



NATIONAL REPORT

BULGARIA

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

Implementation during the period 2006 and 2008

Contracting Party: BULGARIA

Designated AEWA Administrative Authority: Ministry of Environment and Water

Full name of the institution:

Name and title of the head of the institution: Dzhevdet Chakarov - Minister

Mailing address: 22, Maria Luisa Blvd

Telephone: (+ 359 2) 988 25 77

Fax: (+ 359 2) 986 25 33

Email: feedback@moew.government.bg

**Name and title (if different) of the designated contact officer for AEWA
matters: Valeri Georgiev**

**Mailing address (if different) for the designated contact
officer: 22, Maria Luisa Blvd**

Telephone: (+ 359 2) 940 6151

Fax: (+ 359 2) 940 6127

Email: nnpsf@moew.government.bg

Table of Contents

1. Overview of Action Plan implementation	5
2. Species conservation	6
Legal measures	6
Single Species Action Plans	8
Emergency measures	8
Re-establishments	8
Introductions	8
3. Habitat conservation	8
Habitat inventories	8
Conservation of areas	9
Rehabilitation and restoration	10
4. Management of human activities	11
Hunting	13
Eco-tourism	14
Other human activities	14
5. Research and monitoring	15
Status of research and monitoring programmes for species	15
6. Education and information	16
Training and development programmes	16
Raising public awareness	16
7. Final comments	17
8. Progress to implement Resolutions and Recommendations of the Meeting of the Parties	17
9. OPTIONAL SECTION – Planned and future actions	17
List of abbreviations and acronyms used in the report	17
References	18
Appendices	19
Appendix 1: Status of Single Species Action Plans	19
Appendix 2: List of sites of international importance	

Appendix 3:	Status of management plans for sites of international importance	19
Appendix 4:	List of research and monitoring programmes and projects	20
Appendix 5:	List of national institutions involved in migratory waterbird conservation	20
Appendix 6:	List of relevant World Wide Web addresses for national institutions involved in migratory waterbird conservation	20
Appendix 7:	List of relevant migratory waterbird and habitat conservation projects initiated, ongoing or completed in the last three years	20

1. Overview of Action Plan implementation

Summary of progress to date

The main activities that were undertaken during the last three years were focused mainly to the monitoring of the migratory bird and habitat conservation.

The monitoring was carried out annually as part of the National and International activities in this field.

During 2007 a National Monitoring System on Biodiversity (NMSB) including monitoring of birds species was established. The NMSB was elaborated as a complex mechanism for monitoring, analyses and assessment on condition of biological diversity in Bulgaria. It is a base for decision making about the preservation of the wild species.

As an EU member Bulgaria has established special protected areas for Birds in the frame of the EU Ecological Net Natura 2000.

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

- Monitoring of the breeding colony of the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*);
- Annual monitoring of migratory and wintering birds;
- Determination of regimes for management of the Natura 2000 sites;
- Elaboration of Management Plans for Natura 2000 sites.
- Increasing the investments in restoration and mitigation projects; Funding projects for buying up of small, but very important key areas in Durankulak Lake, Pomorie Lake, Alepu Marsh, Stamopolu Marsh in order to avoid habitat loss and degradation;
- Implementation of actions determined in wetlands management plans;
- Raising training and education programs: Elaboration of an Educational and a Research Regional Wetland Centre at Bourgas Lakes. There is a significant and may be unique concentration of sites with International importance around the town of Bourgas (Pomorie, Atanasovsko and Vaya Lakes, and Mandra Lake - potential Ramsar Site).

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

- Enforcement and realization of future BlackSeaWet regional initiative targets:
 - To prevent the loss and the degradation process of wetlands and their biodiversity by 2020;
 - To ensure that wise use principles are integrated into coastal zone development;
 - To engage local people into planning and decision-making;
 - To complete the ecological network around the Black and Azov Sea coasts;
 - To combine wetland conservation in integrated water resource management and integrated coastal zone management approaches;
 - Mainstream wetland conservation in sectors whose activities are contributing to degradation;

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 legislation?

1. Protection of all kinds of Birds is ensured by the Biological Diversity Act (BDA);

2. Protection of Bird's habitats; The Protected Areas Act and Biological Diversity Act ensures the habitat protection. The BDA introduces the procedures for elaboration and protection of the European Ecological Network Natura 2000 sites. The NATURA 2000 is composed of sites hosting threatened natural habitats and threatened animal and plant species listed in the EC Directives 92/43 and 79/409.

3. Prohibited methods, equipment and devices for taking of birds are as follow:

- Snares, limes, hooks, live birds which are blind or mutilated used as decoys;
- Tape recorders, electrical and electronic devices capable to kill or stun;
- Artificial light sources, mirrors, devices for illuminating targets, sighting devices for night shooting comprising an electronic image magnifier or image converter;
- Explosives;
- Nets, traps, poisoned or anaesthetic bait;
- Semi-automatic or automatic weapons with a magazine capable of holding more than two rounds of ammunition;
- Permanent constructions for hunting of Waterbirds;
- Hunt with Birds of Prey;
- Boats driven at a speed exceeding five kilometres per hour and in the Black Sea with a maximum speed of 18 kilometres per hour;
- Led shots during the hunt in wetlands and up to 200 m distance around them.

Exceptions for prohibitions for taking of protected bird and their eggs could be granted from the Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW) for the following reasons:

1. to protect species of wild flora and fauna and for conservation of natural habitats;

2. to prevent serious damage to crops, forests, fisheries, water, fisheries and other forms of property;

3. in the interests of public health and safety, including air safety or by other reasons of overriding public interest;

4. for the purposes of research and education upon introduction or reintroduction of species and for the breeding necessary to this.

The use of the prohibited methods, equipment and devices for taking of hunting birds and their eggs could be granted from the Director of the State Forestry Agency (SFA).

b. Which organisations are responsible for implementation?

- Ministry of Environment and Water – responsible for protected species
- State Forestry Agency – responsible for control of the hunting activities.

c. How does it relate to other national initiatives (e.g. national Biodiversity Action Plans)?

Some activities about the protection of the species and their habitats are integrated in the National Biodiversity Conservation Plan.

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)?

All native bird species listed in table 1 (column A; column B) except *Anas* species (excluding *Anas strepera*) and *Galinago galinago* which are object of hunting are strictly protected by the Biological Diversity Act (BDA). The use of the hunting species is regulated by the Hunting and Game Protection Act (HGPA). The regulation on the implementation of the HGPA determines the Hunting periods for those species.

The Bulgarian legislation ensures prohibition of taking bird and their eggs and disturbance of those birds during the breeding period. The possession and trade has been prohibited for the specie listed in Column A. (see paragraph. 2.1.(a)). Only those species which are listed in column B (*Anas* species (excluding *Anas strepera*) and *Galinago galinago*) could be subject on trade.

b. Methods of taking?

If taking is allowed by exemption the relevant methods are usually described into the issued permits. (see paragraph. 2.1.(a))

c. Setting of taking limits and monitoring these limits?

No, quotas were determinate.

d. Sustainable hunting of species listed in Categories 2 and 3 (and marked by an asterisk) in Column A only?

All native for the county species listed with Categories 2 and 3 are protected by the BDA.

e. Exemptions to the provisions set out in paragraphs 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.1.3?

During the last triennial period exceptions were granted for scientific researches in accordance to paragraph 2.1.3 (c) of the AEWA Action Plan.

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?* - No
- b. *In preparation?* - No
- c. *Being implemented?* - No

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.*

- No

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.*

- No

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).*

According to the BDA any introduction on nonnative species could be executed only under permission from Director of the SFA, for the hunting species, and from the MoEW for the others species including those, imported for breeding purposes. The Minister of Environment and Wated has right to prohibit the introduction of nonnative species which can be detrimental for the survival of the native species and can threaten their habitats. The procedures of granting of permits for such introduction have been set under the provision of the Regulation No 4 (SG. 65/2003).

No introduction activities are carrying out at present.

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.

Similar publication named 'Important Bird Areas in Bulgaria and Natura 2000' was published in 2007. The publication was sponsored by the Enterprise for Management of the Activities on Environment Conservation under the MoEW and the Royal Society for the Protection of Bird according to BirdLife International Programme for Important Bird Areas. The publication gives details about the main IBA and information for the bird for which they are on great importance.

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.

Only for the sites for which is appropriate to be included in EU Ecological Net Natura 2000. Most of the wetlands with the national and International importance are already determined in the past 15 years and included in the National network.

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.)

Bulgaria had designated several protected sites under Protected Areas Act (1998). Some of those areas had been designated as Ramsar sites. Those sites had been designated for protection of the migratory bird species.

Recently all IBA which are wetlands are designated as Natura 2000 sites in accordance to BDA.

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.

Yes. The MoEW is obliged to implement/fund the existing management plans. The types of the plans are:

1. MP for Protected Areas;
2. MP for Natura 2000 sites.

The management plans are usually developed by organizations as Bulgarian Academy of Science and different NGO. Each management plans have to be put on public hearing before its final approval by the Minister of Environment and Water.

3.5 How many protected sites have formal management plans (please append a list of sites

and their management planning status):

a. Proposed? - No

b. In preparation?

Pomorie Wetland Complex Management Plan - a Ramsar Site, Protected Area (according to the national legislation - the Protected Areas Act) and a Protected Zone, according to both European Directives: Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, and Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds;

Dragoman Swamp Management Plan - a Critically Endangered Wetland, included in the 'Red List of Bulgarian Wetlands' and proposed to be a Protected zone (Natura 2000 site), according to Habitats Directive;

c. Being implemented?

A number of ten management plans for different kinds of wetlands are under implementation (See Appendix 3) (the list includes only the wetlands which are protected areas).

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.

Each management Plan has measures which ensured the wise use of wetlands habitats and prevention of their degradation as:

- The maintenance of the water level;
- Habitat management;
- Ensuring of the traditional use from the local people or enterprises.

A) The best practices in this field could be seen at Atanasovsko lake and Pomorie Lake. Both sites have a highly recognized significance for biodiversity and as a resource pool for various products utilized by people. They are shallow hyper-saline lagoons with a complex of salt pans and settling pools connected to the Black Sea. Atanasovsko lake is associated with salt marshes and reedbeds.

B) In the past local traditions and crafts in 'Srebarna' reserve were fishery and manufacturing wares of *Phragmites australis* and *Typha angustifolia*. To the present time very small number of the local people is occupied with this activity.

In the past fishery was the main occupation of the local people. Nowadays commercial fishing in the reserve is prohibited. According to the Management Plan, and under the regulations of the Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water Rouse a project, called 'Organizing of places for regulated sport fishing - angling' is carrying out. Its aim is to regulate the shoal, to bring the traditions back and to create conditions for effective control.

According to the Management Plan, a project 'Limited mowing and exporting the *Phragmites australis*' is expected to be implemented in 2009 under the supervision of RIEW

Rouse/MOEW. The project promotes the use of reed in traditional manufacturing of souvenirs and rush-mats. Its aim is to create a mosaic structure in the periphery of reed massifs, biomass export, and return to the traditions and to raise the awareness about the lake.

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.

The Government recognizes the multiple benefits of wetlands restoration: first, as a way to decrease transboundary pollution; second, as a means of preserving globally significant biodiversity; and third, as a possible source of revenue for local communities, living in relevant regions of Bulgaria.

A) Bulgarian Wetlands Restoration and Pollution Reduction Project founded by GEF/World Bank is implemented since October 30, 2002, and will be completed by December 15th 2008. In June 2002, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) provided the Government of Bulgaria with funding for the implementation of project activities for the Wetlands Restoration and Pollution Reduction Project.

The project development objective is that local communities and local authorities in the Persina Nature Park and Kalimok/Brushlen Protected Site areas adopted sustainable natural resources management practices. The project will help demonstrate how environmentally-friendly rural development activities can improve livelihoods.

The project assists the Government of Bulgaria to:

- a) Restore critical priorities wetlands in the Danube river basin and make use of the wetlands in riparian zones as nutrient traps; and
- b) Promote protected areas management and the sustainable use of natural resources.

The main components of the project are:

- a) Protected areas management planning
 - Management and maintenance of restore wetlands and associated protected areas
 - Establishing a farmer transition program
 - Providing support for eco-business development
- b) Monitoring program
- c) Public awareness and environmental education
- d) Strengthening capacity of institutions involved in the management of natural resources within the protected areas.

The project aims to restore Belene Island and Kalimok/Brushlen wetlands.

Wetlands Belene Island is located within Persina Nature Park (21,000 ha). Proposed area for restoration is 1300 ha. These wetlands are already restored under the project. The objective of the project is to restore the important wetlands, and to use them as a nutrient sinks and to conserve the important species. During the last 2 years the construction works are completed, and the monitoring of water quality, habitats and birds and fish were conducted. The first controlled flooding was at the end of April, 2008.

Kalimok/Brushlen wetlands are located within Kalimok – Brashlen Protected Area (6,000 ha). Proposed area for restoration 1100 ha.

The Wetlands management plans for those areas will be included in the river basine management plans, which are inder preparation and has to be completed up to end of 2008.

B) Project: 'Pomorie Lake - Conservation, Restoration, and Sustainable Management' GEF-MSP TF 054774, is implemented since February 2005, and will be completed till February 2009. (activities planned for the restoration of a natural saline lagoon on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast); Implemented by 'Green Balkans' NGO.

Project objectives:

To support the Pomorie Lake and the wetlands ecosystem sustainable development by encouraging activities in respect on biodiversity conservation, restoration of habitats and sustainable use of natural resources.

Subtargets of the project:

1. To support the development and the implementation of long-term management plans of the Protected Area, stressing on conservation, restoration and management of nature resources of the ecosystem;
2. To restore the natural resources base of the ecosystem and the hydrological balance;
3. To provide for the sustainable management of natural resources of the lake resources by innovatory multy-stakehoders partnership;
4. To rise the awareness amongst the local communities and the tourist sector;
5. To improve collaboration between other wetlands restoration sites in Bulgaria and Europe;

The project activities include four main components:

1. Management framework
2. Developing and functioning of Project Management Unit and Advisory Committee for the project.
3. Developing a Management plan for Pomorie Lake Protected Area;
4. Management Plan implementation

Involves the following basic activities:

- Rehabilitation and renovation of the freshwater overflowing system of the lake.
- Rehabilitation and renovation of the system providing saline waters to the lake (connection sea-lake).
- Conservation and restoration of habitats for nesting of rare and world endangered birds species.
- Capacity building and development of visitors' educational centers.
- Developing a small tourist infrastructure in the Protected Area.
- Managing the project and national and international cooperation.

C) Project: 'Developing a conservation and restoration plan for the protected area 'Zlato pole''

Description: The site is an old meander of Maritza River which has maintained a typical

for the flood plain marshland ecosystem. There is a mixed heron stock in the area and it is one of the few areas where the hibernating population of Pygmy cormorant sleeps /up to 1800 birds/

Activities under the Biodiversity law: Preparing and introducing to MOEW a Draft Management Plan for the Protected area 'Zlato pole'. Developing a plan for optimizing the water regime in the wetland Protected Area 'Zlato pole' during 2005. Annual monitoring.

Duration: 2005 -2008. Implemented by 'Green Blakans' NGO.

D) Project: Capacity building for preparation of Management Plans for Natura 2000 Protected Areas in Bulgaria.

Description: The Pojarevo garvan protected area includes 24 km of the Danube River valley with adjacent swamps and islands. Three of the fewest Bulgarian Danube Swamps are situated in the area as follows: Pojarevsko swamp, the Swamp Malak Preslavetz, Garvansko Swamp, which were famous in the past with their bird fauna and are protected zones according to the Birds Directive.

Activities on the project include developing a pilot plan for management of protected zone 'Pojarevo garvan'. Prior actions on restoration of the Pojarevsko and Garvansko swamps are located into the Plan. Both swamps are in aggravated hydrological regime.

Duration 2005-2008 r. Implemented by 'Green Balkans' NGO.

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).

The hunting has been regulated by the Hunting and Game protection Act and the regulation on the implementation of the Hunting and Game protection Act

The Act describes the procedures about:

1. Protection and management of the game species;
2. Organization of the hunting;
3. Licensing of the hunters;
4. Hunting periods.

The Biological Diversity Act ensures the prohibition of lead shots in the wetlands and use of poisoned baits (see paragraph. 2.1.(a)).

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

Yes. The SFA regulates the hunting level through its regional forestry boards.

4.3 Describe action undertaken by hunting clubs and organisations to manage hunting activity e.g. cooperative action, issuing of licenses and proficiency testing of individual members.

The responsible body for issuance of licensing for hunters is a special commission, designated by the SFA. All candidates for hunters have to pass an examination in order to get the license.

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.

Nature Conservation centre Poda (NCCP) is built in the protected area named "Poda" from Bulgarian society for the protection of birds (BSPB) in 1997 under the Bulgarian Swiss Biodiversity conservation programme. Financial support was provided also from:

- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- Lanius (Switzerland)
- The Swiss Association for the Protection of Birds
- European nature conservation awards "Henry Ford"

In the last years NCCP became attractive place for a lot of birdwatchers and tourists from the country and abroad. The center is equipped with good quality optics which are ready to be use from the visitors to watch the varied bird world in the protected area Poda. A specialize library and guest room for watching video films are available.

Educational activities in the NCCP are coordinated with Ministry of Education - Burgas, in order to improve nature conservation culture in the pupils in the region - visiting in the NCC Poda, arranging ornithological competitions, publishing brochures.

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

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

Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) and Ecological Assessment (EA) is carried out in accordance with the Law of Preservation of Environment.

According to the law the EIA and EA have to be implemented for plans, programmes and investment proposals for construction, activities and technologies or their changes, upon which implementation are possible significant impacts over environment (incl. wetlands) as follows:

1. EA have to be implemented for plans and programmes, which are in process of preparation and/or approval by central and territorial bodies of the executive power, bodies of the local government and the National Assembly;

2. EIS have to be implemented for investment proposals for construction, activities and technologies. In this case have to be determined, described and assessed in appropriate way and according to each concrete case their direct and indirect impacts over man, the biologic diversity and its elements, including flora and fauna, the soil, the water, the air, the climate and the landscape, the earth bowels, the material and the cultural – historic heritage and the interaction between them.

With the EA and EIA is aimed integration of the predictions with regard to environment in the process of development as a whole and the introduction of the principle of sustainable development.

EA of plans and programmes have to be implemented simultaneously with their preparation, taking into consideration their objectives, the territorial scope and the degree of detail, so that to be identified, described and assessed in appropriate way the possible impacts of the application of the investment proposals, included in these plans and programmes.

The plans and programs developed only for the objectives of the national defense or the civil protection as well as financial plans and budgets with independent significance are not subject to ecological assessment.

4.7 Please describe the main features of your planning policy and provide examples of practical implementation (e.g. activities to minimising disturbance of species populations or limit the impact of species populations on crops or fisheries). Please summarize any land-use conflicts especially emphasising successful solutions to problems encountered in promoting the wise-use of waterbirds and their habitats.

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.

The main priority at present is establishment and functioning of Natura 2000 European Ecological Network. In the past three year a big amount of scientific data were collected in order to be determinate the best areas suitable for designation as Natura 2000 sites. This process is continuing.

5.2 What monitoring activities does your country undertake, including any bilateral or multilateral cooperative 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

The International Waterbird Census (IWC) has been carried out annually. It became part of the NMSB. IWC is carried out by the Ministry of Environment and Water and its regional

inspectors in collaboration with NGOs (Bulgarian Society of Protection of Birds (BSPB), Green Balkan Federation, Le Balkan Foundation, Bulgarian Ornithological Central and Central Laboratory of General Ecology in the Bulgarian Academy of Science).

The similar activities for migratory bird census take place annually from the middle of August to middle of September along Black Sea coast on the Migratory Road *Via Pontica*.

Monitoring of the breeding success in the colony of Dalmatian pelican located in Srebarna Lake.

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.

a) The aims of the programme of the Nature Conservation Centre Poda in the field of training and public awareness:

1. Carrying out the educational activities in coordination with Ministry of Education - Burgas, to improve nature conservation culture in the pupils in the region - visiting in the NCC Poda, arranging ornithological competitions, publishing brochures
2. Attract the wide public in Burgas in the nature protection of the area and in the activities of NCC Poda
3. Organizing ecological workshops in the center's hall.

B) Educational and public awareness activities implemented by Green Balkans NGO among local stakeholders in the regions of the Danube River, the Maritsa River, and the Tundja River, as well as the coastal wetlands in Pomorie, Shabla and Durankulak;

In the period 2006-2007 the interactive game 'Find the legend' was published, where people have to be encouraged to find the legend about the origin of the 'Srebarna' reserve name. The main objective of the game is to involve young people and children on local and national levels into the problems of preserving the wetland, and to introduce them into the local traditions and knowledge about biodiversity. In 2007 in the game participated Romanian representatives from the city of Kalarash. The target is that the game spreads to more wetlands, as in Bulgaria, and also to support international cooperation between neighbour countries and other Convention parties.

C) Project named 'Without Border - Inform of local community about tendency and practices for conservation of nature and biodiversity in Europe' was implemented in the regions of Srebarna Biosphere Reserve and Atanasovsko Lake for raise community awareness.

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

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)?

7. Final comments

7.1 General comments on the implementation of the AEWA Action Plan

- No

7.2 Observations concerning the functions and services of the various AEWA bodies

- a. The Agreement Secretariat*
- b. International organisations*
- c. AEWA NGO partners*

7.3 How might the Action Plan be further developed as a practical aid for national and international conservation of migratory waterbirds?

8. Progress to implement Resolutions and Recommendations of the Meeting of the Parties

Please summarize progress to implement decisions of previous Meetings of the Parties.

- No

9. OPTIONAL SECTION – Planned and future actions

Contracting Parties are invited to outline below any further information regarding the aims of the Agreement, for example, planned actions or other informative examples.

1. Species conservation
2. Habitat conservation
3. Management of human activities
4. Research and monitoring
5. Education and information

List of abbreviations and acronyms used in the report

BDA – Biological Diversity Act
BSPB – Bulgarian Society of Protection of Birds
EIA - Environmental Impact Assessment
EA - Environmental Assessment
GEF - Global Environment Facility
HGPA – Hunting and Game Protection Act

IBA – Important Bird Areas
MP – Management Plan
MoEW – Ministry of Environment and Water
NCCP - Nature Conservation Centre Poda
NMSB – National Monitoring System on Biodiversity
RIEW – Regional Inspectorate on environment and Water
SFA – State Forestry Agency

References

Biological Diversity Act (State Gazette No 77/2002, amended)

Environmental Protection Act (State Gazette No 91/2002)

Kostadinova, I., M. Gramaticov (eds.) 2007. Important Bird Areas in Bulgaria and Natura 2000. Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds, Conservation Series, Book 11. Sofia, BSPB, p.

Michev, T.M.&M.P.Stoyneva (eds.), 2007. Inventory of Bulgarian Wetlands and their Biodiversity. Part 1: Non-lotic Wetlands. Publ. house Elsi-M, Sofia, 364 pp. + CD supplement.

National Action Plan for Consecvation on Biological Diversity (2006 – 2010)

Protected Areas Act (State Gazette No. 133/1998, amended)

Appendices

Appendix 1: Status of Single Species Action Plans

No Single Species Action Plans for waterbirds are in place.

Appendix 2: List of sites of international importance

1. **Atanasovsko Lake** - date of designation as Ramsar sites 28/11/84; Close to the town of Burgas; 1,404 ha; 42°34'N 027°28'E. Partially Maintained Reserve.
2. **Belene Islands Complex**. - date of designation as Ramsar sites 24/09/02; Pleven District; 6,898 ha; 43°40'N 025°11'E. Reserve, Natural Monument, Natural Park.
3. **Durankulak Lake** - date of designation as Ramsar sites 28/11/84; Varna District; 350 ha; 43°42'N 028°30'E.
4. **Ibisha Island**- date of designation as Ramsar sites 24/09/02. Montana District; 372 ha. 43°49'N 023°31'E. Partially Maintained Reserve.
5. **Lake Shabla** - date of designation as Ramsar sites 19/03/96; 404 ha; 43°35'N 028°33'E. Shablensko ezero (Shabla Lake), Protected Area.
6. **Poda** - date of designation as Ramsar sites 24/09/02; near the town of Burgas; 307 ha; 42°27'N 027°27'E. Partially Protected Area.
7. **Pomorie Wetland Complex** - date of designation as Ramsar sites 24/09/02; Burgas District; 814 ha; 42°35'N 027°37'E. Partially Protected Area.
8. **Ropotamo Complex** (formerly called 'Arkoutino') - date of designation as Ramsar sites 24/09/75; Burgas District; 5,500 ha; 42°19'N 027°45'E. Partially Reserve, Natural Monument, Maintained Reserve and Protected Area.
9. **Srebarna**- date of designation as Ramsar sites 24/09/75; Silistra District; 1,357 ha; 44°06'N 027°04'E. World Heritage Site, Biosphere Reserve, Maintained Reserve.
10. **Vaya Lake** - date of designation as Ramsar sites 11/11/02; Close to the town of Burgas; 2,900 ha; 42°30'N 027°25'E. Partially Protected Area

Appendix 3: Status of management plans for sites of international importance

Management plans are in place for:

1. Atanasovsko Lake 2003 – 2013;
2. Dolna Topchia – 2001- 2011;
3. Durankulak Lake - 2002 - 2012;
4. Kalimok - Brushlen – 2006 – 2016;
5. Lake Shabla – 2003 - 2013;
6. Poda – 2002 - 2012;
7. Persina Nature Park (incl. Belene Islands Complex) – 2006 – 2016;
8. Rusenski Lom Nature Park – 2005 – 2015;

9. Shabla Lake Complex – 2003 – 2013;
10. Srebarna Lake – 2001 – 2010.

Appendix 4: List of research and monitoring programmes and projects

Appendix 5: List of national institutions involved in migratory waterbird conservation

1. Ministry of Environment and Water
2. Executive Agency of Environment and Water
3. Bulgarian Academy of Science

Appendix 6: List of relevant World Wide Web addresses for national institutions involved in migratory waterbird conservation

www.moew.government.bg
www.chm.moew.government.bg
www.bspb.org/

Appendix 7: List of relevant migratory waterbird and habitat conservation projects initiated, ongoing or completed in the last three years

1. Wetland Restoration and Pollution Reduction Project - GEF/World Bank
2. Project for conservation of last populations of inside country Ardea sp. colonies. Project founded by EECONET Action Fund and was implemented in 2006 by Green Balkans NGO.
3. Project: "Development of Natura 2000 network in the region of Danube river". Project founded by World Wildlife Fund and was implemented in 2006 by Green Balkans NGO.
4. Project: "Long-term conservation of Red-breasted Goose on the territory of Durankulak Lake and Shabla Lake". Project founded by EECONET Action Fund and was implemented in 2006-2007 by Green Balkans NGO.
5. Project for recovery of relation between wetland conservation and agriculture development and farming in the territory of Lower Danube Green corridor. Project founded by World Wildlife Fund and was implemented in 2007 by Green Balkans NGO.
6. Project for conservation of Phalacrocorax pygmeus habitats on the territory of South Bulgaria. Project founded by MATRA and was implemented in 2007 by Green Balkans NGO.
7. Project: "Partnerships for the European natural heritage". Project founded by European Commission and will be implemented in 2008 by Green Balkans NGO.
8. Project: "Reconnecting the Danube and its People". Project founded by WWF and will be implemented 2008-2012.
9. Project: "Poda - model for the management of a protected area by a non-government organization - guarantee for sustainable nature protection, environmental education and nature-oriented tourism". Project founded by Alfred Töpfer Foundation, implemented by Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds (BSPB), 2006-2007.