



## **FORMAT FOR REPORTS**

### **OF THE PARTIES**

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

**Implementation during the period 2002 - 2005**

**Contracting Party: Denmark**

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## Table of Contents

<b>1. Overview of Action Plan implementation</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2. Species conservation</b>	<b>6</b>
Legal measures	6
Single Species Action Plans	6
Emergency measures	6
Re-establishments	7
Introductions	7
<b>3. Habitat conservation</b>	<b>8</b>
Habitat inventories	8
Conservation of areas	8
Rehabilitation and restoration	8
<b>4. Management of human activities</b>	<b>9</b>
Hunting	9
Eco-tourism	9
Other human activities	9
<b>5. Research and monitoring</b>	<b>10</b>
Status of research and monitoring programmes for species	10
<b>6. Education and information</b>	<b>11</b>
Training and development programmes	11
Raising public awareness	11
<b>7. Final comments</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>8. Progress to implement Resolutions and Recommendations of the Meeting of the Parties</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>9. OPTIONAL SECTION – Planned and future actions</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>List of abbreviations and acronyms used in the report</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>17</b>
Appendix 1: Status of Single Species Action Plans	17
Appendix 2: List of sites of international importance	
Appendix 3: Status of management plans for sites of international importance	17
Appendix 4: List of research and monitoring programmes and projects	17
Appendix 5: List of national institutions involved in migratory waterbird conservation	17

Appendix 6:	List of relevant World Wide Web addresses for national institutions involved in migratory waterbird conservation	17
Appendix 7:	List of relevant migratory waterbird and habitat conservation projects initiated, ongoing or completed in the last three years	17

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

### *1.1 Summary of progress to date*

The Danish Legislation especially on hunting and wildlife management already fulfilled the obligations of the AEWA Agreement and the Action Plan at the time when Denmark became member of the Agreement.

As presented in the following report the implementation of actions mentioned in the Action Plan has currently been undertaken, e.g. establishing of wildlife reserves including hunting and disturbance free zones, restoration and rehabilitation of wetlands, persecution of alien invasive species, campaign to reduce crippling, enhancing the local stakeholder dialogue regarding species management and hunting, etc.

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

- Monitoring of waterbirds
- Enhancing the collection of the annual bag statistics
- Strengthening hunting examinations
- Providing increased capacity for the training of hunters in order to reduce crippling
- Development of management plans for all Natura 2000 sites, including habitats for AEWA waterbird species

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

Continued cooperation with Germany and The Netherlands on the protection of the Wadden Sea.

Provided that EU has ratified the Agreement Denmark will work for the full implementation of the AEWA in Europe.

## 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?

The protection of the species covered by the Agreement is covered by the Hunting and Game Management Act. The purpose of the Act is to safeguard game populations which are rich in species and individuals, and to create the basis of sustainable management, by (1) protecting the game, particularly during the breeding season, (2) safeguarding the quantity and quality of game habitats by establishing game reserves and by otherwise establishing, re-establishing and protecting game habitats, and (3) regulating hunting so that it takes place according to ecological and ethical principles and with due consideration of the protection of game, particularly of rare and threatened species. In the administration of the Act consideration of the human population's recreational needs shall be weighed against the game protection consideration. More than 100 wildlife reserves have been established with no or limited hunting, restrictions on more disturbing activities (e.g. wind surfing, speed boating) and no or limited public access, especially in the breeding seasons of waterbirds.

In 2004 the Environmental Objectives Act provided a new legal framework for designating and protecting birds and their habitats throughout the country. Accordingly all municipalities will have to develop detailed management plans for more than 250 Natura 2000 areas which encompasses the protection needs also for AEWA bird species. Since 2002 further two large Special Protection Areas for Birds (SPA) under EU legislation has been designated with the aim to improve protection of staging marine bird species such as Black Scoter *Melanitta nigra*, divers *Gavisa* spp. and Little Gull *Larus minutus*, bringing the total number of SPAs up to 113.

b. Which organisations are responsible for implementation?

Danish Forest and Nature Agency  
Counties (until 2007)  
Municipalities (after 2007)

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

The administration and implementation of the above mentioned Acts is supplementary to and harmonizes with other Danish legislation and policies/strategies on nature protection.

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):*

*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 the species on the Agreements Table 1, column A are totally protected according to the Hunting and Game Management Act. Some of the species in column B have an open season, which does not contravene with the provisions set out in paragraph 2.1.2 of the Action Plan. Trading is not allowed for any of the species in Column A and B occurring in Denmark.

*b. Methods of taking?*

Only firearms are allowed.

*c. Setting of taking limits and monitoring these limits?*

There are no taking limits. The total bag is registered annually. All hunters are obliged to inform the Danish Forest and Nature Agency of their yearly bag of game including waterfowl.

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

Not applicable – none of the Danish waterbird species listed in column A has an open season.

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

It is allowed to shoot *Anser anser* on unharvested fields in July and August, which is outside the open season to avoid crop damage.

### **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?*
- b. In preparation?*
- c. Being implemented?*

Nearly all species covered by an AEWA Single Species Action Plan are not appearing in Denmark. Only *gallinago Media* are rarely appearing in Denmark and is protected by law.

The Danish Ornithological Society has in 2000 published a national action plan for the White Stork and in 2002 for the Golden Plover, which is under implementation.

*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.*

Aerial surveys on oil pollution at sea are co-ordinated with neighbouring countries in order to minimize oil-kills of birds at sea. The whole Wadden Sea in Denmark, Germany and The Netherlands have been designated by IMO (International Maritime Organisation) as a PSSA (Particular Sensitive Sea Area) in 2002 in order to minimize the risk of oil pollution etc. In 2004 the Baltic Sea has been designated as a PSSA.

### **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.*

There is no need for a policy on this issue in Denmark because no waterbird species have disappeared from the country and for which it would be relevant to re-introduce them. The general policy in Denmark is to maintain and restore wetlands so that the wetland bird species have the possibility to immigrate by themselves.



## 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 Hunting and Game Management Act it is prohibited to introduce non-native species in Denmark, and even native waterbird species except from the Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) which can be released without permission. The Danish Forest and Nature Agency has decided to shoot any specimens of the Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) which occur in Denmark in order to help to minimize the risk of hybridization with the White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*). The same is due to the Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiacus*) in order to prevent their potential competition with native species.

### **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.*

113 areas, mainly internationally important wetlands, have been designated as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) according to the EEC Bird Directive. 27 of these are Ramsar Sites according to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Information on these sites has been published in books and on the home-page of the Danish Forest and Nature Agency: <http://natura2000.sns.dk/fugleomraader.htm>.

In recent years all counties in Denmark have mapped the extent of several habitats that are relevant to breeding and staging waterbirds, and prioritised habitats protected under the EU Habitats Directive. GIS-based databases are available at the websites maintained by each county, and a national compilation is under development at the National Environmental Research Institute. A new monitoring programme NOVANA will in coming years provide more detailed data about threats and management status of the mapped areas.

*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.*

See point 3.1 and Appendix 2.

#### **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.)*

Concerning the list of internationally important protected sites, see point 3.1 and Appendix 2. These sites are protected according to the provisions in the EEC Bird Directive and the Ramsar Convention. Furthermore, the sites as a whole or partly are protected according to national legislation e.g as nature conservation areas and/or wildlife reserves.

*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.*

A management planning system is under development for all Danish NATURA 2000-Sites including basic investigations, conservation goals, monitoring and management plans.

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

- a. Proposed?*
- b. In preparation?*
- c. Being implemented?*

In all the protected sites mentioned above (113 SPAs) management plans have been proposed, prepared or are being implemented for their total areas or parts of them.

*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.*

In Denmark the national wetland policy is covered by an integrated and a comprehensive set of nature protection and environmental laws and strategies which also complies with article 6 of the Convention of Biological Diversity. Article 6 states that countries shall prepare national strategies for protecting, and for the sustainable exploitation of, biodiversity. Denmark has prepared a national biodiversity strategy report after a consultation procedure which involved central and regional authorities and NGO's. It is recognized that biodiversity is an extremely broad concept. In the final analysis, it can be stressed that the aim of the entire nature and environmental conservation effort in Denmark is the preservation of biodiversity. The most relevant legal instruments regarding conservation and wise use of wetland are the following:

- The Nature Protection Act (1997, revised in 2004)
- The Act on the Structure of Agriculture (1999)
- The Raw Materials Act (1997)
- The Action Plan of the Aquatic Environment (1987, revised 1998, 2001 and 2004)
- The Act relating to protection of the Tøndermarsh (1994)
- The Hunting and Game Management Act (1993, revised 1997)
- The Marine Environment Act (1993)

## **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.*

One of the most important contribution to the implementation of the Biodiversity Convention is rehabilitation and restoration of wetlands and other wildlife habitats. The objectives of the Danish Biodiversity Strategy are to restore 30,000 hectares of lakes and 8,000 hectares of saltmarshes before 2019. Many smaller and larger wetlands have been restored since 1989, e.g. River Skjern å and its surroundings, Vest Stadil Fjord, and lake Filsø.

## 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).*

Only hunting with shotguns and rifles is allowed.

Use of poisoned baits is totally banned.

According to Ministerial Order no. 41, dated 21. January 1994, hunting with lead-ammunition has been forbidden since 1 April 1996, from which date it has also been forbidden to trade and carry lead ammunition while hunting. Use of lead ammunition for training purposes and target shooting was also forbidden after that date. Use of lead ammunition for hunting waterfowl and hunting on wetlands was however already forbidden since 1994. In collaboration with the Danish Police the Danish Forest and Nature Agency is carrying out on-site control with the use of proper ammunition.

All huntable waterbird species can only be shot from 1 September until 31 December or 1 October until 31 January.

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

The total bag of the Danish hunters is yearly recorded. Each hunter is obliged to inform the authorities of their annual bag. The results are published annually in a separate information brochure to the hunters. If the bag of a waterbird species has significantly declined it is considered to close or reduce the open season for the species. The intensity of shooting in selected areas has been recorded by the Danish Ornithological Society, and as a result of these investigations the hunting possibilities have been reduced so that waterbird shooting can only be hunted for at least one year.

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

The Danish Hunting Association offers possibilities to practice clay pigeon shooting in order to minimize crippling of waterbirds hunted. The Association has supported and supplemented a large campaign by the Danish Forest and Nature Agency against crippling of waterbirds hunted.

The Danish Hunting association has developed a set of ethical hunting rules, with the aim of also ensuring sustainable hunting on wetland-birds.

## **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.*

A programme for nature interpretation has been established and is well functioning, including guided tours for tourists and bird watchers. Many bird observation towers and hides have been established at important wetlands. Information about all the possibilities can be found on the internet [www.naturnet.dk](http://www.naturnet.dk).

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

Specific calculations have not been made for such sites, but there is no doubt that the local economy benefits from the above mentioned initiatives, which is indicated from a few socio-economic studies related to other nature 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.*

The main features of the Danish EIA are that companies or others making specific constructions such as large husbandry farms, infrastructures, airports, and wind farms etc. have to make an assessment of the potential impact on the surrounding environment, including wetlands and waterbirds. If the impact is assessed to be significantly negative alleviating measures has to be carried out or the construction may even be translocated to another geographic position or may even be given up. The demands for carrying out EIAs are dependant upon the character and size of the development proposals or change in land/water use. Typically small projects do not require EIAs due to e.g. specified criteria for lower limits of agricultural development projects.

*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.*

Impact from sailing, hunting and other recreational activities have been minimised by established more than 100 wildlife reserves with restrictions or total bans on public access and/or hunting in vulnerable periods of the year.

There are only limited conflicts between land-use and waterbirds. In some areas damage may occur in farmland crops. No economic compensations are payed, but alleviating measures can be carried out in some cases supported by the authorities. Feeding of geese, establishing specific feeding crops for geese, shooting for scaring etc. are examples of such alleviating measures.

In relation to the Great Cormorant a revised management plan was developed in 2002 which entails a wider practice of shooting cormorants around permanent fishing gear, and a practice at selected locations of oiling eggs of cormorants as a contribution to keep the the cormorant population stable.

## 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 research institution involved with waterbird research in Denmark is the National Environmental Research Institute (NERI). Two departments are engaged in research related to migratory waterbirds within the AEW region, i.e. Department of Arctic Environment (research in Arctic Canada, Greenland and Svalbard), and Department of Wildlife Ecology and Biodiversity (research in Western Europe together with a broad network of collaborators in other countries, but also *ad hoc* in Greenland, Svalbard and Arctic Russia).

Project priorities are set once a year in close cooperation with the Game Management Council and the Danish Forest and Nature Agency. All projects have applied aspects, and are related to current management issues. NERI recently developed national criteria for assessment of favourable conservation status of species covered by the EU Birds and Habitats directives. A following evaluation of the conservation status for birds found that most waterbird species have favourable conservation status, many fewer uncertain and/or unfavourable conservation status. Species belonging to the latter two groups have already been given high priority in present research programmes (e.g. Eider, Light-bellied Brent Goose, breeding meadow birds (mainly waders)).

*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*

NERI is the national coordination unit for monitoring of waterbirds. Breeding waterbirds are monitored by the Counties and/or the Danish Ornithological Society, who report their data to NERI. In 2004 a more comprehensive monitoring programme, NOVANA, was initiated, and this will in the future provide data on a more regular basis than hitherto, especially for breeding waterbirds with poor conservation status. Staging waterbirds are monitored by NERI, and have been so on a regular basis since 1965. NERI contributes to all relevant IWC count schemes, i.e. January mid-winter selected sites counts, and species specific counts such as Bewicks Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* and Whooper Swans *Cygnus cygnus* January, all geese January, Barnacle Goose *Branta lucopsis* March, Brent Goose *Branta bernicla* May, Grey-lag Goose *Anser anser* September, Bean Goose *Anser fabalis* November. The initiation of NOVANA has also provided regular funding for country-wide surveys of waterbirds from aircraft, which will be carried out every third year, and build upon previous surveys from 1965-73, 1985-87, 1991, 1992, 2000, and 2004.



## **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.*

The AEWA Agreement is incorporated into the curriculum of the Dansih Game Management School, managed by the Danish Association of Hunters, ensuring that annually dozens of hunters and game and nature managers are trained in aspects of the Agreement.

There is a long tradition for making waterbirds counts and ringing in Denmark, and the experience is transferred currently to new ornithologists through courses and in a process of “learning by doing”.

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

In cooperation with Wetlands International and the two other Waddensea states Germany and The Netherlands, Denmark has carried out a programme in the period 1995-2005 on “Waterbird and IBA surveys, training and public awareness in Guinea-Bissau”.

### **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)?*

On the homepage of the Danish Forest and Nature Agency a link has been established to the homepage of the agreement.

A Nordic brochure on wetlands and the Ramsar Convention has been published recently on the internet and distributed widely in the Nordic countries.

## **7. Final comments**

### *7.1 General comments on the implementation of the AEWA Action Plan*

No special comments.

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

#### *a. The Agreement Secretariat*

The service by the secretariat of producing the newsletter is satisfactory.

#### *b. International organisations*

No special comments.

#### *c. AEWA NGO partners*

No special comments.

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

Elaboration of specific projects should be further supported in order to enhance the possibilities of funding of bilateral or multilateral projects, especially in Africa and Eastern Europe.

Updated waterbird population and trend data is essential for the implementation of the Action Plan. AEWA Secretariat should ensure that costs of these censuses are included in the core budget of the Secretariat.

## **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.***

Denmark has been working generally for the implementation of the resolutions and recommendations and for improving the conditions for the waterbirds and their habitats, e.g. supporting EU ratification of the AEWA Agreement, by a ban on lead shots (see 4.1), by continuing the cooperation project with Guinea-Bissau (see 6.2), by preparing national single species action plans for the White Stork and the Golden Plover (see 2.3 c) and for the Corn Crake and threatened meadow birds (see 9.1).

## 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

In order to implement the existing international (EU) species action plan for the Corncrake *Crex crex* Denmark has in 2000 developed a national action plan which is currently under implementation.

In order to implement the existing international (EU) species action plan for the Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* Denmark has successfully implemented management plans for some of its most important breeding sites and has successfully restored some former breeding localities.

In 2005 Denmark has developed and is implementing an action plan for threatened meadow birds, especially the Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, the Dunlin *Calidris alpina schinzii*, and the Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*.

### 2. Habitat conservation

Denmark has designated more than 250 areas as Special Areas for Conservation (SACs) of habitats and species of animals and plants. A significant number of these areas are wetlands areas and habitats for waterbird species included in the AEW A Agreement.

### 3. Management of human activities

Public awareness raising is an important issue, and initiatives are being taken throughout Denmark to give the public access to visitor centres and to observe wildlife including waterbirds in many Danish reserves, primarily from hides and observation towers. Some initiatives call for open footpaths too, and NERI has therefore initiated research projects aimed at assessing tolerance limits for breeding birds and population consequences associated with increased public access.

### 4. Research and monitoring

NERI is likely to initiate new applied research projects related to more species with present unfavourable conservation status, at the National or International level, e.g. Bean Goose and Pintail.

### 5. Education and information

## **List of abbreviations and acronyms used in the report**

## References

## **Appendices**

### **Appendix 1: Status of Single Species Action Plans**

Not included - see point 2.3 c and 9.1, where the necessary information is given.

### **Appendix 2: List of sites of international importance**

Included as a copy of the executive order from 2003 on the demarcation and administration of international protection areas. Included in the executive order are lists of Ramsar Sites (page 20, map on page 9) and EC Special Protection Areas for birds (page 18-19, map on page 8) where the main part of the areas are of special relevance for the AEWa Agreement. Further revised in the executive order from 2004, including one additional SPA no. 113 (see map on page 3).

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

Not included – see point 3.5 and Appendix 2.

### **Appendix 4: List of research and monitoring programmes and projects**

Included as a copy of the homepage of the National Environmental Research Institute.

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

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

See Appendix 5 above.

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

Not included – see point 3.7 for restoration projects and 4.7 for wildlife reserves.