



## **FORMAT FOR REPORTS OF THE PARTIES**

**AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS  
(The Hague, 1995)**

**Implementation during the period - up to the end of 2004**

**Contracting Party:** ALBANIA

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## **1. Overview of Action Plan implementation**

### *1.1 Summary of progress to date*

So far, no single species National Action Plans are available in Albania.

### *1.2 Outline of planned actions for national implementation over the next three years*

Planned actions for the next three years include the nationally critically endangered species.

### *1.3 Outline of priorities for international co-operation over the next three years*

Priorities for international cooperation will consist in the preparation of the single species action plans and their implementation.

The exchange of experience and information in the elaboration and implementation of species action plans will be a priority too.

## 2. Species conservation

### Legal measures

2.1 Has a national policy/strategy or legislation to protect and conserve species covered by the Agreement (Table 1: column A; column B) and their supporting important areas been developed? If so:

- a. *What are the main features of the policy/legislation?*  
It is prohibited by law to take species listed in table 1 column A; whilst for the column B species, special permission is required for their taking;
- b. *Which organisations are responsible for implementation?*  
General Directorate of Forestry Service (GDFS) as the administrators of wild fauna in Albania in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment as the policy makers related to the protection of wild fauna in the country.
- c. *How does it relate to other national initiatives (e.g. national Biodiversity Action Plans)?*  
The relation with the biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan consists in the fact that all coastal wetlands are/are planned to be designated as protected areas and/or wetlands of international importance. Besides, the single species action plan for the table 1 column A species are foreseen for the medium term future.

2.2 What legal measures or practices has your country developed to prohibit or regulate for the following (refer also to section 4 on hunting):

- a. *Taking of, and trade in birds listed in Column A and B of Table 1 (where utilization or trade contravenes the provisions set out in paragraphs 2.1.1 (a) and 2.1.2 of the Action Plan)?*  
Taking of birds listed in column A and B of Table 1 is prohibited. The above-mentioned species can not be part of the hunting calendar that is approved each year by the hunting council where the Nature Protection Directorate is a member.
- b. *Methods of taking?*  
No provisions so far.
- c. *Setting of taking limits and monitoring these limits?*  
If licenses are granted for column B species taking limits are placed in the permission.
- d. *Sustainable hunting of species listed in Categories 2 and 3 (and marked by an asterisk) in Column A only?*  
Each year the inventory of wild fauna is carried out by the GDFS. Based on the figures given by them as well as in the results of bird monitoring carried out each year in main coastal lagoons by the Museum of Natural Sciences, a limit number is given for the hunting of Cat. 2 and 3 species.
- e. *Exemptions to the provisions set out in paragraphs 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.1.3?*  
No exemptions so far.

### Single Species Action Plans

2.3 Of the species covered by the Agreement (species listed in Table 1: column A), which spend part or all of their life history in your country, which have formal international (Category 1, species marked with an asterisk) or national (column A) Single Species Action Plans:

- a. *Proposed?*  
N/A

*b. In preparation?*

N/A

*c. Being implemented?*

N/A

*Please append a list of species and their action plan status. (For international plans indicate which other countries are involved in plan development/implementation.)*

### **Emergency measures**

*2.4 Describe any bilateral or multilateral co-operative action that your country has undertaken to develop and implement emergency measures to conserve species in response to unfavourable or endangering conditions occurring in the Agreement area.*

Not applicable

### **Re-establishments**

*2.5 Has a policy on species re-establishments been developed in your country? If yes, please outline the main features of the policy and give details of any re-establishment programmes for species covered by the Agreement.*

Not applicable

### **Introductions**

*2.6 Has your country developed and implemented legal measures to prohibit the introduction of nonnative species? Please provide details, particularly describing measures to control the release or introduction of non-native species (please indicate which species and their status).*

Legal provisions are foreseen in the Law "On biodiversity" actually in the Parliament waiting for its approval.

### **3. Habitat conservation**

#### **Habitat inventories**

*3.1 Has your country developed and published inventories of important habitats for species covered by the Agreement? If yes, please provide details, including any provisions to maintain or update these inventories.*

Yes. The inventory of Albanian Wetlands was published in 2004. It was carried out by ECAT Tirana in collaboration with a Greek NGO.

*3.2 Has your country undertaken a strategic review of sites to develop a national network of important sites or areas for species covered by the Agreement? Please append a list of identified sites of international importance.*

The work for this purpose is underway. Actually, all the Albanian coastal wetlands there are a number of projects going on or projects to start in the near future for a better management and conservation of the species and habitats

#### **Conservation of areas**

*3.3 Describe the legal frameworks and other measures through which sites (including transfrontier sites) including of international importance gain practical protection. (Please append a list of internationally important protected sites.)*

According to the guidelines set up in the National Biodiversity and Action Plan approved in 2000 by the Albanian Council of Ministers, a proposed network of Protected Areas is identified taking into account the importance of habitats (including important water birds habitats). Following these guidelines the Ministry of Environment elaborates the Decision of the Council of Ministers for the designation of a site, after consultations with local government and communities.

*3.4 Has your country developed a management planning process for protected sites? If yes, please outline the types of management plans and organisations responsible for development and implementation.*

The process of the development of protected sites is an ongoing process for Albania. Lately, the management plan for the protected terrestrial/marine landscape of Vjose-Narta was approved by the Minister of Environment. The Ministry of the Environment is responsible for the preparation of the plans, whilst for the implementation as provided by Law "On Protected Areas" a management committee is set-up for each site. This committee chaired by the Ministry of the Environment is responsible for the implementation of the management plan.

*3.5 How many protected sites have formal management plans (please append a list of sites and their management planning status):*

*a. Proposed?*

All sites have proposed management plan

*b. In preparation?*

A couple of sites have management sites in preparation



*c. Being implemented?*

At the moment the work has just started for the implementation of one.

*3.6 What measures does your country have in place to ensure the wise use of wetland habitats and to prevent habitat degradation e.g. pollution control and managing water resources? Please provide examples of best practice initiatives particularly involving cross-sectoral co-operation or public participation.*

All the wetlands in Albania are protected areas. Therefore, pollution control is done by taking into account the results of the monitoring activities that go on each year, funded by the Ministry of Environment. As for the water resources management this is carried out by the Ministry of Territory Planning and Tourism.

### **Rehabilitation and restoration**

*3.7 Does your country have a policy for the identification, rehabilitation and restoration of wetlands important for species covered by the Agreement? Please provide examples of rehabilitation and restoration projects and initiatives undertaken.*

No.

## **4. Management of human activities**

### **Hunting**

*4.1 Outline the main features of legislation or legal measures in your country to control hunting of the species covered by the Agreement (e.g. use of lead shot and poisoned baits, and to eliminate illegal taking).*

Species covered by the Agreement can not be hunted. The Forestry Service Police with branches all over the country is in place for a long time taking care that the hunting calendar is fully implemented.

*4.2 Does your country monitor hunting levels? If so, how is this information collated and reported?*

Yes. The information on hunting level is reported by the Forestry Services Directorate in each district and the General Directorate of Forestry Service gives the annual figure, before the approval of the hunting calendar.

*4.3 Describe action undertaken by hunting clubs and organizations to manage hunting activity e.g. co-operative action, issuing of licenses and proficiency testing of individual members.*

The General Directorate of Forestry Service licenses each year companies or groups of individuals with the hunting licenses. There is also a active Association of Hunters in Albania that undertakes some activities for the awareness –raising of the communities.

### **Eco-tourism**

*4.4 What is the status of eco-tourism programmes or initiatives in your country? Please provide examples of projects with an indication of the significant outcomes.*

Eco-tourism is not developed in Albania, may be as the result of the lack of the tradition.

*4.5 What social and economic benefits accrue to the local communities from the conservation of important waterbird sites?*

N/A

### **Other human activities**

*4.6 Does your country carry out Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of activities potentially affecting protected sites or areas important for species covered by the Agreement? If yes, briefly describe the main features of your EIA policy and procedures.*

Yes. The Environmental Impact Assessment Law is approved by the Albanian Parliament in 2003. All activities potentially affecting protected sites should prepare e EIA report and present it to the EEIA Directorate in the Ministry. After that the Licensing Commission makes the decision if this activity will go on or should be not allowed to go on when evaluated to have e negative impact of the site.

*4.7 Please describe the main features of your planning policy and provide examples of practical*

*implementation (e.g. activities to minimizing disturbance of species populations or limit the impact of species populations on crops or fisheries). Please summarize any land-use conflicts especially emphasizing successful solutions to problems encountered in promoting the wise-use of waterbirds and their habitats.*

N/A

## 5. Research and monitoring

### Status of research and monitoring programmes for species

*5.1 How are priorities for research identified in your country? Please briefly describe your country's research programmes, including any bilateral or multilateral co-operative action, for wetland habitats and for species covered by the Agreement (e.g. studies into species population, ecology and migratory patterns). Please append a list of research activities initiated, ongoing or completed in the last three years.*

There are a number of institutions carrying out research projects such as the Museum of Natural Sciences and some NGO-s. However it is worth mentioning that research programmes depend largely in the available funding.

*5.2 What monitoring activities does your country undertake, including any bilateral or multilateral co-operative action, of wetland areas and species covered by the Agreement (e.g. national monitoring schemes, International Waterfowl Census)? Please append a list of monitoring activities or programmes initiated, ongoing or completed in the last three years*

Monitoring activity is funded by the Ministry of the Environment each year. Wetlands are annually monitored by the scientists of the Museum of Natural Sciences.

## **6. Education and information**

### **Training and development programmes**

*6.1 Describe the status of training and development programmes which support waterbird conservation and implement the AEWA Action Plan.*

In the framework of AEWA-s 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary a poster in Albanian was produced and distributed in the country with the financial support of AEWA-s secretariat.

*6.2 What bilateral or multilateral co-operative action is your country undertaking to develop training programmes and share examples of good practice?*

N/A

### **Raising public awareness**

*6.3 Describe activities to raise public awareness of the objectives of the AEWA Action Plan. Please outline any particular successes generating public interest in, and securing support for, waterbird and wetland conservation (e.g. campaigns, information notes or other initiatives)?*

A lot of work id done in the framework of different projects e.g. MedWet Coast III projects that have carried out a number of activities to raise the public awareness in the Narta lagoon and its surroundings.

**List of sites of national and international importance:**

- 1. Karavasta Lagoon;**
- 2. Narta Lagoon;**
- 3. Butrinti Lagoon;**
- 4. Kune-Vaini Wetland;**