



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

>>> United Kingdom

Date of entry into force of AEWA in the Contracting Party

>>> 4 November 1999

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 for UK.

As noted in the question, the European Commission, on behalf of the European Union, have also entered reservations (per Article X.6 of the Agreement) following MOP7, MOP 6, and MOP 5 in relation to *Haematopus ostralegus*; *Melanitta fusca*; *Limosa limosa*; *Tringa totanus*; *Vanellus vanellus*; *Aythya ferina*; *Mergus serrator*; *Limosa lapponica*; *Calidris canutus*; *Tringa erythropus* and *Larus fuscus*.

Late reservation with respect to changes made in MOP7 22/03/2019, see depository notification 'Migratory waterbirds 03/19'

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 for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Name and title of the head of institution

>>> The Rt Hon George Eustice MP

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Designated National Focal Point (NFP) for AEWA matters

Name and title of the NFP

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

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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 for AEWA Technical Committee (TC NFP) matters has been designated as the National Respondent

Other contributors to the AEWA National Report 2018-2020

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

>>> UK national reports to AEWA are subject to consultation with relevant UK stakeholders.

Population status information is developed from jointly funded surveillance programmes involving the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, British Trust for Ornithology, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) and the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT), with the input of other specialist groups and contributors.

Information on waterbird populations reported depends on the voluntary efforts of many thousands of volunteer ornithologists who monitor waterbirds in the UK throughout the year and whose inputs are acknowledged by UK government.

This report was compiled with contributions from Kayleigh Adam (DEFRA), Nicholas Aebischer (GCWT), Diane Baum (Government of Ascension Island), Jack Blandy (DEFRA), Bart Donato (NE), Matt Ellis (BASC), Teresa Frost (BTO), Richard Hearn (WWT), Dave Johnston (NRW), Theresa Kudelska (NRW), Patrick Lindley (NRW), Stephanie Martin (Government of Tristan da Cunha), Matty Murphy (NRW), Matt Parsons (JNCC), David Stroud (JNCC) and Andy Tully (DEFRA).

We also acknowledge the input of other correspondents to previous UK National Reports, material from which is also included here.

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

>>> No formal review has been undertaken but considerable work (in England) has been undertaken to develop an Agriculture Act (enacted in 2020) and an Environment Bill which is still to be adopted. Both of these contains provisions that will materially enhance the capacity to manage and enhance environmental quality inter alia for waterbirds in England.

Also of note is the Fisheries Act 2020, which legally ensures that UK fisheries are managed in a sustainable way - balancing social, economic, and social benefits while preventing the over-exploitation of fish stocks and other environmental impacts.

In 2020, Welsh Government published the Agriculture (Wales) White paper setting out primary legislation for the introduction of an Agriculture (Wales) Bill in 2021. This follows previous consultations 'Brexit and Our Land', and 'Sustainable Farming and Our Land', both outlining Welsh Government proposals for agricultural policy and support and proposals for a Sustainable Farming Scheme

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

[Briefing on 2020 Fisheries Act](#)

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

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

Yes, one or more modes of taking have been prohibited

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

Snares

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Section 5 - in Great Britain

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (the Order) and amendment The Wildlife (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 - in Northern Ireland

Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000 - in Jersey

Limes

Yes, fully

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

>>> Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Section 5

Hooks

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Section 5 - in Great Britain
The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (the Order) and amendment The Wildlife (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 - in Northern Ireland
Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000 - in Jersey

Live birds which are blind or mutilated used as decoys

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Section 5 - in Great Britain
The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (the Order) and amendment The Wildlife (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 - in Northern Ireland
Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000 - in Jersey

Tape recorders and other electronic devices

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Section 5 - in Great Britain
The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (the Order) and amendment The Wildlife (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 - in Northern Ireland
Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000 - in Jersey

Electrocuting devices

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Section 5 - in Great Britain
The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (the Order) and amendment The Wildlife (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 - in Northern Ireland
Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000 - in Jersey

Artificial light sources

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Section 5 - in Great Britain
The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (the Order) and amendment The Wildlife (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 - in Northern Ireland
Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000 - in Jersey

Mirrors and other dazzling devices

Yes, fully

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

>>> Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Section 5

Devices for illuminating targets

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Section 5 - in Great Britain
The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (the Order) and amendment The Wildlife (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 - in Northern Ireland
Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000 - in Jersey

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

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Section 5 - in Great Britain
The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (the Order) and amendment The Wildlife (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 - in Northern Ireland

Ireland) Order 1995 - in Northern Ireland
Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000 - in Jersey

Explosives

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Section 5 - in Great Britain
The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (the Order) and amendment The Wildlife (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 - in Northern Ireland
Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000 - in Jersey

Nets

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Section 5 - in Great Britain
The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (the Order) and amendment The Wildlife (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 - in Northern Ireland
Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000 - in Jersey

Traps

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Section 5 - in Great Britain
The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (the Order) and amendment The Wildlife (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 - in Northern Ireland
Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000 - in Jersey

Poison

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Section 5 - in Great Britain
The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (the Order) and amendment The Wildlife (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 - in Northern Ireland
Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000 - in Jersey

Poisoned or anaesthetic baits

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Section 5 - in Great Britain
The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (the Order) and amendment The Wildlife (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 - in Northern Ireland
Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000 - in Jersey

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

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Section 5 - in Great Britain
The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (the Order) and amendment The Wildlife (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 - in Northern Ireland
Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000 - in Jersey

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

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Section 5 - in Great Britain
The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (the Order) and amendment The Wildlife (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 - in Northern Ireland

Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000 - in Jersey

Other non-selective modes of taking

Yes, fully

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

>>> The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Section 5 - in Great Britain

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (the Order) and amendment The Wildlife (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 - in Northern Ireland

Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000 - in Jersey

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

>>> All non-selective modes of taking are prohibited.

However, although prohibited in Section 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, devolved administrations and the competent licensing authorities of Natural England, NatureScot, Natural Resources Wales and Northern Ireland's Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs may, theoretically, authorise the use of prohibited methods when issuing general or specific licences.

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

No

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

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

Yes

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

Was a review undertaken before MOP7?

No

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

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

No

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

>>> Compliant legislation already in place

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

>>> Q8. Exemptions are granted through specific licences issued on behalf of the UK government by the country agencies. The issuance of a licence does not necessarily mean that the activities licensed are undertaken.

The legislation that controls such exemptions is the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Wildlife Order 1985 (Northern Ireland).

Information on derogations permitted by UK authorities from 2000-2017 are available on Natural England's web-site. It is not feasible to report separately on the circumstances of each derogation. Information on all relevant derogations is given in the reports from UK and other EU Member States related to the EU Birds Directive (which covers relevant AEWA-listed species). These are available from the link below.

In England, Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) has been removed from the General licence, allowing better management of take.

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

[EU derogation reports](#)

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

**Barnacle Goose / *Branta leucopsis*
National Plan for Barnacle Goose / *Branta leucopsis***

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> Unnecessary as a mechanism to ensure actions are taken. The Islay Sustainable Goose Management Strategy acts as a de facto plan for the majority of Greenland population within Scotland. There is also an ongoing process of developing and implementing an Adaptive Flyway Management Plan for Greenland Barnacle Goose and this will provide a better framework for managing the population (and in Scotland as a whole) than the Islay Strategy.

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

[Islay Sustainable Goose Management Strategy](#)

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> Implementation reports are made to European Goose Management Platform. Draft Adaptive Flyway Management Plans have been prepared for Greenland and Svalbard populations and a new population model developed to support the Greenland AFMP. The frequency of UK and Ireland Greenland Barnacle Population Census has been increased from five-yearly to three-yearly to support AFMP for the species.

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

**Greater White-fronted Goose / *Anser albifrons*
National Plan for Greater White-fronted Goose / *Anser albifrons***

No NP, but actions implemented

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> From September 2019, statutory protection has been given to Greenland White-fronted Geese in England and Wales in line with recommendations from an Implementation Review Procedure: HMSO 2020a. Welsh Statutory Instrument 2020 No. 272 (W. 64). The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Variation of Schedule 2) (Wales) Order 2020. HMSO 2020b. Statutory Instrument 2020 No. 245. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Variation of Schedule 2) (England) Order 2020.

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

[HMSO 2020a. Welsh Statutory Instrument 2020 No. 272 \(W. 64\). The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 \(Variation of Schedule 2\) \(Wales\) Order 2020](#)

[HMSO 2020b. Statutory Instrument 2020 No. 245. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 \(Variation of Schedule 2\) \(England\) Order 2020](#)

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

Insufficient implementation - few of the actions are underway as per the time schedule of the ISSAP

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Annual monitoring of the whole population is undertaken by the Greenland White-fronted Goose Study in Britain and the National Parks and Wildlife Service in Ireland.

**Bean Goose / *Anser fabalis*
National Plan for Bean Goose / *Anser fabalis***

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> Implementation reports are made to European Goose Management Platform

Long-tailed Duck / Clangula hyemalis
National Plan for Long-tailed Duck / Clangula hyemalis

No NP and no action implemented

Corncrake / Crex crex
National Plan for Corncrake / Crex crex

No NP, but actions implemented

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> The increase in the UK population has started to slow as shown by recent national surveys (see link below)

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

[Simon R. Wotton, Mark Eaton, Steven R. Ewing & Rhys E. Green \(2015\) The increase in the Corncrake Crex crex population of the United Kingdom has slowed. Bird Study 62: 486-497.](#)

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

Tundra Swan / Cygnus columbianus
National Plan for Tundra Swan / Cygnus columbianus

No NP, but actions implemented

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> UK participated in an action plan review workshop at the 6th International Swan Symposium (in Tartu, Estonia) in October 2018, where progress with implementation was reviewed

UK participated in international census in January 2020 (through WWT-JNCC-NatureScot Goose and Swan Monitoring Programme)

UK researchers have authored/co-authored several collaborative papers assessing the reasons underlying population change

UK participating in Anglo-Russian study to reduce levels of illegal shooting of Bewick's Swans in the breeding range (the "Swan Champions" project: link below).

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

[Swan Champions Project](#)

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

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

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> UK is not a range state for this species and it should be removed from the list of UK relevant ISSAP - as advised on several previous occasions

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

No NP, but actions implemented

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> Head-starting programme (the removal of eggs from nests, their artificial incubation to hatching, rearing and re-release of chicks) commenced at main UK breeding site.

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

Project Godwit

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

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

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> A number of initiatives are operational, reflecting the high priority given to this species in the UK. These include several different multi-stakeholder initiatives:

a UK and Ireland Curlew Working Group to co-ordinate actions between statutory organisations and conservation NGOs

a Curlew Recovery Partnership in England

Working for Waders in Scotland

Additionally several organisations such as the British Trust for Ornithology, RSPB and Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust have their own work-programmes on the species.

A head-starting programme (the removal of eggs from nests, their artificial incubation to hatching, rearing and re-release of chicks) has commenced.

In Wales, an action plan for the recovery of Curlew was produced, Gylfinir Cymru / Curlew Wales Action Group in May 2021 and sets out a framework to conserve breeding Curlew over a ten-year programme of action. This action plan is aligned with the AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for Eurasian Curlew. In addition, draft options have been developed for new Curlew Welsh SPAs and extensions to existing SPAs and a commissioned report was produced on the multiple benefits, framed in the context of political thinking, of Curlew conservation.

WWT also has a "Combating the curlew crisis" programme, which BASC has funded through the Wildlife and Habitat Charitable Trust (WHCT) (<https://basc.org.uk/southern-curlew-crisis-aided-by-whct-grant/>).

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

WWT work on Curlew

Working for Waders

Curlew Recovery Partnership England

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

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

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> Unnecessary as a mechanism to ensure actions

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> The UK eradication of Ruddy Duck is close to completion

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

Full implementation - all actions are underway as per the time schedule of the ISSAP

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> 1. With respect to the list of species for which UK is an ISSAP Range State, please note:

a. UK is NOT a Range State for Great Snipe - this species should be removed from future UK reports (as previously advised on several occasions).

b. UK IS a Range State for Velvet Scoter, and this species should be added to this section for future reports.

2. We have not been able to complete questions 3, 4 or 5 on species legal status as we could not obtain access to the relevant spreadsheets.

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

No

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> UK NGOs assist the co-ordination of AEWA ISSAP on a pro-bono basis. WWT coordinates the European Seaduck IWG (2018-21) and the Bewick's Swan expert group, and RSPB coordinate the Curlew IWG.

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

>>> RSPB previously supported the development of the Eurasian Curlew ISSAP.

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.

>>> National Action Plans are not seen as necessary to implement relevant species conservation issues

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

No

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

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

No

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

>>> UK Biodiversity Action Plans pre-date AEWA guidance. The principles are the same.

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

>>> Some non-governmental organisations (e.g. RSPB & WWT) have well-established action plans for many AEWA species covering the conservation requirements of these species, and which are used to guide the programmes of work of these organisations including management of relevant protected areas.

For Questions 15 & 16: Some of the devolved countries, such as Wales, have developed country-specific Action Plans and these align with actions in AEWA ISSAP as relevant.

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?

Yes

Please provide information on each emergency situation for which measures have

been developed and are in place

Measures for Extreme weather

Shortly describe the emergency measures in place in your country

>>> Contingency measures developed to suspension of hunting and other recreational activities that might cause disturbance to waterbirds in periods of extreme cold weather

Measures for Oil spill

Shortly describe the emergency measures in place in your country

>>> Contingency measures developed by relevant authorities

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.

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The principle established emergency response measures relate to i) shooting bans in periods of extreme cold weather; and ii) oil spills

4.4 Re-establishments

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> No formal register of re-establishment projects for waterbirds is maintained as such activity is very unusual. Many projects are strictly re-enforcements as the species has not been totally lost from the UK. Only three waterbird re-establishment / re-enforcement projects relate to: Corncrake *Crex crex* (<https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/our-work/rspb-news/news/details.aspx?id=tcm:9-192856>), Common Crane *Grus grus* (www.thegreatcraneproject.org.uk); and White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* (<https://www.whitestorkproject.org/>) - all three of which are subject to re-establishment / re-enforcement projects in England.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The statutory conservation agencies, through JNCC, agreed a policy framework national principles with respect to translocation of species (and habitats) within Great Britain in 2003 (see below). Since then Scotland have developed enhance guidance on translocations: <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/protected-areas-and-species/reintroducing-native-species/scottish-code-conservation-translocations>
See also articles in https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/InPractice89_Sept15.pdf

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

No

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

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

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> No waterbird translocations have been initiated by government or its statutory agencies

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

>>> The JNCC has agreed policy regarding translocations

(https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/987068/reintroductions-conservation-translocations-code-and-guidance-england.pdf), which includes guidance on conducting translocations for conservation purposes. It conforms published international guidelines issued by The World Conservation Union (IUCN).

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

[Reintroductions and other conservation translocations: code and guidance for England](#) - Guide on reintroductions and other conservation translocations in England

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.

>>> Releasing a non-native species, or allowing one to escape, into the wild is prohibited by Section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, in Great Britain, and Section 15 of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.

Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (to which Section 14 refers) has recently been amended in England and Wales by Part 4 of the UK Infrastructure Act 2015.

Article 15 of the Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000 prohibits the release or allowing to escape into the wild of any bird which is of a kind which is not ordinarily resident in or a regular visitor to Jersey in a wild state, except with a licence under the law to do so.

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

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Captive non-native birds are the responsibility of their curators who must ensure that they do not escape into the wild further to the legal requirements of Section 14 of the 1981 Wildlife & Countryside Act in Great Britain and Section 15 of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.

See p.10 of http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/legal-eagle-75_tcm9-396380.pdf for description of 2014 prosecution regarding escape of Sacred Ibises in England.

On the Isle of Man (IoM), the importation of zoo animals listed on the Wild Animals (Restriction on Importation etc) Act 1981 is restricted if they are dangerous; a potential ecological threat if they escaped; or on the basis of welfare grounds, and is subject to a consideration of the security of housing prior to licensing. The list of restricted species, for which private keeping is prohibited, was updated by the Wild Animals (Restriction on Importation, etc.) Act 1980 (Amendment) Order 2013. The IoM additionally has an offence related to allowing the escape of non-native animals parallel to the British W&CA (above) under the Wildlife Act.

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

Yes

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

Ruddy Duck / *Oxyura jamaicensis*

For Ruddy Duck / *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Control or eradication programme developed and being implemented

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

>>> See <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/home/index.cfm> for further information

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> A UK eradication programme for Ruddy Duck was developed and is being implemented.

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

>>> See <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/home/index.cfm> for further information

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

[Ruddy Duck Risk Assessment](#)

Please provide further information for each relevant programme

>>> See <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/maps/index.cfm> for further 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?

>>> Eradication programme pre-dates AEWA guidance but the principles are the same.

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 4.5. Introductions

>>> Very considerable information is available on the website of the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat:

<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/home/index.cfm>

4.6 Seabirds

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

Yes

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

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> No statutory system to record or collect such data. Ad hoc information was collated for the UK's 2019 report under Article 12 of the EU Birds Directive. This found that bycatch was assessed to be a pressure and/or threat to the following species:

In the breeding season: Fulmar; Arctic Skua; Great Black-backed Gull; Lesser Black-backed Gull; Black Guillemot; Common Guillemot; European Shag; Atlantic Puffin; and Sandwich Tern.

Razorbill is also at risk of bycatch (but not included in the last Article 12 report).

In the passage season: Balearic Shearwater.

In the non-breeding season: Red-throated Diver; Great Crested Grebe; Great Cormorant; Greater Scaup; Long-tailed Duck; Velvet and Common Scoter.

The main scheme is the UK Bycatch Monitoring Programme, which is an on-board, dedicated observer-based sampling scheme covering the main gear types that are thought to result in "substantial" bycatch of seabirds - fixed nets, longlines and pelagic trawls. It is organised by the Scottish Oceans Institute at St Andrews, and funded by DEFRA and the devolved administrations. This scheme was originally designed to estimate cetacean bycatch rates but in the last ten years has been modified to sample gears eg longlines that are more of an issue to seabirds.

As part of preparations for publication of the UK Bycatch Mitigation Initiative, JNCC commissioned and delivered various pieces of evidence for DEFRA (link below), which use the results of the UKBMP. There is also the sampling that is required under the EU Common Fisheries Policy - the Data Collection Framework sampling. This is considered a "lower quality" scheme as regards protected species bycatch sampling, as it is doing multiple tasks, primarily fish sampling, as well as looking for cetacean/seabird bycatch. CEFAS and MSS run these schemes.

A recent review has been undertaken of seabird bycatch

(14932_ME6024PrelimestseabirdbycatchinUKfisheries19Oct2020rev.pdf), and it is anticipated that the Seabird Conservation Strategy and or the proposed new Fisheries Bill will be the mechanism to act on identified pressures.

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

Preliminary seabird bycatch strategy

Research and Development for the UK Seabird Plan of Action

UK 2019 Article 12 report: Pressures & Threats

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

>>> JNCC has helped draft a "Seabird Safe Toolkit" to be used by skippers to help reduce bycatch. This will be published in 2021.

Scottish Government has commissioned detailed research and data collection on the longline issue, which is primarily a Scottish issue in the UK. There are also various ongoing trials of mitigation methods.

Through the UK's new Bycatch Mitigation Initiative to be published in 2021, the government is committed to improving our understanding of seabird bycatch and entanglement through scientific monitoring and research. This will include expanding on the UK's Bycatch Monitoring Programme and investing in new methods to monitor seabird bycatch such as citizen science and electronic monitoring.

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

Not Applicable

Please explain the reasons.

>>> No relevant artisanal fisheries.

Local measures have been adopted at some breeding colonies, e.g. voluntary closure of recreational gill net fisheries, where pressures identified.

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

Not Applicable

Please explain the reasons.

>>> No relevant artisanal fisheries

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

Yes

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

Partial Data

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

>>> All seabirds are protected. Egg-collecting for gulls is undertaken under license provisions and subject to derogation.

In Wales, NRW are undertaking a census of urban breeding Herring Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull to provide confidence in an estimate of the urban populations. Predictive modelled outputs of Population Viability Analysis (PVA) will then allow an assessment of the population effects of licensed destruction of eggs and nests. This work will determine whether thresholds of licensed action can be set without a negative impact on the Welsh conservation status of these two species.

In Scotland, Gannet chicks are annually collected under license on the island of Sula Sgeir.

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

>>> No plans to improve data collection: no evidence that such harvesting of eggs impacts on the seabird species concerned.

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

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> Whilst there is no impact of hunting and egg harvesting on Welsh AEWA-listed seabirds either legal and/or illegal, but NRW cannot rule out the possibility of an effect of licensed taking or destroying of nests and eggs mentioned for urban nesting gulls (see Question 33).

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.

>>> Studies have been undertaken to prioritise rodent eradication from UK seabird islands, as well as more widely for non-natives from UK Overseas Territories.

An EU funded Biosecurity for LIFE project has been established to reduce risks from invasive mammals on island seabird colonies. See link which contains extensive information. This project is updating/creating adequate management plans to deal with the potential incursion of invasive mammals on island SPAs. Wales is a part funder of this project and is engaged in a legacy project to keep the equipment and management plans up to date.

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

[Prioritizing islands for the eradication of invasive vertebrates in the United Kingdom overseas territories](#)

[How to prioritize rat management for the benefit of petrels: a case study of the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man](#)
[Biosecurity for LIFE - keeping the UK's seabirds safe](#)

Have you prioritised them for action?

Yes

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

>>> See response to previous question

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

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

Yes

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

No

When and how do you plan to do that?

>>> Marine and Crown Estate Scotland have a relevant project nearing completion: MS/CES Joint Work Package 2020: Strategic study of collision risk for birds on migration and further development of the stochastic Collision Risk Modelling tool. This work will improve assessment of impacts on migratory birds rather than validate existing predictions or models per se.

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)

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

>>> A network of nationally important sites has been progressive under development since the 1950s - Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in Great Britain and Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) in Northern Ireland. However, the SSSI network contain just a sample of nationally important sites not all such sites.

Three national reviews of the UK's network of Special Protection Areas classified further to the EU Directive on the Conservation of wild birds have been undertaken. The first was published in 1990: <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/special-protection-areas-overview/#spa-reviews>

A second review was published in 2001 which assessed provision by species: <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/special-protection-areas-overview/#spa-reviews>.

A third Review of the network was published in October 2016 and is available at <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/special-protection-areas-overview/#spa-reviews>.

The third Review has been undertaken in three phases.

Phase 1 reported in 2016 on an audit of the network and assessments of sufficiency for each qualifying species (see link below).

Phase 2 of the Review reported in 2017 and included:

whether new SPAs should be considered in the light of recommendations from the first Phase of the Review, and if so, their possible location and extent;

similarly, whether existing SPAs should be extended either in spatial extent or through the addition of further qualifying species; and

the establishment of a timetable to implement the findings of Phases 1 and 2 of the Review.

Phase 3 of the Review, which is ongoing, will comprise:

for existing SPAs and following consultation and other statutory processes, revision of citations (as appropriate and necessary) by individual country agencies at those sites where qualifying species have been changed;

consulting upon and classifying boundary amendments to existing SPAs;

consulting upon and the classification of new SPAs as relevant; and

revision by JNCC of relevant documentation summarising the extent of SPA suites for those species where further additions to species' suites have occurred consequent upon decisions made in the second phase.

The timing of Phase 3 will also be determined by each country, but is anticipated, resources permitting, to be completed within a year from the conclusion of decisions taken in Phase 2.

See previous UK national reports for further details.

In Jersey sites of ecological or zoological importance may be designated as Sites of Special Interest under the Planning and Building (Jersey) Law 2002.

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

[Third UK SPA Review](#)

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

>>> Information on designated internationally important sites was supplied in December 2020, however data on several categories of nationally or internationally important site have yet to be collated and supplied to the Secretariat. These include:

1. designated nationally important sites (Sites of Special Scientific Interest in Great Britain) and Areas of Special Scientific Interest in Northern Ireland);

2. sites of national importance but not designated as either SSSI or ASSI; and

3. site of international importance that are not designated as SPA or as Ramsar Sites.

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

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

open the link in a new tab.

No

Please explain the reasons. What has been used instead as a basis for the inventory?

>>> There is no single inventory of sites of national and international importance for waterbirds in the UK. The second and third SPA Reviews (links above) include most, but not all, sites of international importance. There are a large number of additional site of national importance (Sites of Special Scientific Interest in Great Britain) and Areas of Special Scientific Interest in Northern Ireland). Additionally, monitoring by the Wetland Bird Survey has identified other sites of national importance that do not have SSSI or ASSSI status.

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

>>> See UK national reports to the Ramsar Convention for information about wetland habitat inventories. UK has no single wetland inventory, although good inventory information on some (e.g. estuaries, saltmarshes and raised bogs) but not all, wetland types.

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).

>>> Implications of climate change for the UK SPA network was analysed by the CHAINSPAN project. See links below.

See also:

Ausden, M., Hiron, G., Lock, L. & White, G. 2014. Managing and re-creating wetlands in Britain for potential colonists. *British Birds* 107: 726-755.

Ausden, M., Bradbury, R., Brown, A., Eaton, M., Lock, L. & Pearce-Higgins, J. 2015. Climate change and Britain's birdlife: what might we expect? *British Wildlife* 26(3): 161-174.

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

http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=9962_CHAINSPANFINALREPORT.pdf

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).

>>> Implications of climate change for the UK SPA network was analysed by the CHAINSPAN project. See links above.

Natural England's improvement programme for England Natura 2000 sites (2015), provided inter alia for a Climate Change theme plan and vulnerability assessment for European sites (including SPAs) - see link below

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

[NE Improvement Plan for England](#)

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

>>> 232

Total area (ha)

>>> 4,716,539.35

Number of internationally important sites under national protection designation

>>> 234

Area of international importance under national protection designation (ha)

>>> 4,768,481.77

Please rate the effectiveness of the national protection designation

High

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

>>> Comprehensive legislative protection.

Please rate the effectiveness of the management measures

Moderate

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

>>> Poor adaptive management linkages between monitoring of interest features and remedial management measures

Please rate the effectiveness of the climate resilience measures

Low

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

>>> Poorly implemented. See:

Duffield, S.J., Le Bas, B. & Moorcroft, M.D. 2021. Climate change vulnerability and the state of adaptation on England's National Nature Reserves. *Biological Conservation* 254: 108938.

All sites of national importance

Please rate the effectiveness of the national protection designation

High

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

>>> Effective domestic legislation

Please rate the effectiveness of the management measures

Moderate

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

>>> Poor adaptive management linkages between monitoring of interest features and remedial management measures

Please rate the effectiveness of the climate resilience measures

Moderate

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

>>> Climate change adaptation principles are elaborated by Natural England (see below) but have not yet been implemented operationally.

Duffield, S.J., Le Bas, B. & Moorcroft, M.D. 2021. Climate change vulnerability and the status of adaptation on England's National Nature Reserves. *Biological Conservation* 254: 108938.

Natural England & RSPB 2019. Climate Change Adaptation Manual - Evidence to support nature conservation in a changing climate. 2nd Edition. Natural England, York, UK.

In England, 'screening buffer zones' around designated sites are used to identify developments that may threaten functionally linked areas supporting protected sites including those designated for waterbirds.

However, these buffer zones for development are not motivated by the need to develop ecological resilience.

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

>>> See previous responses concerning the third SPA Review <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/special-protection-areas-overview/#spa-reviews>. Recommendations were made to Ministers in 2016 as to steps needed to address insufficiencies in the SPA network identified by the third national Review

Has it been implemented?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Recommendations to address insufficiencies in the SPA network identified by the second phase of the third national SPA Review in 2017 are still under consideration by government. A significant number of additional marine SPAs were classified in December 2020.

In England: "Probably 'Partial' rather than 'No'. Although there has been no systematic attempt to implement the recommendations of the 2016 SPA review, where UK as been advised by EU that its network is insufficient some designation have been progressed e.g. for foraging terns; also where individual sites have been notified or re-notified in recent years, the features have been updated to reflect 2016 SPA review conclusions."

MANAGEMENT GAP FILING

Being developed

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

Yes, fully

Please provide details

>>> Relevant water policy takes regard of all statutorily designated sites

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?

>>> Extensive national policies and procedures exist related to the management of nationally and internationally protected areas for migratory waterbirds. These generally follow well established management planning methodologies.

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

>>> More accurate and contemporary data is available nationally

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

>>> No such partnership forum has been established

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

>>> Q.42. Totals related to classified SPAs with one or more AEWA-listed species as a qualifying interest in

either the breeding or non-breeding seasons, and in both terrestrial and marine environments. It excludes sites of international importance not classified as SPA.

The UK IBA inventory is significantly out of date and thus has not been considered as a source.

The extent of protected area networks in the UK means that it is not feasible, with current resources, to report on management planning at site scale under Question 42 above.

An ambitious programme of conservation of important areas in the surrounding marine waters of UK's Overseas Territories has been implemented since 2016. This is called the Blue Belt Programme (see first link). It is especially relevant to Ascension Island and St. Helena which are both within the UK's accession to AEWA. Activities under the Programme will benefit listed seabirds such as relevant frigatebirds, Masked Booby and tropicbirds.

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

[The Blue Belt Programme](#)

[Blue Belt Highlights 2016-2020](#)

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

>>> Legislation makes no provision of regular review of legal quarry status in relation to changing population status

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

>>> A DEFRA-funded review was published in 2007 (attached), building on an earlier DEFRA-funded review in 2003, but since then there has been no further progress in implementing recommendations.

The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust estimated national bag totals from various non-statutory sources that have been used in national reporting under the Birds Directive:

Aebischer, N.J. 2019. Fifty-year trends in UK hunting bags of birds and mammals, and calibrated estimation of national bag size, using GWCT's National Gamebag Census. European Journal of Wildlife Research 65: 64.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Bag_statistics_review_2003_WC04001_1244_FRP.doc](#)

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

[Bag_statistics_review_2007](#)

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Annual monitoring of the shooting, by BASC members, of all huntable waterbirds is conducted throughout the UK by BASC's Waterbird Shooting Survey. Some information is collected by the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust's National Game Bag Census.

DEFRA funded research in the early 2000s to explore existing statistics collated by the National Game Bag Census. Further information is given in the attached links.

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

Fully

When was lead shot use in wetlands banned?

>>> In September 1999, the Government introduced legislation in England to prohibit the use of lead shot over the foreshore, all wetlands of importance for waterbirds and for shooting of certain waterfowl species. Similar legislation was put in place in Wales (came into force on 1 September 2002).

Legislation to prohibit lead over all wetlands came into force in Scotland (31 March 2005) and in Northern Ireland (1 September 2009). The legislation in Scotland and Northern Ireland operates using different definitional terms to that in England and Wales.

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

[The regulation of lead in the environment: a brief review](#)

What legislation is in place?

>>> England:

The Environmental Protection (Restriction on Use of Lead Shot) (England) Regulations 1999 (from 1 September 1999) (HMSO 1999).

The Environmental Protection (Restriction on Use of Lead Shot) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2002 (from 1 September 2002) (HMSO 2002a).

Environment Protection (Restrictions on Use of Lead Shot) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2003 (from 31 October 2003) (HMSO 2003).

Wales:

Environmental Protection (Restriction on Use of Lead Shot) (Wales) Regulations 2002 (from 1 September 2002)(HMSO 2002b).

Scotland:

The Environmental Protection (Restriction on Use of Lead Shot) (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (never came into force) (HMSO 2004a).

The Environmental Protection (Restriction on Use of Lead Shot) (Scotland) (No.2) Regulations 2004 (from 31 March 2005) (HMSO 2004b).

The Environmental Protection (Restriction on Use of Lead Shot) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2013 (from 31 January 2014) (HMSO 2013)

Northern Ireland:

The Environmental Protection (Restriction on Use of Lead Shot) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (from 1 September 2009) (HMSO 2009).

Who enforces this legislation?

>>> Responsibility for enforcement of criminal legislation lies with the police, but there is no active enforcement in the UK

Has assessment of compliance with the legislation been undertaken?

Yes

Please explain how this was assessed.

>>> See attached publication for further info:

<http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=16075>

Updated compliance results are given in:

Cromie, R.L., Newth, J.L., Reeves, J.P., O'Brien, M.F., Beckmann, K.M. & Brown, M.J. 2015. The sociological and political aspects of reducing lead poisoning from ammunition in the UK: why the transition to non-toxic ammunition is so difficult. In: Delahay, R.J. & Spray, C.J. (eds.) Proceedings of the Oxford Lead Symposium. Lead ammunition: understanding and minimising the risks to human and environmental health. Edward Grey Institute, The University of Oxford., pp 104-124. http://www.oxfordleadsymposium.info/wp-content/uploads/OLS_proceedings/papers/OLS_proceedings_cromie_newth_reeves_obrien_beckman_brown.pdf

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

http://www.oxfordleadsymposium.info/wp-content/uploads/OLS_proceedings/papers/OLS_proceedings_cromie_newth_reeves_obrien_beckman_brown.pdf

Please explain what the compliance with legislation was found to be:

Very poor (high proportion of non-compliance).

Please indicate any known reasons for good compliance or any barriers to compliance. Please attach any published or unpublished references.

>>> See papers in the Oxford Lead Symposium Proceedings and attachments below..

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Kanstrup et al. 2018.pdf](#) - Lead and sustainability

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

[Oxford Lead Symposium Proceedings](#)

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

No

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Although no official monitoring has taken place the Newth et al. 2012 paper (linked below) suggests legislation is not effective.

Detailed analysis by Green & Pain (2016) indicates correlational evidence of continuing impacts of lead poisoning on UK wintering ducks, especially Pochard. See link below.

On 23 March 2021, the Government announced that they are asking for UK REACH restriction dossiers to be prepared to consider the use and/or sale of lead ammunition.

The Environment Agency, together with the Health and Safety Executive, will now start a two-year process to review the evidence, conduct a public consultation and propose options for restrictions.

Press release: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plans-announced-to-phase-out-lead-ammunition-in-bid-to-protect-wildlife>

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Newth et al 2012.pdf](#) - Poisoning from lead gunshot: still a threat to wild waterbirds in Britain

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

[Green & Pain \(2016\). Possible effects of ingested lead gunshot on populations of ducks wintering in the UK](#)

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

>>> Illegal taking of waterbirds (other than the illegal killing of large numbers of ducks contrary to lead shot Regulations) is generally thought to be low in the UK. Effectiveness of other measures is unknown. Effectiveness is probably variable geographically and by species.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> A recent innovative Partnership Against Wildlife Crime Scotland mechanism for reporting wildlife crime is the development of a free app for iPhones

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

>>> A number of systems collate information on wildlife crime (see links below). The RSPB maintains a UK-scale database of reported offences against wildlife legislation. In England, only statistics on raptor persecution are reported by government. In Scotland, Scottish Government annually reports comprehensive wildlife crime statistics. See links in Q.x

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

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

Yes

What do these cover?

Club Affiliation

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

Other (please specify)

>>> Voluntary Codes of Guidance

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

>>> Generally standards are high other than for the wide-scale illegal killing of ducks with lead shot contrary to legislation

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

Medium (effective to some extent in supporting enforcement of hunting laws and regulations)

Please provide details and reasons for lower effectiveness

>>> Generally standards are high other than for the wide-scale illegal killing of ducks with lead shot which appears to be driven by cultural/sociological issues

Field for additional information (optional)

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

[The sociological and political aspects of reducing lead poisoning from ammunition in the UK: why the transition to non-](#)

toxic ammunition is so difficult

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?

>>> UK legislation does not provide for sustainable management of hunting - see Q48

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))

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Each UK country has a national tourism strategy but wetland- and waterbird-related ecotourism is not specifically identified in them. However, The Scottish Tourism Strategy recognises the importance of 'green' tourism as a growing driver of travel - see links.

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

[Scottish eco-travel blog](#)

[Scotland Tourism Strategy](#)

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

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.

Yes

Please describe what restrictions are in place, when they were introduced and whether they are considered to have worked (i.e. reduced the impact of lead poisoning). Please attach any published or unpublished references.

>>> Legislation to prohibit the supply of lead fishing weights (with some exceptions) was introduced in the 1980s and is likely to be responsible for resulted in an increase in population of Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* in some areas - a species that had previously been heavily impacted by poisoning from these weights.

Significant research is attached:

Sears, J. & Hunt, A. 1991. Lead poisoning in Mute Swans, *Cygnus olor*, in England. In J. Sears & P. J. Bacon (eds), Proc. Third IWRB International Swan Symposium, Oxford 1989. Wildfowl Supplement No. 1: 383-388.

Perrins C.M., Cousquer G., & Waine J. 2003. A survey of blood lead levels in mute swans *Cygnus olor* Avian Pathology 32:205-212.

Newth, J.L., Cromie, R.L., Brown, M. J., Delahay, R.J., Meharg A.A., Deacon, C., Norton, G.J., O'Brien, M. F. & Pain, D. J. 2012. Poisoning from lead gunshot: still a threat to wild waterbirds in Britain. European Journal of Wildlife Research 59: 195-204.

Green, R.E. & Pain, D.J. 2016. Possible effects of ingested lead gunshot on populations of ducks wintering in the UK. Ibis. 158(4): 699-710. DOI: 10.1111/ibi.12400

Newth, J.L., Rees, E.C., Cromie, R.L., McDonald, R.A., Bearhop, S., Pain, D.J., Norton, G.J., Deacon, C. & Hilton, G.M. 2016. Widespread exposure to lead affects the body condition of free-living whooper swans *Cygnus cygnus* wintering in Britain. Environmental Pollution 209: 60-67. DOI: 10.1016/j.envpol.2015.11.007

Lead Ammunition Group. 2018. Update Report from the Lead Ammunition Group: Executive Summary. <http://www.leadammunitiongroup.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Executive-Summary-to-LAG-Update-Report.pdf> [Note that only the Executive Summary is currently available. Includes reference to UK relevant research].

On the Isle of Man, the Fisheries Act states the following with respect to use of lead weights::

17 Use of lead weights

(1) Subject to paragraph (2) no person shall use for taking salmon, migratory trout, trout, rainbow trout or eels in any waters any instrument to which is attached directly or indirectly, a lead weight.

(2) Paragraph (1) above does not prohibit the use of a lead weight of 0.6 grams or less (No. 8 shot).

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Newth et al 2012.pdf](#) - Poisoning from lead gunshot: still a threat to wild waterbirds in Britain (2012)

[Sears Hunt 1991.pdf](#) - Lead poisoning in Mute Swans (1991)

[Perrins et al 2003.pdf](#) - A survey of blood lead levels in Mute Swans *Cygnus olor* (2003)

[Executive-Summary-to-LAG-Update-Report.pdf](#) - Update Report from the Lead Ammunition Group: Executive Summary

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

Yes and being implemented

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

Entire country

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The requirement for EIA legislation in the UK comes from Council Directive 85/337/EEC, as amended by Council Directive 97/11/EEC, and is comprehensive as to the extent of its application.

Do the SEA/EIA processes include public participation?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> All planning processes in the UK include public participation.

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

Yes

Please describe each measure and provide details for each of them

>>> Any potential development affecting a SPA is subject to the assessment and other provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

For sites of national importance (SSSIs) the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 is also relevant.

Throughout the UK, Ramsar Sites are treated under the Habitats Regulations provisions as legally equivalent to Natura 2000 sites.

Please rank the effectiveness of these measures:

High

Please provide details and the reasons for the high effectiveness

>>> No long term assessment of mitigation measures has yet been published

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

>>> SEA/EIA was undertaken for all projects for which they are statutorily required.

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

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.

>>> Where negative impacts from development occur on SPAs, and mitigation is required, these are nationally collated (and reports) as required by Article 6.4 & 7 of the Habitats Directive. The last such report to the EU is linked below. See section 5.

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

[11th UK Report under Article 12 of the EU Birds Directive](#)

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.

>>> See link above. (Note that not all of these cases necessarily relate to waterbirds)

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.

>>> Not known

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

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

No

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

>>> Other statutory guidance is used

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

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

Partially

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?

>>> Powerline collisions is not seen as a major or strategic issue in the UK given the small number of large soaring waterbirds

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

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.

>>> Significant projects are planned in the light of information from EIAs

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.

>>> Power-line bird strikes are a relatively minor issue in the UK owing the relative paucity of large soaring birds

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

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.

>>> Undertaken for some sites

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

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

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?

>>> Power-line bird strikes are a relatively minor issue in the UK owing the relative paucity of large soaring birds

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?

>>> Power line impacts are not a significant threat to waterbirds in the UK, so this is not seen as a priority issue.

Where local powerlines have resulted in past mortality, appropriate measures have previously been put in place.

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?

>>> Power-line bird strikes are a relatively minor issue in the UK owing the relative paucity of large soaring birds

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.

>>> Energy developments are dealt with on a case by case basis in-line with regulations affecting other major infrastructure projects. Offshore infrastructure and risks to seabirds is an area of significant research at the current time. Species risks are managed through EU-derived Habitats Regulations and relevant EIA legislation. In October 2020 the Scottish Government published its Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/sectoral-marine-plan-offshore-wind-energy/> GIS was used to identify potentially suitable areas for offshore wind development in Scottish seas. These were then subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment, both processes considering, among other things, impacts on migratory birds. At least one proposed development area, in the SW of Scotland, was withdrawn in part due to predicted impacts on migratory Whooper Swans *Cygnus cygnus*.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> National policy planning guidelines are used

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.

>>> Some data is gathered but there is no statutory requirement for this. There is no process to collate this information nationally and/or by government as it is collected by commercial consultancies for power companies. Where collected it is generally as part of verification of impact assessments and reported to the planning authority.

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.

>>> Avoidance of sensitive habitats occurs at the planning stage in the light of EIA

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Yes for protected sites. For these, there is a legal requirement to mitigate where possible or, via derogation, compensate for impacts in particular where it affects internationally important sites.

In October 2020 the Scottish Government published its Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/sectoral-marine-plan-offshore-wind-energy/> GIS was used to identify potentially suitable areas for offshore wind development in Scottish seas. These were then subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment, both processes considering, among other things, impacts on migratory birds. At least one proposed development area, in the SW of Scotland, was withdrawn in part due to predicted impacts on migratory Whooper Swans *Cygnus cygnus*.

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

>>> Information not known

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

>>> Typically undertaken at the planning stage as part of EIA but not published

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?

>>> Not understood to be an issue for waterbird conservation in the UK

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

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

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

No

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

>>> Other guidance used

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Bycatch is assessed to be a pressure and/or threat to the following species:

In the non-breeding season: Red-throated Diver; Great Crested Grebe; Great Cormorant; Greater Scaup; Long-tailed Duck; Velvet Scoter and Common Scoter..

Bycatch of other seabirds is addressed in section 4.6.

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))

>>> Commoner waterbirds are covered by the Breeding Bird Survey; scarce breeding species are intermittently monitored by the Statutory Conservation Agency and RSPB Annual Breeding Bird Scheme (SCARABBS); rare species by the Rare Breeding Birds Panel; and breeding seabirds by the Seabird Monitoring Programme. See <https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/conservation/projects/bird-surveys-in-the-uk/> for a list of monitoring programmes.

'Seabirds count' (<https://jncc.gov.uk/news/seabirds-count/>) census of all seabird colonies currently being undertaken (fieldwork delayed by Covid) and survey is now in its final year. This will allow production of updated population estimates and trends in due course.

In England a major survey of urban breeding gulls was undertaken in 2020. Results have been published as: 'Urban nesting Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* and Lesser Black-backed Gulls *Larus fuscus* population estimates: devising species-specific correction models for ground-based survey data' and 'Population estimates for urban and natural nesting Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* and Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* in England.'

See links below.

In Wales, NRW are undertaking a census of urban breeding Herring Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull to provide confidence in an estimate of the urban populations. Predictive modelled outputs of Population Viability Analysis (PVA) will then allow an assessment of the population effects of licensed destruction of eggs and nests. This work will thus determine whether thresholds of licensed action can be set without a negative impact on the Welsh conservation status of these two species.

WeBS counts are undertaken monthly year-round, although this is not a monitoring scheme for breeding birds it does provide useful ancillary information, including on the breeding season location of non-native waterbirds.

The LIFE Waders for Real programme's aim was to start to reverse the long-term decline of breeding waders in the Avon Valley through engaging stakeholders and implementing effective habitat and predator exclusion measures. The success of the programme demonstrates that the drivers of population decline were correctly identified and that the management put in place to address them was effective (see section 8.1).

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

[Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gull national population estimates](#)

[Urban nesting gull population estimates](#)

[Seabirds Count survey](#)

Is information on drivers of population trends also being collected?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> No comprehensive programme exists to assess drivers of population trends in the breeding season, although some scattered and non-comprehensive information exists as reported through the UK's report to the EU under Article 12 of the Birds Directive. See link below.

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

[UK Pressures and Threats report to EU Article12](#)

Covering the passage period

Partially

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

>>> Undertaken through the Wetland Bird Survey <https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/webs>

Is information on drivers of population trends also being collected?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> No comprehensive programme exists to assess drivers of population trends in passage periods, although some scattered and non-comprehensive information exists as reported through the UK's report to the EU under Article 12 of the Birds Directive. See link given above.

Covering the non-breeding/wintering period

Partially

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

>>> Undertaken through the Wetland Bird Survey <https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/webs>. Not all sites monitored. The third SPA Review made recommendations for the improvement of WeBS monitoring of relevant UK Special Protection Areas. These recommendations have yet to be fully implemented.

A number of recent inshore wintering waterfowl surveys have taken place at Scottish designated sites – Orkney (Scapa Flow and North Orkney proposed SPAs) – boat and shore based counts; Moray Firth SPA (Dedicated Aerial Survey & shore based counts); and Solway Firth SPA (Dedicated Aerial Survey).

Significant further research and survey is linked to offshore renewable energy developments.

The frequency of UK and Ireland Greenland Barnacle Population Census has been increased from five-yearly to three-yearly to support AFMP for the species.

Is information on drivers of population trends also being collected?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> The answer to this question is Partial as there is good demographic information available for all geese and swans, and some other species even if not part of coordinated schemes.

No comprehensive programme exists to assess drivers of population trends in the non-breeding season, although some scattered and non-comprehensive information exists as reported through the UK's report to the EU under Article 12 of the Birds Directive. See link given above.

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

>>> Data collected by the UK Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) is fundamental to the fulfilment of multiple statutory functions of government and its agencies, including species conservation (through assessment of numbers and trends), and the conservation of both nationally and internationally important protected areas.

The Third SPA Review (Stroud et al. 2016) reported that 54% of all the interest features of the UK SPA network (814 of 1,516) were monitored by WeBS.

Data collected by WeBS is further interpreted and used for assessing the condition of sites by the WeBS Alerts Report (see section 7).

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?

>>> The Wetland Bird Survey <https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/webs> has been providing support for waterbird monitoring in Sierra Leone.

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

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

No

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

>>> UK monitoring programmes for waterbirds pre-dates AEWA guidance (although are mostly compatible with it).

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

>>> UK government, via the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, provides significant co-funding of the Wetland Bird Survey: the UK national component of the IWC.

Internationally

No

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

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

No

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

Yes

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

Other

Please provide further details. Please attach any published or unpublished references

>>> No any longer since the sale and use of such lead weights has been prohibited.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> See also:

Nature Conservancy Council 1981. Lead Poisoning in swans. Report of the Nature Conservancy Council's Working Group. 44 pp.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Sears_Hunt_1991_Lead_poisoning_in_Mute_Swans.pdf](#)

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

>>> Much research on waterbirds and their habitats is undertaken in the UK by the university sector and published in the academic literature.

Additionally, significance survey work is undertaken in a development context by commercial consultancies, but this is poorly integrated into other national monitoring schemes. This is particularly a problem for surveys of waterbirds in the marine environment, the population sizes of which are consequentially more poorly known than they could be.

See:

Frost, T.M., Austin, G.E., Hearn, R.D., McAvoy, S.G., Robinson, A.E., Stroud, D.A., Woodward, I.D. & Wotton, S.R. 2019. Population estimates of wintering waterbirds in Great Britain. *British Birds* 112 : 130-145.

Additionally, the periodic WeBS Alerts Report has been published (link below). The Report is a periodically updated, standardised assessment of rates of change of waterbird species available at various different scales (national, regional or site based). It provides a means of consistently assessing rates of change between species, and between sites and regionally for the same species. It is used by the UK statutory conservation agencies and others for a range of formal assessment processes.

See:

Woodward, I.D., Frost, T.M., Hammond, M.J., and Austin, G.E. (2019). Wetland Bird Survey Alerts 2016/2017: Changes in numbers of wintering waterbirds in the Constituent Countries of the United Kingdom, Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and Areas of Special Scientific interest (ASSIs). BTO Research Report 721. BTO, Thetford.

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

[Introduction to WeBS Alerts](#)

[WeBS Alerts Report](#)

Pressures and Responses

8. Education and Information

8.1. Communication, Education and Public Awareness

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

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

Other

Please explain

>>> There is a broad range of education and awareness raising related to wetlands, waterbirds and other aspects of biodiversity conservation in the UK, and a specific CEPA programme for waterbirds is not envisaged.

Of relevance in the current period is communications the completion in 2020 of the LIFE Waders for Real programme led by GWCT, managed by a steering committee comprising individuals from statutory authorities and NGOs. This was completed in 2020.

Waders for Real sought to reverse the decline of breeding waders in the Avon Valley, a river floodplain of high biodiversity interest, part of which is designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA). In 1982 the Avon Valley constituted one of the top eight lowland wet grassland sites in England for breeding waders. Since then four surveys at 6-7 year intervals have shown a dramatic decline in numbers of breeding waders, mirroring trends seen across Europe. Numbers of northern lapwing pairs have fallen from 208 in 1990 to 71 in 2010. Pairs of Redshank have dropped from 117 to 22, and Common Snipe from 29 to one.

The Scottish Seabird Centre is a major educational facility in south-east Scotland concerned with communicating the importance of seabirds and their marine environment. There has been a recent major redevelopment <https://www.seabird.org/history> to enhance their facilities and extend the scope of the Centre's educational mission.

Raising awareness is an key action within a draft Scottish Seabird Conservation Strategy. Although an implementation plan has not yet been developed and this will be critical.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[GWCT 2020 LIFE Waders for Real Final Report.pdf](#)

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

[Waders for Real](#)

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

>>> There is a broad range of education and awareness raising related to wetlands, waterbirds and other aspects of biodiversity conservation in the UK, and a specific CEPA programme (and thus focal point) for waterbirds is not envisaged.

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

>>> Seen as unnecessary

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> LIFE Waders for Real (see links above) sought to raise the profile of issues concerning wader conservation

and to disseminate project results to local, national and international audiences (see <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1asltgymis-bxaqphQzB623VwxDey3oh3/view?usp=sharing>). At the local level it was instrumental in the creation of the Avon Valley Farmer Cluster bringing together farmers and land managers from 14 farms working together at a landscape scale to protect breeding waders, with facilitation funding from Natural England for advice and coordination. The After-LIFE Communication Plan ensures the continuation and expansion of the programme's actions to 2024.

Other projects involving breeding waders are described in the summaries of the end-of-project conference talks in the End of Project Outcomes Report (link below). An aim of the conference was to consider how to replicate the Waders for Real approach around the country, so included a range of external speakers including Harry Ewing (PhD student, University of East Anglia, studying drivers of decline for Curlew in the Brecklands), Amanda Perkins (Curlew Country, working with land managers and trialling head-starting to save the Curlew), Jen Smart (RSPB, using head-starting for Black-tailed Godwit to improve breeding success and recruitment), Michael Stinson (Boa Island Breeding Wader, to support recovery of Snipe/ Curlew/ Lapwing/ Redshank in Northern Ireland) and Sam Franks (BTO, working with local stakeholders on breeding wader research projects). The conference also produced a list of suggestions for the new Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS), seeking to increase wader productivity in conjunction with economically viable farming.

Relevant to both research/monitoring and communication/education/public awareness, the Curlew work mentioned above highlights actions taken within the UK in support of the Curlew ISSAP. Additionally, the GWCT is engaged in research work, in partnership with the New Forest National Park, to understand local requirements and identify important inland and coastal feeding sites for Curlew breeding there.

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

[LIFE Waders for Real end of project conference report](#)

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

No

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

Yes

How can the effectiveness of the measures be rated?

Other

>>> Relevant material made available via organisational websites

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?

Other

>>> In the context of conservation programmes for particular species rather than generally.

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.

>>> Largely undertaken at WWT centres

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

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

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

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, but it is not operational

Please explain the reasons

>>> There was previous UK co-ordination but for over a decade this has been dormant

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

No

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

Yes

Please provide details on each twinning arrangement

>>> Previous twinning schemes have existed (inter alia in relation to The Wash, England and Strangford Lough, Northern Ireland) but none are currently functional as far as is known.

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

>>> Co-ordination between officials responsible for the UK's implementation of relevant MEAs is standard working practice. However the Natura 2000 and Ramsar Forum which previously provided such co-ordination is no longer functional and has not met since 2011.

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

>>> Policy officers with responsibility for AEWA also engage with other MEA implementation

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

>>> Policy officers with responsibility for AEWA also engage with other MEA implementation

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

>>> Policy officers with responsibility for AEWA also engage with other MEA implementation

92.2 Other strategic plans and policies

Yes

Please name the other strategic planning processes

>>> Policy officers with responsibility for AEWA also engage with other development and implementation of country/national environmental policy

Sustainable Development Goals

Yes

Aichi Targets

Yes

Strategic Plan for Migratory Species

Yes

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

>>> The current system of co-ordination within the UK is broadly effective, however could be further improved. However, there is no routine dialogue with the relevant Overseas Territories or Crown Dependencies on AEWA related issues.

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

<http://>

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

No

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

>>> A significant contribution was made to the work of the Technical Committee in 2020/21 which has allowed numerous areas of work to be taken forward.

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

>>> Multiple aspects of statutory support for waterbird and wetland conservation in the UK supports AEWA implementation.

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

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Not specifically in relation to AEWA obligations but some initiatives are relevant and will have assisted relevant species and their habitats.

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

>>> No perceived need

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

>>> UK waterbird conservation has benefited from former EU LIFE funding

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 9. Implementation

>>> Scotland has contributed £50,000 per annum of core funding to the AEWA European Goose Management Platform over past three years.

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

>>> Johnston, A., Ausden, M., Dodd, A.M., Bradbury, R.B., Chamberlain, D.E., Jiguet, F., Thomas, C.D., Cook, A.S.C.P., Newson, S.E., Ockendon, N., Rehfish, M.M., Roos, S., Thaxter, C., Brown, A., Crick, H.Q.P., Douse, A., McCall, R.A., Pontier, H., Stroud, D.A., Cadiou, B., Crowe, O., Deceuninck, B., Hornman, M. & Pearce-Higgins, J.W. (2013). Observed and predicted effects of climate change on species abundance in protected areas. *Nature Climate Change* 3: 1055-1061. doi:10.1038/nclimate2035

Ausden, M., Hiron, G., Lock, L. & White, G. 2014. Managing and re-creating wetlands in Britain for potential colonists. *British Birds* 107: 726-755.

Ausden, M., Bradbury, R., Brown, A., Eaton, M., Lock, L. & Pearce-Higgins, J. 2015. Climate change and Britain's birdlife: what might we expect? *British Wildlife* 26(3): 161-174.

Pavón-Jordán, D., Fox, A.D., Clausen, P., Dagys, M., Deceuninck, D., Devos, K., Hearn, R.D., Holt, C.A., Hornman, M., Keller, V., Langendoen, T., Ławicki, L., Lorentsen, S.H., Luigujõe, L., Meissner, W., Musil, P., Nilsson, L., Paquet, J.Y., Stipniece, A., Stroud, D.A., Wahl, J., Zenatello, M. & Lehikoinen, A.. (2015). Climate-driven changes in winter waterbird abundances in relation to EU protected areas. *Diversity and Distributions* 21: 571-582.

Pearce-Higgins, J. W., & Green, R. E. 2014. *Birds and Climate Change. Impacts and Conservation Responses.* Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK.

Natural England & RSPB 2019. *Climate Change Adaptation Manual - Evidence to support nature conservation in a changing climate.* 2nd Edition. Natural England, York, UK.

Duffield, S.J., Le Bas, B. & Moorcroft, M.D. 2021. Climate change vulnerability and the status of adaptation on England's National Nature Reserves. *Biological Conservation* 254: 108938.

Burton, N.H.K., Austin, G.E., Frost, T.M. & Pearce-Higgins, J.W. 2020. Impacts of climate change on the UK's coastal and marine waterbirds. *MCCIP Science Review* 2020: 400-420.

Nagy, S., Breiner, F.T., Anand, M., Butchart, S.H.M., Flörke, M., Fluet-Chouinard, E., Antoine Guisan, A., Hilarides, L., Jones, V.R., Kalyakin, M., Lehner, B., Pearce-Higgins, J.W. & Olga Voltz, O. 2021. Climate change exposure of waterbird species in the African-Eurasian flyways. *Bird Conservation International*

Davies, J.G., Humphreys, E.M. & Pearce-Higgins, J.W. 2021. MarPAMM Lot 5: Projected future vulnerability of seabirds within the INTERREG VA area to climate change. MarPAMM report. - Due to be published soon - contact Richard.Howells@gov.scot for further information

Please see lists of references to UK studies attached to studies below.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[2020 Burton et al MCCIP 18 waterbirds 2020.pdf](#) - Impacts of climate change on the UK's coastal and marine waterbirds

[2021 Nagy climate-change-exposure-of-waterbird-species-in-the-african-eu....pdf](#) - Nagy et al. 2021. Climate change exposure of waterbird species in the African-Eurasian flyways

[Pavon et al 2015 Smew.pdf](#) - Climate-driven changes in winter abundance of a migratory waterbird in relation to EU protected areas

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

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Ausden et al 2015 Climate change Britain s birdlife.pdf](#) - Review article on the effects of climate change on Britain's birdlife

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

>>> Johnston, A., Ausden, M., Dodd, A.M., Bradbury, R.B., Chamberlain, D.E., Jiguet, F., Thomas, C.D., Cook, A.S.C.P., Newson, S.E., Ockendon, N., Rehfish, M.M., Roos, S., Thaxter, C., Brown, A., Crick, H.Q.P., Douse, A.,

McCall, R.A., Pontier, H., Stroud, D.A., Cadiou, B., Crowe, O., Deceuninck, B., Hornman, M. & Pearce-Higgins, J.W. (2013). Observed and predicted effects of climate change on species abundance in protected areas. *Nature Climate Change* 3: 1055-1061. doi:10.1038/nclimate2035

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

Undertaken

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Ausden et al 2015 Climate change Britain s birdlife.pdf](#) - Review article on the effects of climate change on Britain's birdlife

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

Planned

Please provide details

>>> No comprehensive assessment yet undertaken

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 national initiative yet undertaken

f. Other undertaken or planned relevant activities.

Yes

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

>>> Hiley, J. R., Bradbury, R. B., Holling, M., & Thomas, C. D. 2013. Protected Areas act as establishment centres for species colonising the United Kingdom. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London Series B-Biological Sciences* 280 (1760):20122310. DOI: 10.1098/rspb.2012.2310

Pearce-Higgins, J. W., & Green, R. E. 2014. *Birds and Climate Change. Impacts and Conservation Responses*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK.

Thomas, C. D., Gillingham, P. K., Bradbury, R. B., Anderson, B. J., Baxter, J. M., Bourn, N. A. D., Crick, H. Q. P., Findon, R., Fox, R., Hodgson, J. A., Holt, A. R., Morecroft, M. D., O'Hanlon, N. J., Oliver, T. H., Pearce-Higgins, J. W., Procter, D., Roy, D. B., Thomas, J. A., Walker, K. J., Walmsley, C. A., Wilson, R. J., & Hill, J. K. 2012. Protected areas facilitate species' range expansions. *PNAS* 109: 14063-14068.

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?

>>> More specific national information used

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

>>> Some activity has been taken at varying geographical and/or geopolitical scales, but it is not yet well co-ordinated as part of a coherent national strategy

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

>>> There were multiple cases of H5N1, H5N3, and H5N8 in UK between November 2020 and March 2021 in both poultry and wild birds. These were linked to a widescale incursion across Europe during the same period. Details and further information is at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/978615/Updated_Outbreak_Assessment_21_HPAI_in_UK_and_Europe.pdf

Up to 16 April 2021, a total of 317 HPAI cases have been reported in wild birds in the UK (see Table 3 of the link above). During the 2020/21 outbreak, most UK wild bird cases of HPAI were reported in England with only a few in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

As well as specified statutory responses linked to each individual case (see weblink), a statutory requirement to house poultry indoors was in place from 14 December 2020m- 31 March 2021.

The main challenge is ensuring that the experiences learnt (and processes established) during the period of outbreaks in Europe (2006-2008) is not lost as a consequence of staff turn-over with government departments and within other organisations.

See also:

Alarcon, P., Brouwer, A., Venkatesh, D., Duncan, D., Dovas, C.I., Georgiades, G., Monne, I., Fusaro, A., Dan, A., Śmietanka, K., Ragias, V., Breed, A., Chassalevris, T., Goujgoulova, G., Hjulsager, C.K., Ryan, E., Sánchez, A., Niqueux, E., Tammiranta, N., Zohari, S., Stroud, D.A., Savic, V., Lewis, N.S. & Brown, I.H. (2018). Comparison of 2016-17 and Previous Epizootics of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5 Guangdong Lineage in Europe. *Emerging Infectious Diseases* 24(12): 2270-2283.

List required further guidance or information

>>> To better understand risk to the UK's waterbirds (and domestic livestock) a greater understanding of migration routes and mixing of populations across flyways would be valuable. It is likely that ringing recovery and other data are already available but the appropriate analyses have not been undertaken.

Also the timing of migratory influxes from eastern Europe in relation to weather patterns further east.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Information on national avian influenza status is regularly provided to stakeholders and others via the internet: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

National risk assessments including international contexts are regularly produced by DEFRA are published at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/avian-influenza-bird-flu-in-europe>

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

[National HPAI risk assessments](#)

[Guidance on HPAI for poultry keepers and others](#)

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

>>> XX June 2020