



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

>>> Slovak Republic

Date of entry into force of AEWA in the Contracting Party

>>> 01.07.2001

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.

>>> Upon deposition of its instruments of accession (23 April 2001) the Slovak Republic made reservation concerning Article 4.1.4 of the Action Plan - regulation of use of toxic shots containing lead during hunting in wetlands. Since 1 January 2015 the use of led shots is banned in Slovakia according to the Act on Hunting (No. 274/2009, as amended, § 65, par. 36), as well as the Regulation of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 24/2003 (as amended) to the Act on nature and landscape protection (§ 9 on prohibited methods and means of capture and killing of protected animals, where using of lead ammunition during hunt of waterbirds in wetlands is prohibited).

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 of the Slovak Republic Directorate for Protection of Nature, Biodiversity and Landscape

Name and title of the head of institution

>>> Ms. Mgr. Katarína Butkovská, Director General of the Directorate

Mailing address - Street and number

>>> Námestie Ľ. Štúra 1

Postal code

>>> 812 35

City

>>> Bratislava

Country

>>> Slovak Republic

Telephone

>>> +421 2 5956 2160

Fax

>>> +421 2 5956 2533

E-mail

>>> katarina.butkovska@enviro.gov.sk

Website

>>> www.minzp.sk

Designated National Focal Point (NFP) for AEWA matters

Name and title of the NFP

>>> Ing. Janka Guzmová

Affiliation (institution, department)

>>> Ministry of Environment, Department of Nature Protection

Mailing address - Street and number

>>> Námestie Ľ. Štúra 1

Postal code

>>> 812 35

City

>>> Bratislava

Country

>>> Slovak Republic

Telephone

>>> +421 2 59562242

E-mail

>>> janka.guzmova@enviro.gov.sk

Website

>>> www.minzp.sk

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

Name and title of the TC NFP

>>> Ing. Andrea Lešová, PhD.

Affiliation (institution, department)

>>> State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic

Mailing address - Street and number

>>> Tajovského 28B

Postal code

>>> 974 01

City

>>> Banská Bystrica

Country

>>> Slovak Republic

Telephone

>>> +421 911 390 115

Fax

>>> +421 48 4722036

E-mail

>>> andrea.lesova@sopsr.sk

Website

>>> www.sopsr.sk

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

Name and title of the CEPA NFP

>>> Ms Ing. Natália Kubicová

Affiliation (institution, department)

>>> State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic

Mailing address - Street and number

>>> Tajovského 28B

Postal code

>>> 974 01

City

>>> Banská Bystrica

Country

>>> Slovak Republic

Telephone

>>> +421 48 4299948

Fax

>>> +421 48 4722036

E-mail

>>> natalia.kubicova@sopsr.sk

Website

>>> www.sopsr.sk

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 for AEWA Technical Committee (TC NFP) matters 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.

>>> RNDr. Ján Kadlečík, State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic

Pressures and Responses

4. Species Conservation

4.1 Legal Measures

1. Following MOP7, was a review undertaken in your country of the relevant domestic legislation against the provisions of the latest version of the Agreement text and its annexes, including Table 1 in Annex III, taking into account all amendments adopted by MOP7? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Actions 1.1 (a), 1.1 (b), 2.2(a) and 2.2(b))

Yes

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.

Yes

Did this require adjusting your national legislation?

Yes

Was your national legislation subsequently adjusted?

Yes. Please describe what these adjustments entailed

>>> Act No. 543/2002 on Nature and Landscape Protection, as amended; Act No. 274/2009 on Hunting, as amended;

3. Please confirm the protection status under your country's national legislation of the AEWA Table 1, Column A populations that are regularly occurring in your country (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.1; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 1.1).

Guidance on responding to this question:

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

2- Fill in the Excel template comprehensively;

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

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

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Slovakia_Q3_AEWA_NR_2018-2020_PopColA.xlsx](#)

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

Guidance on responding to this question:

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

2- Fill in the Excel template comprehensively;

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

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

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Slovakia_Q4_AEWA_NR_2018-2020_PopColA-Cat2_3_4.xlsx](#)

5. Please confirm whether taking is regulated for the AEWA Table 1, Column B populations that

are regularly occurring in your country (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.2; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 1.1).

Guidance on responding to this question:

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

2- Fill in the Excel template comprehensively;

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

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

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Slovakia_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

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

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

Yes

Please provide details.

>>> The amendments to the Decree of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 24/2003 to the Act No. 543/2002 (as amended) were developed and negotiated in 2020 (pending approval).

4.2. Species Action and Management Plans

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

Please report on all listed ISSAP, ISSMP and IMSAP

Ferruginous Duck / Aythya nyroca

National Plan for Ferruginous Duck / Aythya nyroca

NP in place and being implemented

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

>>> Approved 23 August 2019 by the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic

https://www.minzp.sk/files/sekcia-ochranyprirodyakrajiny/druhova-ochrana-prirody/programy-zachrany/program_zachrany_buciak-chochlacka_2-9-2019.pdf

Implementation coordinated by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic in cooperation with the Slovak Ornithological Society / BirdLife Slovakia (SOS/BirdLife Slovakia).

Restoration of habitats in progress within LIFE projects implemented by SOS/BirdLife Slovakia in different parts of the country.

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

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

Corncrake / *Crex crex*

National Plan for Corncrake / *Crex crex*

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> National Plan for Corncrake was approved on 21.01.2002 for 2002-2006, but has not been updated. The update, approval and implementation of the National Plan, based on the international Action Plans for migratory species was included among the priority measures of the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 in Slovakia pursuant to Article 8 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) for the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021 - 2027.

Great Snipe / *Gallinago media*

National Plan for Great Snipe / *Gallinago media*

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> Non-breeding, rare species in Slovakia, not identified as a priority for NP, however actions are included in the annual work plan of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and in relevant projects.

Black-tailed Godwit / *Limosa limosa*

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

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> Rare species in Slovakia, non-breeding during several decades. The development, approval and implementation of the National Plan, based on the international Action Plans for migratory species was included among the priority measures of the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 in Slovakia pursuant to Article 8 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) for the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021 - 2027.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> Management and restoration measures implemented in the key sites and potential habitats in Senne and Medzibodrožie SPAs.

Eurasian Spoonbill / *Platalea leucorodia*

National Plan for Eurasian Spoonbill / *Platalea leucorodia*

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> As there is only a small population of the species in Slovakia in two main breeding sites, measures for spoonbill have been included in the management plans for these two protected areas (Special Protection Areas, Ramsar Site and nature reserve). The development, approval and implementation of the National Plan, based on the international Action Plans for migratory species was included among the priority measures of the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 in Slovakia pursuant to Article 8 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) for the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021 - 2027.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> Conservation and management of breeding sites, restoration of habitats.

12. Has your country provided assistance for the coordination and implementation of International Species Action or Management Plans through funding of AEWA International Species Working and Expert Groups? (Resolution 7.5)

No

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

No

14. Has a review and prioritization been undertaken in your country of the resources needed to develop national action plans in response to ISSAPs, implement those plans and coordinate their implementation? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 1.2(g))

Yes

When was this review and prioritization completed?

>>> January 2021 - within the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 in Slovakia pursuant to Article 8 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) for the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021 – 2027.

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

>>> Funding necessary for development/update, approval and implementation of National Plans for migratory species (including waterbirds - Botaurus stellaris, Crex crex, Aythya nyroca, Platalea leucorodia, Limosa limosa) for 2021-2027 was estimated to 1,5 mil. eur.

https://www.minzp.sk/files/sekcia-ochranyprirodyakrajiny/paf2020/vlastny-material_paf.pdf

Has a corresponding national resource mobilization plan been established?

Yes

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?

>>> National guidelines were adopted according to national law, with similar structure and contents as AEWA Guidelines; national guidelines will be revised after adoption of amendments to the Decree No. 24/2003 to the Act on nature and landscape protection (pending) and will be harmonized with international guidelines.

4.4 Re-establishments

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

>>> General provisions of the Decree of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 24/2003 (as amended) to the nature conservation act. Provisions are included also in the Act No. 274/2009 on hunting (as amended). Re-establishment activities are conditioned by approval by the Ministry of Environment (and if it is a game species also the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development).

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

No

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

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

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> No such activity implemented so far.

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.

>>> Act No. 150/2019 Coll. on prevention, management and eradication of invasive alien species (National Act on IAS), which implements EU Regulation no. 1143/2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species into national legislation, was adopted by the Parliament in 2019. Enforced by the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic. Inventory of IAS covers inventory of species listed both in the List of IAS of Union concern (Commission implementing regulation (EU) No 2016/1141, No 1267/2017 and No 2019/1262) and in the List of IAS of Slovak concern (National list of IAS) published in the Regulation of the Slovak Government No 449/2019, adopted in 2019. IAS that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands are included in these Lists. Conditions and ways of the removal of IAS are specified in the Decree of the Ministry of Environment of SR No. 450/2019, adopted in 2019.

Introduction of non-native game species (and cross-breeding) is prohibited also by the Act No. 274/2009 on hunting (as amended), adopted by the Slovak Government and enforced by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic. Both acts apply to the entire country.

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.

>>> Act No. 39/2007 on veterinary care, adopted in 2007 by the Government of the Slovak Republic, enforced by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the State Veterinary Authority; According to this Act, § 6 the owner or keeper of an animal is obliged to take measures to prevent escape of the animal, its not planned or unwanted reproduction.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Only general requirements established in veterinary regulation.

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

>>> Only individual cases of occurrence of non-native species are handled. No one non-native waterbird species occurs in the wild in the populations with required eradication, only occasionally individuals recorded.

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 such measures needed so far. Control or eradication of non-native carnivore mammals is included in some (cross-border) projects.

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?

>>> Provisions of the EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species (Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species) have been included in the new act and its decree these include principles and guidelines addressing this issue, including AEWA Guidelines.

4.6 Seabirds

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

No

Pressures and Responses

5. Habitat Conservation

5.1 Habitat Inventories

39. Has your country identified the network of all sites of international and national importance for the migratory waterbird species/populations listed on Table 1? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 3.1.2; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 3.1(a))

Yes

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

>>> Special Protection Areas designated in 2003 and 2010; the Critical Site Network was established in 2011; Important Bird Areas (updated in 1992, 2000, 2004); Ramsar sites network (www.ramsar.org) designated in 1990-2007; there is a big overlap between these types of sites of international importance.

5.2. Conservation of Areas and Habitats

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

For one or more single sites

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Research of implications of climate change for protected areas and other sites is included among priorities of the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 in Slovakia pursuant to Article 8 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) for the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021 – 2027.

For the national protected area network

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> Research of implications of climate change for protected areas and other sites is included among priorities of the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 in Slovakia pursuant to Article 8 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) for the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021 – 2027.

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

>>> Updated Action Plan for Wetlands for period 2019 – 2021 for implementation of the Management Plan for Wetlands of Slovakia until 2024 was adopted by the Government in 2019 and it includes measures and activities to fill gaps in designation and/or management of important sites.

links:

<https://www.minzp.sk/files/sekcia-ochranyprirodyakrajiny/dohovory/ramsar/program-starostlivosti-mokrade-2024.pdf>

<https://www.minzp.sk/files/sekcia-ochranyprirodyakrajiny/dohovory/ramsar/akcny-plan-mokrade.pdf>;

Identification, delineation and designation of sites for completion of the Natura 2000 network was included in the Action Plan for implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy to 2020.

Relevant activities are included in the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 in Slovakia pursuant to Article 8 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) for the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021 – 2027.

Has it been implemented?

Yes, being implemented

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

>>> Filling gaps in designation and/or management of sites is a continuing process.

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

>>> Action Plan for implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy to 2020.

Relevant activities are included in the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 in Slovakia pursuant to Article 8 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) for the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021 – 2027.

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, fully

Please provide details

>>> Protected areas, including sites of Natura 2000 network and Ramsar Sites, are integrated in the national Water Management Policy of the Slovak Republic and Management Plans of the Danube River Basin and of the Vistula River basin.

These are integrated in land-use policies and planning (including land-use plans on all levels, documents of the Territorial System of Ecological Stability) and decision-making processes.

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?

>>> General national guidelines for management of protected areas have been used; the management guidelines were revised in 2020 according to the updated legislation (amended Decree No. 24/2003 to the Act on nature and landscape protection) and international obligations.

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

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

No

47. Following MOP7, has your country been involved in the establishment of innovative, international, multi-stakeholder partnerships to guide the development and implementation of habitat management, creation and restoration projects in the wider environment? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 4.4(a))

Yes

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

>>> The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic has been involved in preparation and implementation of international project within EU Interreg programmes (Danube Transnational Programme, Central Europe), EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and international networks (DANUBEPARKS, Carpathian Network of Protected Areas CNPA, Carpathian Wetland Initiative) Bridging the Danube Protected Areas towards a Danube Habitat Corridor

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

Yes

Please provide details on each project initiative

>>> Bridging the Danube Protected Areas towards a Danube Habitat Corridor - DANUBEPARKSCONNECTED (Danube Transnational Programme, 2017-2019)

DaRe to Connect - Supporting Danube Region's ecological Connectivity by linking Natura 2000 areas along the Green Belt - DaRe to Connect (Danube Transnational Programme, 2018-2021)

Building management capacities of Carpathian protected areas for the integration and harmonization of biodiversity protection and socio-economic development - Centralparks (Programme Central Europe, 2019-2022)

Pressures and Responses

6. Management of Human Activities

6.1. Hunting

48. Does the legislation of your country implement the principle of sustainable use of waterbirds, as envisaged in the AEWA Action Plan, taking into account the full geographical range of the waterbird populations concerned and their life history characteristics? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.1; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 2.2)

Yes

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

>>> The Act No. 274/2009 on hunting (as amended) includes § 30 on Hunting planning, which includes

- a) concept of hunting development in the Slovak Republic,
- b) concept of game management in hunting regions and hunting sites,
- c) development (forward looking) plan of hunting management in the hunting district for the period of ten years,
- d) annual plans of hunting management in the hunting district.

Hunting plans must ensure sustainable management and use of the game, protection and preservation of genetic resources and biodiversity conservation. These must be set up so as to respect nature and landscape protection needs, etc.

The Concept of hunting development in the Slovak Republic is provided by the Ministry of Agriculture in cooperation with the Hunting Chamber and is approved by the Slovak Government.

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

Yes

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

Only some AEWA species occurring in your country

>>> All legally huntable species (included in the hunting law as species with hunting season).

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

The whole territory of your country

>>> Data are collected by regional authorities for hunting and processed by the institute (National Forestry Centre)

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

All forms of waterbird harvesting

>>> Hunting statistics and realization of exemptions

If other, please tick below and provide details.

Other

>>> For species for which exemptions were granted by the Ministry of Environment the collection of data on real use of the species is made by the Ministry of Environment.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Each hunting organization is responsible for managing hunting unit. They have obligation to register all individuals of game species they shot. This register is then passed to the National Forestry Centre, an expert organization under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic which develops records and statistics.

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

Fully

When was lead shot use in wetlands banned?

>>> Using of lead shot in wetlands is banned since 1 January 2015.

The European Commission adopted new restriction for use lead in gunshot for hunting and sports shooting in or around wetlands under the regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) in January 2021 (Commission Regulation (EU) 2021/57 of 25 January 2021 amending Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the

Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) as regards lead in gunshot in or around wetlands). It will apply in all EU countries from 15 February 2023.

What legislation is in place?

>>> Prohibited methods and means of capture and killing of protected animals are stated in § 9 of the Regulation of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 24/2003 to the Act on nature and landscape protection (as amended). According to it, using of lead ammunition during hunt of waterfowl in wetlands is prohibited. Consequently, the use of lead shots is banned in the hunting law (Act No. 274/2009, § 65, par. 36).

Who enforces this legislation?

>>> The legislation is enforced by the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and their regional (district) authorities.

Has assessment of compliance with the legislation been undertaken?

No

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

>>> Generally the national legislation is harmonized with EU legal provisions which include most of AEWA obligations. Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive) implements in EU law the commitments set out in the AEWA.

Provisions of AEWA are transposed to the relevant national legislation (mainly in the field of nature protection and hunting). This evaluation of compliance is due procedure before signing/accession to any international legal instrument at the national level. In the case of AEWA the signature was subject to the approval of the Government of the Slovak Republic as well as the National Council of the Slovak Republic and ratification by the President.

In addition, national law was subject to the deep evaluation before as well as after the accession to the EU.

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

No

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

>>> No special measurement of impact of the legislation is a part of regular monitoring.

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

Yes

How would you rate the effectiveness of the measures?

Moderate

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

>>> Nature conservation and hunting guards and specialized police departments exist, but in not sufficient numbers. Special environmental crime departments exist in the police and the Ministry of Interior.

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

>>> Only ad hoc cases of illegal taking of waterbirds are registered.

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

>>> All details and standards are included in the Act No. 274/2009 on hunting (as amended) and the Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture No. 344/2009 by which the Act is implemented (as amended) and knowledge on hunting zoology and game biology and on relevant legislation is tested.

54. Are best practice codes and standards for hunting in place in your country in support of enforcement of hunting laws and regulations? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.7; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 2.3)

Yes

What do these cover?

Club Affiliation

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

Other (please specify)

>>> Game management plans.

Please provide details on each item selected above

>>> Hunters are organized in hunting organisation and Hunting Chamber;

Emergency closure - no entry to the hunting district or quiet zone can be declared by the municipality on request of user of hunting district and under recommendation of the district hunting authority. The user of the hunting district is obliged to take measures for protection of game species in emergency situations.

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

High (almost always applied)

Please provide details and reasons for the high degree of application

>>> Hunting legislation has detailed provisions which are obligatory for all users of the hunting districts.

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

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

Please provide details and reasons for the high degree of effectiveness

>>> Hunting legislation has detailed provisions which are obligatory for all users of the hunting districts.

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

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Sustainable harvest of water birds is applied according to national legislation, regulations and standards which are in line with AEWA Guidelines and other international principles, guidelines and standards (especially EU regulations).

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

>>> Handbook of the Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic on use of wetland sites for sustainable forms of tourism; Ramsar Site destination management was developed in 2020.

https://www.minzp.sk/files/sekcia-ochranyprirodyakrajiny/dohovory/ramsar/manual_mokrade.pdf

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

>>> Activities (guided tours, birdwatching, excursions) of the Slovak Ornithological Society / BirdLife Slovakia; private initiatives.

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

Medium

Please provide details

>>> Community benefits are only partly included in the aims of these initiatives. New Strategy for local sustainable tourism development based on natural and cultural heritage of the Carpathians was developed

within a project in 2020 and will be tested and applied on local level.

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

>>> Not sufficient experience in this field.

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.

>>> The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) brings forward a proposal for EU-wide restrictions on the use of lead in fishing. At the request of the European Commission, ECHA has assessed the health and environmental risks posed by the use of lead used in fishing sinkers and lures. ECHA's proposal concerning of lead sold and used in fishing is the following is:

- ban on the sale and use of lead sinkers and lures (with transition periods depending on weight: ≤ 50 g three years; > 50 g five years)

- immediate ban on the use of lead sinkers when the sinker is deliberately dropped to water (lead drop off techniques).

The European Commission together with the 27 EU Member states will take the decision on the restriction and its conditions - based on ECHA's proposal and the committees' opinion.

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

Yes and being implemented

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

Entire country

Please provide details

>>> The Slovak Republic as a member of EU carries out Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) of activities potentially affecting natural habitats, protected sites or areas important for species (Act No. 24/2006 on Environmental Impact Assessment, as amended).

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The Act No. 24/2006 (as amended) on the environmental impact assessment, which implements relevant Directives of EU, covers waterbirds and their habitats.

Do the SEA/EIA processes include public participation?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The Act on EIA was amended several times and it enables wider and more effective public participation.

60. Are there any other legal and/or administrative measures in your country to avoid, mitigate and compensate for adverse impacts of development activities on the sites of national and international importance for migratory birds? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 3.5)

Yes

Please describe each measure and provide details for each of them

>>> Legal measures: Act No. 543/2002 (as amended) on nature and landscape protection; Decree 24/2003 (as amended) to the Act on nature and landscape protection

Please rank the effectiveness of these measures:

Medium

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))

Information not available

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.

>>> Capacity limits of the relevant institutions.

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?

>>> General Guidelines for Environment Impact Assessment in the Slovak Republic (2006) which include principles of AEWA Guidelines and other international standards are used.

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

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> In cooperation with NGO Raptor Protection of Slovakia several projects have been implemented with both public awareness activities and practical measures for monitoring the most problematic sections of power lines. Insulation of poles, marking of electric lines to be visible, as well as construction of artificial nest boxes for concerned birds were made. All activities are coordinated with the SNC SR. Energy distribution companies in Slovakia support activities on monitoring and surveys of birds affected by power lines. They are voluntary partners in different projects (mainly LIFE projects) where they together with public authorities (SNC SR) and NGOs cooperate. Organizations are concerned with the problem of electricity pylons (in terms of the collisions with birds). Permanently (once per year), the energy distribution companies organize meetings (workshops), where the collected data and experiences are discussed. LIFE Nature project LIFE 13 NAT/SK001272 "Energy in the landscape - power lines and conservation of priority bird species in Natura 2000 sites" was implemented (2014-2019) jointly by NGO (Raptor Protection of Slovakia), energy companies, the State Nature Conservancy and the University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice, mostly in wetland areas. One of the outcomes of the project was Handbook on bird protection on overhead powerlines in Slovakia which includes guidance for cooperation with stakeholders.
http://www.sopsr.sk/news/file/LIFE%20Energia_Odborna%20prirucka.pdf

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?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Collection of data on waterbird distribution, population sizes, migrations and movements is a part of the tasks of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, which is commenting all plans for power lines and proposes measures, in cooperation with relevant NGOs.

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

Yes

Please provide details.

>>> The measures are enforced by branches/regional administrations of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic

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

>>> Development (reconstruction) of the electric lines using the underground installation is required, but in practice it is not feasible (being very expensive). Therefore this approach is not realistic neither in large scale areas (SPAs cover over 25 % of the territory of Slovakia) nor in other protected areas in wetlands (where it is too complicated to install underground lines).

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

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

Yes

Please provide details.

>>> The provision is included in the Act No. 543/2002 on nature and landscape protection (§ 4.3) as obligation. Construction of power lines is commented and consulted with the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and habitats of conservation importance are avoided.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The provision is included in the Act No. 543/2002 on nature and landscape protection (§ 4.3) as obligation. New triangle consoles have been installed. Installations of tools for better visibility of power lines have been made - aerial marked ball for power lines - red and white colours, FireFly - Bird Flapper. The most appropriate solution is using so-called triple cable in which all three conductors are within one cable that is better visible and does not present so dangerous barrier like three parallel conductors. All the new electric poles must be constructed towards minimizing negative effects on birds. Also within existing electric poles in problematic sections the technical measures are undertaken. The most appropriate model to reduce electrocution should be used by all 3 electricity companies in the country after the agreement with the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and NGOs. The SNC SR requests realization of technical measures for preventing bird killing on the power lines: Operative installation of protectors in critical sections; Installation of artificial breeding stands and protectors on power lines - poles; Replacement of whole consoles. Relevant guidance is provided in the Handbook on bird protection on overhead powerlines in Slovakia http://www.sopsr.sk/news/file/LIFE%20Energia_Odborna_prirucka.pdf

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[LIFE_Energia_Odborna_prirucka.pdf](#)

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Many problematic power lines are identified by the State Nature Conservancy staff members in cooperation with NGOs and relevant energy providing companies on regular basis and in projects. Priority areas are Natura 2000 sites - Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), and Ramsar sites. However there are hundreds of km of canals and other important wintering sites of waterbirds out of SPAs and many gaps in knowledge still remain.

64.8. Where sections of existing power lines have been identified to cause relatively high levels of waterbird injury and/or mortality due to electrocution and/or collision, have they been modified as a matter of priority?

Yes

Please provide details.

>>> The priority sections of power lines for modification are enforced by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and consulted with environment authorities and electricity companies.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Systematic collection of data on collisions and killing is undertaken by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNC SR) using regular on the spot personal checks of the electricity line zones. The SNC SR has realized monitoring and documentation. It means, there exists "step by step" procedure, how the listing and evidence of power-pylon has to be done and how possible occurrence of injured/dead bird is documented (GPS coordinates, photo, type of pylon, type of insulator, etc.). These activities are for many years included in the annual work plan of the institution. They consist of identification of the most dangerous facilities (both constructions and power lines) through systematic and ad hoc monitoring of killed/hurt birds, compilation and data processing, supervision on practical application of decisions of nature protection authorities and of improvement of identified problematic facilities. Similar activities have been done by NGOs.

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?

Yes

Please provide details.

>>> The monitoring is focused on selected project sites.

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

>>> The Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection, as amended, provides for general plant and animal protection (§ 4) with specific provisions on electricity lines: paragraph 4.4 "Everyone who constructs or carries out scheduled reconstruction of overhead electricity lines is obliged to use such technical solutions that prevent from killing birds", and paragraph 4.5 "If killing of birds on electricity lines or telecommunication facilities is verifiable, the nature protection body may rule that an administrator of electricity lines or telecommunication facilities has to adopt measures to prevent killing of birds." Administrator of the line is responsible for preventing electrocution of birds and must make arrangements to prevent electrocutions when erecting or reconstructing electric lines or when it is proved that a bird is killed on a pole. According to the nature protection act the district/regional offices (their units in charge for environment protection) give opinion for each territorial decision or building permits (including those for the electricity network), that is the opportunity to request for considering the issue of negative effects of 22 kV lines on birds. These offices have been asked to thoroughly check all the plans and request (in all the new facilities) to install the appropriate models of construction and in sites of high importance for birds (with verified damages) to insist on underground power lines. All plans and projects regarding the construction of power lines should comply with the Directives on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA Act. No 24/2006 Coll.). Where a high voltage (110kV, 220kV or 400 kV) transmission project, alone or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have significant impacts on Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA) - Natura 2000 sites, or the risks of such effects cannot be excluded, Appropriate Assessment is required under the Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive (No 92/43/EEC). The elimination of electrocution was included also in the Action Plan for implementation of the updated National Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (approved in 2014 by the Slovak Government).

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

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The power lines (110kV, 22kV or 400 kV) in the potential and active breeding sites have been monitored (by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, NGOs and volunteers) and protected with console protectors (by energy companies). Dead and injured birds found under the pylons are documented, and the locations of problematic pylons have been sent to energy companies. More detailed monitoring at the 22 kV

lines have been done mainly in Natura 2000 sites - Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA); Collection and processing of data and implementation of further elimination measures followed. The LIFE Nature project "Energy in the landscape - power lines and conservation of priority bird species in Natura 2000 sites" was implemented, aimed at developing strategy solution at the national level (commonly prepared by NGOs, all 3 energy distribution companies, and the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, for approval by the Ministry), elaboration of the methodology of collection and evaluation of data, development of information centre and database; identification of risk sites along the migration corridors and main wintering sites, activities in pilot areas, etc. "Methodology of evaluation of bird killing on power lines" determines the biological aspects of the impact of collisions with power lines on populations of threatened species in the study areas (SPAs in Eastern and Western Slovakia). There are still some gaps in monitoring of important wintering sites out of Natura 2000 sites and protected areas.

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

>>> Environment assessment to determine implications of the strategy for use of the hydro-energetic potential of water courses of the Slovak Republic for Natura 2000 sites according to paragraph 6.3 of the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC has been made. Guidance of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic on standards and limits for location of the wind power plants and wind farms established categories of suitability for location of wind farms and limits and conditions for planning of these farms taking into account areas of importance for migratory waterbirds and hydric bio-corridors, as well as inventory of birds.

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 impact assessment follows the principles included in relevant directives of EU.

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

Yes

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

>>> The monitoring is included in decisions of the environment authorities.

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

No

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC should be applied in Natura 2000 sites.

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

Not applicable

Please explain the reasons

>>> Wind farms have not been developed in Slovakia, but relevant measures are included in guidance documents (e.g. EU Guidance on wind energy in accordance with the EU nature legislation, 2011) which are to be applied in the country.

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

>>> Wind farms have not been developed in Slovakia.

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.

Not applicable

Please explain the reasons

>>> Wind farms have not been developed in Slovakia.

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

No

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

>>> No specific measures have been put in place concerning migratory waterbirds. The general rules and provisions set up by the European Union apply for the country.

The EU has defined a set of sustainability criteria to ensure that the use of biofuels (used in transport) and bioliquids (used for electricity and heating) is done in a way that guarantees real carbon savings and protects biodiversity. Only biofuels and bioliquids that comply with the criteria can receive government support or count towards national renewable energy targets.

The main criteria include provisions that biofuels cannot be grown in areas converted from land with previously high carbon stock such as wetlands or forests; Biofuels cannot be produced from raw materials obtained from land with high biodiversity such as primary forests or highly biodiverse grasslands.

The revised Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001, adopted in December 2018 by the European Parliament and by the Council of Ministers of the European Union, establishes an overall policy for the promotion and use of energy from renewable sources in the European Union. The new directive reinforces the sustainability criteria of bioenergy through different provisions, including the negative direct impact that the production of biofuels may have due to indirect land use change (ILUC).

The Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic developed in 2016 the sustainability criteria for use of biomass in regions of the Slovak Republic.

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

>>> Monitoring of species of international importance and elimination of kills on power lines are activities included in the Action Plan for implementation of the updated National Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, adopted by the Slovak Government in 2014.

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

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

No

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

>>> The relevant guidelines will be translated and used in the following period and distributed to relevant stakeholders.

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

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> Small-scale fishery and sport angling on fishponds and other inland water bodies is applied in Slovakia as inland country, using of fishing gear is not a common method used and generally there is no by-catch of waterbirds.

70. Has any project / initiative been implemented in your country that promotes the integration of cultural and provisioning ecosystem services of migratory waterbirds into policy and decision-making affecting

them or their habitats? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 2.6)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> The projects and initiatives promoting the ecosystem services are generally oriented, e.g. within the project Centralparks - Building management capacities of Carpathian protected areas for the integration and harmonization of biodiversity protection and socio-economic development, the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic is the project partner responsible for development of the Ecosystem Services Toolkit for decision makers and protected areas administrations in the Carpathians.

Pressures and Responses

7. Research and Monitoring

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

Yes

Covering the breeding period

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

Fully [Guidance: Coverage is full when all waterbird species are covered by monitoring schemes that yield statistically robust estimates of breeding population size and trend at least once in every triennium.]

Please provide details.

>>> Project "Development of data on favourable conservation status of selected bird species and their habitats in SPAs" implemented by the State Nature Conservancy tested the methodology for long-term systematic monitoring of selected birds. The project continues within the Programme Quality of Environment in 2018-2022 ("Monitoring of species and habitats of European Interest in terms of Habitats Directive and Birds Directive").

Four wetland sites have been under European programme of CES (Constant Effort Sites) in different parts of the country. Programme Breeding Waterfowl Census is implemented by the Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife (SOS/BirdLife) Slovakia. Monitoring of breeding of White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) is organized by the SOS/BirdLife Slovakia.

Is information on drivers of population trends also being collected?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Information on drivers of population trends are collected within the project "Monitoring of species and habitats of European Interest in terms of Habitats Directive and Birds Directive", as well as the Programme of census of breeding birds (<http://www.vtaky.sk/stranka/96-Hniezdne-scitanie-vodneho-vtactva.html>)

Covering the passage period

Partially

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

>>> Monitoring is included in the annual work plan of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and is focused on Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

Is information on drivers of population trends also being collected?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Information on drivers of population trends are collected within the project "Monitoring of species and habitats of European Interest in terms of Habitats Directive and Birds Directive", as well as Programme RINGS (birds ringing - <http://vtaky.sk/stranka/106-Program-RINGS.html>).

Covering the non-breeding/wintering period

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

Please provide details.

>>> Wintering birds census (<http://www.vtaky.sk/stranka/95-Zimne-scitanie.html>).

Project "Monitoring of species and habitats of European Interest in terms of Habitats Directive and Birds Directive" (Operational Programme Quality of Environment, 2018-2022) is continuation of the project "Development of data on favourable conservation status of selected bird species and their habitats in SPAs".

Is information on drivers of population trends also being collected?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Information on drivers of population trends are collected within the project "Monitoring of species and habitats of European Interest in terms of Habitats Directive and Birds Directive".

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Winter census of waterbirds (over 500 sites checked). Project Monitoring and management of Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) was implemented by the State Nature Conservancy. Monitoring is focused also on gees winter resting sites.

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

>>> There are some bilateral projects and cooperation agreements on monitoring of birds between the State Nature Conservancy (and/or some NGOs) and nature conservation institutions in neighbouring countries, however there is lack of capacity (human and financial) for support of other Parties or Range States.

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

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Standard methods used, available at www.vtaky.sk.

The guidelines for systematic long-term monitoring of birds in SPAs were published by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic in 2013.

75. Has your government provided over the past triennium funds and/or logistical support for the International Waterbird Census and/or other waterbird monitoring scheme at international or national level? (Resolution 6.3)

Yes

Nationally

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Waterbird monitoring is included in the project "Monitoring of species and habitats of European Interest in terms of Habitats Directive and Birds Directive", co-funded by the government through the Operational Programme Quality of Environment.

Monitoring of waterbirds was important activity of the project LIFE Energy.

Internationally

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Interreg Slovak Republic - Hungary crossborder project "Birds without borders" was supported in 2017-2019 aimed at improving conditions for waterbirds monitoring in ornithological stationary in the Bodva River basin on both sides of the border.

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

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

No

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

No

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

No

Please provide reason(s)

>>> The investigation is made on the EU level.

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.

Being developed

Please provide starting date and expected finalisation date of the development process; contact details of a contact person for each programme

>>> This measure is included in the Action Plan 2019-2021 to the Updated Programme of Wetland Management in Slovakia to 2024, as well as in the Action Plan for implementation of measures of the updated National Biodiversity Strategy to 2020. It will be a part of the national Strategy for implementation of the CMS and its instruments (planned to be finalized by the end of 2021).

Public awareness on waterbirds and wetlands is included among priorities in the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 in Slovakia pursuant to Article 8 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) for the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021 - 2027.

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

Yes

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Current activities include provisions of the AEWA Action Plan (training programmes, information materials). Different events (Danube Day, European Birds Day, World Wetlands Day, World Migratory Bird Day, camps, excursions, conferences) are used to highlight the themes.

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

Yes

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

Government

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The national Focal Point developed a draft CEPA programme for implementation of the Ramsar and the Carpathian Wetland Initiative communication plan, this CEPA programme will be completed with AEWA Communication Strategy and it will be included also in the Strategy for implementation of the Bonn Convention (CMS) and its instruments (planned to be finalized by the end of 2021).

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

They are the same person

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Training programmes and materials will be developed in 2021.

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.

>>> The information is placed on the web page of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNC) and the activities are included in the annual work plan of SNC. Administrations of protected areas organize events every year connected with WMBD. The WMBD is promoted also in web site and magazine of the Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia and various activities are organized. About activities is regularly informed also AEWA Secretariat (e.g. <http://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org/2020/events-per-country/sk>).

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

>>> Insufficient funds, co-financing provided for projects.

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))

Yes

Please provide details; attach the assessment or provide a weblink, if available

>>> The assessment is a part of the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 in Slovakia pursuant to Article 8 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) for the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021 – 2027.

Have you developed a resource mobilization plan?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Possible funding sources are included in the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 in Slovakia pursuant to Article 8 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) for the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021 – 2027

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

>>> Insufficient capacity.

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

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

Yes, it is operational on a regular basis

Please provide details

>>> The AEWA implementation has been included in the tasks of the Slovak Ramsar Committee with representation of relevant sectors, sectoral agencies, academic institutions and NGOs. National Focal Points and Administrative Authorities are the same for the Ramsar Convention and AEWA.

Are priority capacity gaps addressed by the coordination mechanism?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Priorities are discussed within the Slovak Ramsar Committee, Working Group on Biodiversity and other coordination mechanisms of the Ministry of Environment.

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

Medium

Please provide details and the reasons for the lower effectiveness

>>> Due to COVID-19 pandemic the meetings and communication have been limited.

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

Yes

Please provide details; attach the assessment or provide a weblink, if available

>>> Internal consultations within the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic.

Have you developed a prioritized national action plan to fill significant capacity gaps in your country?

Yes, but it is not being implemented

Please provide details and the reasons for the lack of implementation; attach the plan or provide a weblink, if available

>>> Partly included in the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 in Slovakia pursuant to Article 8 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) for the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021 – 2027.

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

Yes

Please provide details on each twinning arrangement

>>> Memorandum of Understanding was signed in 2014 between the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and Duna-Ipoly National park Directorate in Hungary for cooperation development in transboundary Ramsar Site Poiplie - Ipoly River Valley (including monitoring of waterbirds, research and exchange of data); Cooperation of Austria, Czech Republic and Slovakia in trilateral transboundary Ramsar Site Floodplains of the Morava-Dyje-Danube Confluence (Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia) is based on the Memorandum of Understanding (2001) and is organized within the Trilateral Ramsar Platform. Its activities include joint inventory, conservation and management of waterbirds and their habitats.

The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic has signed cooperation agreements with directorates of national parks and nature conservation agencies of neighbouring countries and annual joint work plans include monitoring and inventory of animals, including birds.

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

>>> Both on the level of the Ministry of Environment and the implementing agency the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic are officers in the same department or are responsible for several conventions (including CBD and Ramsar Convention). These officers cooperate in development of national reports for the AEWA, Ramsar Convention and CBD, including report on implementation of the Action Plan for biodiversity to 2020.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The officers responsible for AEWA have been engaged with national processes related to development of the national Priorities of Agenda 2030 (adopted in 2018) and the draft Vision and strategy of development of Slovakia to 2030 - long-term strategy of sustainable development of the Slovak Republic - Slovakia 2030 (adopted in January 2021).

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The officers of the Ministry of Environment and of the nature conservation agency responsible for AEWA are engaged with development of the national Strategy for implementation of the CMS (based on 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

>>> The Action Plan for implementation of the national Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 includes goals, objectives and actions related to migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

92.2 Other strategic plans and policies

Yes

Please name the other strategic planning processes

>>> Programme of wetland management in Slovakia to 2024 and Action Plan for wetlands for 2019-2021; Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 in Slovakia pursuant to Article 8 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) for the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021 - 2027; Strategy of the Environmental Policy of the Slovak Republic until 2030 (2019) https://www.minzp.sk/files/iep/publikacia_zelensie-slovensko-aj_web.pdf

Please provide details

>>> Priorities concerning migratory waterbirds are included in relevant parts of all documents. Strategy of the Environmental Policy identifies protection of forest, grassland and wetland ecosystems as one of the main environmental issues in Slovakia. It includes measures and targets in water management, biodiversity and landscape protection, wetland restoration, sustainable land use and management, flood prevention and other wetland related priorities.

Sustainable Development Goals

No

Aichi Targets

No

Strategic Plan for Migratory Species

No

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

>>> Not sufficient funds in the budget.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Insufficient funds and capacity.

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

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

>>> The implementation of AEWA Strategic Plan is a part of the work plan and activities of the national nature conservation agency - the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic. Co-financing of relevant projects (national and international) was provided, e.g. LIFE: LIFE18 NAT/AT/000733 - Dynamic LIFE lines Danube; LIFE14 NAT/SK/001306 - Restoration and management of the Danube floodplain habitats; LIFE12 NAT/SK/001137 - Restoration of nesting and feeding

habitats of Sand Martin, Kingfisher and European Bee-eater in Danube-Morava region; LIFE12 NAT/SK/001155 - Conservation of birds in SPA Ostrovné lúky; LIFE17 NAT/SK/000621 Restoration of habitats for root vole *Microtus oeconomus mehelyi; LIFE16 NAT/CZ/000001 - Optimization of Natura 2000 sites management delivery in the South Bohemia Region and the territory of South Slovakia; LIFE12 NAT/SK/000488 - Integrated management of river ecosystems in southern Slovakia; LIFE15 NAT/SK/000861 - Wetland restorations and birds conservation In SPA Poiplie, Horná Orava a Senianske rybníky in Slovakia; LIFE-IP NATURA 2000 SVK project „Role of the Natura 2000 network and management of some prioritized habitats in the integrated landscape protection of the Slovak Republic“ (2020 – 2030) has been approved recently and it includes wetland restoration activities.

INTERREG: INTERREG V-A Slovakia-Austria - The Alpine-Carpathian River Corridor (2017-2020); Interreg V-A Slovak Republic – Czech Republic - Project Revision – Measures to mitigate impact of invasive alien animals in Western Slovakia and Southern Moravia; Living banks – common protection of river ecosystems; INTERREG DTP – Bridging the Danube Protected Areas towards a Danube Habitat Corridor (2017-2019) (DANUBEparksCONNECTED).

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

No

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of funds.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of capacity.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Proposals for innovative financing mechanisms will be included in the new nature conservation policy and the Strategy for implementation of Bonn Convention (CMS) and its instruments.

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

Yes

Please describe each synergetic arrangement and benefits acquired

>>> National focal points of biodiversity-related conventions and relevant sectors and experts are contacted, consulted and participate in meetings of respective working groups and share information and knowledge.

Pressures and Responses

10. Climate Change

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

a. Research and studies of climate change impacts on waterbirds

Undertaken

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

>>> Adaptation measures are included in the updated national Adaptation Strategy (2018)

<https://www.minzp.sk/files/odbor-politiky-zmeny-klimy/strategia-adaptacie-sr-zmenu-klimy-aktualizacia.pdf> - wetland issues and benefits from wetlands are captured in chapters on biodiversity, water management and built environment in the form of recommended green and blue adaptation measures. The draft Action Plan to the NAS has been developed and it is in process of strategic environment assessment (restoration, conservation and management of wetlands is included).

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)

Planned

Please provide details

>>> Assessment of vulnerability of habitats to climate change is included in the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 in Slovakia pursuant to Article 8 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) for the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021 - 2027.

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

Planned

Please provide details

>>> The assessment of the vulnerability of waterbird species to climate change is included in the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 in Slovakia pursuant to Article 8 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) for the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021 - 2027.

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

Planned

Please provide details

>>> The issue will be included in the updated Action Plan for Wetlands for period 2022 - 2024 for implementation of the Management Plan for Wetlands of Slovakia until 2024, and in the updated Nature Conservation Policy until 2030 (under preparation). National Strategy for implementation of the CMS and its instruments (planned to be finished by the end of 2021).

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

Planned

Please provide details

>>> The Action Plan will be included in the National Strategy for implementation of the CMS and its instruments (planned to be finished by the end of 2021).

f. Other undertaken or planned relevant activities.

No

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

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

Not applicable

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

>>> Measures to prevent the spread of the HPAI were adopted in 2005 and are regularly updated. The relevant decisions of the European Commission are also available on the web. The non-stop telephone line was established by the Ministry of Agriculture for reporting on found dead birds. Information on the disease, preventive measures and other instructions are available on web sites of the Ministry of Agriculture, Authority for the Public Health, State Veterinary and Food Administration, Slovak Hunters Chamber, special portal was established on avian influenza. Information on protection of all bird species and instructions for manipulation with wild bird species were included in the web, as well as EU Implementing Decisions on risk mitigation and reinforced biosecurity measures and early detection systems in relation to the risks posed by wild birds for the transmission of highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses to poultry, and concerning certain protective measures in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States have been issued and published. No specific challenges were identified.

List required further guidance or information

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[usmernenie vtáčia chrípka_13.1.doc](#)

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

>>> 7 April 2021