



Report on the implementation of AEWA for the period 2018-2020

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

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

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

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

1. General Information

Name of reporting Contracting Party

>>> South Africa

Date of entry into force of AEWA in the Contracting Party

>>> 01/04/2002

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

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

>>> None

2. Institutional Information

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

Designated National AEWA Administrative Authority

Full name of the institution

>>> Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries of the Republic of South Africa

Name and title of the head of institution

>>> Director-General: Ms Nomfundo Tshabalala

Mailing address - Street and number

>>> Environment House, 473 Steve Biko road. Arcadia, Pretoria, 0083

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>>> DG@environment.gov.za

Website

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Designated National Focal Point (NFP) for AEWA matters

Name and title of the NFP

>>> Ms Humbulani Mafumo, Deputy Director: Conservation Management

Affiliation (institution, department)

>>> Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries of the Republic of South Africa

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

Name and title of the TC NFP

>>> Dr Lizanne Roxburgh

Affiliation (institution, department)

>>> Endangered Wildlife Trust

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>>> 27 and 28 Austin Road, Glen Austin AH, Midrand, 1685

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>>> lizanner@ewt.orgg.za

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

Name and title of the CEPA NFP

>>> BirdLife South Africa, Policy and Advocacy Manager - The post is vacant a replacemnt still to be done

Affiliation (institution, department)

>>> BirdLife South Africa

Mailing address - Street and number

>>> Isdell House, 17 Hume Road, Dunkeld West 2196, Johannesburg, South Africa

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>>> advocacy@birdlife.org.za

Website

>>> <http://www.birdlife.org.za>

Designated National Respondent (DNR) in charge of the compilation and submission of the AEWA National Report 2018-2020

Please select from the list below as appropriate.

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

Other contributors to the AEWA National Report 2018-2020

Please list the names and affiliations (institution, organisation) of the other contributors to this report. For Contracting Parties in which nature conservation is not an exclusive competence of national/federal government, Designated National Respondents are encouraged to seek input from other relevant levels of government.

- >>> 1. National Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries: Oceans and Coast Branch
- 2. South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)
- 3. Gauteng Department: Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD)
- 4. Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT)
- 5. University of Cape Town, Animal Demography Unit (ADU) & FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology
- 6. BirdLife South Africa (BirdLife SA)
- 7. Ezemvelo KwaZulu Natal (EKZN) Wildlife
- 8. South African National Parks (SANParks)
- 9. Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism
- 10. Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs
- 11. KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs
- 12. Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism
- 13. Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs
- 14. North West Department of

Pressures and Responses

4. Species Conservation

4.1 Legal Measures

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> An AEWA-specific process has not been established, and South Africa's national-level lists of threatened or protected species are not currently well-aligned with Table 1 of AEWA (with the partial exception of AEWA-listed seabirds. However, a broader process is underway to amend South Africa's National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, and this offers the potential to better align the Act with South Africa's international obligations. In addition, a process has been initiated to develop a national AEWA-implementation plan, and South Africa's implementing legislation will be one of the factors considered as part of this multi-stakeholder endeavour.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

2. Was your country's national legislation reviewed following the Guidance on Measures in National Legislation for Different Populations of the Same Species, Particularly with Respect to Hunting and Trade (Resolution 6.7)?

See Appendix 1 / Appendix 2 / Appendix 3

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> An AEWA-specific process has not been established, and South Africa's national-level lists of threatened or protected species are not currently well-aligned with Table 1 of AEWA (with the partial exception of AEWA-listed seabirds. However, a broader process is underway to amend South Africa's National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, and this offers the potential to better align the Act with South Africa's international obligations. In addition, a process has been initiated to develop a national AEWA-implementation plan, and South Africa's implementing legislation will be one of the factors considered as part of this multi-stakeholder endeavour.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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.

[Copy of Copy of Copy of Copy of South Africa Q3 AEWA NR 2018-2020 PopCoIA TOPS-1 v2.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.

[South Africa Q4 AEWA NR 2018-2020 PopCoIA-Cat2 3 4.xlsx](#)

5. Please confirm whether taking is regulated for the AEWA Table 1, Column B populations that are regularly occurring in your country (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.2; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 1.1).

Guidance on responding to this question:

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

2- Fill in the Excel template comprehensively;

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

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

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Copy of Copy of South Africa Q5 AEWA NR 2018-2020 PopCoIB_TOPS_CWJ edit \(1\) \(Autosaved\).xlsx](#)

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

Yes, one or more modes of taking have been prohibited

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

Snares

Yes, partially

Please clarify whether the partial prohibition is temporal or spatial or both and indicate to which time periods and/or areas of your country it applies; provide further details, including the relevant legislation in place

>>> At a National level use of snares is regulated through National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA).

However, at a provincial level regulation on the use of snares to harvest waterbirds varies in South Africa. i.e the use of snares is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng and the North West Province. Furthermore, the use of snares is prohibited by provincial legislation in the Free State, Limpopo, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

Limes

Yes, partially

Please clarify whether the partial prohibition is temporal or spatial or both and indicate to which time periods and/or areas of your country it applies; provide further details, including the relevant legislation in

place

>>> At a National level use of limes is regulated through National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA).

However, at a provincial level regulation on the use of snares to harvest waterbirds varies in South Africa. i.e the use of limes is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng and the North West Province. Furthermore, the use of limes is prohibited by provincial legislation in the Free State, Limpopo, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

Hooks

Yes, partially

Please clarify whether the partial prohibition is temporal or spatial or both and indicate to which time periods and/or areas of your country it applies; provide further details, including the relevant legislation in place

>>> At a National level use of hooks is regulated through National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA).

However, at a provincial level regulation on the use of hooks to harvest waterbirds varies in South Africa. i.e the use of hooks is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng, the North West, and KwaZulu-Natal Province. Furthermore, the use of limes is prohibited by provincial legislation in the Free State, Limpopo, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

Live birds which are blind or mutilated used as decoys

Yes, fully

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

>>> Animals Protection Amendment Act (Act 7 of 1972)

Tape recorders and other electronic devices

Yes, partially

Please clarify whether the partial prohibition is temporal or spatial or both and indicate to which time periods and/or areas of your country it applies; provide further details, including the relevant legislation in place

>>> At a National level use of tape recorders and other electronic devices is regulated through National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA).

However, at a provincial level regulation on the use of tape recorders and other electronic devices to harvest waterbirds varies in South Africa. i.e the use of tape recorders and other electronic devices is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng and the North West Province. Furthermore, the use of limes is prohibited by provincial legislation in the Free State, Limpopo, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

Electrocuting devices

Yes, partially

Please clarify whether the partial prohibition is temporal or spatial or both and indicate to which time periods and/or areas of your country it applies; provide further details, including the relevant legislation in place

>>> Regulation of the use of electrocuting devices to harvest waterbirds varies amongst provinces. i.e the use of electrocuting devices is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng, the North West Province and KwaZulu-Natal. In practice, permits for using electrocuting devices to harvest waterbirds are not issued in Gauteng. Use of electrocuting devices is prohibited by provincial legislation in the Free State, Limpopo and the Western Cape.

Artificial light sources

Yes, partially

Please clarify whether the partial prohibition is temporal or spatial or both and indicate to which time periods and/or areas of your country it applies; provide further details, including the relevant legislation in place

>>> Regulation of the use of artificial light sources in the harvest of waterbirds varies amongst provinces. i.e the use of artificial light sources is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng and the North West Province. In practice, permits for using artificial light sources in the harvesting of waterbirds are not issued in Gauteng. Use of artificial light sources is prohibited by provincial legislation in the Free State, Limpopo, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

Mirrors and other dazzling devices

Yes, partially

Please clarify whether the partial prohibition is temporal or spatial or both and indicate to which time periods and/or areas of your country it applies; provide further details, including the relevant legislation in place

>>> Regulation of the use of mirrors and other dazzling devices in the harvest waterbirds varies amongst provinces. i.e the use of such devices is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng, the North West Province and KwaZulu-Natal. In practice, permits for using such devices in harvesting waterbirds are not issued in Gauteng. Use of such devices is prohibited by provincial legislation in Limpopo and the Western Cape. There is no restriction on the use of such devices in the Free State.

Devices for illuminating targets

Yes, partially

Please clarify whether the partial prohibition is temporal or spatial or both and indicate to which time periods and/or areas of your country it applies; provide further details, including the relevant legislation in place

>>> Regulation of the use of devices for illuminating targets in the harvest of waterbirds varies amongst provinces. i.e the use of such devices is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng, Free State, North West Province and KwaZulu-Natal. In practice, permits for using such devices in harvesting waterbirds are not issued in Gauteng. Use of such devices is prohibited by provincial legislation in Limpopo and the Western Cape.

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

Yes, partially

Please clarify whether the partial prohibition is temporal or spatial or both and indicate to which time periods and/or areas of your country it applies; provide further details, including the relevant legislation in place

>>> Regulation of the use of sighting devices for night shooting in the harvest of waterbirds varies amongst provinces. i.e the use of such devices is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng, Free State, North West Province and KwaZulu-Natal. In practice, permits for using such devices in harvesting waterbirds are not issued in Gauteng. Use of such devices is prohibited by provincial legislation in Limpopo and the Western Cape.

Explosives

Yes, partially

Please clarify whether the partial prohibition is temporal or spatial or both and indicate to which time periods and/or areas of your country it applies; provide further details, including the relevant legislation in place

>>> At a National level, the National Explosives Act (no. 15 of 2003) and NEMBA is regulate the use of explosive to harvest waterbirds.

However at the provincial level, regulation on the use of explosives in the harvest of waterbirds varies amongst provinces. i.e the use of such explosives is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng, the North West Province and KwaZulu-Natal. In practice, permits for using explosives in harvesting waterbirds are not issued in Gauteng. Use of explosives is prohibited by provincial legislation in the Free State, Limpopo and the Western Cape.

Nets

Yes, partially

Please clarify whether the partial prohibition is temporal or spatial or both and indicate to which time periods and/or areas of your country it applies; provide further details, including the relevant legislation in place

>>> Regulation of the use of nets in the harvest of waterbirds varies amongst provinces. i.e the use of nets is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng, the Free State, North West Province and KwaZulu-Natal. Use of nets is prohibited by provincial legislation in Limpopo and the Western Cape.

Traps

Yes, partially

Please clarify whether the partial prohibition is temporal or spatial or both and indicate to which time periods and/or areas of your country it applies; provide further details, including the relevant legislation in place

>>> Regulation of the use of traps in the harvest of waterbirds varies amongst provinces. i.e the use of traps is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng, the Free State and North West Province. In practice, permits for using traps for consumptive harvesting of waterbirds are not issued in Gauteng though capture for research/ringing is permitted. Use of traps is prohibited by provincial legislation in Limpopo, the Western Cape and for certain waterbird species in KwaZulu-Natal.

Poison

Yes, partially

Please clarify whether the partial prohibition is temporal or spatial or both and indicate to which time periods and/or areas of your country it applies; provide further details, including the relevant legislation in place

>>> At a National level, the use of poison in the harvest of waterbirds is regulated through the the Public Health Act (Act. 36 of 1919) and Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Seeds and Remedies Act 36 of 1947.

However, at the provincial level, regulation of the use of poison in the harvest of waterbirds varies amongst provinces. i.e the use of poison is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng and the North West Province. Use of poison is prohibited by provincial legislation in the Free State, Limpopo, the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

Poisoned or anaesthetic baits

Yes, partially

Please clarify whether the partial prohibition is temporal or spatial or both and indicate to which time periods and/or areas of your country it applies; provide further details, including the relevant legislation in place

>>> At a National level, the use of poison in the harvest of waterbirds is regulated through the the Public Health Act (Act. 36 of 1919) and Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Seeds and Remedies Act 36 of 1947

However, at the provincial level, regulation of the use of poisoned or anaesthetic baits in the harvest of waterbirds varies amongst provinces. i.e the use of such baits is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng and the North West Province. In practice, permits for using such baits in harvesting of waterbirds are not issued in Gauteng. Use of such baits is prohibited by provincial legislation in the Free State, Limpopo, the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

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

Yes, partially

Please clarify whether the partial prohibition is temporal or spatial or both and indicate to which time periods and/or areas of your country it applies; provide further details, including the relevant legislation in place

>>> Regulation of the use of semi-automatic/automatic weapons in the harvest of waterbirds varies amongst provinces. Use of such weapons is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng, the Free State and North West Province. In practice, permits for using such weapons in harvesting of waterbirds are not issued in Gauteng. Use of such weapons is prohibited by provincial legislation in Limpopo, the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

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

Yes, partially

Please clarify whether the partial prohibition is temporal or spatial or both and indicate to which time periods and/or areas of your country it applies; provide further details, including the relevant legislation in place

>>> Regulation of the use of aircraft, motor vehicles and boats in the harvest of waterbirds varies amongst provinces. Use of aircraft, but not motor vehicles or boats, is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng and the Free State. In practice, permits for using aircraft in harvesting of waterbirds are not issued in Gauteng. Use of all three vehicle types is regulated through a permit system in the North West Province. Use of such vehicles is prohibited by provincial legislation in Limpopo, the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

Other non-selective modes of taking

Yes, partially

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

>>> To be reported in the next cycle as there no information as yet.

Please clarify whether the partial prohibition is temporal or spatial or both and indicate to which time periods and/or areas of your country it applies; provide further details, including the relevant legislation in place

>>> Regulation of the use of other non-selective taking modes in the harvest of waterbirds varies amongst provinces. i.e the use of such modes is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng, the Free State, North West Province and KwaZulu-Natal. Use of non-selective modes is prohibited by provincial legislation in the Western Cape.

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

>>> By and large, modes of taking are regulated at provincial level, and there are differences in the restrictions imposed by different provinces' legislation.

7. Has your country granted exemptions from any of the above prohibitions in order to accommodate livelihoods uses? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.2(b); AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 1.1)

No

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

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

No

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> No review of enforcement of and compliance with the domestic legislation relevant for AEWA implementation. However, a broader process is underway to amend South Africa's National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, and this offers the potential to better align the Act with South Africa's international obligations.

Was a review undertaken before MOP7?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> No review of enforcement of and compliance with the domestic legislation relevant for AEWA implementation. However, a broader process is underway to amend South Africa's National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, and this offers the potential to better align the Act with South Africa's international obligations.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

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

No

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

>>> The review process is at the Bill level and will allow for the minister to publish notices in the gazette South Africa has gazetted the following legislation:

1. Amended the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act - which now includes Marine Protected Areas (2014). Furthermore, 20 new Marine Protected Areas were declared in 2019.
2. Threatened or Protected Marine Species Regulations in 2017 - This includes all the AEWA listed seabirds;
3. Marine Spatial Planning, 2018;
4. National Oil Spill Contingency Plan was approved in 2021 - which includes the National Oiled Wildlife Preparedness and Response Contingency Plan.
5. The African Penguin Biodiversity Management Plan which was gazetted in 2013, is currently under review.

6. The National Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries which was published in 2008, is currently under review.

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

>>> Explosives and poisons have been used in the past for the control of the Red-billed Quelea, which is not a waterbird species but few (if any) AEWA species are likely to have been affected.

The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (10 of 2004), provides for restricted activities of threatened or protected species (which requires a permit) and stipulates that "hunting, catching, capturing or killing any living specimen of a listed threatened or protected species by any means, method or device whatsoever... with the intent to hunt, catch, capture or kill such specimen.

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

Grey Crowned-crane / *Balearica regulorum* National Plan for Grey Crowned-crane / *Balearica regulorum*

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> There is no NP, however the activities of the implementation plan developed in the 1st Meeting of the agreement on the Conservation of AEWA GCC IWG are been implemented in the Country.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> Grey Crowned Crane Single Species Action Plan

Activities under Objective 1: Reduce adult and juvenile mortality and loss of birds

Through the EWT/Eskom Partnership, we aim to reduce the risk of Grey Crowned Crane collisions with overhead powerlines through the following approaches. 1. We are actively involved in EIA's related to energy infrastructure development in order to guide appropriate mitigation such as line placement/routing, line marking and line design. 2. Grey Crowned Cranes are included in the collision risk modelling completed by the EWT for Eskom in order to identify high collision risk areas within Eskom's management units, in order to guide proactive line marking and/or the placement and mitigation of any new power lines not subject to the EIA process (132 kV or less). 3. We investigate any and all reports of Grey Crowned Crane mortality as a result of colliding with overhead power lines and propose appropriate mitigation to prevent reoccurrence. During 2020, we investigated four separate powerline incidents involving Grey Crowned Crane mortalities. These investigations resulted in subsequent mitigation, significantly reducing the risk of further collisions along the respective sections of line.

Activities under Objective 2: Increase breeding success and reproductive rates and 3: Significantly reduce further loss, fragmentation and degradation of habitat. These activities specifically refer to the protection of Grey Crowned Crane breeding sites (wetlands). The ICF/EWT partnership, several NGO's, as well as provincial conservation agencies, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (EKZNW), Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECPTA) and Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA), have facilitated the declaration of several protected areas under the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme that support Grey Crowned Crane breeding pairs.

Activities under Objective 4: Filling knowledge gaps

We have completed the 28th annual aerial survey for cranes in KwaZulu-Natal. The area covered by the survey accounts for approximately 65-70% of the national population size of Grey Crowned Cranes. Over the past 10 years the Grey Crowned Crane population in their stronghold of KZN has remained stable.

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 ISSAP

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

>>> EWT is involved in the implementation of the ISSAP and focusses mainly on the Wattled Crane, rather than specifically Grey Crowned Crane. However, there are plans to focus more effort on actions relating to Grey Crowned Crane in the near future.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

Benguela Coastal Seabirds IMSAP

National Plan for Benguela Coastal Seabirds IMSAP

NP in place and being implemented

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[African Penguin BMP 2013.pdf](#)

[Multi species Action Plan for Benguela seabirds.pdf](#)

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.

>>> There is not currently a specific national plan in place for implementing the Benguela species IMSAP. However, an implementation plan - including actions specific to South Africa - will be developed by the IMSAP's International Working Group. For the African Penguin specifically, there is a 2013 Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP), which is currently being revised after a public comment period. Several of the actions in this plan will also benefit the other species covered by the IMSAP.

The following activities and/or achievements over the past triennium are:

1. The Benguela Current Forage Fish Workshop was initiated by RSA and held in 2020;
2. South Africa declared 20 new Marine Protected Areas in 2019;
3. Seal Workshop to prevent seal recolonisation on seabird colonies was held in 2019;
4. Control of seal and kelp gull protocol was developed and implemented;
5. National Oil spill contingency plan was drafted and approved - this includes the National Oiled Wildlife Preparedness, Response and Contingency Plan - the two plans were trialled in 2019, comprising both government and private sector;
6. The International Panel Review was held and focused on the impact of island closure for seabirds and fisheries and the implementation of ecosystem approach to fisheries;
7. Research initiated on the effect on the impact of seismic activities on some seabirds;
8. Threatened or Protected Marine Species Regulation published in 2017.

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

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

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

>>> There has been the effective implementation of some actions of the International Multi-species Action Plan for the Conservation of Benguela Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds.

A workplan will be developed at the first International Working Group meeting for the Benguela IMSAP. This will take into account any outstanding actions.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> The Action Plan is being implemented through the African Penguin Biodiversity Management Plan; Seabird Technical Team; Small Pelagic Working Groups; and Top Predator Scientific Working Group and the Benguela Current Convention Marine Predators Programme.

Corncrake / *Crex crex*

National Plan for Corncrake / *Crex crex*

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> The NP was developed in 2008 and require a review to consider emerging information

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

Slaty Egret / *Egretta vinaceigula*

National Plan for Slaty Egret / *Egretta vinaceigula*

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> The species is not yet prioritized for NP

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> The NP was developed in 2008 and require a review to consider emerging information

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> The NP was developed in 2008 and require a review to consider emerging information.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

Maccoa Duck / Oxyura maccoa
National Plan for Maccoa Duck / Oxyura maccoa

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> The NP was developed in 2008 and require a review to consider emerging information

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

Lesser Flamingo / Phoeniconaias minor
National Plan for Lesser Flamingo / Phoeniconaias minor

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> The NP was developed in 2008 and require a review to consider emerging information.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

White-winged Flufftail / Sarothrura ayresi
National Plan for White-winged Flufftail / Sarothrura ayresi

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> The country is implementing the plan which was developed in 2015 and reviewed in 2019.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> 1. South Africa, through the national Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) established the National White-winged Flufftail Working Group in 2017. The main objectives of this Working Group are to, coordinate actions for the conservation of the White-winged Flufftail through the implementation of the ISSAP. 2. South Africa, through DEFF, hosted and funded, the 3rd Meeting of the AEWA White-winged Flufftail International Working Group will take place from 5-7 November 2019 in Dullstroom, Mpumalanga Province. The main objectives of the meeting were to receive comprehensive country reports (South Africa and Ethiopia)

on the progress of implementation of priority measures for the White-winged Flufftail on the basis of the detailed Implementation Plan agreed in 2015, receive a report on the latest research findings, revising the Implementation Plan for the next period 2020-2022, identified fundraising opportunities, election of a new chair country amongst others. 25 Delegates (SA, Ethiopia and the AEWA Secretariat) participated in this meeting.

3. Nationally, DEFF coordinated several meeting with relevant stakeholders (National (DEFF, Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE); Provincial Conservation Departments where the species occur (Mpumalanga, Free State & KwaZulu-Natal - Eastern Cape) and relevant entities – SANBI and Eskom, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and Private land owners such as BirdLife South Africa, Middelpunt Wetland Trust) to discuss the Implementation Plan for the next period 2020-2022.

4. Below are some of the activities that are being undertaken toward the implementation of the AEWA White-winged Flufftail Implementation Plan for the next period 2020-2022.

- o A process was initiated in 2020 to designate the Bedford wetland within Ingula Nature Reserve, Free State, as a Ramsar site. The site visit has been completed and the documentation was submitted in 2020. (ISSAP activity 1.1.)

- o Discussions have been initiated to designate the Middelpunt wetland (and potentially the upper catchment of Lakenvlei) and Wakkerstroom as Ramsar sites in Mpumalanga. (ISSAP activity 1.1.)

- o The Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) has initiated discussions with landowners to designate sites as protected areas – the first meetings were held in late 2020. (ISSAP activity 1.3.)

- o BirdLife South Africa (BLSA) has developed and is in the process of finalising White-winged Flufftail Habitat Best Practice Guidelines (Howes-Whitcross et al.). (ISSAP activities 1.5, 1.10 and 1.11)

- o South Africa's national Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) held a first meeting with all stakeholders, including the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE), and a follow-up workshop will be arranged in 2021, to discuss the protection of important sites, especially Wakkerstroom and Steenkampsberg, from development, habitat destruction and degradation. NGOs remain concerned about a proposed mining development bordering Middelpunt wetland. (ISSAP activity 1.8.)

- o BLSA, the Middelpunt Wetland Trust and private landowners are pro-actively monitoring for potential development proposals that might negatively impact on the species' habitat. (ISSAP activity 1.9.)

- o BLSA has continued with the camera-acoustic and transect surveys at priority sites (Middelpunt Wetland and Verloren Vallei) to identify the presence of the species at these sites, and to have a better understanding of habitat requirements. Whilst camera-acoustic data are still to be analysed, a White-winged Flufftail sighting has been confirmed at Middelpunt Wetland this past season (2020/2021). Rapid acoustic surveys were undertaken at various sites, as identified by the ecological niche model, across Mpumalanga and the Free State. Rapid acoustic surveys will take place later this month in KwaZulu-Natal. The rapid acoustic surveys of the 2019/2020 season confirmed the presence of White-winged Flufftail at Seekoeivlei, Memel, Mpumalanga. (ISSAP activities 6.1 and 8.1.)

- o BLSA is expanding the distribution and corridor modelling across historic sites to evaluate the mid- to low-elevation potential distribution in South Africa and across sub-Saharan Africa. (ISSAP activity 7.1.)

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[AEWA SA Implementation Plan WwF 2021 feedback \(1\).doc](#) - South Africa's Implementation Plan: White-winged Flufftail ISSAP

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 ISSAP

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

>>> The national coordination and commitment from stakeholders enabling the effective implementation.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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)

Yes

Please provide details, including amount of funds donated

>>> DEFF hosted the 3rd White-winged Flufftail International Working Group meeting in November 2019, at Verlorenkloof, Dullstroom, Mpumalanga, South Africa. All costs of the workshop, and travelling costs of participants from the AEWA Secretariat and Ethiopia, were covered by the DEFF

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

Yes

Please provide details, including amount of funds donated

>>> South Africa has provided some form of in-kind service through, monitoring equipment, vessels and expertise towards the development and implementation of the International Multi-species Action Plan for the Conservation of Benguela Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> The model used for AEWA plan is working well and there was no need to develop the NP

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

15. Does your country have in place or is your country developing a National Single Species Action Plan for any species/population for which an AEWA ISSAP has not been developed? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.2.2)

Yes

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[africanpenguin_biodiversitymanagement_qn824.pdf](#)

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?

>>> In developing the BMP for African penguin, South Africa used the National Norms and Standards for Biodiversity Management plans for Species (BMP-S) which were gazetted in 2009 in terms of the Biodiversity Act (Act 10 of 2004). The Norms and Standards are aligned with the AEWA guidelines for preparing National Single Species Action Plan in a way that they support Stakeholder engagements as well as the development of objectives with Actions as well as Time frame and Responsibility Organisation as well as annual reporting to the Minister.

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

>>> n/a

4.3 Emergency Measures

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

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

Emergency situation has occurred

Please provide information on each emergency situation which occurred

Infectious disease

Indicate when the emergency situation took place

>>> Avian Influenza (H5N8) outbreaks from chicken farms throughout South Africa - this had a large influence

on common waterbirds (Sacred Ibis, Egyptian Goose, duck species etc) throughout the country, but specifically influenced the populations of coastal seabirds. Greater Crested Terns were the most affected (over 100 deaths), followed by African Penguins, Common and Sandwich terns and Cape Cormorants. including African Penguin and tern species. This major outbreak took place in 2017 and 2018

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

>>> Malgas Island - 33.05° S, 17.92° E

Cape Town (including Robben Island) - 33.80° S, 18.37°

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

Egyptian Goose / *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Number of individuals affected (all individuals exposed to the emergency situation)

>>> over 100 deaths

If mortality has been recorded, indicate number of individuals

>>> Over 100 deaths

Great Crested Grebe / *Podiceps cristatus*

Number of individuals affected (all individuals exposed to the emergency situation)

>>> Over 100 death

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

>>> Malgas Island and Cape Town (including Robben Island)

Oil spill

Indicate when the emergency situation took place

>>> Two oil spills occurred in Algoa Bay due to ship-to-ship bunkering. These occurred in 2016 and 2019. the oil spills largely affected the African penguins and other seabirds.

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

>>> Algoa Bay, Port Elizabeth - Eastern Cape =

Have emergency response measures been implemented?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The National Oil Spill Contingency emergency response was implemented.

If the emergency situation is not available in the drop-down list above, choose the option "Other emergency" below:

Other Emergency

Please specify the kind of emergency:

>>> Avian Influenza in 2018 (H5N8) [outbreaks from chicken farms throughout South Africa - this had a large influence on common waterbirds (Sacred Ibis, Egyptian Goose, duck species etc) throughout the country, but specifically influenced the populations of coastal seabirds. Greater Crested Terns were the most affected (over 100 deaths), followed by African Penguins, Common and Sandwich terns and Cape Cormorants. including African Penguin and tern species.]

Indicate when the emergency situation took place.

>>> May 2018.

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

>>> Malgas Island - 33.05° S, 17.92° E

Cape Town (including Robben Island) - 33.80° S, 18.37°

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

>>> n/a

What proportion of the site has been affected?

Please fill in the percentage (%) in the box below.

>>> 0

Have emergency response measures been implemented?

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> No Emergency response measure was in place. The approach used was to implement stringent biosecurity measures for researchers and colony staff at colonies as well as at rehabilitation centres.

Field for additional information (optionally, you can provide additional information on the emergency case).

>>> In addition to the above emergencies:

An oil spill took place in Algoa Bay on 6 July 2019 as a result of poorly managed ship-to-ship bunkering activities. Approximately 200-400 litres of oil were spilled in the early hours of the morning, close to St Croix Island, the largest African Penguin colony (with a population of 11 500 individuals). At least 90 African Penguins, 12 Cape Gannets and 4 Cape Cormorants were oiled but other birds may not have been found. The oiled birds were taken into a local rehabilitation facility (SANCCOB) for treatment.

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

No

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

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

No

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

>>> South Africa has its own guidelines in dealing with the emergency situations

Furthermore, South Africa has developed the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) which was approved in January 2021. The NOSCP has an Annexure on responding to oiled wildlife in the form of a National Oiled Wildlife Preparedness, Response and Contingency Plan (NOWPRCP). The country has established an Incident Management Organisation (IMOrg) comprising of the private sector, NGOs and the different spheres of government. The IMOrg is aimed at coordinating the different role players responding to oil under one umbrella.

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

>>> n/a

4.4 Re-establishments

20. Is your country maintaining a national register of re-establishment projects occurring or planned to occur wholly or partly within your country? (Resolution 4.4)

Yes

Please provide details on the register

>>> Partially. Provided for in the BMP for African penguin

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

Partial

Please provide details

>>> These are species specific and not generic to all waterbirds

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

Yes

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

Jackass Penguin / Spheniscus demersus

Projects for Jackass Penguin / Spheniscus demersus

Re-establishment plan developed and being implemented

Cape Cormorant / *Phalacrocorax capensis*
Projects for Cape Cormorant / *Phalacrocorax capensis*

Re-establishment plan developed and being implemented

Hartlaub's Gull / *Larus hartlaubii*
Projects for Hartlaub's Gull / *Larus hartlaubii*

No plan in place, but the idea of re-establishment is being considered

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

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

No

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

>>> National Conservation translocation guidelines for the African Penguin were drafted following the IUCN Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations

A plan for the repatriation of Lesser Flamingos was drafted also using the following the IUCN Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 4.4. Re-establishments

>>> no information in this regard

4.5 Introductions

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

Yes, and being enforced

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

>>> The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004) provides for the management of alien and invasive species through the control of their introduction and spread, as well as the control or eradication of those already established. [New Alien and Invasive Species Lists and Regulations will enter into force on 1 March 2021. Both have been attached to this answer.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Alien Invasive Species Lists.pdf](#) - Alien & Invasive Species Lists (in force March 2021)

[Alien Invasive Species Regs.pdf](#) - Alien & Invasive Species Regulations (in force March 2021)

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Marine TOPS Regulations.pdf](#) - Threatened or Protected Marine Species Regulations

[Biodiversity Act act10.pdf](#)

[TOPS NEMBA Regulations Original Gazetted version.pdf](#)

[5th Amendments TOPS Regulations August 2012.pdf](#)

[1st Amendments TOPS Regulations and repeal Notice 28 January 2008.pdf](#)

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.

>>> Duty of care on persons who carry out restricted activities with alien and listed invasive species, or who own land on which listed invasive species occur has been established.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Provided for by the National Environmental Biodiversity Act and its Threatened or Protected Species Regulations or Alien Invasive Species Regulations

26. Has your country considered, developed or implemented programmes to control or eradicate non-native species of waterbird so as to prevent negative impacts on indigenous species? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.5.3)

Yes

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)

Yes

Please list the non-native species for which relevant action has been undertaken

>>> Research undertaken by the Agricultural Research Council on the identification and dissemination of biological control agents, particularly for the control of aquatic plants such as water hyacinth *Eichhornia crassipes*, water lettuce *Pistia stratiotes*, and water fern *Azolla filiculoides*.

Please provide further information for each relevant programme

>>> No additional information

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?

>>> South Africa has its own Regulations which were developed in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 10 of 2004). [As noted above, a new set of regulations will enter into force in 2021.]

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 4.5. Introductions

>>> n/a

4.6 Seabirds

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

>>> There has been a comprehensive assessment of bycatch in most commercial fisheries in South Africa but in general these affect seabirds that are not AEWA-listed species (e.g. albatrosses and petrels). The Cape Gannet is the only AEWA-listed species to experience significant levels of bycatch in the trawl and long-line fisheries. This impact has been assessed Maree et al. 2014, Rollinson et al. 2017.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Rollinson et al 2017.pdf](#) - Rollinson et al.

[Maree et al 2014 Trawl Paper.pdf](#) - Maree et al.

[thesis sci 2017 rollinson dominic paul.pdf](#)

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

Yes

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

>>> n/a

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

Not Applicable

Please explain the reasons.

>>> n/a

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

Not Applicable

Please explain.

>>> n/a

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

Not Applicable

Please explain the reasons.

>>> n/a

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

Not Applicable

Please explain the reasons.

>>> n/a

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

Yes

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

>>> - M.S. de Villiers, S. Mecenero, R.B. Sherley, E. Heinze, J. Kieser, T.M. Leshoro, L. Merbold, A. Nordt, N.J. Parsons, and H-U. Peter "Introduced European Rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and Domestic Cats (*Felis catus*) on Robben Island: Population Trends and Management Recommendations," South African Journal of Wildlife Research 40(2), 139-148, (1 October 2010). <https://doi.org/10.3957/056.040.0205>

- M.S. de Villiers, S. Mecenero, R.B. Sherley, E. Heinze, J. Kieser, T.M. Leshoro, L. Merbold, A. Nordt, N.J. Parsons, and H-U. Peter "Introduced European Rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and Domestic Cats (*Felis catus*) on Robben Island: Population Trends and Management Recommendations," South African Journal of Wildlife Research 40(2), 139-148, (1 October 2010). <https://doi.org/10.3957/056.040.0205>

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Aitken Andrew BScHons Zoology 1999b thesis.pdf](#)

Have you prioritised them for action?

Yes

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

>>> Most of the domestic cats were removed from Robben Island;
All the European rabbits were also removed from Robben Island.

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

Yes

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

>>> A mobile trailer containing emergency oiled wildlife response equipment was procured and placed at SANCCOB in the Port Elizabeth following the 2016 and 2019 oil spills.
South Africa has modelled hotspot areas based on previous oil spills.

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

Yes

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Draft_NOWPRCP_28_February_2020.docx](#)

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

>>> The National Oiled Wildlife Preparedness, Response and Contingency Plan has been drafted for species most vulnerable to oil spills. Historical oil spills in South Africa has largely affected seabirds more than other marine species.

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

Not Applicable

Please explain the reasons.

>>> n/a

38. Have you identified priority sites by filling gaps in the Critical Site Network for seabirds (breeding, non-breeding, pelagic and coastal areas)? (Resolution 7.6)

Not Applicable

Please explain the reasons.

>>> n/a

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 4.6 Seabirds

>>> n/a

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

>>> Through the National Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF), South Africa approved for implementation the 2018 National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES) which draws heavily on the original NPAES which was developed in 2008. The NPAES has a 5 years and 20 years targets.

Additionally, DEFF has partnered with BirdLife SA to implement what are known as Important Birds and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs). Of the 13 500 sites worldwide, 113 are found in South Africa.

Of the 112 IBAs assessed by BirdLife SA in 2015, 51 (46%) were fully protected, 33 (29%) partially protected, and 28 (25%) were found to be completely unprotected. The majority of the unprotected areas are found on private and communally-owned land. Since 2015, many more protected areas have been declared in these areas through the national biodiversity stewardship initiative, increasing the number of IBAs under protection. The Department and SANBI are working to identify what is known as Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs). These form part of the current Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Aichi Target 11, which aims by 2020 to conserve at least 17 percent of terrestrial and inland water resources. It is expected that this network of OECMs will cover many more IBAs important for migratory species.

By expanding and effectively managing our protected areas and OECMs more habitat for birds will be safeguarded, incorporating essential ecological services, a wealth of other species, and assist in sustainable economic development.

The implementation of the country's National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy makes provisions for negotiating management plans and contracts with private landowners, before proclaiming them as nature reserves and protected environments. This is reinforced through the Stewardship programme that allows for collaboration with landowners on securing conservation areas, thus protecting species such as migratory birds. The flagship programmes in this regard include those aimed at protecting Blue Cranes and the White-winged Flufftail.

In addition, South Africa is a Party to the Ramsar Convention which is an international convention for the protection and restoration of international importance. This is key because most migratory birds are water birds, such as the Pygmy and Woodland Kingfishers. So far South Africa has 26 Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) covering a surface area of 563,005 hectares. More than 23 of the 26 Ramsar sites in South Africa are located within the nature reserves and national parks. The Management Authorities of each of the 26 sites are required to ensure there is not degradation, or changes to the ecological character, of these areas while protecting critical species, such as migratory birds.

web link: https://www.environment.gov.za/mediarelease/worldmigratory_birdday2020

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[NPAES_Policymakers_Summary_DRAFT_for_MinTech_150908.pdf](#) - National Protected Area Expansion Strategy for South Africa

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

[WMBD Media Statement](#) - South African WMBD Media Statement

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

No

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[NPAES_2018_v2_FINAL_WITH_APPENDICES_final.pdf](#) - Approved 2018 NPAES

Please explain the reasons

>>> The work is currently been undertaken.

Under the leadership of the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), South Africa is currently performing a review of all IBAs/KBAs, including those that are important for the conservation of waterbirds. This review will be finalised in 2021. BLSA aims to have all important waterbird sites declared as KBAs.

BLSA has worked extensively over the past two years on creating a repository of habitat layers for all threatened terrestrial bird species in South Africa. These habitat models play a crucial role in identifying and highlighting the areas that are most important for the persistence of these threatened species within the country. BLSA, in collaboration with SANBI and the EWT, was able to contribute and integrate these layers into the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries' national web-based environmental screening tool

(<https://screening.environment.gov.za/screeningtool/#/pages/welcome>). The screening tool supports the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process by allowing developers to assess the potential sensitivity of a proposed development footprint/project areas of influence. Since October 2019, use of this tool has been a mandatory starting point for all EIAs undertaken in South Africa. In addition, the South African government has developed a series of legally-binding protocols, which prescribe minimum assessment and reporting criteria for various environmental themes (including terrestrial animal species). The protocols that need to be complied with for any particular development application are identified through the screening tool. They will strengthen South Africa's EIA process by helping to ensure that species impact assessments are conducted to a consistently high standard.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

[South African Environmental Screening tool](#) - Environmental Screening tool

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

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Engagements initiated with BLSA to assist in the flyway network sites. Details to be provided in the next reporting cycle.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

>>> South Africa through SANBI is working on the National Wetland Inventory, which is involved in mapping the extent, distribution and diversity of freshwater ecosystems in South Africa.

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

[South Africa's Wetlands Inventory](#) - South Africa's Wetlands Inventory

5.2. Conservation of Areas and Habitats

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

For one or more single sites

Yes

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

>>> The NPAES takes into consideration ecological sustainability and climate change adaptation.

In addition, South Africa has produced a Vulnerability Assessment to capture the landscape and the impacts of climate changes on the sites. The Vulnerability Assessment is currently under review and progress to be provided in the next reporting cycle.

For the national protected area network

Yes

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

>>> The 2018 NPAES has been approved for implementation and include best information for National Freshwater Ecosystems Priority Areas as well as marine ecosystem.

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

3.2.1; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 3.3)

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

- Reporting on designation and management of internationally important sites
- Reporting on designation and management of nationally important sites. (Sites of national importance excludes the sites already reported above as internationally important)
- Reporting on establishing buffer zones around waterbird sites (as an approach for maintaining or increasing resilience of ecological networks, including resilience to climate change)

All sites of international importance

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

Total number

>>> 26

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Ramsar-Sites-annotated-summary-South-Africa.pdf](#) - South African RAMSAR sites were added into the sites of international importance

Total area (ha)

>>> 563,005

Number of internationally important sites under national protection designation

>>> 24

Area of international importance under national protection designation (ha)

>>> 559,505

Please rate the effectiveness of the national protection designation

High

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

>>> The systems has been in place for a while and supported by Protected Areas Management Effectiveness tool which is been effectively implemented.

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

Number of sites

>>> 23

Area (in ha)

>>> 557,028

Please rate the effectiveness of the management measures

Moderate

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

>>> Management effectiveness of RAMSAR is being developed

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

Number of sites

>>> 23

Area (in ha)

>>> 557,028

Please rate the effectiveness of the climate resilience measures

Moderate

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

>>> This is a newly developed system and the effectiveness still to be tested.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

All sites of national importance

Total number

>>> 1645

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

[South Africa's Protected Area Register](#) - South Africa's Protected Area Register

Total area (ha)

>>> 45,638,887

Number of nationally important sites under national protection designation

>>> 1645

Area of national importance under national protection area designation

>>> 45,638,887

Please rate the effectiveness of the national protection designation

High

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

>>> The systems has been in place for a while and supported by Protected Areas Management Effectiveness tool which is been effectively implemented.

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

Number of sites

>>> 1645

Area (in ha)

>>> 45,638,887

Please rate the effectiveness of the management measures

High

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

>>> The systems has been in place for a while and supported by Protected Areas Management Effectiveness tool which is been effectively implemented.

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

Number of sites

>>> 1645

Area (in ha)

>>> 45,638,887

Please rate the effectiveness of the climate resilience measures

High

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

>>> The systems has been in place for a while and supported by Protected Areas Management Effectiveness tool which is been effectively implemented.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

Yes

Number of sites that have been identified to be in need of the establishment of buffer zones around them

>>> 1645

Total area (ha) of buffer zones to be established

>>> 45,638,887

Number of areas with established and adequately managed buffer zones

>>> 0

Total area (ha) of established and adequately managed buffer zones

>>> 0

Please rate the effectiveness of the management measures

High

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

>>> The systems has been in place for a while and supported by Protected Areas Management Effectiveness tool which is been effectively implemented.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[NEMPAA.pdf](#) - NEMPAA

Examples of best practice (optional)

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

>>> n/a

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

>>> The 2018 NPAES (attached)

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[NPAES 2018 v2 FINAL WITH APPENDICES_final.pdf](#) - 2018 NPAES

Has it been implemented?

Yes, being implemented

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

>>> It has got 5 years and 20 years targets.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

>>> Provinces are also required to develop provincial Protected Area Strategy

Has it been implemented?

Yes, being implemented

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

>>> 5 years and 20 years targets.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> There no network of nationally and internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds specifically, however, waterbirds are considered in the declaration of Protected Areas and RAMSAR sites.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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?

>>> National legislations are in place for the management of the key sites for migratory waterbirds.

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

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

Yes

Please give examples of how you have used the CSN Tool

>>> In process, engagement with BLSA initiated to assist in this regard.

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

>>> South Africa has established the National Scientific Committee which assist the government in coordinating the implementations of the CMS and its Agreement.

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?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> The structure has just been put in place and no project establish yet.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

>>> n/a

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

>>> At a National Level, the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) of South African provide for the sustainable use of the indigenous biological diversity i.e waterbirds

The species which may be hunted in each province are stipulated in provincial conservation legislation and the annual hunting proclamations published thereunder. Regulated bag limits and shooting seasons are informed by the distribution, population status and breeding season of each species and may differ between provinces

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> No waterbird harvest data is collected in the Free State and Limpopo Provinces. The situation in the Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and Mpumalanga is unknown. Some effort has been made to collect harvest data in Gauteng, the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, but hunter compliance with reporting requirements is typically poor and confidence in the data is low. Only the North West Province considers hunting data for waterbirds to be reliable.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> All species are not available in all areas, and local provincial restriction may also apply. That is, hunting of some of the waterbirds species in South Africa is subject to a permit obtainable from Nature Conservation Authorities or Agencies. During certain months shooting of water birds is prohibited during breeding seasons. Timing must be confirmed in advance with the relevant Authorities or Agencies. Hunters are expected to indicate which species were harvested. The challenge is that not all hunters provide feedback to the provincial Authorities.

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

No

Please explain the reasons and barriers to introduction of legislation

>>> The threats posed to wildlife by the use of lead shot and other forms of lead ammunition have only begun to receive attention in South Africa relatively recently. It is recognised that addressing this matter requires broad-scale collaboration between multiple stakeholders. A National Lead Task Team which a sub-committee of the National Wildlife Poisoning Prevention Working Group has been established to make evidence-based recommendations and support the implementation of processes towards the vision that South African wildlife is not harmed by exposure to lead. The impacts of, and potential strategies for transitioning away from, lead ammunition are being considered by this, multi-stakeholder, group.

Wingshooter Associations in Gauteng have voluntarily agreed not to shoot waterfowl over wetlands.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> As noted above, a Lead Task Team has been established. The Task Team's Action Plan envisages the preparation of guidance on implementation of CMS resolution 11.5 and other relevant MEAs, and various interventions are being considered in order to address the threats posed to wildlife by lead. Although no steps have been taken towards the legislative prohibition of lead shot for hunting in wetlands, SA Wingshooters and

the South African Hunters and Game Conservation Association have both recommended that their members not shoot over wetlands with lead shot.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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?

Other

Please provide details

>>> South Africa through the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 4 of 2004): Threatened or Protected Species (ToPS) Regulations at a National level and Provincial legislation regulates illegal killing through a permitting system. For example the following species are listed as a threatened species in terms of Section 56 of NEMBA in terms of ToPS Regulations: The African Penguin; the Blue, Wattled and Grey crowned cranes as well as Black Stork. Subsequently, a permit is required in terms of Section 57(1) of NEMBA for the carrying out of any restricted activity involving a listed species. The Threatened or Protected Species Regulations, 2007, which are under review requires the relevant issuing authority to consider the provisions of the biodiversity management plan, when considering a permit application for any listed species if available.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> There is no mechanism for assessing the effectiveness of measures to eliminate wild taking.

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

>>> Illegal activities are difficult to estimate hence there is no system in place.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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)

Partially

Please provide details and reference to the relevant legislation

>>> In South Africa, other province proficiency testing is a requirement i.e North West Province but other provinces does not provide for this i.e Gauteng, the Free State, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Approximately 70% of the members of the South African Wingshooters Association are dedicated hunter qualified. This is a voluntary scheme that promotes knowledge of gamebirds and tests firearms proficiency.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> South Africa through DEFF is in a process to develop the draft Regulations for the registration of the professional hunting outfitters and trainers.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to

open the link in a new tab.

No

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

>>> There are legal mechanism in place in South Africa to regulate sustainable use of biological diversity i.e harvesting of the migratory waterbirds

Optionally, you can provide additional information on section 6.1. Hunting

>>> n/a

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

>>> South Africa through the Department of Trade and Industry developed the Niche Tourism Markets Avitourism in South Africa Strategy.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Avitourism in South Africa - Information booklet.pdf](#) - Niche Tourism Markets Avitourism in South Africa

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

>>> Several protected areas contain Ramsar sites and/or waterbird attractions. Examples include the estuaries of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park and West Coast National Park. Notably, seabird ecotourism is a growing field (especially for African Penguins' land-based colonies). Visitors to Boulder's Beach, South Africa, increased from 580,000 in 2006 to 930,000 in 2017; and gate revenues in 2009/2010 alone were ZAR14.5 million. See further <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.2989/1814232X.2012.716008>

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

[Ecotourism activities](#) - Ecotourism activities

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

Medium

Please provide details

>>> Several protected areas contain Ramsar sites and/or waterbird attractions. Examples include the estuaries of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park and West Coast National Park. Notably, seabird ecotourism is a growing field (especially for African Penguins' land-based colonies). Visitors to Boulder's Beach, South Africa, increased from 580,000 in 2006 to 930,000 in 2017; and gate revenues in 2009/2010 alone were ZAR14.5 million

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

>>> There are programmes in place to ensure that communities benefits from ecotourism.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 6.2. Ecotourism

>>> n/a

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 threats posed to wildlife by lead fishing tackle and sinkers are being considered by South Africa's national Lead Task Team, which is exploring a variety of interventions in this regard. The focus of the Task Team's discussions, however, is currently on the impact of lead sinkers on crocodiles.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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 National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) provides for the listing of activities that may not commence without environmental authorisation. Three 'listing notices' are currently applicable, which specify activities that require environmental authorisations based either on a 'basic assessment' or on scoping and a full EIA. The process governing these authorisations is prescribed primarily by the 2014 EIA Regulations (as amended).

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> SEA/EIA processes consider the environment comprising the natural, physical and socio-economic aspects. Biodiversity including all species is one of the chapter to be included in a Strategic Environmental Assessment and its normally captured along with the flora and fauna topics in the EIA process. SEA/EIA seeks to ensure that legal requirements are fulfilled while, at the same time, effectively and efficiently connecting relevant procedures, allowing the sharing and reuse of biodiversity. The habitats requirements of all species are commonly fulfilled during the planning and project design of the development which guided by the SEA process then followed by EIA process. That is the majority of activities that have the potential to significantly impact on wetlands are covered by the NEMA: EIA Regulations. As well, the majority of activities that have the potential to significantly impact upon wetlands are covered by the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) EIA Regulations.

[In the course of the past triennium, South Africa's EIA process has been strengthened considerably through the introduction of the national web-based environmental screening tool and associated protocols for specialist assessments and reports. The screening tool is a geographically based, web-enabled application, which makes it possible to screen proposed development sites for environmental sensitivities, such as the likely presence of species of conservation concern. Habitat layers for threatened terrestrial bird species have been integrated into the screening tool. Since October 2019 it has been mandatory for environmental authorisation applications to include a screening tool report. To complement this system, a series of legally-binding protocols have been developed, which provide a minimum set of assessment and reporting criteria for various environmental themes. When the screening tool report identifies a particular theme, the accompanying protocol must be applied. In March 2020, an Avifaunal Protocol was introduced, which focuses specifically on the impacts on avifauna by onshore wind energy. Subsequently, in October 2020, a Terrestrial Animal Species Protocol was introduced, and this has since been supplemented by a more comprehensive Species Environmental Assessment Guideline. The latter Protocol requires specialist assessments to consider not only species of conservation concern, but also "roosting and breeding or foraging areas used by migratory species where these species show significant congregations, occurring in the vicinity"; and the Guideline explicitly defines "migratory species" to include AEWA-listed species that are native to South Africa. The Guideline is available here:

http://opus.sanbi.org/jspui/handle/20.500.12143/6922?fbclid=IwAR3ztnOGim4Om_FHHrxgS8griRQTYIqj5nT-fPhzp2B3KoAN43XxevKbDAk

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

[SEA/EIA Processes](#) - SEA/EIA Processes

Do the SEA/EIA processes include public participation?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> There is no doubt that public involvement and consultation is a vital component of both successful EIA/SEA systems and specific EIA/SEA processes. It has been an integral part of EIA practice, but its use in SEA is less formal and systematic. Public Participation is included in the SEA/EIA processes as required by NEMA and the EIA regulations, as well as the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, 2000 (Act No 3 of 2000) [PAJA]

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Additionally, Section 24(5)(bA) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act no 107 of 1998) [NEMA] provides for various environmental management instruments including the SEA and the EIA, for assessing the potential consequences for or impacts on the environment of activities.

The National Department of Environmental Affairs, in line with Section 24(5)(bA) of the NEMA, is in process developing Environmental Management Instrument Regulations. Once in place, these regulations will enable the utilisation of a range of instruments (including SEAs) to achieve, amongst others and where relevant, the following:

- ensuring the use of other instruments that are 'fit for purpose' (appropriate for the relevant activity or development type in its relevant geographical context);
- integrating environmental considerations into the formulation and implementation of policies, plans, programmes and projects;
- informing environmental decision making at both strategic and project specific levels; and
- reducing reliance on EIAs and / or environmental authorisations (EA).

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

>>> NEMA identifies a series of environmental management principles, which are to be taken into account by all organs of state when taking actions that may significantly affect the environment. These include the principle that "the disturbance of ecosystems and loss of biological diversity are avoided, or, where they cannot be altogether avoided, are minimised and remedied". The mitigation hierarchy should - in principle - therefore be considered not only in the environmental authorisation process, but also by decision-makers when issuing various other forms of permits/licences. Specific tools that can be used to secure the avoidance of adverse impacts on sensitive areas include:

- designation of the site as a protected area (depending on the category of protected area, various activities are restricted or prohibited - e.g. prospecting and mining activities are prohibited in most types of protected areas);
- Section 24(2A) of NEMA allows for geographic areas to be identified within which the granting of environmental authorisations for specified activities is prohibited or restricted;
- Section 49 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (28 of 2002) similarly allows for areas to be identified within which the granting of prospecting or mining rights/permits is prohibited or restricted.

Please rank the effectiveness of these measures:

Medium

Please provide details and the reasons for lower effectiveness

>>> Although South African law recognises the need for a hierarchical approach to impact mitigation, numerous challenges often prevent the aims of the mitigation hierarchy from being achieved in practice. Some of these include inadequate and inconsistent methodologies for defining significant impacts; the use of untested/speculative mitigation strategies (for both minimising and rehabilitating impacts); the viability of restoration as a mitigation strategy; identifying the most environmentally appropriate and preferable offsets; inadequate authorisation conditions; inadequate consideration of cumulative impacts; and monitoring of mitigation hierarchy compliance and implementation. In response to these challenges, BirdLife South Africa, the Endangered Wildlife Trust and Enviro-Insight are currently collaborating on a project aimed at developing Best Practice Guidelines for Implementing the Mitigation Hierarchy in South Africa. In addition, the South African National Biodiversity Institute is currently working to develop a national guideline on biodiversity offsets.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

61. In the last three years, has your country used SEA/EIA for all relevant projects, including energy sector projects such as renewable energy developments and power lines installation, to assess the impact of proposed projects on migratory waterbird species listed on Table 1 and/or habitats/sites on which they

depend? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.3.1, Resolution 5.11 and Resolution 5.16; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 3.5(b))

Yes, all proposed projects

Please provide information on the outstanding cases

>>> The SEA process would most of the time be the first step to identify any impacts might cause by the proposed development to the receiving ecosystem or important biodiversity concerns areas. Since Infrastructure developments are a major source of ecosystem damage and habitat loss, which can have a variety of impacts on waterbirds.

National Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) for wind and solar energy have been completed (two phases) plus a SEA for Strategic Transmission Corridors. Avifaunal studies were part of these processes. Environmental Assessments for proposed renewable energy projects (greater than 10MW) are required as part of a robust and transparent system for planning and implementing sustainable development

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

Yes

Please describe the measures put in place

>>> During project planning where SEA/EIA process has identified significant impacts on any environment or habitat, it is mostly advisable to introduce mitigatory measures by assessing either Alternative Location or Activity Alternative where impacts will be less on the receiving environment. Normally EMPr will be used to identify mitigatory measures prior to development commencement.

Additionally, fitting of mitigation measures such as the bird diverters or flappers to make powerlines more visible to birds. Thus reducing waterbirds collision with powerlines in the vicinity of and over wetlands. As well alignment of proposed powerlines away from high concentration of waterbirds.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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.

>>> There is currently no record in place.

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

>>> n/a

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

>>> n/a

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

>>> n/a

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

63. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on how to avoid, minimize or mitigate impact of infrastructural developments and related disturbance affecting waterbirds?

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> These guidelines are being taken into account in the current NGO-led initiative (referred to in the answers to question 60) to develop Best Practice Guidelines for Implementing the Mitigation Hierarchy in South Africa.

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

>>> South Africa through the EWT has initiated a Wildlife and Energy Programme. The role of the Endangered Wildlife Trust's Wildlife and Energy Programme (EWT-WEP) is therefore essential in ensuring that the impacts of these infrastructure on our wildlife is kept to an absolute minimum. The EWT-WEP's largest project is the Eskom-EWT Strategic Partnership.

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

>>> South African Bird Atlas Project provides distribution data of all avifauna within South Africa. Coordinated Waterbirds Counts the population sizes at important wetlands. The EIA process uses the Avifaunal Specialist to compile site specific reports on the avifauna, possible impact and mitigations measures

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?

Not applicable

Please explain the reasons.

>>> n/a

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

>>> This applies usually to the transmission lines especially the larger ones. In relation to the distribution lines it is done partially and it is unclear what the power utility process is in this regard.

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.

>>> n/a

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 power utility companies have various mitigations measures for various situations which are implemented to reduce the risk of collision and electrocution. This is often done retrospectively when larger numbers of incidences are being recorded at a specific sites or in some case the mitigation measures are implemented/fitted during the construction phase. Retrofitting in this case is facilitated by the EWT's Wildlife

and Energy Programme.

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

>>> Yes, these lines have been identified, through a process of recording where incidents occur, as well as through a process of risk mapping by the EWT, in collaboration with ESKOM. The focus of the work is on threatened species, including but not limited to threatened waterbird species.

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.

>>> Mitigation measures are implemented at sites where high incidences of mortality are recorded for threatened species. These are logged with the EWT, and incidents are investigated and mitigation measures are recommended to ESKOM, which then mitigates these during its scheduled powerline maintenance. Powerlines in areas that have been identified as high risk according to risk mapping models are also being proactively mitigated (i.e. before incidents are recorded).

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

Partial

Please provide details.

>>> Through the EWT's Wildlife and Energy Programme, several monitoring projects are run. However, the monitoring is not on a national scale, but rather focused on priority species and high risk lines. A centralised database of all mortality incidents recorded nationally on powerlines is maintained by the EWT, but these are ad hoc reported incidents.

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.

>>> Testing of mitigation measures occurs through projects run by the EWT-Eskom partnership.

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

No

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

>>> The NBSAP has been revised to include migratory species

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

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

No

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

>>> Internal documents and guidelines are in use by the EWT-ESKOM strategic partnership.

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

66.1. Has a national sensitivity and zoning mapping to avoid overlap of renewable energy developments with areas of importance for migratory waterbirds been developed in your country?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> A wind farm sensitivity map was developed by BirdLife South Africa and the EWT in 2012. This has largely been replaced by the StraTegic Environmental Assessment for Wind and Solar Energy and the National Site Screening Tool. The latter includes spatial data on the distribution of threatened migratory waterbirds, as well as habitats important for waterbirds.

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.

>>> A National Protocol for The Assessment and Reporting of Environmental Impacts on Avifauna Species by Large Scale Onshore Wind Facilities was gazetted in 2020. This protocol provides the criteria for assessing and reporting impacts on avifauna species associated with the development of large scale onshore wind facilities that require Environmental Authorisation. The assessment requirements of this protocol are based on national (i.e. BirdLife South Africa and the Endangered Wildlife Trust's Best-Practice Guidelines for assessing and monitoring the impact of wind- energy facilities on birds in southern Africa) and international best practice for the avoidance and mitigation of impacts on avifauna species. "Renewable energy technologies and migratory species: Guidelines for sustainable deployment", adopted by the 6th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds/AEWA) reference the BirdLife South Africa and the Endangered Wildlife Trust Best-Practice Guidelines.

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.

>>> Monitoring is normally condition of authorisation and is required by BirdLife and the EWT Birds and Wind-Energy Best-Practice Guidelines.

Monitoring reports are shared with key stakeholders (e.g. BirdLife South Africa) - this has enabled a national review of fatalities (e.g. Perold, V., Ralston-Paton, S., & Ryan, P. G. (2020). On a collision course? The large diversity of birds killed by wind turbines in South Africa. Ostrich, 91, 228-239).

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Birds_and_Wind_BestPractice_guidelines_2015_final.pdf](#) - Birds and Bats Monitoring guidelines

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

Yes

Are mitigation measures being implemented?

Yes

Please provide details on the measures implemented.

>>> Pre and post construction monitoring being conducted and reported upon.

[Perold et al. 2020 report that waterbirds account for 11% of bird carcasses found beneath turbines (of which 3% were waterfowl). At the stage, fatality rates for waterbirds at operational wind farms are not considered significant and additional project level mitigation has not been required. For proposed projects, avoidance and mitigation takes place through the SEA and EIA process.

Please share information and lessons learnt from the mitigation measures.

>>> Impacts can be avoided or minimised through site selection and turbine location

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Compensation for damages to biodiversity is done through Offsets processes.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> This is included in impact assessments and mitigation strategies for proposed projects, but it has not been necessary to implement it yet.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> This is included in impact assessments and mitigation strategies for proposed projects, but it has not been necessary to implement it yet.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> This is largely done at a project scale, i.e. within EIAs, sometimes after environmental authorisation was granted.

Other

Yes

Please specify below and provide details.

>>> n/a

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

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> n/a

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

No

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

>>> n/a

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> South Africa through the Endangered Wildlife Trust was involved in the development of these guidelines

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

No

Please provide details

>>> By-catch of waterbirds in fishing gear not taking place in South Africa

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

69. Please report on the implementation of Resolution 5.12 on Adverse Effects of Agrochemicals on Migratory Waterbirds in Africa (this question is applicable only to Contracting Parties in Africa).

69.1. Have relevant government authorities developed and implemented regulations on the trade and application of agrochemicals known to have a direct or indirect adverse effect on waterbirds?

Yes and being implemented

Please provide details

>>> Animal protection, nature conservation, environmental management, land use and poison management legislation, which includes the Provincial Ordinances and the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act provide for the this

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Agricultural Remedies Regulations.pdf](#) - Agricultural Remedies Regulations

69.2. Is the use of such agrochemicals regulated around nationally and internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds, particularly in wetlands, also taking into account run-offs from agriculture affecting aquatic ecosystems?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> In 2010, The Minister of the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries adopted the pesticide management policy for South Africa with the following objectives:

- To improve legislative framework to ensure that South Africans are better protected from health and environmental risks posed by pesticides;
- To encourage the development and use of alternative products and techniques and reduce dependence on chemical plant protection products
- To integrate relevant international agreements and initiatives from other government departments;
- Increased transparency, access to information and improve public participation in the registration of pesticides

This policy also provide for the protection of biodiversity which is another key issue for pesticides is the effect they might have on biodiversity. The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) 2004, (Act No. 10 of 2004) provides for the management and conservation of South Africa's biodiversity within the framework of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA); the protection of species and ecosystems that warrant protection; and the sustainable use of indigenous biological resources. Considering how prevalent the use of pesticide is in ecosystems where endangered species are at risk, the DAFF shall give explicit protection for such species. However, the approval system will not eliminate non-target species' effect altogether, and it will be difficult to reduce environmental effects from the use of pesticides to the low level desired, owing to the fact that much of the environmental impact from approved pesticides is attributed to indirect effects - for example, affecting bird chick survival rates by reducing insect populations at critical times.

These indirect effects often result from products acting as intended and could sometimes be tackled through major changes to agronomic practice - which may not be practical - or through mitigation. Examples of mitigation measures might include the requirement for the use of certain pesticides or prescribing use only at a specific time.

In terms of the water quality protection of which some of the waterbirds use as their habitat the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) makes provision for the protection of water resources, including the prevention of pollution. The Department of Water Affairs and Sanitation as initiated the National Toxicity Monitoring Programme, which will monitor the levels of a number of pesticides in groundwater and surface water to ensure that water pollution from pesticides does not threaten compliance with the National Water Act. An effective approach to reducing pollution o water by pesticides would be, first, to release fewer pesticides and/or less toxic pesticides into the environment and, second, to use practices that minimize the movement of pesticides to surface water and groundwater.

69.3. Are there any steps undertaken to control or reduce the use of avicides in areas frequented by populations listed in Table 1 of the Agreement?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> South Africa is in the process of establishing the National Poisoning Working Group talking to Wildlife and poisoning not only the waterbirds. Through this process awareness and education will be created.

69.4. Have education and training activities been implemented for relevant target groups on the proper use of agrochemicals that may have possible adverse effect on waterbirds?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> South Africa is in the process of establishing the National Poisoning Working Group talking to Wildlife and poisoning not only the waterbirds. Through this process awareness and education will be created.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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)

Yes

Please provide details for each project / initiative

>>> As part of its work to conserve the Critically Endangered White-winged Flufftail and implement the AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for this species, BirdLife South Africa is currently endeavouring to have the Middelpunt Wetland declared a nature reserve and to expand the Greater Lakenvlei Protected Environment, based on careful mapping to identify areas that contribute the most to waterbird conservation, Strategic Water Source Areas, etc. Both sites are positioned at the top of the Oilifants and Crocodile River catchments. Therefore, there is a host of ecosystem services that are being protected and (correctly) managed for the benefit of surrounding (local) and downstream (national) users. Global community benefits are the protection of carbon sinks (peat-based wetlands) to help alleviate climate change. BirdLife South Africa additionally plans to develop best practice guidelines for wetland management that focuses on peat-based wetlands specifically.

Are there any other examples or case studies in your country of policies and/or decision making that takes into account cultural and provisioning ecosystem services of migratory waterbirds?

No

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 6.3. Other Human Activities

>>> n/a

Pressures and Responses

7. Research and Monitoring

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

Yes

Covering the breeding period

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

Partially

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

>>> South Africa, through the Animal Demography Unit (ADU) at University of Cape Town (UCT) launched the Coordinated Waterbird Counts (CWAC) project in 1992 as part of South Africa's commitment to International waterbird conservation. This is done by means of a programme of regular mid-summer and mid-winter censuses at a large number of South African wetlands. Regular six-monthly counts are regarded as a minimum standard; however, we do encourage counters to survey their wetlands on a more regular basis as this provides more accurate data. All the counts are conducted by volunteers; people and organisations with a passion for waterbird conservation. It is one of the largest and most successful citizen science programmes in Africa, providing much needed data for waterbird conservation around the world. Currently the project regularly monitors over 400 wetlands around the country, and furthermore curates waterbird data for over 600 sites. This project is now managed by the FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology.

Monthly waterbird counts of the Durban Bay Harbour are conducted by Dr David Allan of the Durban Natural Science Museum and have been carried out since 1999.

The Western Cape Eastuaries Project Manager of BirdLife South Africa conducts waterbird surveys across several of the key estuaries within the region including the Berg River, Klein River and Verlorenvlei estuaries. BirdLife South Africa has a dedicated conservation project focusing on the breeding and life history of the White-winged Flufftail.

South African National Biodiversity Institute – South Africa Biodiversity Data Pipeline for Wetlands and Waterbirds (BIRDIE) South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) receives a grant to develop a freshwater biodiversity data-to-decision pipeline and web application that will provide the tools and visualizations to bridge the gap between data providers and decision makers. These tools will allow South Africa through partnership between SANBI, University of Cape Town Centre for Statistics in Ecology, the Environment and Conservation, FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, Seascope Belgium, Sol Plaatje University School of Natural and Applied Sciences, and the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, to better predict, understand, and manage environmental pressures and respond directly to the South African government's objectives and policy needs. This project aims to improve and leverage two citizen science-based freshwater bird monitoring data sets which are rich in detail, one consisting of bird counts (Coordinated Waterbird Counts (CWAC)) and the other one consisting of checklist data (Southern African Bird Atlas Project (SABAP)). The project is developing data pipelines that use state-of-the art statistical tools (state-space models and occupancy models) to extract policy-relevant information from the data and serve this information to decision makers in an online dashboard.

Is information on drivers of population trends also being collected?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> This is mainly done on seabirds birds such as African penguin, bank, Cape, Crown cormorants along the coasts of South Africa. The Durban Bay Harbour counts provide the most well known indication of long-term population trends. Some trend information can also be obtained from the CWAC counts mentioned earlier. Threatened species monitoring at the Ingula Nature Reserve takes place on a monthly basis.

Covering the passage period

Partially

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

>>> See above inputs, South Africa is at the end of the migratory flyway and as such limited passage data can be obtained.

Is information on drivers of population trends also being collected?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Threats affecting seabirds has been well documented and outlined. Information within the protected area network and biodiversity stewardship sites are being collected by ecologists and stewardship officers.

Covering the non-breeding/wintering period

Partially

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

>>> See above inputs

Is information on drivers of population trends also being collected?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> see above

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Further detail information responding to the above questions will be responded after the completion of the abovementioned BIRDIE project

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

>>> Seabirds data and oystercatchers as well as some data on waterbirds are used to determine the distortion and abundance data on the species. The CWAC database is also used in this regard.

73. Has your country supported, technically or financially, other Parties or Range States in designing appropriate monitoring schemes and developing their capacity to collect reliable waterbird population data? (Resolution 5.2)

Yes

Which country(ies) were supported?

>>> South Africa through the Southern African Bird Atlas Project: this is a regional programme which caters for the southern African region. SABAP covered six countries: Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. Through this programme, Thirteen Regional Atlas Committees (RACs) have been set up for SABAP2, eight in South Africa (including Lesotho), which operate on a provincial level, and one each in Swaziland, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

Through AEWA and Benguela Current Commission (BCC), monitoring program on seabirds has been facilitated and implemented within the national program

South Africa, through BirdLife South Africa, provided assistance to Zimbabwe (through BirdLife Zimbabwe) and Botswana (through BirdLife Botswana) by delivering training in the use of citizen science programmes (SAPAB and BirdLasser) in Zimbabwe in May 2019. Additionally, training in Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and the identification of KBAs, (including those important for waterbirds) was provided to interested stakeholders in Zimbabwe in 2019.

Please provide details

>>> See above

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

>>> SABAP and CWAC are part of the WCMC project and uses the AEWA Guidelines for a waterbird monitoring protocol. Partly AEWA guidelines for seabirds monitoring is also being implemented through national program

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

>>> Funding was provided towards SAFRING project through the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) few years ago. Funding have also been provided for research and monitoring of seabirds population trends and their habitat. This is done by Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF).

Internationally

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Limited Resources

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

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

No

Please explain the reason

>>> Limited Resources

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

Yes

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

>>> Research and monitoring is done on all seabirds breeding and roosting in South Africa

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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.

Yes

Is there evidence of negative impact on waterbirds from lead fishing weights in your country?

Yes

Please select from the list the AEWA species which is/are affected

Cape Gannet / *Morus capensis*

Is #[Taxon Name / Nom d'espèce] affected?

Yes

Please list any additional non-AEWA species which is/are affected.

>>> See response in question 58 of chapter 6 - Management of human activities

Please describe the significance of the impact. Please attach any published or unpublished references

>>> n/a

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[thesis_sci_2017_rollinson_dominic_paul.pdf](#) - seabirds bycatch document

[thesis_sci_2017_rollinson_dominic_paul.pdf](#)

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> The threats posed to wildlife by lead fishing tackle and sinkers are being considered by South Africa's

national Lead Task Team. However, the current focus is on protecting crocodiles rather than AEWA species.

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 7. Research and Monitoring

>>> See question 38 in chapter 5 – Management of human activities.

Pressures and Responses

8. Education and Information

8.1. Communication, Education and Public Awareness

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

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Many different activities have taken place each year for the celebration of World Wetland Day as well as the World Migratory Birds Day. For example in line with the Ramsar Convention, schools, government departments, public and NGO's involved in wetlands issues have participated on WWD each year. In case of World Migratory Birds Day press release, information pamphlets has been developed in celebration of this day each year

South Africa, through the National Department of Environmental Affairs co-sponsored a Flufftail Festival, an initiative by BirdLife South Africa and partners celebrated in the margins of WWD. The Festival aims at teaching young and old people about conserving water, wetlands and critical endangered White-winged Flufftail. The Festival is annual and takes place across multiple venues in Gauteng Province during February.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> The Penguin Promises Campaign:

This campaign was established in 2011 at uShaka Sea World in collaboration with the Animal Keepers Association of Africa (AKAA). This campaign encourages people to choose to make one change in their daily lives to become more environmentally responsible. There are then asked to record their behaviour change promise via a website, a postcard or email. Their promise is their commitment to the environment. The campaign is multi-faceted and utilises social media, with a dedicated website linked to Facebook and Twitter Accounts as its primary communication tool. The project also includes a research component and ongoing evaluation of the types of promises that are being made, where promises are being made, what inspires a promise and whether or not people are keeping their promises is being undertaken. This provides valuable information to assess the impact of the campaign in order to improve the campaign in the future.

Waddle:

The annual Penguin Waddle generates a great deal of media coverage by covering a 130km stretch of the coastline of South Africa. Participants range from school children to animal keepers and rural community members. More information is obtained from www.penguinpromises.com OR info@penguinpromises.com.

SAFE Conservation Program:

The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) has launched a new conservation program entitled Saving Animals From Extinction (SAFE) and the African penguin was selected as one of our four pilot species. SAFE will utilize the strengths of the AZA community, including expertise and resources, to recognize, support and bolster conservation efforts already in place in range countries, such as those associated with the African Penguin Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP).

The Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries has developed a World Penguin Day poster for the African Penguin.

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?

Non-Governmental

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

No

Please explain reasons

>>> The post has been vacated, BirdLife South Africa does not currently have an appropriate staff member to spearhead AEWA-related CEPA activities in this country. It is envisaged that this work could, in the future,

potentially be undertaken by the Empowering People Programme Manager. However, this post is currently vacant and will only be filled once sufficient funding has been secured.]

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

There is some cooperation

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> The AEWA CEPA Focal Point within BirdLife South Africa is currently vacant. Work has started to link with the Ramsar CEPA Focal Point to align CEPA issues between Ramsar and AEWA

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

Yes

Please indicate which measures have been taken:

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> In the process to arrange for training with the CEPA focal point and the Trained EWT official

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> During the training in Kenya in 2013 materials were made available to be adopted by parties

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Still developing the training material for South Africa

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

Yes

How can the effectiveness of the measures be rated?

High

Other

>>> South Africa has an on-going education and information activities on waterbirds, waterbird habitats and the Agreement. These includes:

Save our Seabirds Festival

Held annually in the first week of October as part of the National Marine Week in Cape Town. This is to raise awareness and funds for seabird conservation by educating people of the threats seabirds face and to inspire people on seabirds and make a difference. The festival is centred around themes such as:

- Centred around a photographic competition "Oceans of Life" where the winning photographs are displayed at the Iziko Museum
- All activities (talks, lectures etc) are free to the public and all income generated by sponsorships etc goes to Seabird Conservation
- The Diemersfontein Wine Estate "For the Birds!" red wine launch. Proceeds from the sale of this wine go to African Penguin conservation

- Light boxes sourced for displaying the winning “Oceans of Life” photographic competition images.
- Independent Newspapers broadsheet adverts, reaching an estimated 2 million people;
- The photographic competition is now the biggest marine photographic competition in the world, with 2000 entries in 2011
- A small booklet was produced with details of the event, and
- Freshly Ground (a popular music group) gives a FlashMob performance at the V&A Waterfront which is posted to You Tube. They also promote seabird conservation at their concerts.

The SOS Festival has become an important event on the national environmental events calendar, and destined to become the biggest environmental event in South Africa.

Fluff-tail Festival

The objective of the Flufftail Festival is to raise awareness for the need to conserve, not only the White-winged Flufftail, but other wetland birds, their threatened habitat and our country’s scarcest natural resource i.e. water. Launched in February 2013 in conjunction with Bird Life South Africa’s 2013 Bird of the Year. The annual Flufftail Festival is held at Sandton City, Nelson Mandela Square in Johannesburg for a week. This is aimed at reaching thousands of business owners and residents of Johannesburg through displays and interactive activities with the aim of creating awareness about flufftails and other birds and their important wetland habitat, and it’s an opportunity to reach thousands of residents of Johannesburg. Activities include but not limited to:

- A fashion show themed around Birds. Public figures grace this event;
- Orchestra/musical Event which feature a prominent figure;
- Bands for Birds featuring a popular music band e.g the Parletones;
- Comedy for Conservation;
- Series of evening lectures with drinks and snacks;
- Proximity to important wetland areas;
- Breeding centre for flufftails at Johannesburg Zoo;
- Photographic competition on wetlands/terrestrial birds. The winning photographs are displayed in the Square for the duration of the festival;
- Finding wetland-related species. Laminated cards that are assembled to spell a word or make a sentence;
- Assembling a jigsaw to ‘restore a habitat’;
- Eating wetland-themed foods. Use chopsticks to eat gummy fish hidden in chocolate ‘mud’ pudding;
- Identify bird calls of five common wetland bird species;
- Offering a family event by creating an activities suitable for all ages; encouraging families, groups of friends or workmates to work together to solve puzzles; inviting teams to come up with a creative team name and offering prizes for various challenges;
- Learn about wetland features with a number of wetland-related activities; and
- Get your feet wet. Create a ‘wetland’ for educational purposes.

Flufftails are used as ambassadors to raise awareness for other birds living in our threatened wetland and grasslands habitat.

World Migratory Bird Day

The WMBD is an annual event which is celebrated during the second weekend of May. The aim of this event is to raise awareness about the need to conserve and protect migratory birds and their habitats. Activities include:

- Development of a media statement on the WMBD.
- Development and printing of information pamphlet/posters on the importance of migratory birds and why we need to conserve them.
- Procurement of the drawstring bags branded and theme for School learners.
- Distribution of information material to disadvantaged schools using a “green” bus
- Full page publication of migratory birds in the Minimag and/or VukuZenzele Magazine

The timing of the international WMBD celebrations is linked to the return of migratory birds to the northern hemisphere in their summer months.

Please provide details

>>> WMBD is celebrated in May and October annually and this cater for the Southern Hemisphere region.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

Yes

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

>>> A press release was produced by the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries in May 2020. It can found here: <https://www.gov.za/speeches/environment-forestry-and-fisheries-celebrates-world-migratory-bird-day-2020-10-may-2020#>

In addition, World Migratory Bird Day Celebrations were conducted by BirdLife South Africa in October 2020 and included the following:

- press release produced (available on <https://www.birdlife.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/BirdLife-South-Africa-Media-release-World-Migratory-Bird-Day-2020-Birds-Connect-Our-World.pdf>)
- Week-long social media campaign on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
- BirdLasser Migratory Bird Challenge - 111 people participated and recorded 86 migratory species
- BirdLife South Africa's Wakkerstroom Centre, hosted a celebration of WMBD on 10 October 2020 in partnership with Spring Alive RSA. The newly developed Chasing Migration Board Game was played. The game follows the migration of the seven Spring Alive mascots from the northern to the southern hemisphere.]

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

[WMWB Media Statements](#) - WMWB Media Statements

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

>>> Due to financial constrains

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

>>> South Africa has contacted the Secretariat about the AEWA Communication Strategy for alignment when developing the national Strategy for CEPA activities.

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

>>> Resource Mobilization Strategy is been developed for the sector and will include all biodiversity related issues.

Have you developed a resource mobilization plan?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> The Plan is still under development phases.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

Yes

Please list all non-contracting parties, which were approached, and describe each case, including progress achieved

>>> South Africa has approached Angola and Namibia to ratify the AEWA. This is in response to the Multispecies Action Plan for the seabirds

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Even though South Africa is developing itself, it will continue to make contacts with neighbouring countries to encourage them to ratify the Agreement

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

>>> South Africa has established the National Scientific Committee which assist the government in coordinating the implementations of the CMS and its Agreement. This structure assist in compiling the national report and as well as the implementation of the objectives of the Agreement.

Are priority capacity gaps addressed by the coordination mechanism?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The National Scientific Committee comprises of experts from different organizations i.e government, NGOs, industries, Academia e.t.c

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

Medium

Please provide details and the reasons for the lower effectiveness

>>> The National Scientific Committee coordination is effective in relation to the implementation mechanism and champions were identified to coordinate different sectors in responding to the reporting of the national AEWA implementation.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> The process has been initiated and underway

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Twinning is a new concept and need to be understood

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

>>> In South Africa, through the constitution, all the relevant officers i.e Biodiversity officers from the national, provincial and local government departments are mandated to response to all biodiversity related issues i.e ensuing of hunting permits through the provinces.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

>>> In South Africa, through the constitution, all the relevant officers i.e Biodiversity officers from the national, provincial and local government departments are mandated to response to all biodiversity related issues i.e South Africa in a process of developing the AEWA implementation plan based on AEWA strategic plan and AEWA Plan of Action for Africa and these documents links the Sustainable Development Goals

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

>>> AEWA implementation is embedded and co-ordinated within the National scientific programs

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

>>> Migratory Birds, including waterbirds has been including in the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) as it covers species.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

92.2 Other strategic plans and policies

Yes

Please name the other strategic planning processes

>>> Biodiversity Management Plan for Species which is provided for by the National Biodiversity Act

Please provide details

>>> n/a

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

Sustainable Development Goals

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Sustainable Development Goals are implemented at a national level as they talk to species conservation. i.e through partnerships (NGOs, industries, Academia, government) South Africa is able to implement the provisions of the Agreement. Additionally, through the implementation of AEWA on waterbirds habitat conservation, South Africa is responding to SDG goal 6 on clean water and sanitation and thus provide in water security.

Aichi Targets

Yes

Please provide details

>>> By implementing AEWA provisions, South Africa is responding to Aichi Target 12: "By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained" and target 14: "By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable".

Strategic Plan for Migratory Species

Yes

Please provide details

>>> South Africa is currently in a process to develop the national implementation mechanisms based on strategic plan targets.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

>>> South Africa support synergies between related MEA's. At a national level there is mechanism coordinated by DEFF in relation to biodiversity MEA's. Additionally, South Africa has embarked on a process to develop a national-AEWA implementation plan. It is envisaged that part of this process will involve identifying areas in which AEWA-implementation overlaps with the delivery of other international commitments, with the result that synergies can therefore be promoted. South Africa is also developing a national plan for Ramsar-implementation, and there are opportunities for these two processes to feed into one another.

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

>>> Limited funds.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

Yes

Please provide details, including amount of funds donated

>>> South Africa in December 2018 hosted the 7th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP7) to AEWA.

Furthermore, in November 2019, the Country also hosted the 3rd Meeting of the AEWA White-winged Flufftail International Working Group

In March 2020, South Africa was suppose to host the Benguela Current Forage Fish Workshop & 1st Meeting of AEWA Benguela Coastal Seabird IWG, however to COVID19 pandemic the meeting has been postponed and new date to be communicated (in this regard, all the preparatory work was done).

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

No and has not been prioritised

Please explain the reasons

>>> Limited resources

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> n/a

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

>>> Through the following:-

- Hosted the national AEWA implementation plan development workshop in 2019

- The DEFF hosted the national White-winged flufftail Working Group meeting in 2019 and 2020

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

>>> Limited funding has been a challenge

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?

Yes

Please describe each cooperation arrangement

>>> South-South cooperation through the Transfrontier Conservation Programme, the SADC Protocols, the Benguela Current Commission project.

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

Yes

Please describe each mechanism used

>>> Species conservation issues are considered in the planning domain for conservation and management of species

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Proposal for funds submitted but still awaiting response in this regard.

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 9. Implementation

>>> n/a

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

>>> South Africa conducted a study on the Long-Term Adaptation Scenarios Flagship Research Programme, Climate Change Implications for the Biodiversity Sector in South Africa

Understanding how weather affects survival and reproduction in birds should lead to a better understanding of their vulnerability to climate change.

This is clear from a study of the relationship between rainfall in

South Africa's eastern Nama Karoo region and survival and reproduction in South Africa's national bird, the blue crane *Anthropoidesparadiseus*

The results clearly showed that rainfall was correlated with reproduction and survival. Interestingly, it was not only important how much rain fell, but also at what time during the year it rained.

August to November is the time when blue cranes mate and lay eggs, and rainfall during that time was related to reproductive success (first panel). Between December and March, the young birds fledge and start foraging. Rainfall during that season was related to the survival of fledglings (second panel). Blue cranes should occur in areas where the climate allows reproduction to balance mortality. Combining the effects of rainfall on survival and reproduction, we can therefore predict the overall effect of rainfall on blue crane populations (third panel). The contour lines represent population growth, and areas in the graph for which population growth is predicted to support cranes.

What does climate change mean for blue cranes? We expect that a drying climate will make life even more difficult for the birds in those areas that are already only marginally suitable for them. However, shifts in rainfall seasonality – for example, more rain in spring and less in summer – could affect breeding and survival in different ways, and their overall effect on the blue crane population should be monitored.

In addition to the above, In the same way that birds of prey are sentinels of the health of the terrestrial environment, so seabirds reflect the health of the marine environment.

African penguins *Spheniscus demersus*, Cape cormorants *Phalacrocorax capensis* and swift terns *Sterna bergii* are all seabirds that breed on islands off south-western South Africa, and prey on sardines *Sardinops sagax* and anchovies *Engraulis encrasicolus*. Over the past decade, the centre of gravity of the distribution of these fish has moved eastwards,

from north of Cape Town to east of Cape Agulhas.

The three types of seabirds have responded to this shift in different ways but the population continued to be affected and in some seabirds especially African penguins have declined at the rate of 5% annually. The recent heat flux have caused some breeding Cape cormorant to abandon their nest and adult never return.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[ltasbiodiversity-tech-report2013high-res.pdf](#) - LTAS Research Programme

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)

Undertaken

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

>>> The Prince Edward Islands: a window into the Southern Ocean

For example, the islands provide an important breeding ground for many threatened seabirds, and place them in reach of the highly productive oceanic frontal systems that provide them with food. Recent trends in the numbers and breeding success of seabirds at Marion Island, the larger of the two islands in the group, appear

to reflect oceanic changes that may have global consequences. The two eudyptes penguins (Macaroni and Rock hopper penguins) at the island have had a continuous decline by 59 and 48% respectively

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

Undertaken

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

>>> See 65 (a) above

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

Planned

Please provide details

>>> n/a

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

No relevant activities

Please explain the reasons

>>> The process has not been undertaken yet.

f. Other undertaken or planned relevant activities.

No

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

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

No

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

>>> n/a

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

>>> n/a

Pressures and Responses

11. Avian Influenza

101. What issues have proved challenging in responding nationally to the spread of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in the last triennium and what further guidance or information would be useful in this respect?

List challenges

>>> The outbreak of avian flu has caused a bit of panic in seabirds. Managing and controlling the spread of Avian flu outbreak in South Africa in 2018/19 was implemented but the control and managing was more challenging

Gauteng province in South Africa contributes to the National Avian Influenza Surveillance Program. Backyard chickens from identified sampling points are sampled for testing for exposure to the avian influenza viruses.

List required further guidance or information

>>> Protocol was developed and is continued to be implemented across all the seabird breeding colonies

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Health protocol was implemented

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

>>> n/a

12. Confirmation

Confirmation of information verification and approval for submission

Please confirm:

In addition a scanned copy of an official letter from the relevant state institution, approving the report for submission, can be attached.

I declare that the information provided in the Report on the implementation of AEWA for the period 2018-2020 has been verified and the report has been approved for submission by the appropriate state institution in the country.

Date of submission

>>> 28 April 2021

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[letter_edms_203152_mr_j_Trouvi.pdf](#) - Letter to the AEWA Secretariat - submission of the 2021 National report of South Africa