

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lebanon has not yet developed national plans for different species due to lack of technical and financial resources.

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

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lebanon has not yet developed national plans for different species due to lack of technical and financial resources.

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

Please explain the reasons

>>> Due to lack of technical and financial resources.

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.

>>> Due to lack of technical and financial resources.

**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.

No

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

>>> Lebanon has not yet developed national single species action plans due to lack of technical and financial resources.

**Optionally you can provide additional information on section 4.2. Single Species Action Plans**

>>> Lebanon National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) issued in 2016, has dedicated a specific

Priority Area on “Threatened Species” (Priority area 1) which includes the National target 1 “By 2030, the status of 75% of known flora and fauna species is identified and conservation actions are implemented on 50% of threatened species.

### 4.3 Emergency Measures

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

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

No emergency situation has occurred

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

No

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

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

No

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

>>> No emergency situations for migratory waterbirds occurred in Lebanon during the last 3 years, therefore there were no need to use the AEWA guidelines on identifying and tackling emergency situations for 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 re-establishment projects for migratory waterbirds were conducted in Lebanon, therefore no national register for such projects were made

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Article 4 of Lebanon hunting law (580/ 2004) allows the establishment of rearing centers for the purpose of raising wild animals and bird's species that are local or migrants especially globally threatened ones. These centers aim to increase the species number in order to release them back to the wild for the sake of biodiversity and environmental balance.

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

No

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

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

No

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

>>> No translocation of waterbirds for conservation purposes activities or projects were conducted in Lebanon, therefore there were no need to use the AEWA guidelines on the translocation of waterbirds for conservation

purposes

## 4.5 Introductions

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

Yes, and being enforced

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

>>> The Forest protection law No. 558 dated 24/7/1996, states in article 16 that the introduction of any non-native animals or birds into a protected forest is prohibited. The law is enforced by the Ministry of Agriculture. In the nature reserves declared by laws, it is prohibited to introduce any plant or animal from outside of the reserve including non-native species. The laws of nature reserves are enforced by the Ministry of Environment. The laws are as follows:

- Law no. 121 dated 9/3/1992 for the establishment of Horsh Ehden and Palm Islands Reserve.
- Law no. 532 dated 24/7/1996 for the establishment of Al-Shouf Cedars.
- Law no. 708 dated 5/11/1998 for the establishment of Tyre Coast.
- Law no. 11 dated 20/2/1999 for the establishment of Bentaël.
- Law no. 9 dated 20/2/1999 for the establishment of Tannourine Cedars Forest.
- Law no. 121 dated 23/7/2010 for the establishment of Wadi Al Houjair.
- Law no. 122 dated 29/7/2010 for the establishment of Mashaa Chnaniir.
- Decision no. 14/1 dated 6/10/1995 for the establishment of Karm Chbat.
- Law no. 10 dated 20/2/1999 for the establishment of Yammouni.
- Law no. 198 dated 18/11/2011 for the establishment of Kafra.
- Law no. 199 dated 18/11/2011 for the establishment of Ramya.
- Law no. 200 dated 18/11/2011 for the establishment of Debl.
- Law no. 201 dated 18/11/2011 for the establishment of Beit Leef.
- Law no. 257 dated 15/4/2014 for the establishment of Jaj Cedars.
- Law no. 170 dated 8/5/2020 for the establishment of Abbassiyeh coast nature reserve.
- Law no. 169 dated 8/5/2020 for the establishment of Al Nmayriyeh nature reserve.
- Law no. 202 dated 30/12/2020 for the establishment of Mount Hermon nature reserve.

In addition, Lebanon has ratified the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora through Law no. 233 dated 22/10/2012. Hence, the Ministry of Agriculture regulates the import and export of species through issuing of CITES permits.

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

Yes, and being enforced

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

>>> The law on " Animal Protection and Welfare" No. 47 dated 5/9/2017 sets the conditions and requirements of zoos and any other places responsible for captivating and keeping animals and birds. These conditions includes the requirements and measures that need to be applied for the establishment to avoid and prevent the escape of captive animals and birds. The law is enforced by the Ministry of Agriculture.

### **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)**

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> According to national ornithologists, there are no alien waterbird species in Lebanon

### **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

>>> No information is available concerning the presence of aquatic weeds and their impacts on migratory waterbirds.

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

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

No

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

>>> According to national ornithologists, there are no alien waterbird species in Lebanon, therefore the AEWA Guidelines on avoidance of introductions of non-native waterbird species was not used

## **Optionally you can provide additional information on section 4.5. Introductions**

>>> Lebanon National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) issued in 2016, has dedicated a specific Priority Area on "Invasive Alien Species " (Priority area 7) which includes the National target 11 "By 2030, effective measures are in place to control the introduction and diffusion of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) into the environment.

## **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.

>>> Due to lack of human, technical and financial resources

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

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> Due to lack of human, technical and financial resources

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

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> Due to lack of human, technical and financial resources

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)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Due to lack of human, technical and financial resources, however the regulation of fishing is under the mandate of the Ministry of Agriculture and the latter is controlling illegal and unregulated fishing in Lebanon and is taking necessary measures to prevent it and stop it.

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.

>>> Due to lack of human, technical and financial resources

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.

>>> Due to lack of human, technical and financial resources

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

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> Due to lack of human, technical and financial resources

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

Yes

Please provide details, including reference or attach a file, if available.

>>> Palm islands nature reserve

Tyre coast nature reserve

Abassiyeh coast nature reserve

Ras el chakaa ramsar site

Are AEWA seabirds and seabird sites adequately represented within existing oil spill response plans?

Yes

Please provide details, including references or attach a file, if available.

>>> The oil spill response plan takes into consideration all types of plant and animal species that might be affected by the oil spill

# 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

>>> Some of the sites important for the migratory waterbirds have been identified upon establishment of nature reserves or upon classification of "Important Bird Areas" (IBAs) set by Birdlife International. Some important habitats for waterbirds and some Nature Reserves have been classified as Ramsar sites.

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

No

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

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

No

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> The "Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon" (Non-governmental Lebanese organization, and Birdlife national partner) has been working on the assessment and identification of "Important Birds Areas (IBAs)" as per Birdlife International criteria. Till now 15 sites in Lebanon have been declared as IBAs where the criteria set by Birdlife were used.

### 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).

>>> Some activities or projects related to the future implications of climate change for protected areas were conducted in Lebanon in some nature reserves, and some pilot sites.

**For the national protected area network**

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> Lack of technical and financial resources.

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

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

Reporting on designation and management of internationally important sites

Reporting on designation and management of nationally important sites. (Sites of national importance excludes the sites already reported above as internationally important)

### All sites of international importance

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

Total number

>>> 17

Total area (ha)

>>> 52943

Number of internationally important sites under national protection designation

>>> 7

Area of international importance under national protection designation (ha)

>>> 25751

Please rate the effectiveness of the national protection designation

High

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

>>> The Nature reserves in Lebanon are declared by laws which prohibits any activity that may have negative impact on the reserve and its natural resources, and for each nature reserve a committee is appointed by the Minister of Environment, the role of this committee is to manage and conserve the nature reserve by recruiting a management team (who is present daily on the site and is responsible of its daily management) and elaborating a management plan for the nature reserve and ensuring its proper implementation.

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

Number of sites

>>> 7

Area (in ha)

>>> 25751

Please rate the effectiveness of the management measures

Moderate

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

>>> In some protected areas, the management teams are not implementing fully the management plan

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

Number of sites

>>> 4

Area (in ha)

>>> 17658

Please rate the effectiveness of the climate resilience measures

Low

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

>>> In some of the protected areas mentioned above, the climate resilience measures are not fully implemented by the management teams

## **All sites of national importance**

Total number

>>> 2

Total area (ha)

>>> 2393

Number of nationally important sites under national protection designation

>>> 2

Area of national importance under national protection area designation  
>>> 2393

Please rate the effectiveness of the national protection designation  
 High

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

>>> The Nature reserves in Lebanon are declared by laws which prohibits any activity that may have negative impact on the reserve and its natural resources, and for each nature reserve a committee is appointed by the Minister of Environment, the role of this committee is to manage and conserve the nature reserve by recruiting a management team (who is present daily on the site and is responsible of its daily management) and elaborating a management plan for the nature reserve and ensuring its proper implementation.

Nationally important protected sites with a management plan in place which is being implemented  
Number of sites  
>>> 0

Area (in ha)  
>>> 0

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

Number of sites  
>>> 0

Area (in ha)  
>>> 0

### **Examples of best practice (optional)**

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

>>> Shouf Cedar Nature Reserve.  
[www.shoufcedar.org/publication](http://www.shoufcedar.org/publication)

### **DESIGNATION GAP FILLING**

Yes

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

>>> Lebanon National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) issued in 2016, determines a Priority Area specific for "Protected Areas" (Priority Area 3) which includes the National target 4: "by 2030, at least 20% of natural terrestrial and marine ecosystems are protected and all types of ecosystems are represented in the PA network" and the National target 5: "By 2030 the total percent coverage of nature reserves is increased to reach at least 5% of Lebanon's areas"

In addition Lebanon's Marine Protected Areas Strategy issued in 2012 suggested 14 Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and an associated program to evaluate their management effectiveness, the goal of this strategy is: Establishment of a network of marine protected areas, established and managed within an integrated marine management framework, that contributes to the health of Lebanon's sea and marine environment.

This Strategy includes 3 Strategic Objectives, under the Strategic Objective 1: Strengthening institutional capacity and MPAs management, there are 15 Objectives, the following two are related to the designation of MPAs:

objective 1 : Create new MPAs

objective 4: Set up a coherent network of MPAs

Has it been implemented?

Yes, being implemented

### **MANAGEMENT GAP FILING**

Yes

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

>>> Lebanon National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) issued in 2016, determines a Priority Area

specific for "Sustainable Management and Use of Natural Ecosystems and Resources" (Priority Area 4) which includes the National target 6: "by 2030, 50% of all natural ecosystems are sustainably managed and properly considered in spatial planning implementation"

In addition Lebanon's Marine Protected Areas Strategy issued in 2012 suggested 14 Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and an associated program to evaluate their management effectiveness.

This Strategy includes 3 Strategic Objectives, under the Strategic Objective 1: Strengthening institutional capacity and MPAs management, there are 15 Objectives, the following two are related to the management of MPAs:

objective 3 : Develop and implement management plans for MPAs

objective 7 : Establish committees and hire management teams for the new MPAs

Has it been implemented?

Yes, being implemented

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

Yes, partially

Please provide details and reasons for partial integration

>>> Most of the projects and strategies related to water and land use are subject to an EIA/SEA studies, and if these projects and strategies are related to important sites for migratory waterbirds, then the impact on migratory waterbirds species will be evaluated as part of these SEA/EIA, and relevant mitigation measures specific for migratory birds will be imposed on the proposed project.

On the other hand, the MSB Lebanon project (Mainstreaming Conservation of Migratory Soaring Birds into key productive sectors) executed by MoE/UNDP through GEF funds from 2009 till 2015, has designed "The Soaring Bird Sensitivity Map" as a tool to provide developers, planning authorities and other interested stakeholders with information on the distribution of soaring bird species along the Rift Valley / Red Sea flyway. This map shows the IBAs and bottlenecks and main migrating bird's flyways in Lebanon. This map was proposed by the Ministry of Environment to be included in the National Physical Master Plan for the Lebanese Territory.

#### **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?

>>> For the management of Protected Areas which are key sites for migratory waterbirds, the following issues are targeted:

-Species management: managing threats and pressures, focusing on key species, implementing related studies and research.

-Habitat management: minimizing intervention, maintaining diversity, creating some habitats for specific species if needed, and implementing studies and research.

-Awareness: targeting local communities (landowners, farmers, herders, hunters), targeting different audience (students, visitors, general public, international audience), focusing on value and functions of conservation, targeting behavioral change, and implementing on site and off site awareness campaigns.

-Visitors/Tourism management: restricting access (time and areas), managing infrastructure on site, selecting a qualified staff, and practicing promotion and marketing.

-Local community: including awareness, involvement, economic benefits, alternative business opportunities, and cultural heritage.

-Estate management: targeting legal designation, management structure, security measures, proper boundaries, sustainable agriculture, grazing management in the surroundings areas of the protected areas, and hunting elimination.

-Research and monitoring: including research needs, collaboration with academic sector, and training needs assessment.

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

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> The CSN tool is not yet familiar to Lebanon

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

Please explain the reasons

>>> Habitat management is being implemented inside most of the nature reserves in Lebanon. Restoration projects are being executed in the surrounding of some nature reserves and other sites but are not necessary related to AEWA migratory waterbirds species.

# 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)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> According to article 10 of Lebanon Hunting Law number 580 dated 25/2/2004, it is prohibited in all seasons to remove bird nests or take or destroy or sell or purchase or transfer or capture or harm eggs or chicks, of young animals and birds. Also it is prohibited to export bird eggs or young birds and animals except those raised in breeding farms.

On the other hand the Lebanese hunting law 580/2004 states that the Minister of Environment takes the necessary decisions that prohibit the hunting of all birds or animals that are beneficial to the agriculture or to the environmental balance, and all species classified on the list of endangered birds and animals based on the international agreement signed by Lebanon and those included in the IUCN Red List.

Furthermore most of the decisions regulating the hunting process in Lebanon are issued by the Minister of Environment according to a recommendation from the Higher Hunting Council (HHC) or after its consultation; the HHC includes representatives from all concerned ministries, hunting organizations, hunting clubs, syndicate of guns & ammunitions, and conservation NGOs. The HHC is the body responsible for setting the scheme and regulations for hunting management in Lebanon.

The HHC manages the harvest of birds by setting the beginning and the end date of the hunting season which is outside the reproduction and rearing season of animals and birds and by specifying the hunting preys and their bag limits. The season and the list and quantities of game birds are issued through an annual decision from the Minister of Environment.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> According to the Lebanese Hunting Law no 580/2004, the Minister of Environment determines the date of the opening and the end of the hunting season and specifies the species classified as hunting preys and the number allowed to be hunted for each specified species. For the first time after official banning since 1997, Lebanon has opened officially in 2017 the hunting season from 15 September 2017 till the end of January 2018, through a decision from the Minister of Environment which specified also the game birds species and their bag limits. Afterwards, the hunting season was opened for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020 through consecutive decisions from the Minister of Environment. In addition, the hunting law states that each hunter should get annually a hunting permit from the Ministry of Environment. Accordingly, this process allows the Ministry of Environment to monitor the number of hunters who are obtaining hunting permits annually and to limit the quantity of game birds harvested each year. What is still missing is a mechanism to collect data on the number of birds harvested each year.

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

No

Please explain the reasons and barriers to introduction of legislation

>>> No specific regulations are issued regarding the banning of lead shots. Accordingly, lead shots are used when hunting is practiced in Lebanon. However the decisions of the Minister of Environment related to the opening of the hunting season ( for the years 2017-2018-2019-2020) and the identification of game bird and animal species allowed to be hunted, determines in article 4 the locations that are strictly forbidden to hunt all year long which includes the Important Bird Areas and wetlands of international importance.

On the other hand, some of the wetlands are protected areas declared by law such as:

- Palm Island Nature Reserve declared by law number 121 dated 9/3/1992 which is as well declared as Ramsar site No.1079 dated 03/08/2001.

- Tyre Coast Nature Reserve declared by law number 708 dated 5/11/1998 which is as well declared as Ramsar site No.980 dated 16/04/1999.

In the protected areas, all kinds of hunting methods are banned all year long whether using lead shots or no.

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

>>> There is no clear and direct legislation that bans the use of lead shot.

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

Yes

How would you rate the effectiveness of the measures?

Low

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

>>> Illegal taking is banned through the Lebanese hunting law no 580/2004. The enforcement of this legislation is under the responsibilities of the Internal Security Forces, forest rangers of the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Nature Reserves rangers in the surroundings of the nature reserves. They control hunting violations and issue fines for the violators.

In the protected areas the effectiveness of the control of hunting violations is high due to the fact that this issue is monitored by the protected area guards within the boundaries of the protected area. However, outside the protected areas, the law is not being fully enforced, where some violations are still taking place and not fully controlled.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> The hunting regulatory law no 580/2004, sets clearly the hunting system and specifies what is prohibited and what is allowed.

According to this law, a person will be jailed for a month, fined, or will be subject to both penalties and his/her hunting permit will be withdrawn from one to three years if he/she is caught:

1- Hunting outside the hunting season.

2- Possessing prey hunted outside the hunting season.

3- Hunting in private lands without the owners approval, or in places that have agricultural plants or trees not harvested yet, or in closed and fenced places, or in places where there are signs indicating that hunting is forbidden.

A person is fined and sent to jail as mentioned previously, and in due course with the permanent confiscation of the used weapon, and when necessary, the destruction of all equipment and banned materials used in hunting, if he/she is caught:

- Hunting without a permit.

- Hunting with banned equipment.

- Hunting banned birds species or beneficial for the environment.

In case of repeated violations, the fine is doubled without the jail penalty.

The repeated violations penalty is applied also to people who:

- Snatch nests, destroy, sell, transport, grab, or hurt eggs, chicks, or wild animals or newborn birds.

- Export eggs or chicks of any wild bird or animal (except for the wild animals that are raised in farms) as well as the young of furred animals.

- Keep wild chukkar in captivity.

- hunt endangered species.

Any person referred to the court 24 months after committing the first violation, is considered a repeated violator.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Due to Lack of human, technical and financial resources

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

Yes

Please provide details and reference to the relevant legislation

>>> According to the Lebanese hunting law no 580/2004, each hunter should obtain a hunting permit issued by the Ministry of Environment. Each hunter applying for the hunting permit for the first time should pass a

hunting test that is organized and conducted by hunting clubs accredited by the Ministry of Environment. Many organizational decisions were issued by the Minister of Environment after consultation with the Higher Hunting Council, regarding the hunting test and permit namely:

- Decision number 71/1 dated 2012: Criteria and Procedures for selecting the Hunting Clubs to be accredited by the MoE to run the hunting test
- Decisions number 197/1 dated 2012 and number 621/1 dated 2017: Accredited hunting clubs by the Ministry of Environment to run the hunting test
- Decision number 212/1 dated 2012: Procedures and conditions for conducting the hunting test
- Decision number 245/1 dated 2012: Procedures for obtaining the hunting permit
- Decision number 68/1 dated 2013: Procedures for the renewal of the hunting permit

All information regarding the procedures and conditions for conducting the hunting test and for obtaining the hunting permit and all the regulations and procedures regarding hunting in Lebanon can be found on the following website: <http://hunting.moe.gov.lb>.

The registration for the hunting test is made online through the following link:

<http://huntingssystem.moe.gov.lb>, the same online system is used by the accredited clubs to conduct the exam.

In addition to the hunting exam certificate, the applicant for the hunting permit should submit a legal license for carrying hunting arms and a valid insurance policy specific for hunting injuries

#### **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

>>> Each hunter applying for the hunting permit for the first time should pass a hunting test which is based on a manual "Hunting exams guide" developed by the MoE. This guide includes among its chapters, an entire chapter about the hunter's ethics and responsibilities.

The hunting exams guide can be found on the following website: <http://hunting.moe.gov.lb/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Dalil-imtihanet-sayd-final1.pdf>

#### **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?

>>> Most of the decisions regulating the hunting process in Lebanon are issued by the Minister of Environment after consultation with the Higher Hunting Council (HHC). The HHC includes representatives from all concerned ministries, hunting organizations, hunting clubs, syndicate of guns & ammunitions, and conservation NGOs. The HHC is the body responsible for setting the scheme and regulations for hunting management in Lebanon.

The HHC manages the harvest of birds by setting the beginning and the end date of the hunting season which is outside the reproduction and rearing season of animals and birds and by specifying the hunting preys and their bag limits. The season and the list and quantities of game birds are issued through an annual decision from the Minister of Environment.

On the other hand the Lebanese hunting law 580/2004 states that the Minister of Environment takes the necessary decisions that prohibit the hunting of all birds or animals that are beneficial to the agriculture or to the environmental balance, and all species classified on the list of endangered birds and animals based on the international agreement signed by Lebanon and those included in the IUCN Red List.

In addition, the Lebanese hunting law 580/2004 states that the Minister of Environment after consultation with the HHC, takes decisions concerning the establishment of rearing centers to raise various wild birds that are local species or migrants over Lebanon especially those that are globally threatened, for the purpose of increasing their numbers and then releasing them back to the wild in order to preserve the biodiversity and environmental balance.

In this way, the harvest of birds is managed and the negative impact of hunting would be minimized.

## **6.2. Ecotourism**

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

Yes

Please describe and provide details

>>> Ecotourism is included in the management plan of all nature reserves in Lebanon.

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

>>> In general ecotourism initiatives and activities in Lebanon are practiced within the nature reserves and also by specific groups and NGOs outside nature reserves. Wherever the site includes wetlands and waterbird species, ecotourism initiatives related on migratory waterbirds and their habitats are practiced such as bird watching and birds identification and birds drawing.

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

High

Please provide details

>>> These activities are designed to deliver high rank of conservation and community benefits, since it aims at the protection of the natural resources and the species and habitats through minimizing all adverse impacts from tourism on the environment, and through promoting the nature site and the need for its conservation. At the same time, these activities are designed to create job opportunities for the local communities and to generate income for them and to contribute in the rural development.

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

Medium

Please provide details and the reasons for successful delivery and barriers to fuller delivery

>>> Bird watching activities is part of the eco-tourism activities that are taking place inside and outside nature reserves in Lebanon, this activity deliver in practice conservation benefits through the conservation of the birds and their habitats and is beneficial for the local community through the creation of income generating activities and job opportunities..

### 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 clear and direct legislation that bans the use of 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

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> SEA/EIA is requested for all plans and projects to assess the impact of the projects/plans on the environment and biodiversity including migratory waterbirds, the habitats and sites on which they depend.

Do the SEA/EIA processes include public participation?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Whenever a project requires an EIA or SEA, the relevant municipality announces the project to the public and invites for a public hearing. People can give their opinions and remarks that the Ministry of Environment (MoE) takes into consideration before issuing its decision regarding the approval or rejection of the EIA/SEA. In

addition, after that the MoE decision is taken, the public can as well submit his objections and concerns that would also be considered by the MoE.

#### Field for additional information (optional)

>>> The SEA decree has been endorsed and issued by the Lebanese government as Decree No. 8213 dated May 24, 2012 and sets principles and measures necessary to assess the environmental impacts of policies and development plans for a large area or a whole sector in Lebanon.

The EIA decree has been endorsed and issued by the Lebanese government as Decree No. 8633 dated August 7, 2012. The EIA decree lists all the projects/activities for which EIA are mandatory. EIA is obligatory for many projects that might have a negative impact on waterbirds and their habitats such as:

- The establishments of dams, artificial lakes and swamps
- Irrigation projects
- Establishments of marine drainage channels
- Integrated projects related to water vulgar
- Processing lands for agriculture including the use of chemical products
- Deforestation projects
- Establishment of power supply
- Establishment of power generation plant

If any of these or other projects appear to have negative effects on waterbirds or on the habitats on which they depend, the project is banned or redirected in a way to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects.

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)

No

#### Please explain the reasons

>>> The protection of the environment law number 444 dated 29/7/2002, clearly states that every person who carries out activities that preserve the environment, benefits from reductions up to 50% (fifty percent) on taxes related to these activities, in accordance with the conditions and rules determined by a decree issued by the Council of Ministers upon the proposal of both the Ministers of Environment and Finance. However, the related implementation decree is not yet issued, and thus these incentives are not yet implemented.

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))

Partially (some projects only)

#### Please provide information on the projects where potential impact on migratory birds has not been assessed

>>> SEA/EIA are being conducted in Lebanon for most development projects. However impact on migratory waterbirds species was done as part of these SEA/EIA for the projects located in areas where there are migratory birds, or to projects having specific impacts on migratory birds e.g. EIA was recently prepared by the project's owner and reviewed by the MOE for a proposed wind farm project in 3 areas located in Akkar mountains. The locations of the proposed project is on the migratory flyway of migratory birds, accordingly a bird inventory in the region was executed in order to assess the impact of the proposed projects on the migratory bird species, and relevant mitigation measures specific for migratory birds was imposed on the proposed project.

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

Yes

#### Please describe the measures put in place

>>> Whenever a project is revealed to affect negatively the environment and its components, relevant mitigation measures are imposed through the EIA/SEA studies. If the impact cannot be compensated for or mitigated, the project is rejected from the MoE. If the impact of the project could be compensated for or mitigated, the stakeholder has to abide by the mitigation measures and conditions stated by the EIA/SEA study approved by the MoE. Such measurements include the avoidance of sites important for wild species and specifically and most importantly in protected areas, the avoidance of the use of equipment malignant to the environment and to the biodiversity. Furthermore, the EIA/SEA studies include a monitoring plan for the project's activities during both the construction and operational phases.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> SEA/EIA is requested for all development projects affecting the environment. The project undergoes a screening to determine whether significant impacts are likely to occur and whether an SEA/EIA is required. If so, SEA/EIA report is submitted to the Ministry of Environment (MoE) by the project's owner, the MoE review the report and takes the related decision concerning the implementation of the project. The project is either accepted, rejected, or accepted under specific conditions. If the project is accepted under conditions, the stakeholder is committed to the implementation of the Environmental Management Plan that determines the measurements to be taken and the necessary monitoring plan to be applied in order to avoid or minimize adverse effects on the environment.

Regarding renewable energy, it is still a new developing sector in Lebanon. However, an SEA of Lebanon's Renewable Energy Sector was issued in 2014 and guidelines reports for the preparation of EIA studies of the different renewable energy technologies have been prepared and have included specific guidelines and mitigation measures to apply for the protection of migratory birds.

These SEA/EIA studies are used as a key tool for site selection of renewable energy projects. It identifies locations where renewable energy developments are likely to have the least impact on vulnerable habitats and birds. The SEA related to Lebanon Renewable Energy sector study mentioned above, includes for each technology a summary map showing the locations of renewable energy technology potential sites and various sensitive ecological sites that could be affected by the implementation of renewable energy projects. Such ecological sites include: Nature Reserves, Important Bird Areas, Birds Migratory Routes, Migratory Bottlenecks, and Proposed Natural and Regional Parks. The visualization of potential renewable energy areas and sensitive ecological locations on the same map allows the identification of potential locations for renewable energy production, as a first screening.

On the other hand, power lines technology and the assessment of this sector are still primitive.

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.

>>> Due to lack of technical and human resources

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.

>>> no data are available

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.

>>> No data are available

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.

>>> No data are available

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.

No

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

>>> SEA/EIA are being conducted in Lebanon for most development projects. Consequently, impact on migratory waterbirds species are covered by these SEA/EIA studies for the projects located in areas where there are migratory birds, or for projects having specific impacts on migratory birds, and relevant mitigation measures are imposed through these EIA/SEA studies. These mitigation measures are taken from different sources and references and not specifically from the "AEWA Guidelines on how to avoid, minimize or mitigate impact of infrastructural developments and related disturbance affecting waterbirds".

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

## **Migratory Waterbirds.**

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

Partially

Please provide details.

>>> When EIA/SEA studies are done for plans/projects related to the construction of power lines, the relevant stakeholders are mainly consulted during the preparation of these EIA/SEA studies for these projects. During this stage and in most cases, the stakeholders agree on a common policy of actions for the planning, execution and monitoring of the construction and operation phase of the project, this policy covers the project's potential impact on biodiversity, and determines whether the project may affect biodiversity (including birds and waterbirds), and proposes the needed mitigation measures.

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.

>>> When EIA/SEA studies are done for plans/projects related to the construction of power lines, and if these plans/projects appear to have effects on waterbirds or on the habitats on which they depend, a waterbird inventory in the project's area is requested by the MoE, this inventory includes distribution, population sizes, migrations routes and movements of waterbird species.

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.

>>> When EIA/SEA studies are done for plans/projects related to the construction of power lines, and if these plans/projects appear to have negative effects on waterbirds or on the habitats on which they depend, the project is banned by MoE or redirected in a way to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects.

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

>>> Location of existing and proposed power lines is set in the National Physical Master Plan for the Lebanese Territory, in addition specific detailed national maps for these power lines are developed by the Ministry of Energy and Water or by "Electricity of Lebanon" institution.

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

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

Partially

Please provide details.

>>> When EIA/SEA studies are done for plans/projects related to the construction of power lines, and if these plans/projects appear to have negative effects on waterbirds or on the habitats on which they depend, the project is banned or redirected in a way to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects.

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

>>> When EIA/SEA studies are done for plans/projects related to the construction of new power infrastructure, if

these plans/projects appear to have negative effects on waterbirds due to electrocution and collisions, a bird-safe design in the construction of this infrastructure is imposed by the MoE including measures designed to reduce electrocution and collisions of birds as mitigation measures to minimize the effect of these projects/plans on birds.

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?

No

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

>>> Due to Lack of human, technical and financial resources

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?

Not applicable

Please explain the reasons.

>>> No identification was done yet of existing power lines causing high levels of waterbird injury and/or mortality due to electrocution and/or collision, in order to take necessary measures.

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

No

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

>>> Due to lack of human and financial resources

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

No

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

>>> Due to lack of human and financial resources

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?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Lebanon National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) issued in 2016, determines a Priority Area specific for "Mainstreaming Biodiversity Into National and Sub-National Policies and Plans" (Priority Area 9) which includes the National target 13: "by 2030, government entities mainstream biodiversity priorities (conservation, benefits sharing, pressure alleviation, sustainable management, sustainable use of nature resources) into their policy making processes and their implementation".

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?

>>> Measures to avoid or mitigate impact of electricity power grids on migratory birds are imposed if EIA/SEA studies are done for plans/projects related to the construction of new power grids. If these plans/projects appear to have negative effects on waterbirds, a bird-safe design in the construction phase of these power grids is imposed by the MoE including a structure to reduce electrocution and collisions of birds. These mitigation measures are taken from different sources and references and not specifically from the "AEWA Guidelines on how to avoid or mitigate impact of electricity power grids on migratory birds in the African-Eurasian region".

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

66.1. Has a national sensitivity and zoning mapping to avoid overlap of renewable energy developments

with areas of importance for migratory waterbirds been developed in your country?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The MSB Lebanon project (Mainstreaming Conservation of Migratory Soaring Birds into key productive sectors) executed by MoE/UNDP through GEF funds from 2009 till 2015, has designed "The Soaring Bird Sensitivity Map" as a tool to provide developers, planning authorities and other interested stakeholders with information on the distribution of soaring bird species along the Rift Valley / Red Sea flyway. This map shows the IBAs and bottlenecks and main migrating birds' flyways in Lebanon. This map was proposed by the Ministry of Environment to be included in the National Physical Master Plan for the Lebanese Territory in order to avoid the planning of energy development projects and others projects in these areas.

The SEA of Lebanon Renewable Energy sector report, issued in December 2014, includes for each proposed technology a summary map showing the locations of renewable energy technology potential sites and various sensitive ecological sites that could be affected by the implementation of renewable energy projects. Such ecological sites include: Nature Reserves, Important Bird Areas, Birds Migratory Routes, Migratory Bottlenecks, and Proposed Natural and Regional Parks. The visualization of potential renewable energy areas and sensitive ecological locations on the same map allows the identification of potential locations for renewable energy production, as a first screening.

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

Yes

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

>>> The guidelines reports that were prepared for the conduction of EIA studies for the different renewable energy technologies, have followed international environmental guidelines but not from a specific source or organization.

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

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> No post-construction monitoring were conducted since the renewable energy equipment are still under installation

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

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> In some EIA studies prepared for the construction of dams that will be also used for the production of electricity from water flow (Hydropower), when it appeared that damages to biodiversity cannot be avoided, the MoE requested to develop and implement an ecological offsetting plan which includes compensatory measures for the environmental damages caused by these projects.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The production of electricity from wind farms is a new developing sector in Lebanon. No wind farms exist till now in Lebanon. Currently an EIA for a proposed wind farm project in Akkar mountains-North Lebanon has been prepared by the project owner and reviewed by the MOE. Since the location of the proposed project is on the migratory flyway of migratory birds, a bird inventory in the area has been executed in order to assess the impact of the proposed projects on the migratory bird species, in addition relevant mitigation measures specific for migratory birds are being imposed on the proposed project such as operating wind farms in ways that minimize bird mortality, by introducing short-term shutdowns during peak migration of birds.

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

Not applicable

Please explain the reasons

>>> No wind farms exist till now in Lebanon. Currently an EIA for a proposed wind farm project in Akkar mountains-North Lebanon has been prepared by the project owner and reviewed by the MOE, but these wind farms were not installed yet.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The production of electricity from wind farms is a new developing sector in Lebanon. No wind farms exist till now in Lebanon. Currently an EIA for a proposed wind farm project in three sites located in Akkar mountains-North Lebanon has been prepared by the project owner and reviewed by the MOE. Since the location of the proposed project is on the migratory flyway of migratory birds, a bird inventory in the area has been prepared in order to assess the impact of the proposed project on the migratory bird species in these locations, and based on this inventory relevant mitigation measures specific for migratory birds were imposed on the proposed project.

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

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> There is no bio fuel production in Lebanon

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

>>> Lebanon National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) issued in 2016, determines a Priority Area specific for "Mainstreaming Biodiversity Into National and Sub-National Policies and Plans" (Priority Area 9) which includes the National target 13: "by 2030, government entities mainstream biodiversity priorities (conservation, benefits sharing, pressure alleviation, sustainable management, sustainable use of nature resources) into their policy making processes and their implementation".

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

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> According to a request from the Ministry of Environment, the AEWA Guidelines on Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment has been taken into consideration in the EIA that was prepared for the proposed wind farm project in Akkar mountains-North Lebanon, and has been referred at in the EIA of this proposed project.

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-catchis dealt with in section 4.6 Seabirds)

Yes

Please provide details

>>> According to ornithologists, the by-catch of waterbirds in fishing gears is happening occasionally, but there is no monitoring to identify the severity of such incident.

## 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))

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Monitoring of birds including migratory birds is performed by protected areas management teams inside the respective nature reserve, in addition monitoring of birds outside the PAs is performed in some sites by some experts and NGO's like the Association for Bird Conservation in Lebanon (ABCL) within the context of their Studies/Projects and by Society for the protection of nature in Lebanon (SPNL) (Birdlife national partner) in important bird areas (IBAs).

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))

No

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

>>> Due to lack of technical and financial resources

**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?

>>> For monitoring birds including waterbirds general guidance are used that includes the following:  
- Observe and record the number of birds present in a specific location for a specific period of time  
- Record and assess the changing patterns of bird species in a specific location during the seasons over the years

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)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> No funds was provided to the International Waterbird Census due to the economic situation in the country and the lack of financial resources

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

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

No

Please explain the reason

>>> No funds was provided to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Fund due to the economic situation in the country and the lack of financial resources

78. Has the impact of lead fishing weights on waterbirds been investigated in your country? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.3.12). When answering this question please also consider question 58 in chapter 6 – Management of human activities.

No

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

No

Please provide reason(s)

>>> Due to lack of human, technical and financial resources

# Pressures and Responses

## 8. Education and Information

### 8.1. Communication, Education and Public Awareness

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

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

Yes, being implemented

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

>>> Many awareness programmes about conservation of birds were developed by the Ministry of Environment including TV spots, publications, booklets, manuals, in addition to organization of workshops. Such activities aimed to raise public awareness about the different species of birds including waterbirds, their importance and the need for their conservation. Moreover, a specific website on hunting management in Lebanon and conservation of birds was developed by the Ministry of Environment: <http://hunting.moe.gov.lb>. In addition, Society for Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL) (Birdlife national partner) and the Association for Bird Conservation in Lebanon (ABCL) implemented different programmes for raising awareness on waterbirds and the need for their conservation.

Lebanon National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) issued in 2016, determines a Priority Area specific for "Communication, Education and Public Awareness" (Priority Area 8) which includes the National target 12 "By 2030, 100% of the school and university students and at least 60% of the public are aware of the importance of biodiversity, its values, and the need for its conservation and sustainable use"

SPNL contact person : Bassima Khatib; phone number:+9613057716; email address: [bkhatib@spnl.org](mailto:bkhatib@spnl.org)

ABCL contact person: Fouad Itani; phone number:+9613383634; email address:

[fouaditani@birdsoflebanon.com](mailto:fouaditani@birdsoflebanon.com)

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

No

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lebanon is in process of nominating a national AEWA CEPA focal point

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> No specific implementation for the provisions related to "Education and Information" in the AEWA Action Plan was carried out, but these were covered by the different activities related to education and information that were taken by Lebanon regarding conservation of birds in general.

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.

>>> On the world Migratory Day many awareness activities on the importance of protecting migratory birds are being carried out in many nature reserves in Lebanon, in addition some environmental NGOs organize during this day workshops, events, and disseminate awareness materials to promote and highlight the importance of conserving migratory birds.

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

>>> No funds were provided towards the implementation of the AEWA Communication Strategy, due to the economic situation in the country and the lack of financial resources

Optionally can provide additional information on section 8.1. Communication, Education and Public Awareness

>>> The Ministry of Environment in collaboration with IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare) implemented during the years 2018 and 2019 a series of "training of trainers" about the importance of birds and the need for their conservation targeting teachers of the Lebanese public schools, with aim to promote to the young generation and students the importance of birds and their conservation and the sustainable hunting concept.

## 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

>>> Due to lack of human, technical and financial resources

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

>>> There was no bilateral or regional collaboration with a non-contracting party range states in order to do such approach.

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

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> The Higher Hunting Council (HHC) is the national coordination mechanism in Lebanon concerning the regulation of hunting, which is linked to AEWA scope. The HHC includes representatives from all concerned ministries, hunting organizations, hunting clubs, syndicate of guns & ammunition, and conservation NGOs.

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

>>> Due to lack of human, technical and financial resources

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 twinning schemes between sites with other countries, which share common migratory waterbirds or conservation issues has yet been concluded, since no relevant projects have been implemented so far in that regard.

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

>>> The CBD national focal point at MoE is at the same time the AEWA national focal point and both agreements are under the responsibilities of the same department at MoE (Department of Ecosystems)

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

No

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))

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> The CBD national focal point at MoE is at the same time the AEWA national focal point and the CMS national focal point and these agreements are under the responsibilities of the same department at MoE (Department of Ecosystems), however Lebanon's became party to the CMS in 2019, accordingly there was no involvement yet from Lebanon in the assessment of the delivery of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023.

**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

>>> Many of AEWA priorities are incorporated in Lebanon National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) and were mentioned in the replies of the questions above of this national report.

92.2 Other strategic plans and policies

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> No information is available concerning incorporating AEWA priorities into other strategic planning processes

Sustainable Development Goals

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> A preliminary assessment of ecological corridors including blue corridor between Ammiq Wetland and kfarzabad (Riparian ecosystem), was carried out under the Sustainable land management in the Qaraoun project " implemented by MoE under the management of UNDP".

Aichi Targets

No

Strategic Plan for Migratory Species

No

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

>>> The Biodiversity MEAs are under the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment – Service of Natural Resources. Consequently the coordination is done between the national focal points of these agreements since they are working at the same Service, which makes the work more effective and efficient. In particular most of these agreements fall under the Department of Ecosystems of the Service of Natural resources, and thereby the link between this Biodiversity MEAs is already insured.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> No funds were donated to the AEWA Small Grants Fund due to the economic situation of the country and the lack of 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

>>> No funds were donated to the activities coordinated by the Secretariat due to the economic situation of the country and the lack of financial resources

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

No and has not been prioritised

Please explain the reasons

>>> Due to the lack of human resources at the Ministry of Environment.

## **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?

Yes

Please describe the resources provided

>>> Lebanon has provided in-kind resources and also financial resources to prepare all logistics related to the regulation of hunting (at legal, technical and administrative levels in addition to equipment and materials), and training for hunting clubs accredited to run the hunting exams and for the officers responsible for enforcing the hunting law and controlling the hunting laws.

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

No

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> No funds were provided due to the economic situation of the country and the lack of financial resources

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

No

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

No

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lebanon benefited in the past from funds from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to implement a project regarding soaring migratory birds, but not during this reporting period.

## Pressures and Responses

### 10. Climate Change

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

a. Research and studies of climate change impacts on waterbirds

No relevant activities

Please explain the reasons

>>> Due to lack of financial resources

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

>>> Due to lack of financial resources

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

No relevant activities

Please explain the reasons

>>> Due to lack of financial resources

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

No relevant activities

Please explain the reasons

>>> Due to lack of financial resources

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

>>> Due to lack of financial resources

f. Other undertaken or planned relevant activities.

No

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

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

No

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

>>> No studies were made concerning the impact of climate change on waterbirds and their habitats and/or adaptation of waterbirds to climate change.

#### Optionally you can provide additional information on section 10. Climate Change

>>> Lebanon National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) issued in 2016, determines a Priority Area specific for "Climate Change" (Priority Area 10) which includes the National target 14 "By 2030, vulnerable ecosystems to climate change are identified and adaptation plans are developed and implemented.

## **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

>>> No updated actions related to Avian Influenza

**Optionally you can provide additional information on section 11. Avian Influenza**

>>> None

## **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**

>>> 15/4/2021