



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

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

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

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

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

1. General Information

Name of reporting Contracting Party

>>> Syrian Arab Republic

Date of entry into force of AEWA in the Contracting Party

>>> 01/ August/ 2003

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

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

>>> No reservation

2. Institutional Information

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

Designated National AEWA Administrative Authority

Full name of the institution

>>> Ministry of Local Administration and Environment.

Name and title of the head of institution

>>> Eng. Housain Makhlouf

Mailing address - Street and number

>>> Yossif Al - Azmeh Square,

P.O.Box

>>> B.O.P 3773

Postal code

>>> -

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Country

>>> Syrian Arab Republic

Telephone

>>> + 963 11 2320884

Fax

>>> + 963 11 2311895

Website

>>> -

Designated National Focal Point (NFP) for AEWA matters

Name and title of the NFP

>>> Mrs. Heba Laktineh

Affiliation (institution, department)

>>> Ministry of Local Administration and Environment, Directorate of Biodiversity, Land and Protected Areas

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>>> hebalaktineh@hotmail.com; hebalaktineh@gmail.com

Website

>>> -

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

Name and title of the TC NFP

>>> No TC NFP was assigned in Syria

Affiliation (institution, department)

>>> N/A

Mailing address - Street and number

>>> N/A

P.O.Box

>>> N/A

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

Name and title of the CEPA NFP

>>> Mrs. Heba Laktineh

Affiliation (institution, department)

>>> Ministry of Local Administration and Environment, Directorate of Biodiversity, Land and Protected Areas

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Website

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

Please select from the list below as appropriate.

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

Other contributors to the AEWA National Report 2018-2020

Please list the names and affiliations (institution, organisation) of the other contributors to this report. For Contracting Parties in which nature conservation is not an exclusive competence of national/federal

government, Designated National Respondents are encouraged to seek input from other relevant levels of government.

>>> Dr. Nabegh Ghazal Asswad, Aleppo University, Department of Renewable Natural Resources and Ecology;
Ex-Chairman of the Syrian Society for Conservation of Wildlife (SSCW). (nabegh@yahoo.co.uk)

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

>>> Work in Progress.

Lack of funding and changing of priorities has caused such delays!

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

>>> Work in progress.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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.

[Syrian Arab Republic Q3 AEWA NR 2018-2020 Filled 070421.xlsx](#) - General Overview of the Protection status

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.

[Syrian Arab Republic Q4 AEWA NR 2018-2020 PopColA-Cat2_3_4 -Filled_070421.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.

[Syrian Arab Republic Q5 AEWA NR 2018-2020 PopColB-Filled_070421.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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> outdated law that needs updating

Limes

Yes, fully

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

>>> Decision 152 of 1970

Hooks

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> outdated law that needs updating

Live birds which are blind or mutilated used as decoys

Yes, fully

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

>>> Decision 152 of 1970

Tape recorders and other electronic devices

Yes, fully

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

>>> Decision 152 of 1970

Electrocuting devices

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> outdated law that needs updating

Artificial light sources

Yes, fully

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

>>> Decision 152 of 1970

Mirrors and other dazzling devices

Yes, fully

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

>>> Decision 152 of 1970

Devices for illuminating targets

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> outdated law that needs updating

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> outdated law that needs updating

Explosives

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> outdated law that needs updating

Nets

Yes, fully

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

>>> Decision 152 of 1970

Traps

Yes, fully

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

>>> Decision 152 of 1970

Poison

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> outdated law that needs updating

Poisoned or anaesthetic baits

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> outdated law that needs updating

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

Yes, fully

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

>>> Decision 152 of 1970

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

Yes, fully

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

>>> Decision 152 of 1970

Other non-selective modes of taking

Yes, fully

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

>>> all forms of non selective mode in taking is being prohibited

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

>>> Decision 152 of 1970

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

>>> until the modified updated Hunting Law (currently under final stage of review) is being approved and officially issued

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

>>> this is also part of the revision and the way to enforce the updated law when it is in place with the allocation of responsibilities to certain bodies for enforcement and monitoring.

Was a review undertaken before MOP7?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> work in progress

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

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

Yes

Please provide details.

>>> Generally, by a Decision of Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (MAAR) all bird's hunting activities were banned since 1994 until Oct.2015 and extended till Oct 2018 and recently till the end of 2021. The Hunting Law issued in 1970 is under the updating process, this process Lead by the Higher Council of Hunting with participation from all relevant stakeholders in this sector.

Hence, all possible information and guidelines will be used to update the national laws for the issue.

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

>>> Generally, by a Decision of Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (MAAR) all bird's hunting activities were banned since 1994 until Oct.2015 and extended till Oct 2018 and the end of 2021. The hunting Law issued in 1970 is under the updating process, this process Lead by the Higher Council of Hunting with participation from all relevant stakeholders in this sector.

4.2. Species Action and Management Plans

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

Please report on all listed ISSAP, ISSMP and IMSAP

Lesser White-fronted Goose / *Anser erythropus* National Plan for Lesser White-fronted Goose / *Anser erythropus*

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> the idea is still work in progress among other National Action Plans for some species of concern for conservation issues.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

Ferruginous Duck / *Aythya nyroca* National Plan for Ferruginous Duck / *Aythya nyroca*

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> the idea is still work in progress among other National Action Plans for some species of concern for conservation issues.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> the idea is still work in progress among other National Action Plans for some species of concern for conservation issues.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> not a species of concern for conservation issues.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

Northern Bald Ibis / *Geronticus eremita*
National Plan for Northern Bald Ibis / *Geronticus eremita*

NP in place and being implemented

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

>>> this was developed in 2010 and was feeding into the regional Action Plan for the species when contribution was possible. However, the recent situation in the Species area and the disappearance of the wild population will need further push to consolidate work as needed

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

Moderate implementation - some of the actions are underway as per the time schedule of the plan

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

>>> change of the presence of the species and the current insecure situation in the area of the species.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> not a species of concern for conservation issues.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> the idea is still work in progress among other National Action Plans for some species of concern for conservation issues.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> not a species of concern for conservation issues.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

Sociable Lapwing / *Vanellus gregarius*
National Plan for Sociable Lapwing / *Vanellus gregarius*

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> monitoring activities were implemented at some areas for some time, but recent changes on the ground made this monitoring very difficult.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> Monitoring and awareness activities at targeted areas and communities with some national stakeholders

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

Moderate implementation – some of the actions are underway as per the time schedule of the ISSAP

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

>>> security issues

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

>>> follow up and contribution to the NBI Action Plan and for the WhD contribution by online contributions.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> No financial funding is allocated for such actions

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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.

>>> work in progress to define and agree on the ranking of actions and their priorities within the national actions.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

No

16. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines for the preparation of National Single Species Action Plans for migratory waterbirds?

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> yes, this was consulted when prepared the Draft NAP for the Northern Bald Ibis. It will be used as a basic for drafting the future AP for all relevant species.

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

>>> None.

4.3 Emergency Measures

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

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

No emergency situation has occurred

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

No

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

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

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> no emergency case was monitored and observed

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

>>> None.

4.4 Re-establishments

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of capacity and resources

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

>>> through an instructional efforts from Ministries (MAAR & MLAE), even though not targeting certain species, but practices for reintroduction and protection mainly.

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

No

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

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

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> work in Progress

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

>>> None

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, but not being enforced properly or at all

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

>>> National Laws for trade on wild creatures, by the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment (MLAE).

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Work In progress.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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)

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> no report of non-native species in the country so far.

More investigation might be needed in the future for such action.

27. Has your country considered, developed or implemented programmes to control or eradicate other non-native species (in particular aquatic weeds and terrestrial predators) so as to prevent negative impacts on migratory waterbirds? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraphs 2.5.3 and 4.3.10 and Resolution 5.15)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> This is not a National priority.

However, it will need more efforts to coordinate the work by MAAR and other conservation departments.

Recent ideas and efforts are in place to discuss the invasive Common Myna observed in 2019-2020 in some coastal areas and coastal cities to take this into action. Dialogue is in place for such consultation for actions to be taken and adopted to overcome this issue.

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?

>>> lack of legislation and financial abilities.

However, this has not been used due to the non-existence of control programs

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 4.5. Introductions

>>> None

4.6 Seabirds

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

No

Pressures and Responses

5. Habitat Conservation

5.1 Habitat Inventories

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

Partially

Please describe the progress

>>> Based on the work of Evans (1994), and the publication on the IBAs in the Middle East, 22 sites identified as IBAs in Syria, some of these sites were identified and proposed as a Protected Areas for conservation measures. The identification of IBAs in Syria needs updating, This process (updating) was planned to take place in 2013 with coordination between the Ministry's and SSCW. It assessed partially the list of sites as some sites were assessed according to Birdlife Measures and criteria, while other were not finished. this will be the future work to classify the level of the importance of all sites (national / regional / & international). and the level of availability of waterbirds populations and other relevant species. A current review of all National IBA is underway and will involve all stakeholder under the lead from SSCW . This was finished by end of 2020 and data will be updated on the Birdlife database shortly for all assessed sites accessible for SSCW.

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

Please explain the reasons

>>> work in progress.

will communicate this in due course and assign point of contact to be involved as well in the process.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Some of the identified sites as IBAs were a location or stop over stations for some species of Migratory Water Birds such as Aljaboul lake, Euphrate Basin.

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

>>> All possible Guideline from AEWA, BirdLife international will be used in consultation with relevant experts to reach the best outcome of inventory.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> none

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

>>> none

5.2. Conservation of Areas and Habitats

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

For one or more single sites

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of capacities and support for such activities

For the national protected area network

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> Lack of capacities and support for such activities

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

>>> 7

Total area (ha)

>>> 406000

Number of internationally important sites under national protection designation

>>> 5

Area of international importance under national protection designation (ha)

>>> 80000

Please rate the effectiveness of the national protection designation

Moderate

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

>>> Work in Progress to support the level of management at such sites and inclusion in the national network of areas the are under full management and monitoring when capacities are developed and fund is being allocated.

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

Number of sites

>>> 2

Area (in ha)

>>> 49000

Please rate the effectiveness of the management measures

Moderate

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

>>> Work in Progress to support the level of management at such sites and inclusion in the national network of areas the are under full management and monitoring when capacities are developed and fund is being allocated.

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

Number of sites

>>> 0

Area (in ha)

>>> 0

Please rate the effectiveness of the climate resilience measures

Low

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

>>> no sites were adopted and selected for such actions.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> none

All sites of national importance

Total number

>>> 9

Total area (ha)

>>> 450000

Number of nationally important sites under national protection designation

>>> 32

Area of national importance under national protection area designation

>>> 450000

Please rate the effectiveness of the national protection designation

Moderate

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

>>> management and monitoring will be enhanced when capacities are developed and fund is being secured.

Area (in ha)

>>> 62000

Please rate the effectiveness of the management measures

High

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

>>> Capacities are built at these sites with the needed training through support and international support and funding alongside national co-funding and commitment

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

Number of sites

>>> 0

Area (in ha)

>>> 0

Please rate the effectiveness of the climate resilience measures

Low

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

>>> economical constraints,

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> this will be identified in the near future when assistance is available to assess the status of protection and the needs to strengthen the conservation measures for sites.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> one site is being under review to support and propose such planning to be ready for adoption once support and funding is being secured.

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

Being developed

Please provide starting date and expected date of finalisation

>>> management plans for some PAs with IBA attributes (2015-end of 2020)

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

MANAGEMENT GAP FILING

Being developed

Please provide starting date and expected date of finalisation

>>> work in progress for such development

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

Yes, partially

Please provide details and reasons for partial integration

>>> sites of IBAs and Some PAs in the country. This needs further discussion and follow up once funding for this is being allocated.

If available, please provide best practice examples of integration of the flyway site network into your country's water- and land-use policies and planning and decision-making processes

>>> N/A

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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?

>>> will try to use it in the near future more effectively alongside other Guidelines

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

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Accessed and used initially very slightly with limited number of experts. Individuals will need training to implement the usage of CSN

47. Following MOP7, has your country been involved in the establishment of innovative, international, multi-stakeholder partnerships to guide the development and implementation of habitat management,

creation and restoration projects in the wider environment? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 4.4(a))
 No

Please explain the reasons

>>> this is not feasible under the current situation and the lack of funding

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

>>> From the sites we mentioned above as a national importance, it is expected that 4 sites have international importance, It is planned to make a national survey for all wetland sites in Syria to nominated some of them to be RAMSAR sites especially where the international importance is applicable.

Pressures and Responses

6. Management of Human Activities

6.1. Hunting

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> this is still work in progress with the process of updating the Hunting Law and all related articles to enforce the law when adopted. Support might be needed.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

>>> Not yet, However, this matter was planned to be part of the General Biodiversity Data Base which implementation as one of the Biodiversity Conservation and PAs Management Project implemented by the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment and the Directorate of Biodiversity and Protected Areas. SSCW will try to contribute to this work from the capacity that it has being the national partner of BirdLife International..

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

>>> Due to the lack of legislation for this issue. It is been looked at and included into the proposed updated National Hunting Law

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

>>> Lack of national legislation. The new hunting law, which is expected to be issued by end of 2021 (or shortly after) will take into consideration banning the use of lead shot.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None.

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

Yes

How would you rate the effectiveness of the measures?

Low

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

>>> need more support and plan for enforcement as well as programme for awareness and training of Hunters and enforcing authorities.

Please provide details

>>> none (as above)

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

Partially

Please provide details

>>> such protocol is under development by SSCW with support from Birdlife Internationale to have provisional monitoring protocol for such activities.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> This issue was looked at in the updating process of the hunting law, hence, it is also a work in progress for a related curriculum to be developed and assigned to a body to lead on with roles to the NGOs, Clubs, Ministry. This will be developed by support from BirdLife International

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

Yes

What do these cover?

Club Affiliation

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

Please provide details on each item selected above

>>> info needed from SSCW

Optional [Please upload links or examples]

>>> N/A (from SSCW)

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

Medium (more applied than not applied)

Please provide details and reasons for non-application

>>> Lack of enforcement due to limited resources and changes of national priorities

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

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

Please provide details and reasons for the high degree of effectiveness

>>> the Code is being developed according to the standards accepted by international bodies as well as to be in line with other codes developed by relevant bodies in the region

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

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

open the link in a new tab.

No

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

>>> The new proposed national hunting law and its Regulatory instructions, which was expected to be issued in 2019 and continued to face some delay in issuance, has taken into consideration the AEWA Guidelines among other guidelines and principles.

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

>>> this has been drafted and is under revision with the assigned committee to develop the national guidelines for Ecotourism.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> work in progress.

Being hindered by the current situation in the country and the region over the past few years.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 6.2. Ecotourism

>>> None.

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.

>>> N/A.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

>>> all projects and activities should be subject to SEA/EIA.

However, this sometimes might be overlooked, or the depth of the EIA is not that effective.

Do the SEA/EIA processes include public participation?

Yes

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

Yes

Please describe each measure and provide details for each of them

>>> (EIA) on all projects especially for sites around water surfaces including the wetland sites.

Please rank the effectiveness of these measures:

Medium

Please provide details and the reasons for lower effectiveness

>>> more training and support to do the assessment and monitor its applicability on sites and projects

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

>>> For example: Al-Jabboul lake, the using of SEA/EIA implemented on the existing and proposed projects, The Ministry implemented a survey for all projects around this lake to assess the situation of the wildlife population including existed human activities.

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

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> none.

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))

Yes

Please report 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.

>>> This reporting was recently initiated to report such action on the national level. This will need some support to keep going with the right reporting process at the ministry and its departments. Stakeholders will be consulted and have their say on issues as needed and developed for follow up from the ministry where possible.

Please report 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.

>>> Work in progress to start the process.

Please report 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.

>>> Work in Progress to increase the capacity and ability to pursue this issue and for any site to be reported

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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.

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> no past work was done, but this is noticed for future development.

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

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

Partially

Please provide details.

>>> need much of development and organization for a newly issue in the country .

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?

No

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

>>> this process is at the initiation to develop.

It will aim to use all available data and sensitivity mapping tool from MSB project delivered by BirdLife International to assess sites and minimize hazardous activities and establishments

work still in Progress with discussion with relevant stakeholders of NGO and other bodies governing the power sector in the country.

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

Partially

Please provide details.

>>> Surveys were conducted for targeted areas under the project for the conservation of Egyptian Vulture (EU LIFE Egyptian Vulture New Life Project) that will benefit other species as well to assess the threat of electrocution from power lines . Areas of potential threats were identified for future implementation of protection activities when dedicated support is secured.

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

Partially

Please provide details.

>>> through some sites in the central areas where the colony of Endangered species (Bald Ibis) was located

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

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

Partially

Please provide details.

>>> through some sites in the central areas where the colony of Endangered species (Northern Bald Ibis) was located

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?

Partially

Please provide details

>>> This action was not adopted earlier, but this process is at the initiation process using information from MSB project to assess sites and minimize hazardous activities and establishment this was through some sites in the central areas where the colony of Endangered species (Bald Ibis) was located as well as on the migration route of the Egyptian Vulture and some soaring birds in some parts of the country

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?

Partially

Please provide details.

>>> as was said above for activities for the conservation of Egyptian Vulture that will benefit wide range of species including waterbirds such as storks, cranes, pelicans, and herons. This work need to be extended further to other areas to assess the network and and potential of threats.

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

Not applicable

Please explain the reasons.

>>> this is a mater of follow up to have the right orders to intervene as needed.
Work in Progress.

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.

>>> under implementing some projects and activities for the conservation of some species such as the Egyptian Vulture and MSBs with support from BirdLife International

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

No

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

>>> work in progress.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> based on a national assessment of these points and to follow the resolution in current and future activities.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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.

Not applicable

Please explain.

>>> this process is at the initiation process

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?

Being developed

Please provide details.

>>> this was supported and developed for some parts of the country as part of the region along the flyway under MSB Project using Sensitivity Mapping tool.

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.

>>> Guidelines and documents developed by the MSB Project within Birdlife International.

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

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> no such needs were in place, this will be the case for future planning and conditions.

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

No

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

>>> this process is at the initiation level, but it will be noticed and applied for future work

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

Not applicable

Please explain the reasons

>>> no wind Farms on a large scale are planned in the Country. Future planning for such facilities will be assessed as part of the project EIA as needed by the Ministry.

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

Not applicable

Please explain the reasons

>>> still in the initial process.

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

Not applicable

Please explain the reasons

>>> Work in Progress

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

No

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

>>> it is currently not a priority option for energy production that was adopted in the country, but it will be noticed and applied for future work to be considered.

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?

>>> this will be developed within the current activities of (MLAE) to revise the NBSAP.

This is still work in progress with some delays but anticipated to be done in the near future with the right support and participation of national and international support.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> none

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.

Not Applicable

Please explain

>>> Will use all available Guidelines for any development.

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

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> In spite of this, there are no registered information about the by-catch of waterbirds. and it is thought that it is rarely happened in the fishing gear within the national waters, this information gap can be filled in cooperation with the fishermen through the General Authority for Fisheries.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Work in Progress to revise the guidelines as needed

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?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> N/A

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

>>> Work in Progress

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?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> future plan to follow this issue.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

70. Has any project / initiative been implemented in your country that promotes the integration of cultural and provisioning ecosystem services of migratory waterbirds into policy and decision-making affecting them or their habitats? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 2.6)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> work in progress

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

>>> None

Pressures and Responses

7. Research and Monitoring

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> no dedicated census is implemented

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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))

Not Applicable

Please explain the reasons

>>> No dedicated census programme in the country

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> do not have the enough manpower

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

>>> trained teams of some targeted local communities in some important sites have already being formed and trained based on the AEWA Guidelines for the Monitoring of waterbirds. However, activities of monitoring is not funded enough to take place on a regular basis.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of financial Budget and funding

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

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

No

Please explain the reason

>>> Lack of Financial funding and resources.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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)

No

Please explain the reason

>>> N/A

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.

No

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

Yes

Please provide further details

>>> not a very urgent goal, but it would be considered in the future

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

>>> None

Pressures and Responses

8. Education and Information

8.1. Communication, Education and Public Awareness

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

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

Yes, being implemented

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

>>> Such programmes were partially implemented for local communities in some important sites like Al Jabboul lake, Palmyra area and sites along the Euphrates. Some of these activities were an objective of some projects such as "Improving the Conservation Status of Globally Threatened Birds at Jabboul Ramsar Wetland through Promoting and Implementing Sustainable Hunting Practices Project" and other projects implemented in Al Jabboul Site is the preparation of training and development of programmes and achievement of the activities aim to increase the awareness and capacity building of staffs and local communities.

An examples:

1- A photo exhibition depicting the story of the Northern Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita* was opened on 8 February 2006 in the Old Town of Damascus, aimed at promoting conservation of this Critically Endangered bird and creating a sense of ownership of the project to the Syrian authorities.

2- A second photo exhibition about the History and present situation of Bald Ibis organized on 2007, in coordination with the Danish and Italian Embassies in Damascus at Danish House, Old Damascus.

3- A good number of posters and brochures distributed about waterbirds.

4- two posters about the birds of Al-Jabboul Area, (Flamingo, Reed Warbler, Kingfishers,...)

5- Workshops to build knowledge and raise awareness for Sociable Lapwing Protection and the threats it faces.

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

Yes

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> -

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of funding. However, there is CEPA officer at the Ministry of Local Administrative and Environment to deal with general Environmental Issues

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> -

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> this was not in the planned activities for the recent past period

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.

>>> Several activities were carried out for celebrating the WMBD in 2012 & 2013 & 2014 & 2015 & 2016. These were in line with the general themes of the WMBD. There is a plan to celebrate this event this year 2021 during the Spring or Autumn.

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

>>> A lack of budget

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> -

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

>>> none

Pressures and Responses

9. Implementation

84. Have you undertaken a national assessment of the resources needed for the delivery of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.6.(b))

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> this will be arranged in the very near future with the support and participation of various national stakeholders

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

85. Has your country approached non-contracting party range states to encourage them to accede to the Agreement? (Resolution 3.10; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 5.2)

Report only on activities over the past triennium

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Difficulties in Communications

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

>>> As planned, The AEWA National Focal Point coordinates with other Focal Points of other biodiversity Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Conventions for common work.

Are priority capacity gaps addressed by the coordination mechanism?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Will be considered for future reporting in the near future with the right support

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

Medium

Please provide details and the reasons for the lower effectiveness

>>> need more support for effective national coordination due to the exodus of many experts as well as to the limited support needed to facilitate this coordination.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

>>> partial assessment of the current capacity available to support this process. this is on the Agenda of the Directorate and Ministry to be implemented and assessed properly in the very near future.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> no plans for that in the near future due to current situation and the complexity of arranging such process with other countries.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> the NFP is part of the national government dealing with the CBD and in a close cooperation on regular basis

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> partial involvement due to the complexity of support gained due to restrictions and sanctions imposed on the country that hinder any support to be reached to facilitate such a national process as mainly due to lack of funding

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

>>> none

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

92.2 Other strategic plans and policies

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Work in progress to identify other plans

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

Sustainable Development Goals

Yes

Please provide details

>>> partial through some support offered from UNDP for some civil societies to help in this section.

Aichi Targets

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Work in Progress

Strategic Plan for Migratory Species

Yes

Please provide details

>>> some monitoring activities and some practices to protect migratory species from the threats that cause fatalities to these species including the poisoning, the shooting and hunting as well as for the persecution at some locations. these are aimed to facilitate the national planning for such conservation actions to be implemented and adopted in the near future. some support will usually hasten the process.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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?

>>> Full coordination between the focal points of these agreements and work to support activities related to the implementation of AEWA.

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

>>> there is no fund for such cause. However, Syria will not have the capacity to pay in cash for this, but may contribute in -kind if needed for Syria

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> No request for a national activity during this period was made, but previously The Ministry (MSEA) and SSCW provided in - kind support for the official visiting team of the Sociable Lapwing back in 2009-2010.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

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

Not Applicable: the country has no arrangement with the UN to provide JPOs

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> None

98. Please report on the implementation of Resolution 6.21 on Resource mobilisation for the implementation of AEWA.

98.1 Did your country's government provide in the last triennium financial and/or in-kind resources to support national activities which are intended to achieve the objectives of this Agreement, particularly those in line with the AEWA Strategic Plan including the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa, and in accordance with your national plans, priorities and programmes?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of funding and limited financial resources available due to sanctions.

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)?

Yes

How many annual contributions are outstanding?

>>> -

When are they going to be settled?

>>> once the situation is improved and sanctions are lifted on Syrian contribution and financial transactions.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of financial resources and difficulties in cooperation due to sanctions and embargo of Syrian contributions

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> N/A

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> N/A

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

Yes

Please describe each synergetic arrangement and benefits acquired

>>> Synergies of implementing other commitments to environmental conventions and treaties, such as CBD.

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

No relevant activities

Please explain the reasons

>>> not on the Agenda

b. Assessment of the potential vulnerability to climate change of key habitats used by waterbird species (including those outside protected area networks) (Please note that the question asks about habitats, rather than sites. Question 41 in Section 5, sub-section 5.2 investigates vulnerability of sites to climate change)

Planned

Please provide details

>>> to assess the changes of habitats due to the recent alteration in resources and their usages and the surrounding environment especially with the recent effect of the crisis on selected wetlands

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

No relevant activities

Please explain the reasons

>>> Not on the national Agenda

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

Planned

Please provide details

>>> will take place when the national policies for the conservation of biodiversity will be discussed in the near future. This is part of the assessment of some IBAs in the country on the national update for these sites with the limited capacity and funds available for such task

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

>>> no budget is available for planning an Action Plan for this issue as well as some capacity development needed for such actions

f. Other undertaken or planned relevant activities.

No

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

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

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> not a widely used issue that is directly affecting waterbirds.

the future work will hopefully take waterbirds into consideration for such issue when more support and capacity is being sourced.

Pressures and Responses

11. Avian Influenza

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

List challenges

>>> no cases were reported in the country, but the challenging issue would be the lack of official control at some areas to combat it if it happens to occur in some remote areas of the country.

List required further guidance or information

>>> N/A

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Not Applicable

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

>>> none

12. Confirmation

Confirmation of information verification and approval for submission

Please confirm:

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

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

Date of submission

>>> 08 April 2021