



## **FORMAT FOR REPORTS**

## **OF THE PARTIES**

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

**Implementation during the period 2005 and 2007**

**Contracting Party:** Germany

**Designated AEWA Administrative Authority:** Federal Ministry for the Environment,  
Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)  
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## 1. Overview of Action Plan implementation

### 1.1 Summary of progress to date

Waterbird conservation in Germany has a long tradition reaching back to the German Ornithologists' Society founded in 1850 as one of the world's oldest existing scientific societies. Its original goal – to support and further scientific ornithology at all levels – has remained unchanged. Moreover, the German Nature Conservation Association (NABU) – the German partner organisation of BirdLife International – was founded in 1899 under the name of “*Association for the Protection of Birds*“ (“*Bund für Vogelschutz*“) and can be regarded as one of the first national bird protection associations in Germany as well as one of the oldest world-wide. Today it is the largest Nature Conservation NGO in Germany with approximately 450,000 members and donors. Shortly after its inception the organisation started managing the first bird protection area and launched a campaign to save Little Egrets (*Egretta garzetta*) and birds of paradise.

Conservation concepts and measures in Germany are permanently improving in accordance with progress in scientific knowledge. Waterbird conservation is embedded in the general conservation of nature including its strategies and regulations. International legal instruments and standards have influenced the situation in Germany to an increasing extent. Apart from AEWa, the Birds Directive of the European Community (79/409/EEC) is of great importance for the conservation of waterbirds, also demanding all-embracing conservation of species as well as of habitats. Effectively, therefore, AEWa and this Directive complement each other in providing a framework for bird conservation in Germany.

In recent years in accordance with both the Birds and the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) further sites have been designated as protected areas and in principle the nomination process in Germany has been completed. The coherent European network NATURA 2000 comprises the areas designated under the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive. These areas may partially overlap. All told, they cover 14% of the terrestrial surface area of Germany and 31% of its marine surface area. To date, Germany has proposed 4,617 areas under the Habitats Directive (in the following in brief FFH areas) covering three bio-geographical regions (Alpine, Atlantic, Continental) to the European Commission (as at 29 June 2007). This means 9.3% of the terrestrial surface. In addition there are 2,016,411 ha comprising parts of Lake Constance, marine areas, Baltic Sea lagoons and Wadden Sea areas, 943,986 ha of which are situated in the German Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). In addition, as at 1 April 2008, Germany has designated 734 areas under the Birds Directive (*Special Protection Areas, SPAs*). This corresponds to 11.1% of the terrestrial area, to which must be added 1,976,975 ha of areas comprising parts of Lake Constance, marine areas, Baltic Sea lagoons and Wadden Sea areas, 514,499 ha of which are located in the German EEZ.

Compared with the Birds Directive, AEWa demands more extensive regulations in terms of monitoring and hunting. During recent years, the use of lead shot for hunting waterbirds near wetlands has been more and more restricted. Meanwhile, ten of the sixteen Federal States

(*Länder*) have implemented a ban of lead shot for waterbird hunting. This type of hunt is, in most cases, confined to hunting at inland waters. Four Federal States are considering or preparing such a legal regulation. The two remaining Federal States are Hamburg and Bremen (including Bremerhaven) – both are city-states and the two smallest German Federal States with extremely limited hunting areas.

In order to install a coherent monitoring system in the Federal States, further efforts have been made. A reliable assessment of the population dynamics of endangered and non-endangered species can only be achieved by means of countrywide representative monitoring. In 2008 a joint research project of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (*BfN*) and the Federation of German Avifaunists (*Dachverband Deutscher Avifaunisten - DDA*) in co-operation with NABU and the German Ornithologists' Society (*Deutsche Ornithologen Gesellschaft - DO-G*) led to a breakthrough in terms of co-operation between the Federal level and the Federal States with respect to countrywide monitoring. Bird monitoring is now receiving joint support on a permanent basis, which will enable long-term conclusions on the status and dynamics of avifauna in Germany.

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

German activities for the implementation of AEWA correspond to the main areas of emphasis of environmental policy of the Federal Government. With regard to the conservation of nature this statement especially holds true for the preservation of biological diversity, which is a constituent part of national sustainability development policy<sup>1</sup>. The national sustainability strategy “Perspectives for Germany” (*“Perspektiven für Deutschland”*), adopted in 2002, provides practical guidance on sustainable action for politics and society. An indicator report was published for the first time in 2007, outlining the development and trends of the 21 indicators in the sustainability strategy. One of the indicators is species diversity; in order to calculate this indicator, the population development of 59 selected bird species representing the status of the most important landscape and habitat types in Germany is being recorded. This includes inland waters as well as coastal and marine regions.

At the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, heads of state and government from all over the world agreed to significantly reduce the loss of biodiversity by 2010. A year earlier, at its Gothenburg EU summit, the European Union undertook to halt the loss of biological diversity in its area by 2010.

From 19 to 30 May 2008 Germany will host the 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (*COP*) to the Convention of Biological Diversity (*CBD*). This will be the last Conference of the Parties before this crucial year. After this, the international community will have two years to implement the 2010 target – so urgent action is needed. With Germany as chair of COP 9, the global community will discuss measures against the ongoing destruction of

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.bundesregierung.de/nn\\_233734/Webs/Breg/EN/Issues/Sustainability/sustainability.html](http://www.bundesregierung.de/nn_233734/Webs/Breg/EN/Issues/Sustainability/sustainability.html)

nature. While political focus is in particular on the protection and sustainable use of forests and marine eco-systems, the German Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (*BMU*) will also draw attention to the value and benefits of coastal wetlands. Since May 2007 Germany has been conducting a nation-wide information campaign with a variety of activities on the topic of biological diversity: an exhibition about the Wadden Sea – on display in the foyer of the Ministry during the conference – and related events will be part of the campaign.

Furthermore, progress is envisaged on establishing a comprehensive global network of terrestrial protected areas by 2010 and marine protected areas by 2012 as formulated in the CBD programme of work on protected areas adopted at COP 7 in Kuala Lumpur in 2004. Germany is particularly committed to this main goal of the programme and has already contributed substantially to its achievement through its most recent designations of areas under the Habitats and Birds Directives. In the coming years the Federal Government will align its national and international nature conservation activities with the goal of establishing a global network of protected areas as well as the consistent implementation of the 2010 goal. The achievement of the 2010 goal will also be prioritised in the implementation of AEWA.

In continuing the national implementation of the AEWA Action Plan, activities will be needed at the national level as well as at the Federal State level. Consequently, the Federal States are planning to undertake numerous activities related to habitat protection. Thus, for example the Federal State of Saxony is planning to elaborate a national index of habitats of populations under Table 1 of the Action Plan. Furthermore, in the majority of the Federal States additional management plans for protected areas will be developed. Improved protection and sustainable use of wetlands, in particular in bird protection areas and measures to protect birds in agrarian landscapes, such as, for example, protection of breeding areas of the Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), are also planned. Research and monitoring also play a primary role. The water bird census will be continued, the monitoring of waterbird breeding will be repeated and waterbirds in Bird Protection Areas will continue to be monitored. The results will be published, as part of the activities of the Federal States in the area of “Education and Information”.

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

Subject to the availability of current and future resources, Germany will give priority to enhanced international co-operation between the AEWA Parties. Efforts to encourage countries to join AEWA will be continued unrelentingly.

In political terms, Germany will focus on relations of AEWA with other international instruments and processes, stressing in particular the need for the continual orientation of AEWA towards CBD. Goals and activities of AEWA and CBD should be harmonised. If possible, other Agreements, e.g. the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands or the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (*CITES*) should be taken into account. Also in

this connection, the BMU is considering submitting a draft resolution jointly to the MOP of AEWA and the COP of AEWA's mother convention, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), aiming to establish a joint working group in the coming triennium. The working group should deal with the issue of future co-operation between CMS and AEWA. This entails matters such as improving the efficiency of co-operation, but also the issue of the Raptors MoU, the Central Asian Flyway and the inclusion of other taxa of waterbirds presently not included in AEWA. In addition to the raptors (*Falconiformes*), this concerns the songbirds (*Passeriformes*). Ultimately, the aim is to include all endangered species of wetlands birds, insofar as they are not yet covered.

In the Biodiversity Agenda of the EU Presidencies of Germany, Portugal and Slovenia the following key topics at EU level as well as at the global level were identified as priorities for the period of the Triple Presidency from 1 January 2007 – 30 June 2008:

As regards the Birds and Habitats Directive the establishment of the coherent European ecological network "NATURA 2000" will be completed in the near future. Thus, for the Member States the focus will shift from the selection to the effective and permanent protection of the areas. In addition, further efforts will be required on the part of the Member States regarding the strict protection of fauna and flora of community interest occurring outside the protected areas. Concerning species protection, the issue of trade in wild birds will be addressed.

At the project level, the German Government is currently supporting the African-Eurasian Flyways Project "WOW"<sup>2</sup> ("*Wings over Wetlands*") with a generous financial contribution of 1 million € (second biggest donor). The BfN is charged with the task of overseeing German support for the WOW project that is channelled through Wetlands International. This project supports and implements numerous priority activities (cf. International Implementation Priorities). Especially in Africa, which is connected to Germany through a series of migration routes, the existing structures for professional and voluntary monitoring, research and conservation of waterbird populations will be improved and strengthened.

Additionally, there are a number of cross-border projects, such as the INTERREG project for the Upper Rhine in France and Baden Württemberg including the valuable alluvial plane site Taubergießen<sup>3</sup>, the Trilateral Cooperation on the Wadden Sea<sup>4</sup> (Trilateral Wadden Sea Plan) or the LIFE-BaltCoast project<sup>5</sup> in Schleswig Holstein. The latter project engages more than 20 partners from five riparian states of the Baltic (Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Lithuania, and Sweden). It is intended to run from 2005 to 2011 and aims to restore lagoons, dunes and salt marshes. This benefits species such as the Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*), Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) and Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*): All these birds have gone through a serious decline within the last decades due to several site specific reasons.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.wingsoverwetlands.org/>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.revitalisierung-taubergiessen.eu/inhalt/?Das\\_Projekt](http://www.revitalisierung-taubergiessen.eu/inhalt/?Das_Projekt)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.life-baltcoast.eu>

Furthermore, an NGO project for the reintroduction of the Lesser White-Fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*) is still under examination and preparation. Project details cf. the webpage of this NGO called “Aktion Zwerggans”<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.zwerggans.de/>

## 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:

In Germany, waterbird conservation is an integral part of the general conservation of natural assets and biodiversity: “The natural and historically grown variety of wild fauna ... shall be conserved since they are a part of the balance of nature” (Arts. 1 and 2 Federal Nature Conservation Act - BNatSchG). The taking and possession of as well as the trade in bird species naturally occurring in Germany is prohibited (Art. 42 BNatSchG) with the exception of huntable bird species (Table 1 column C). A respective ordinance, the Federal Ordinance on the Conservation of Species (*Bundesartenschutz-Verordnung - BArtSchV*), supports the protection and conservation of species covered by the Agreement.

The Nature Conservation Act is embedded in comprehensive environmental legislation – standardisation of which is planned in the form of an environmental code (*Umweltgesetzbuch - UGB*) – and a range of special species conservation projects.

The Federal States are responsible for the implementation of nature conservation, and therefore they carry out most of the relevant specific nature conservation work. The Federal Government takes action in its capacity as an issuer of framework legislation, as the body in charge of international relations or because the responsibility for certain areas, such as marine areas within the EEZ, lies with the Federal authorities.

Germany adopted its National Strategy on Biological Diversity<sup>7</sup>, with around 330 goals and 430 measures on all issues relevant to biodiversity, in November 2007. This strategy is aimed at implementing the CBD in Germany, and also includes Germany’s contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of global biodiversity. For the first time ever Germany therefore now possesses a comprehensive and ambitious programme for the conservation of species and habitats. The BMU began implementing the strategy immediately after it was adopted and in December 2007 the Ministry launched a follow-up process involving non-governmental and governmental players with the 1st National Forum on Biological Diversity. This first event was followed by a total of seven regional fora which took place or will take place in the months of January to June 2008.

In addition, all of the AEWA species are protected by the EC Birds Directive (79/409/EEC). Germany’s most important national strategy for protecting waterbirds is to implement this directive in conjunction with the Fauna, Flora and Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and AEWA.

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.bmu.de/files/pdfs/allgemein/application/x-download/national\\_strategy\\_biodiv.pdf](http://www.bmu.de/files/pdfs/allgemein/application/x-download/national_strategy_biodiv.pdf)

a. *What are the main features of the policy/legislation?*

The most important measure for the conservation of migratory waterbird species is to designate areas, pursuant to Art. 33 BNatSchG (Art. 4 (1) and (2) of the EC Birds Directive), as “Special Protection Areas” (*SPAs*). So the designation of the most suitable areas (in terms of size and numbers of birds harboured – breeding, moulting and wintering areas, as well as resting and flyway areas) is required by law. Such areas are part of the “NATURA 2000” network pursuant to the Habitats and Birds Directive transposed into German law by Articles 33 - 35 BNatSchG. Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary for the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon is in principle prohibited. Potential exceptions are restricted by a comprehensive regime of conditions and by the requirement to protect or restore the coherence of the NATURA 2000 network by compensatory measures. In such cases, a special impact assessment is a prerequisite.

Concerning species conservation, the Federal Government regards due implementation of EC legislation as well as of international conventions (and agreements) as a matter of particular importance. For specially and strictly protected species, the BNatSchG and its respective ordinance BArtSchV lay down comprehensive prohibitions on taking, disturbing, possessing and selling the species. These regulations include the prohibition to damage or destroy birds’ nests. All wild living bird species in Germany belong to these specially protected species.

One of the aims of the National Strategy on Biodiversity lies in reducing, by 2010, the number of species that are threatened with extinction or highly endangered and to improve, by 2020, the threat status of the majority of “red list species”.

The National Strategy on Biodiversity also points out the particular responsibility of Germany for the conservation of species if considerable parts of their world population breed, rest or have their wintering grounds in Germany. Therefore, Germany strives to conserve the breeding, foraging and resting grounds or migration routes of migratory species. It is planned that by 2020 all types of habitats of particular importance to migratory species should have a significantly better conservation status, if a good conservation status has not yet been achieved.

A further aim of the National Strategy on Biodiversity is the maintenance and advancement of the Global Register of Migratory Species (*GROMS*)<sup>8</sup> as a standard instrument for migratory species.

Alongside measures to protect biodiversity and reduce climate change, the Strategy also cites eradicating poverty and promoting development co-operation as principal action areas.

Reports on the Strategy’s implementation will be published at regular intervals, once per legislative period. Key indicators relating to wetlands and waterbirds include the conservation status of habitat types and species under the Habitats Directive, the protection

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.groms.de/>

of migratory species of waterbirds pursuant to Article 4 (2) of the EC Birds Directive, the designation of areas under the NATURA 2000 scheme, endangered species, and water body quality.

*b. Which organisations are responsible for implementation?*

The relevant Federal State ministries or agencies are responsible for carrying out waterbird conservation measures. In most of the Federal States there are bird conservation centres (*Vogelschutzwarten*), which are responsible for professionally drawing up and implementing conservation measures. In general this includes identification of protected areas for subsequent designation, but may also mean endeavours to conclude contracts for nature conservation without any formal designation (so called contract based nature protection / *Vertragsnaturschutz*). Due to the federal structure of Germany there is a huge variety of ideas, methods and purposeful activities.

Main parts of species conservation programmes are being realised by means of nature conservation contracts, but also by co-operation with nature conservation associations. Furthermore, nature conservation associations carry out important activities such as mapping and monitoring of many wild animal and plant species in Germany.

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

For the Federal Government the conservation of nature is one of the most important fields of action within the conservation of the environment.

For an effective conservation of threatened species, the consistent implementation of supranational legislation, such as the EC Directives is crucial, but the further development of existing international instruments is also an indispensable prerequisite. The AEWa-related measures are part of the overall strategy for the conservation of the diversity of wild animals and plants. Similarly, national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the integration of biodiversity concerns into other sectors are key components for the implementation of the Agreement at the national level. The adoption of the National Strategy on Biological Diversity in November 2007 represents a significant progress towards a holistic and systematic approach. The Strategy sets out qualitative and quantitative targets for the various ecosystem types – lakes, ponds, pools and lagoons, together with rivers and meadows, peatlands and groundwater ecosystems – as well as species and links these to EC legislation (Habitats Directive, Birds Directive, Water Framework Directive).

*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)?*

Pursuant to Art. 10 (2) No. 10 b) bb) BNatSchG, all European bird species are classified as specially protected. Furthermore, some waterbird species are also strictly protected. Classification of a species as strictly protected results either from its inclusion in Annex A of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulation (Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 on the Conservation of Species of Wild Fauna and Flora by Regulating Trade Therein) or in Annex I of the Federal Species Conservation Ordinance (*BArtSchV*). Table 1 lists the AEWA species that are included in Annex A of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulation.

The relevant provisions on the protection regime for waterbird species that are subject to hunting law in Germany pursuant to Article 2 para. 1 of the Federal Hunting Act (*Bundesjagdgesetz - BJagdG*) are dealt with in section 4.1.

**Table 1: Species that are listed in Annex A of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulation and thus are strictly protected in Germany pursuant to the Federal Nature Conservation Act (*BNatSchG*), and for which obligations pursuant to AEWA apply.**

Scientific name	German name	English name
<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	<i>Silberreiher</i>	<i>Great Egret</i>
<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	<i>Schwarzstorch</i>	<i>Black Stork</i>
<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	<i>Löffler</i>	<i>Common Spoonbill</i>
<i>Anas querquedula</i>	<i>Knäkente</i>	<i>Garganey</i>
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	<i>Moorente</i>	<i>Ferruginous Duck</i>
<i>Branta ruficollis</i>	<i>Rothalsgans</i>	<i>Red-breasted Goose</i>
<i>Grus grus</i>	<i>Kranich</i>	<i>Common Crane</i>

**Table 2: AEWA species that are strictly protected pursuant to Annex 1 of the Federal Species Conservation Ordinance (*Bundesartenschutzverordnung*).**

Scientific name	German Name	English Name
<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	<i>Purpureiher</i>	<i>Purple Heron</i>
<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	<i>Steinwälzer</i>	<i>Ruddy Turnstone</i>
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	<i>Moorente</i>	<i>Ferruginous Duck</i>
<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	<i>Rohrdommel</i>	<i>Eurasian Bittern</i>
<i>Calidris alpina</i>	<i>Alpenstrandläufer</i>	<i>Dunlin</i>
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	<i>Seeregenpfeifer</i>	<i>Kentish Plover</i>
<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	<i>Flussregenpfeifer</i>	<i>Little ringed Plover</i>
<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	<i>Sandregenpfeifer</i>	<i>Ringed Plover</i>
<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	<i>Weißflügelseeschwalbe</i>	<i>White-winged Tern</i>
<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	<i>Trauerseeschwalbe</i>	<i>Black Tern</i>
<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	<i>Weißstorch</i>	<i>White Stork</i>
<i>Crex crex</i>	<i>Wachtelkönig</i>	<i>Corn Crake</i>

<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>German Name</b>	<b>English Name</b>
<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	<i>Singschwan</i>	<i>Whooper Swan</i>
<i>Eudromias morinellus</i>	<i>Mornellregenpfeifer</i>	<i>Dotterel</i>
<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	<i>Bekassine</i>	<i>Common Snipe</i>
<i>Gallinago media</i>	<i>Doppelschnepfe</i>	<i>Great Snipe</i>
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	<i>Teichhuhn</i>	<i>Common Moorhen</i>
<i>Gavia immer</i>	<i>Eistaucher</i>	<i>Great Northern Diver</i>
<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	<i>Stelzenläufer</i>	<i>Black-winged Stilt</i>
<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	<i>Zwergdommel</i>	<i>Little Bittern</i>
<i>Limosa limosa</i>	<i>Uferschnepfe</i>	<i>Black-tailed Godwit</i>
<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	<i>Zwergschnepfe</i>	<i>Jack Snipe</i>
<i>Numenius arquata</i>	<i>Großer Brachvogel</i>	<i>Western Curlew</i>
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	<i>Nachtreiher</i>	<i>Black-crowned Night Heron</i>
<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	<i>Odinshühnchen</i>	<i>Red-necked Phalarope</i>
<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	<i>Kampfläufer</i>	<i>Ruff</i>
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	<i>Braunsichler</i>	<i>Glossy Ibis</i>
<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	<i>Goldregenpfeifer</i>	<i>European Golden Plover</i>
<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	<i>Ohrentaucher</i>	<i>Western Grebe</i>
<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	<i>Rothalstaucher</i>	<i>Red-necked Grebe</i>
<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	<i>Schwarzhalstaucher</i>	<i>Black-necked Grebe</i>
<i>Porzana parva</i>	<i>Kleines Sumpfhuhn</i>	<i>Little Crake</i>
<i>Porzana porzana</i>	<i>Tüpfelsumpfhuhn</i>	<i>Spotted Crake</i>
<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	<i>Zwergsumpfhuhn</i>	<i>Baillon's Crake</i>
<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	<i>Säbelschnäbler</i>	<i>Pied Avocet</i>
<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	<i>Zwergseeschwalbe</i>	<i>Little Tern</i>
<i>Sterna caspia</i>	<i>Raubseeschwalbe</i>	<i>Caspian Tern</i>
<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	<i>Rosenseeschwalbe</i>	<i>Roseate Tern</i>
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	<i>Flussseeschwalbe</i>	<i>Common Tern</i>
<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	<i>Küstenseeschwalbe</i>	<i>Arctic Tern</i>
<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	<i>Brandseeschwalbe</i>	<i>Sandwich Tern</i>
<i>Tringa glareola</i>	<i>Bruchwasserläufer</i>	<i>Wood Sandpiper</i>
<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	<i>Waldwasserläufer</i>	<i>Green Sandpiper</i>
<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	<i>Teichwasserläufer</i>	<i>Marsh Sandpiper</i>
<i>Tringa totanus</i>	<i>Rotschenkel</i>	<i>Common Redshank</i>
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	<i>Kiebitz</i>	<i>Northern Lapwing</i>

**Table 3: AEWA species listed in Annex A or B of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulation (Regulation (EC) No. 338/97).**

<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>German Name</b>	<b>English Name</b>	<b>App</b>
<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>	<i>Brillenpinguin</i>	<i>African Ppenguin</i>	B
<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	<i>Krauskopfpelikan</i>	<i>Dalmatian Pelican</i>	A
<i>Casmerodius albus albus</i>	<i>Silberreiher</i>	<i>Great Egret</i>	A
<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	<i>Schwarzstorch</i>	<i>Black Stork</i>	A

<i>Geronticus eremita</i>	<i>Waldrapp</i>	<i>Hermit Ibis</i>	A
<i>Platalea leucorodia leucorodia</i>	<i>Löffler</i>	<i>White Spoonbill</i>	A
<i>Platalea leucorodia major</i>	<i>Löffler (South Asian subspecies)</i>	<i>White Spoonbill (South Asian subspecies)</i>	A
<i>Phoenicopterus ruber roseus</i>	<i>Rosaflamingo</i>	<i>Greater Flamingo</i>	A
<i>Phoenicopterus minor</i>	<i>Zwergflamingo</i>	<i>Lesser Flamingo</i>	B
<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	<i>Weißkopfruderente</i>	<i>White-headed Duck</i>	A
<i>Branta ruficollis</i>	<i>Rothalsgans</i>	<i>Red-breasted Goose</i>	A
<i>Sarkididornis melanotos melanotos</i>	<i>Höckerente</i>	<i>Comb Duck</i>	B
<i>Anas querquedula</i>	<i>Knäkente</i>	<i>Garganey</i>	A
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	<i>Moorente</i>	<i>Ferruginous Duck</i>	A
<i>Grus leucogeranus</i>	<i>Nonnenkranich</i>	<i>Great white Crane</i>	A
<i>Grus virgo</i>	<i>Jungfernkranich</i>	<i>Demoiselle Crane</i>	B
<i>Grus paradisea</i>	<i>Paradieskranich</i>	<i>Blue Crane</i>	B
<i>Grus carunculatus</i>	<i>Lappenkranich</i>	<i>Wattled Crane</i>	B
<i>Grus grus</i>	<i>Kranich</i>	<i>Common Crane</i>	A
<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>	<i>Dünnschnabel-Brachvogel</i>	<i>Slender-billed Curlew</i>	A

*b. Methods of taking?*

Art. 12 of the Habitats Directive transposed by Art. 4 BArtSchV prohibits the use of the following means to take, lure, capture or kill wild birds of the specially protected species and vertebrate species that are not specially protected and not subject to hunting or fisheries legislation. (cf. also Chapter 4.1):

- Snares, nets, traps, hooks, glue and other adhesives;
- Use of live animal decoys;
- Crossbows;
- Artificial light sources, mirrors or other devices for illuminating or blinding;
- Acoustic, electrical or electronic devices;
- Fumigating and smoking out or the use of poison, poison or tranquilliser baits or other means of tranquillising;
- Semi-automatic or automatic weapons with magazines that can hold more than two cartridges, or night-vision equipment, with electronic image amplifiers or converters, that makes night-firing possible;
- Explosives;
- Vehicles or aircraft, or boats capable of speeds over 5 km/h.

Violations are subject to fines of up to 10,000 €.

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

No taking limits have been set for waterbirds in Germany. This also applies to the hunting sector (cf. Chapter 4).

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

No hunting of species listed in Column A and occurring in Germany is permitted. The Federal Hunting Season Ordinance (*Bundesjagdzeitenverordnung*) does not differentiate the central-European population of the Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*), where members of this population are present in Germany during migration, from other Greylag Goose populations. Geese of these populations are considered game animals and may be hunted in certain Federal States at certain times (cf. Chapter 4).

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

All of the populations listed in Column A are either specially protected under the BNatSchG (see above) or are game species with an all-year closed season. The only exception is the Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*), which also occurs in Germany. For the following Column B species, at least one Federal State has established a hunting season (cf. Table , page 55): Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*), central European / North African population of the Greylag Goose (*Anser anser anser*), Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis*), Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla*), Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*), Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) and Velvet Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*). Taking of these species from their natural environments is seasonally restricted, but no bag limits have been established.

Exceptions from species conservation provisions of nature conservation law have to comply with Art. 43 or Art. 62 BNatSchG which conform to the provisions of number 2.1.3 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?*
- b. In preparation?*
- c. Being implemented?*

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

Germany is required to prepare national Single Species Action Plans for 18 of the populations listed in Table 1, column A of the AEWA Action Plan. These populations are listed in Table 4. In Germany, the Federal States are responsible for preparing the national Single Species Action Plans. National species action plans have not yet been established in Germany. However, the Working Group on bird conservation centres of the Federal States (*Länderarbeitsgemeinschaft der Vogelschutzwarten*) has agreed that as a matter of priority the Frankfurt Bird Protection Centre will begin by elaborating an action plan for the Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*). In Lower Saxony, moreover, there is a species help programme for the central European breeding population of the European Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria altifrons*). While this is not, formally speaking, an AEWA Action Plan, it can be integrated into a European Golden Plover action plan yet to be formulated pursuant to AEWA. A working group for the protection of European Golden Plovers has been established. It is composed of the Upper Nature Protection Authority, the State Peatland Administration (*Staatliche Moorverwaltung*), the Lower Nature Protection Authorities, the county council hunters organisation (*Kreisjägermeister*) of the districts concerned, as well as several nature protection associations and headed by the State Bird Protection Centre. It is intended to implement a programme of work devoted to research and analysis of causes as well as the intensification of protection measures and focusing primarily on protection and research, predation and habitat development. With respect to research, co-operation has begun with the “Vogelwarte Helgoland” ornithological institute at Wilhelmshaven and the University of Vechta. The protection measures are intended to secure, respectively improve, breeding success in the short term through direct measure taken at the nest and by keeping away predators. In the medium term they are supposed to establish suitable breeding habitats and feeding grounds by renaturing ombrotrophic moors. The long-term aim is to create a viable central European population of the European Golden Plover in renatured ombrotrophic (lowland) moors.

For seven populations international Single Species Action Plans should be prepared with German co-operation. Action plans for the following species relevant to AEWA were drafted by experts with the support of BfN on behalf of the European Commission: Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*), Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*), Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*), Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*), Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*), Corn Crake (*Crex crex*), Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*), Common Gull (*Larus canus*), Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*), White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*), Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*), Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*), White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) endangered by the competitive invasive alien species Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*), Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*), Eurasian Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*), Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*), and Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*).

The adoption of some of these action plans proved difficult, however, since from the German point of view they are not sufficiently taking account of threats to these species due to hunting in other EU Member States.

Finally, Germany welcomes the fact that the AEWA Secretariat has taken the initiative to update and revise the Single Species Action Plan for the Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*).

**Table 4: AEWA populations listed in Table 1, column A for which Germany is required to prepare national Single Species Action Plans.**

German name	English name	Scientific name	Population	Category	Intern. SSAP
Purpurreiher	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea p. purpurea</i>	W Europe, W Mediterranean/ W Africa	A / 2	
Silberreiher	Great White Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus albus</i>	W, C & SE Europe/ Black Sea & Mediterranean	A / 2	
Gr. Rohrdommel	Gr. Eurasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus s. stellaris</i>	Europe (bre)	A / 3c	
Schwarzstorch	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	C & E Europe/ Sub-Saharan Africa	A / 2	
Löffler	White Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia leucorodia</i>	W Europe/ W Mediterranean & W Africa	A / 1c	X
Zwergschwan	Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>	W Siberia & NE Europe/ NW Europe	A / 3c	
Ringelgans	Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	Svalbard / DK & UK	A / 1c	X
Moorente	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	E Europe/ E Mediterranean & Sahelian Africa	A / 1a 3c	X
Zwergsäger	Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	NW & C Europe (win)	A / 3a	
Wachtelkönig	Corn Crake	<i>Crex crex</i>	Europe & W Asia/ Sahelian Africa	A / 1b	X
Goldregenpfeifer	European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria apricaria</i>	Britain, Ireland, Denmark, Germany & Baltic (bre)	A / 3c*	X
Seeregenpfeifer	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius a. alexandrinus</i>	W Europe & W Mediterranean/ W Africa	A / 3c	
Mornellregenpfeifer	Eurasian Dotterel	<i>Eudromias morinellus</i>	Europe/ NW Africa	A / (3c)	
Alpenstrandläufer	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i>	Baltic/ SW Europe & NW Africa	A / 1c	X

German name	English name	Scientific name	Population	Category	Intern. SSAP
Lachseeschwalbe	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Sterna n. nilotica</i>	W Europe/ W Africa	A / 2	
Raubseeschwalbe	Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia caspia</i>	Europe (bre)	A / 1c	X
Zwergseeschwalbe	Little Tern	<i>Sterna a. albifrons</i>	E Atlantic (bre)	A / 3b	
Weißbartseeschwalbe	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus hybridus</i>	W Europe & NW Africa (bre)	3c	

## 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.*

The Federal Republic of Germany is obligated, via a number of Agreements, to co-operate in emergency measures responding to incidents in the North Sea, the Baltic Sea and in trans-boundary rivers, which threaten flora and fauna. This also applies to situations that threaten populations of AEWA species (pursuant to 2.3 of the AEWA Action Plan).

### Provisions for co-operation in case of incidents in the North Sea area:

In the interest of joint protection of the North Sea against pollution, the countries bordering the North Sea – Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the UK – and the European Union concluded the Bonn Agreement for co-operation in dealing with pollution of the North Sea by oil and other harmful substances.

This agreement requires its Parties to provide mutual assistance and information in order to minimise pollution of the North Sea.

Pursuant to Articles 3 and 4, the Parties are to inform each other about their specific organisation and measures for pollution prevention, and to inform each other as to their competent authorities for managing unexpected pollution events. A common high standard of information is to be achieved via exchange of research findings, knowledge and experience relative to controlling pollution and reducing its effects.

Pursuant to Art. 7, Parties to the agreement affected by unexpected sea pollution can mutually request support in responding to the incident. Also pursuant to Art. 7, states called on for assistance are required to provide assistance in keeping with their technical resources.

At the bilateral level, the Federal Republic of Germany has concluded additional agreements, with Denmark and the Netherlands, to guard against sea pollution.

The “Netherlands-German Joint Maritime Contingency Plan on Combating Oil and other Harmful Substances” (*NETHGER-Plan*) provides for close co-operation in combating sea

pollution. Pursuant to point 1.4 of the NETHGER-Plan, the Netherlands and Germany consider themselves mutually responsible for combating threats and occurrences of pollution in the area covered by the agreement, regardless of the degrees to which they are individually affected. Similar provisions apply under the DENGER-Plan that Germany and Denmark have put in place.

Provisions for co-operation in case of incidents in the Baltic Sea area:

As set forth in Article 3, the most important purpose of the Helsinki Convention (*HELCOM - Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area*), which all countries bordering the Baltic Sea are Parties to, is to prevent and eliminate pollution in order to promote the ecological restoration of the Baltic Sea Area and the preservation of its ecological balance. The contracting Parties have the fundamental obligation of taking all possible measures to jointly prevent and combat sea pollution.

The Helsinki Convention also contains obligations similar to those of the Bonn Agreement for the North Sea. Pursuant to Art. 13, whenever a pollution incident in the territory of a contracting Party is likely to cause pollution of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea Area, the contracting Party must notify without delay the other contracting Parties whose interests are affected or are likely to be affected. Art. 14 of the Convention obliges the contracting Parties to combat pollution threats, either individually or jointly.

Annex VII (Response to pollution incidents) of the Helsinki Convention contains further provisions regarding the obligations of the contracting Parties. These obligations include

- Taking suitable measures that enable the contracting Parties to respond effectively to pollution incidents (for example, with trained personnel and suitable equipment);
- In keeping with their technical means, co-operating with other contracting Parties in combating pollution;
- Preparing detailed national contingency plans, as well as bilateral and multilateral plans with other contracting Parties, as appropriate, for response when pollution incidents are likely to occur;
- Co-operating in surveillance of the Baltic Sea area (also in order to spot and monitor intentional releases of pollutants into the sea) and
- Endeavouring to establish response regimes outside of national boundaries.

In addition, the European Council of Ministers agreed to an extensive package of measures for the conservation of coastlines as well as the ocean environment at its meeting in Brussels on 6 December 2002. All the Heads of State or Government confirmed these measures during their meeting held in Copenhagen on Dec 12/13, 2001. This package is of a high standard and stipulates that measures already existing must be implemented more quickly. On the other hand further action is needed. For short-term implementation, the following measures will be taken in Germany:

### 1. Emergency berth places

Ships that find themselves in dangerous situations must be helped also by providing harbours or secure anchorage. A respective draft guideline already exists in Germany. It plans to provide a chain of 40 emergency berth places. The draft was adopted at the Federal Government level and was presented to the Federal States at the end of October 2004.

### 2. Transit routes for tankers

In the Baltic Sea it is still necessary to further improve maritime safety, especially for ships carrying dangerous cargoes.

A legal basis for mandatory pilotage in international waters does not exist so that mandatory pilotage cannot be introduced in the Cadet Channel. Routing measures that have been introduced have led to relevant improvements already.

### 3. Transportation of heavy oil to German harbours only by tankers equipped with double skin

It is intended to prohibit the transportation of heavy oil and other dangerous material to German harbours by tankers equipped with only one skin. The Federal Government is designing an administrative agreement in co-operation with the coastal states, containing the necessary provisions regarding the ban on entering harbours.

### 4. Intensified implementation of State Port control

In Germany 25% inspection quota required according to the international standards for pollution prevention and shipboard living and working conditions (State port control) is surpassed. In this context the quality of the inspections has improved considerably. The intensified inspections of ships – relevant in Europe from mid-2003 – have been carried out in German harbours since January 2003.

### 5. Responsibility of flag states

Within the International Maritime Organization Germany will push for an obligation of so-called flag of convenience states to subject themselves to external assessment procedures (audit). In the long run it is planned that only flag states that have successfully undergone this audit will be allowed to take part in international maritime traffic.

### 6. Supplementary fund of liability for oil

The existing International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage established in 1992 needs to be improved. Among other countries, Germany took the initiative to raise liability sums to around 1,000 million US\$ (750 million SDR - *Special Drawing Rights*).

### 7. Fast and comprehensive implementation of AIS

With the aid of the Automatic Ship Identification System (AIS) it is largely possible to get information on the entire flow of traffic. It is intended to have this system ready for use at the international level as soon as possible. In Germany this system is already a reality. As from 2008 all ships with more than 300 gross register tons will be equipped with an AIS device. World-wide all sea-going vessels must have this system. Discussions are taking place internationally concerning a closer deadline by which all ships will have to install this system.

In order to implement the Agreements in Germany there is a common institution to co-ordinate procedures in case of accidents at sea. Since 1 January 2003 the Central Command for Maritime Emergencies (*Havariekommando*) of both the Federal Government and the coastal Federal States situated in Cuxhaven has been operational. The Central Command for Maritime Emergencies is a competence centre for prevention in case of maritime emergencies. The core part of this institution is a maritime operation centre working 24 hours a day, where all relevant information converges. The centre is staffed equally by personnel from the Federal Waterways and Shipping Administration (*Wasser- und Schifffahrtsverwaltung des Bundes*) and the harbour police of the coastal states. During day-to-day operations, the Headquarters act as a competence centre for controlling pollution disasters, controlling ship fires, taking care of injured persons, as well as for public relations activities. In case of serious disasters the Head of the Central Command for Maritime Emergencies is the official in charge of operations.

The Central Command for Maritime Emergencies is supported by an “Environmental Expert Group on Impacts of Pollution Incidents”, which was established by the BMU and which co-operates closely with environmental authorities and research institutions. The Group contributes to implementing the precautionary principle by keeping abreast of the latest knowledge and findings on environmental impacts of accidents involving pollutants, analysing this information with a view to informing the decisions of the Central Command and making its multidisciplinary expertise available to the Command. In September 2006 the Group published an expert opinion on the issue of “Treatment of Contaminated Birds Following Oil Pollution Incidents”<sup>9</sup>, which was made available to the Central Command.

#### Provisions for co-operation in case of incidents on trans-boundary rivers:

With regard to trans-boundary European river basins, the countries concerned have established “International Commissions”. The Federal Republic of Germany is a member of the Commissions for the trans-boundary river basins Odra, Rhine, Elbe, Danube, Meuse, Moselle and Saar.

The commissions established for the above rivers are

- International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe (IKSE). Location: Magdeburg;
- International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (IKSR). Location: Koblenz;
- International Commission for the Protection of the Danube (IKSD). Location: Vienna;
- International Commission for the Protection of the Odra (IKSO). Location: Wrocław;
- International Commission for the Protection of the Moselle and the Saar (IKSMS). Location: Trier;

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<sup>9</sup> [http://www.bmu.de/files/pdfs/allgemein/application/pdf/kontaminierte\\_voegel\\_stellungnahme\\_experten\\_9-2006.pdf](http://www.bmu.de/files/pdfs/allgemein/application/pdf/kontaminierte_voegel_stellungnahme_experten_9-2006.pdf)

- International Meuse Commission (IMC). Location: Liège.

These commissions are *inter alia* charged with monitoring water quality in the relevant rivers. When certain threshold values are exceeded – for example, when accidents occur on the rivers – warning and alerting plans go into effect, providing for forwarding of information to the responsible national authorities. The agencies responsible for combating water pollution from pollution incidents include fire departments, the technical assistance agency (*Technisches Hilfswerk*) and the relevant waterway and shipping administrations.

## 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.*

Planning of re-establishments, like efforts to deal with neozoa (cf. Chap. 2.6), must take account of Art. 39 BNatSchG. Pursuant to this provision, the tasks of species protection include establishment of displaced wild animals and plants in suitable biotopes within their natural ranges.

Art. 41 BNatSchG subjects establishment of all animal species – especially including non-native species – to permit requirements. As a result, re-establishments are subject to the approval of the competent Federal State authorities.

Since the BNatSchG is a framework act, the Federal States may enact further provisions relative to re-establishments. The competent Federal State authorities are also responsible for re-establishment projects.

In addition to provisions of the BNatSchG, provisions of hunting law also apply when possible re-establishments involve game animal species (cf. Art. 28 BJagdG).

In 1981 in Germany, the predecessor to the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), the Federal Research Institute for Nature Conservation and Landscape Ecology, issued scientific “Recommendations for the re-establishment of endangered animals”<sup>10</sup>. Its core statements are still valid and are found at the international level in more recent guidelines (for example, International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources - IUCN 2001). It should, however, be noted that these recommendations are not legally binding in Germany.

Pursuant to NOWAK (1982), the following aspects (that largely agree with the requirements set forth in 2.4 of the AEWa Action Plan) must be taken into account in re-establishment of animal species:

1. Re-establishments may be considered only for species that, in spite of active, intensive efforts to protect their remaining populations, are unable (and will remain so in the foreseeable future) to re-populate their former range areas naturally.

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<sup>10</sup> NOWAK 1982

2. Any re-establishment should be preceded by studies to determine the reasons for the disappearance or decline of the relevant species.
3. Re-establishments must take place within the relevant species' current or historical ranges and in suitable biotopes.
4. Before animals are re-established, release sites must be carefully selected for optimal suitability, and any threats must be eliminated and targeted management measures must be carried out.
5. A forecast of the success of the planned re-establishment project must be prepared, making use of scientific methods and comparable experience, and analysing all possible consequences of the re-establishment (economic, epizootic, ecological).
6. The local public and all relevant interest groups must be informed about the aims and procedures of the planned project, in the interest of obtaining such stakeholders' approval or support.
7. No measures may be used that contradict other nature conservation aims – for example, measures to cull or exterminate populations of other species are not permitted.
8. Procurement and release of the relevant species must conform to applicable laws (capture permit, CITES, import-export regulations, animal-welfare law – and, possibly, requirements to obtain a release permit, etc.).
9. Animals should be released only if they are taxonomically and ecologically identical – or at least similar – to the former population.
10. Animals may not be taken, for re-establishment purposes, from populations that would be endangered by such taking.
11. In carrying out re-establishments, the following must be observed:
  - a. Suitable preparation must be made in order to facilitate the animals' adjustment to their new habitat;
  - b. The animals must be able to behave in a natural way;
  - c. The animals must be able to increase their numbers rapidly.
12. Re-established animals must be continually supported and monitored until they are integrated within the local biocoenosis.
13. Projects should be appropriately limited in duration, to ensure that releases do not continue permanently without any chance of real re-establishment.
14. All relevant efforts must be carefully documented. The resulting records should be available for scientific analysis.
15. Re-establishments should take place in two phases:
  - a. First, in a closely limited area, until it is known whether true re-establishment is possible and then, if so;
  - b. And if suitable biotopes are present, at several points throughout the species' former range.

16. Member States should co-ordinate, and agree on, re-establishments internationally. Regeneration of habitats, to permit natural re-establishment, is even more important than re-establishment of waterbird species that used to live in certain landscapes.

Just one project for the re-establishment of an AEWA waterbird species has been carried out, concerning the White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) in Rhineland-Palatinate and the Saarland<sup>11</sup>. In the framework of the White Stork project in the Saarland, nesting helpers are provided and habitats are optimised by respective biotope management. The establishment of two breeding pairs can be considered a success.

## Introductions

*2.6 Has your country developed and implemented legal measures to prohibit the introduction of non-native 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 and guidelines to prevent threats to native wild plant and animal species through introduction of non-native species can be divided into the following categories: provisions of international agreements, provisions of European directives and regulations and provisions of national law.

Like CMS (Art. III 4. c)) and AEWA (Art. III 2. (g)), the Bern Convention (Art II (2) b)) and the CBD (guiding principles on invasive species) are international agreements that require efforts to prevent or that prohibit introduction of non-native species.

At the European level, the EC Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) calls on Member States to ensure that any introduction of wild bird species does not have a negative effect on native bird species (Art. 11). In addition, Article 22 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) states that Member States must ensure that “the deliberate introduction into the wild of any species which is not native to their territory is regulated so as not to prejudice natural habitats within their range or the wild native fauna and flora.”

At the national level in Germany, the BNatSchG regulates introduction of neozoa that could have negative impacts on native animal species. Pursuant to § 41, paragraph 2, it is the task of the Federal States to adopt suitable measures to avert the risk of adulteration of the fauna and flora associated with the establishment and dispersion of alien species of fauna and flora. Furthermore, the BNatSchG in conjunction with the BArtSchV prohibits the ownership and marketing of species which may adulterate or endanger the flora and fauna (§ 42, paragraph 3, no. 2 of the BNatSchG in conjunction with § 3 of the BArtSchV). In the area of hunting, the Federal Hunting Act (*Bundesjagdgesetz - BJagdG*) contains provisions regulating the release and establishment of alien species in the wild. Other laws that regulate releases of

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<sup>11</sup> STOLTZ & HELB 2004

non-native species in Germany include the Animal Welfare Act (*Tierschutzgesetz*) and the fishery legislation of the Federal States.

The National Strategy on Biological Diversity cites the drafting of a national strategy to protect against invasive species as one of its goals. The measures envisioned by the strategy include the implementation of international and national provisions to prevent the spread and introduction of invasive species. In the chapter on water bodies, lakes, ponds and rivers, reference is explicitly made to the risk of entrainment and appropriate preventive measures for wetland ecosystems. The sector strategy on agro-biodiversity also includes approaches to addressing the sector-specific requirements of agriculture, forestry and fisheries to protect against invasive non-native species.

Measures and control mechanisms to prevent introduction and release of non-native species are difficult to put into practice. Normally, such introduction can be prevented only at national borders and airports, i.e. at points where customs officials carry out random and spot checks. In German seaports, introduced species can be discovered only through random checks. Animal enclosures and aviaries can also be sources of introduction of non-native species. Legal provisions that permit control of animal enclosures and aviaries (as set forth in 2.5.2 of the AEWA Action Plan) are in place.

In accordance with the CBD's three-stage approach for dealing with invasive species, the main emphasis is on preventive measures rather than management measures. Concerning neobiota, insofar as their introduction could not be prevented by precautionary measures, the BfN recommends the following: A decision as to the acceptance, control or restriction should be taken on the basis of the best possible knowledge of the biology of the invasive species. The last of the aforementioned options should be chosen only in case of immediate threat to endangered species and if it is ensured that the habitat concerned can be returned to an ecologically stable condition or if its long-term conservation in this condition is ensured. Accordingly:

- Species already established should be considered neutral or should be accepted, insofar as there is no proof that they are invasive;
- Measures to control or reduce species proven to be invasive should be taken on a case-by-case basis (i.e. in a manner specific to the species and its habitat);
- Species whose behaviour is not yet sufficiently studied should remain under continuous observation in order to be able to make an assessment as to their status.

Of the 163 non-native species of birds occurring in Germany, 15 are considered established, 138 not established. The status of 10 species is uncertain<sup>12</sup>.

Table 5 shows the waterbird species that have definitely become established as neozoa in Germany. "Definitely established" means that specimens of the species concerned gave rise

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<sup>12</sup> BUNDESAMT FÜR NATURSCHUTZ 2005

to the establishment of a reproducing population in the wild that has survived within the country for the period of 25 years and/or three generations without human assistance<sup>13</sup>.

**Table 5: Waterbird neozoa that have become definitely established in Germany (according to BAUER & BEZZEL 2001)**

Scientific name	origin	Reason established	Status
<i>Branta canadensis</i>	North America	Introduced <sup>14</sup>	Breeding bird
<i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>	Africa	Escaped from parks <sup>15</sup>	Breeding bird
<i>Aix galericulata</i>	East Asia	Escaped from parks, escaped from captivity	Local breeder

<sup>13</sup> GEBHARDT et al. 1998; BUNDESAMT FÜR NATURSCHUTZ 2005

<sup>14</sup> Presumably mostly invaded from Sweden (and UK?).

<sup>15</sup> Immigrated from Western Europe (BeNeLux).

### 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.*

Germany has a National Wetland Inventory; however, this was not developed systematically in a single operation, but instead has evolved gradually over the course of several decades. Today, it is comprised of various sub-inventories of wetland types (e.g. peatlands, lakes, watercourses, sea inlets, Wadden Sea) which are continuously extended, supplemented and updated. The precise number of inventoried wetlands is not known. The competent authorities of the Federal States collate data on the various wetland types (watercourses, lakes, peatlands, wetland meadows, river meadows etc.) according to various criteria (biotope protection, water conservation, flood control, water supply) and methods (e.g. biotope mapping at the site, colour/infrared aerial picture or satellite picture evaluation), and process this information with the aid of databases and geographical information systems (GIS). All data are available to the authorities and other institutions for evaluation of the wetlands, for designating protected areas and planning, and for management and monitoring of the wetlands. This information is also available to all interest groups and interested members of the general public, firstly via publication on the Internet, on the homepages of the environmental, nature conservation, agriculture, water and other specialist authorities at the Federal State or Federal level, and secondly for viewing directly at the offices of the relevant authorities.

Besides this general national wetland inventory, an inventory of the German Ramsar sites<sup>16</sup> containing important habitats for species listed in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan (according to 3.1.1 of the AEWA Action Plan) was published already in 1993. Subject to further studies, it is assumed that the existing Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive cover the set of sites relevant under AEWA, and that the IBA inventory of SUDFELDT et al.<sup>17</sup> (cf. 3.2) sufficiently fulfils independent inventory needs.

A list of Special Protection Areas was published in the *Bundesanzeiger (Federal Gazette)* on 26 July 2007. A table providing an overview of these areas can be found on the BfN website<sup>18</sup>. Based on the numbers of staging and /or wintering waterbirds, 134 SPAs qualify as Wetlands of International Importance<sup>19</sup>. The first “Updated List of Areas of Community Importance” pursuant to the Habitats Directive was adopted by the European Commission on

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<sup>16</sup> ZENTRALE FÜR WASSERVOGELFORSCHUNG UND FEUCHTGEBIETSSCHUTZ IN DEUTSCHLAND 1993

<sup>17</sup> SUDFELDT et al. 2002a

<sup>18</sup> [http://www.bfn.de/fileadmin/MDB/documents/themen/natura2000/meldestand\\_spa.pdf](http://www.bfn.de/fileadmin/MDB/documents/themen/natura2000/meldestand_spa.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> SUDFELDT & WAHL 2007

12 and 13 November 2007 (for the Continental and Atlantic regions) respectively on 25 January 2008 for the Alpine region. This list contains all areas designated by Germany for these regions, with the exception of the “Unterems and Außenems” area, pending a court decision at the national level, and offshore areas in the territorial waters of the Baltic Sea off Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, which were notified to the European Commission in April 2008. This list contains a large number of wetland areas which are important for waterbirds.

At the Federal State level, such an inventory of important habitats for AEWA species with respect to the conservation aims for waders and waterbirds, based on the evaluation of the Ordinance on the Designation of European Bird Protection Areas and their Delimitation and Aims (*Verordnung über die Festlegung von Europäischen Vogelschutzgebieten sowie deren Gebietsbegrenzungen und Erhaltungszielen - VoGeV*), could be established for Bavaria, since the most important areas have been designated as SPAs. Additionally, the Bavarian Agency for Nature Conservation is currently in the process of assessing resting and breeding grounds in order to draw up an inventory of habitats of national importance for waterbirds.

In Baden-Württemberg, the species covered by the Agreement are included in the “Red List and Annotated Inventory of Bird Species Breeding in Baden-Württemberg”<sup>20</sup>. In the course of the designation process for Bird Protection Areas, the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg has also published an overview of the species listed in Table 1 of AEWA and their habitat needs, and issued recommendations for action to conserve these species of birds in the bird protection areas.

In Schleswig-Holstein, the most recent report on “Monitoring of Resting Birds in the Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea, 1987 – 2004” contains an overview of habitats and populations of breeding birds in the Wadden Sea. Moreover, the “Analysis of the International Waterbird Census Carried Out by the ‘Ornithologische Arbeitsgemeinschaft’ (OAG) in eastern Schleswig-Holstein (interior and Baltic Sea coast)” contains an up-to-date inventory of wetlands of international and national importance.

In Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, a general inventory assessment of the important resting sites has been undertaken for the lakes and lagoons as well as for the offshore waters with the aim of identifying those areas which have to be designated as SPAs<sup>21</sup>. An updated, comprehensive inventory (not only focusing on the most important sites, but also those sites of lower significance) has been elaborated in 2007 and is currently under final revision. It will be available by September 2008<sup>22</sup>.

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<sup>20</sup> [http://www.lubw.baden-wuerttemberg.de/servlet/is/34758/rote\\_liste\\_brutvogelarten.pdf?command=downloadContent&filename=rote\\_liste\\_brutvogelarten.pdf](http://www.lubw.baden-wuerttemberg.de/servlet/is/34758/rote_liste_brutvogelarten.pdf?command=downloadContent&filename=rote_liste_brutvogelarten.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> Kranichschutz Deutschland gGmbH

<sup>22</sup> I.L.N. Greifswald & IfAÖ

*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.*

On the basis of regular waterbird monitoring, the DDA has identified a total of 207 Important Bird Areas (IBAs)<sup>23</sup> that can be of particular importance for waterbird populations listed in Table 1. Many of these areas are either already, or will be, protected as SPAs under the EC Birds Directive.

More detailed studies are available for individual Federal States<sup>24</sup>. The distribution of seabirds in the Baltic and North Seas was mapped in the course of Federal Research and Development Projects (R+D); the results were published by MITSCHKE et al. (2001) and GARTHE et al. (2003). A study by GÜNTHER, K. (2006) on monitoring of resting birds in the Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea, 1987 – 2004, was published by the Landesbetrieb für Küstenschutz, Nationalpark und Meeresschutz and submitted as a report to the National Park Administration. The following study is under preparation: KIECKBUSCH, J.J.: “Zur Bedeutung der Gewässer des östlichen Schleswig-Holsteins für rastende Wasservögel” (“On the Importance of eastern Schleswig-Holstein Waters for Resting Waterbirds”).

### **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.)*

In the Federal Republic of Germany, protection of sites is governed by the BNatSchG. The fourth section of this Act defines a total of six options for protecting sites that are also important within the meaning of AEWA (3.2.2 in the action plan).

The following passage provides an overview of the various protection categories. It also presents examples of implementation of protection for sites of international importance with regard to bird migration.

One important instrument for protecting sites is the “Nature Conservation Areas” (*Naturschutzgebiete* - NSG). Pursuant to Art. 23 BNatSchG, NSGs are protected sites established by law to provide special protection for nature and landscapes. In general, areas are designated as NSGs in order to protect their biotopes and biocoenosis of wild plants and animals and their areas of special scientific, natural-historical or cultural-historical value. Other criteria for NSG status include rareness (of species), special area characteristics and unusual area beauty.

<sup>23</sup> SUDFELDT et al. 2002b

<sup>24</sup> E.g. ABBO 2003; SCHELLER et al. 2002; MELTER & SCHREIBER 2000; LUBW Landesanstalt für Umwelt, Messungen und Naturschutz Baden-Württemberg 2004

In NSGs, all actions are prohibited that could destroy, damage or change the relevant areas. Beside national parks (see below), NSGs are the most strictly and most comprehensively protected sites under German nature conservation law, since their status makes it possible to enact ordinances that prohibit any and all changes in them.

NSGs are usually designated at the Federal State level – usually by the relevant higher or supreme nature conservation authority – via ordinance. An ordinance for the designation of an NSG describes:

- The area to be protected;
- The purpose of the protection;
- Relevant prohibitions;
- Permitted actions;
- Management and care measures and
- Exemptions and administrative offences.

Depending on the Federal State nature conservation act in question, ordinances can also be enacted to prohibit actions outside an NSG that could endanger the reserve. When a site is acutely threatened, it can be protected temporarily (“*Einstweilige Unterschutzstellung*”), prior to its actual formal designation as an NSG, for a period of two to five years. During this period, no changes are permitted, and nature conservation authorities receive a pre-emptive right of purchase in any sales of land within the planned NSG.

Temporary protections played an important role in the new German Federal States after German reunification in 1990, when they were used to prevent sites from being destroyed as the infrastructure was rapidly being expanded.

By Dec 31, 2006, Germany had a total of 7,923 NSGs, taking up a total area of 3.3% of the country’s territory<sup>25</sup>. Compared to 1997, the overall area of nature protection areas has therefore increased by 30%. On the one hand, this shows that many types of biotopes and parts of the landscape continue to be endangered, but on the other hand it also testifies to the ability of the Nature Conservation Agencies of the Federal States to take action.

Large sites that have special, unique characteristics, and that largely meet criteria for NSGs, can be declared “National Parks” (*Nationalparks*) pursuant to Art. 24 BNatSchG. National parks are protected sites, established by law, that receive uniform levels of protection (in zones; see below). At the time it is designated, a national park must be free, or nearly free, of human impacts, or it must be capable of being developed towards a status where natural processes can take place undisturbed, with their natural dynamics, throughout most of the park’s area.

The first German national park was the Bavarian Forest (*Bayerischer Wald*) Park. It was designated in 1970. Today there are 14 National Parks in Germany. They are listed in Table 6 (Appendix 2). Currently, German national parks cover an area of 962.146 ha (194.304 without mud flats and marine areas) and make up 0.54% of the terrestrial surface of

<sup>25</sup> BUNDESAMT FÜR NATURSCHUTZ 2008

Germany. Since the last report, the Harz and Hochharz National Parks have been merged into a single Harz National Park, straddling the borders of the Federal States concerned. Except for the Bayerischer Wald, Berchtesgaden and Jasmund National Parks, German national parks, according to DAHL et al. (2000), are referred to as “target national parks” (“*Ziel-Nationalparks*”). This means that they only partly fulfil criteria for undisturbed natural development and that they have management plans that set forth by when the most important aims are to be attained. The IUCN mandates that 75% of a national park’s total area must be in a largely natural condition, and must not be subject to any uses, if it is to be internationally recognised in IUCN’s category II.

In Germany, designations are carried out by the Federal States, in consultation with the BMU and the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs (*BMVBS*), via the adoption of a national park act.

National parks are normally divided into three zones:

- In the core zone (zone I), all uses are prohibited – i.e. this is the zone of natural succession;
- The development zone (zone IIa) is to develop into a core zone in the course of time, i.e. initial measures for this purpose may be carried out in it;
- In the management zone (zone IIb), biotope management is permitted for reasons of species and biotope protection; and
- The recreational zone (zone III) contains settlements and areas heavily frequented by tourists.

Zoning for each national park is defined by the relevant national park act. Zone III is not necessarily required. Tourist facilities, for example, may be placed outside the national park boundaries. For instance, zone III is not included in the Unteres Odertal National Park.

Sites are protected as Biosphere Reserves (*Biosphärenreservate*), pursuant to Art. 25 BNatSchG, if they are large, characteristic of certain landscape types and meet criteria, throughout much of their area, for NSGs and LSGs (see below).

Biosphere reserves have the purpose of conserving, developing or restoring landscapes shaped by particular types of uses, along with the landscapes’ diversity of species and biotopes. Such diversity includes both the wild and cultivated forms of economically used or useful plants and animals.

Biosphere reserves are large, representative sections of nature and landscapes that should serve as models. They should be showcases for exemplary concepts, put into action, for protecting, managing and developing landscapes – also in the context of relationships between people and the environment.

They are divided into three zones – known as core area, buffer zone and transition area. Each zone is defined in terms of the anthropogenic influence it is subject to:

- The core area, which must take up at least 3% of the biosphere reserve’s area, must be protected as a national park or NSG. In the core area of a biosphere reserve, uses are prohibited in the same way as in the core zone of a national park;

- The buffer zone, which should also be designated as a national park or NSG, is used for conserving and caring for ecosystems that have arisen through human uses and harbour rare plants and animals. Together, the core area and buffer zone should make up at least 20% of the biosphere reserve's area;
- The transition area is an area in which the local population lives, works and engages in recreation. In comparison with the other two types of zones, the transition area takes up the largest area.

The biosphere reserve protection category was not added to the Federal Nature Conservation Act until 1998. At the international level UNESCO has recognised biosphere reserves since 1970 in the framework of its “Man and the Biosphere” (*MAB*) programme.

The 13 biosphere reserves recognised in Germany to date are shown in Table 7 (Appendix 2). They currently cover approximately 1,658,641 ha (991,681 ha of terrestrial area, corresponding to 2.8% of the terrestrial area of Germany). Since the last report no further biosphere reserves have been designated. In 2008, the Federal States of Baden-Württemberg and Saarland will apply to have the Swabian Alb and Bliesgau declared biosphere reserves.

Another option in site protection is the “Landscape Protection Area” (*Landschaftsschutzgebiet - LSG*). Unlike NSGs, LSGs, pursuant to Art. 26 BNatSchG, serve to preserve or restore the vitality of the balance of nature, or to preserve or restore the usability of natural resources.

LSGs are also designated on the basis of their diversity, unique characteristics or landscape beauty, as well as their importance in recreation. The BNatSchG prohibits all actions in LSGs that could impair or destroy the protected sites.

While all changes in NSGs are prohibited, prohibitions applying to LSGs are individually established in the relevant ordinances. In each case, actions not mentioned in the ordinance are considered permissible. Construction or development within the protected area is possible only in the case of suspension of the ordinance possible. Species and biotope protection does not play a primary role in LSGs. As described above, LSGs can serve as transition areas in biosphere reserves. As of 31 December 2006, a total of 7,229 Landscape Protection Areas with a total area of 10.8 million ha had been designated in the Federal Republic of Germany. They take up some 30% of Germany's area<sup>26</sup>.

Another category of large protected areas, in addition to national parks, biosphere reserves and landscape reserves, is the “Nature Park” (*Naturpark*). Nature parks, pursuant to Art. 27 BNatSchG, are large sites that are made up largely of areas with LSGs or NSGs, and that have landscape assets that make them particularly suitable for recreation.

Areas are designated as nature parks in order to protect large, semi-natural cultural landscapes and to preserve the relevant sites' unique character and beauty. They serve as regional tourist attractions, and they provide recreational space for city dwellers.

<sup>26</sup> [http://bfm.de/0308\\_lsg.html](http://bfm.de/0308_lsg.html)

German nature parks are still very heterogeneous. The statutory aim of cultivating and developing the parks is pursued in many different ways in the various nature parks and Federal States. Among other things, this is due to the differing structures established by the various funding and management agencies and Federal States, to the differing legal regulations and differences of emphasis in the conception of the nature parks and their statutes and also to the different organisations funding and managing the parks. In some cases, parks are administered by the environmental administration of the Federal State they are located in, in others this role is assumed by societies or associations of various kinds. In some Federal States nature park plans are required by law. Nature park administrations should be as independent as possible and should be provided with sufficient funding and staff. Nature park plans should be drafted and continuously updated. Conclusions as to the quality of individual nature parks cannot be drawn merely on the basis of their various organisational structures.

Due to their aim of combining protection and use of cultivated landscapes, nature parks are intended to play an increasingly important role in the framework of integrated sustainable regional development. The “European Charter of Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas” (cf. Chapter 4.4/4.5) serves as a benchmark for the future development of nature parks, taking into account their function as sources of inspiration by nature, their recreational function and issues of sustainable regional development. Due to the aforementioned measures, nature parks will be able to fully achieve the aims and tasks associated with them, in particular the idea of developing them into “large-scale model landscapes”. It was with this in mind that the Association of German Nature Parks (VDN) in co-operation with EUROPARC Germany launched its “Nature Park Quality Offensive” in the summer of 2005. A standardised nation-wide catalogue of criteria for the evaluation of nature parks was developed within the framework of a research project developed by the BfN, with funding from BMU. The primary aim of the Quality Offensive, which was also a major component of the numerous activities and events to mark the “Year of the Nature Park” 2006 (50 years of nature parks in Germany) is a continuous improvement of the work of the nature parks.

Currently, Germany’s 97 nature parks cover an area of 8,647,399 ha (24.2% of the surface area of Germany). This means that the coverage has increased by nearly 2 million ha (29.5%) since 1998<sup>27</sup>.

Art. 30 of the BNatSchG “Legally Protected Biotopes” provides another instrument for biotope conservation. The biotope types listed in this paragraph are protected by virtue of the fact that they are listed, without further designation as protected areas. The important protected biotope types with regard to protection of AEWA species include *inter alia*:

- Moorlands, swamps, reeds, wet meadows covered with sedges and rushes, headwater regions, natural undeveloped sections of brooks and rivers, aggradation areas, bayous and periodically swept flood plains;

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<sup>27</sup> [http://www.bfn.de/fileadmin/MDB/documents/presse/DzN\\_2008\\_Hintergrundpapier\\_210408.pdf](http://www.bfn.de/fileadmin/MDB/documents/presse/DzN_2008_Hintergrundpapier_210408.pdf)

- Fen forests, alluvial and riparian forests and
- Rocky and steep coastlines, beach embankments and dunes, shallow Baltic lagoons and estuaries (*Bodden, Haffe*), salt marshes and Wadden Sea, several marine habitats.

In their own Federal State nature conservation acts, the Federal States may specify additional biotopes that are to be protected. All measures that can impair or destroy protected biotopes are prohibited. Additional protection for the aforementioned biotopes – for example, via the designation as a NSG – is not necessary (general protection for the biotopes). The Federal States prepare maps of the protected biotopes in their territories and use these maps to prepare biotope cadastres.

Art. 32 onwards of the BNatSchG transpose the Fauna, Flora and Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) with regard to establishing the NATURA 2000 network of protected areas in the European Union. Pursuant to Art. 32 (2) BNatSchG, sites included in the list of Sites of Community Importance (*SCI*) are designated as protected natural and landscape sites in keeping with the relevant conservation aims.

The nomination process for NATURA 2000 areas is complete. As of April 2008, a total of 734 Special Protection Areas for birds had been notified to the European Union taking up 3,979,026 ha. This corresponds to 11.1% of the terrestrial area, to which must be added 1,976,975 ha of areas comprising parts of Lake Constance, marine areas, Baltic Sea lagoons and Wadden Sea areas, 514,499 ha of which are located in the German EEZ<sup>28</sup>.

In addition to that, Germany has proposed 4,617 FFH areas covering three bio-geographical regions (Alpine, Atlantic, Continental) and 3,313,069 ha to the European Commission (as at 29 June 2007). This amounts to 9.3% of the terrestrial surface. In addition there are 2,016,411 ha comprising parts of Lake Constance, marine areas, Baltic Sea lagoons and Wadden Sea areas, 943,986 ha of which are situated in the German EEZ<sup>29</sup>.

At the 5th Baltic Sea Festival in Stockholm, Sweden, on 22 August 2007, Germany received the Baltic Leadership Award from the *Umweltstiftung WWF Deutschland* (Environmental Foundation of WWF Germany) for being the first country to establish a comprehensive network of marine protected areas in the Baltic Sea. As the first country in Europe to do so, Germany had presented a comprehensive list of marine protected areas for the Baltic and North Seas covering roughly 31% of the German EEZ to the Commission in 2004. This was based on an extensive research programme on the German EEZs in the Baltic and North Seas and funded by the BMU. The programme was carried out by renowned German marine research institutions under the co-ordination of the BfN. It yielded results such as new insights about areas of importance for harbour porpoises, which are highly endangered in the Baltic Sea, the location of important wintering grounds for sea birds far offshore and the ecological value of sandbanks in the two German seas. Based on this, the BfN in co-operation with the BMU developed the award-winning network of marine protected areas in

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<sup>28</sup> [http://bfm.de/fileadmin/MDb/documents/themen/natura2000/meldestand\\_spa.pdf](http://bfm.de/fileadmin/MDb/documents/themen/natura2000/meldestand_spa.pdf)

<sup>29</sup> [http://bfm.de/fileadmin/MDb/documents/themen/natura2000/meldestand\\_ffh.pdf](http://bfm.de/fileadmin/MDb/documents/themen/natura2000/meldestand_ffh.pdf)

the Baltic. In June 2007 these marine protected areas were confirmed by the European Commission as an essential part of the European NATURA 2000 network of protected areas, as regards the marine environment<sup>30</sup>.

Other types of protection of areas under German law, such as the Network of Interlinked Biotopes are listed on the homepage of the BfN<sup>31</sup>.

In accordance with the Ramsar Convention that came into force in 1971 one more Ramsar area has been designated since the last report. On 9 October 2007, the BMU reported the karst peatland region “Bayerische Wildalm” which comprises 8,605 ha (wetland of international importance no. 1723) to the Ramsar Secretariat as Germany’s 33rd wetland of international importance. This wetland of international importance intersects with the Austrian Ramsar site “Bayerische Wildalm and Wildalmfilz” (wetland of international importance no. 1489).

The increase in size of the Lech-Donau-Winkel site (wetland of international importance no. 91) was reported to the Ramsar Secretariat at the same time. Thus, the extension of this area was made consistent with that of the Lech-Donau-Winkel SPA.

After 10 years of preparatory work to designate the “Oberrhein/Rhin superieur” as a trans-boundary German-French wetland of international importance, at a meeting in December 2007 a joint timetable was drawn up, whereby the site, covering an area of approximately 25,000 ha, is to be designated in the summer of 2008, ahead of Ramsar COP 10 in Korea. The sites on both sides of the border are submitted separately to the Ramsar office by the competent national bodies. In order to stress the character of the joint site, however, a joint declaration will be submitted in the form of a preamble to the application.

Due to their suitability, Ramsar sites are designated as SPAs under Art. 4 (1) and (2) of the Birds Directive. 3,077 out of a total of 4,617 NATURA 2000 sites in Germany contain wetland habitat types. Of these, 125 sites have an area smaller than 5,000 ha<sup>32</sup>. The area of all Ramsar sites in Germany amounts to 843,109 ha. A table of Ramsar sites is presented in Appendix 2.

In 1994, the international protected site system received an additional protection category. Within the framework of the Helsinki Convention (HELCOM, Art. 15 in conjunction with recommendation 15/5), the environment ministers of countries bordering on the Baltic Sea agreed to establish so-called “Baltic Sea Protected Areas” (*BSPAs*) in the Baltic region. The BSPA instrument can be used to protect important Baltic Sea areas (for example, on the open sea) as well as inner coastal waters of the Baltic Sea. Since the German parts of the Baltic Sea contain important habitats of AEWAs populations<sup>33</sup>, use should be made of this

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.habitatmarenatura2000.de/de/aktuelles-naturschutz-auszeichnung.php>

<sup>31</sup> [http://bfm.de/0311\\_ls\\_biotopschutz.html](http://bfm.de/0311_ls_biotopschutz.html)

<sup>32</sup> PETERSEN & SSYMANK 2007

<sup>33</sup> LUTZ 2000

instrument. If protection is to be effective, the relevant sites must be protected via national law – for example, by designating them as NSGs.

By the end of 2006 nine areas covering a total of 4,338 km<sup>2</sup> (of which 2,690 km<sup>2</sup> marine areas) had been designated as HELCOM BSPAs. The marine area covered by BSPAs accounts for nearly 20% of all marine areas in the German Baltic (including the EEZ). The following areas have been designated:

1. Nature conservation area “SPA Pomeranian Bay” (EEZ);
2. Jasmund National Park (MV<sup>34</sup>);
3. Western Pomeranian Lagoons National Park (MV);
4. SPA Flensburg Fjord (SH);
5. SPA Schlei (SH);
6. SPA Eckernförde Bight and shallow waters
7. SPA Eastern Bay of Kiel (SH);
8. SPA Baltic Sea east of Wagrien (SH);
9. SPA Baltic coast at Brodtener Ufer (SH).

The FFH areas in the German territorial sea and EEZ and the SPAs off the coast of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania are further potential BSPAs in the German Baltic. Additional designations of HELCOM BSPAs are currently under way since the Baltic FFH areas have been definitively agreed between the EU and Germany.

OSPAR is the counterpart regional marine protection agreement to HELCOM for the North-East Atlantic. Within the framework of Annex V to the Convention (on the protection and conservation of the ecosystems and biological diversity of the maritime area), adopted in 1998, OSPAR has begun with the establishment of a system of protected areas for the North-East Atlantic.

By the end of 2006, the Federal States of Schleswig-Holstein and Lower Saxony, through the BMU, had designated two Wadden Sea National Parks as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) under OSPAR. Furthermore, Germany has also designated the EU Bird Protection Areas “Seabird Protection Area Helgoland” and “SPA Eastern German Bight” (EEZ) as OSPAR MPAs.

These four areas cover 11,923 km<sup>2</sup>, which amounts to more than a quarter of the entire German North Sea area, including the EEZ. Subsequent to the Commission Decision 2008/23/EC adopting, pursuant to Council Directive 92/43/EEC, a first updated list of sites of Community importance for the Atlantic biogeographical region, the designation of further German FFH areas as OSPAR MPAs is currently under way.

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<sup>34</sup> MV = Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania; SH = Schleswig-Holstein

### **Examples for International Co-operation Concerning the Protected Area Category “National Park”: Wadden Sea National Parks**

In the German North Sea coastal region, three Wadden Sea national parks – Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park, Hamburg Wadden Sea National Park and Lower Saxony Wadden Sea National Park – were established in sites oriented to the boundaries of the relevant Federal States. These national parks, which cover nearly the entire German North Sea coast, are complemented to the north (Denmark) and to the south (Netherlands) by additional protected areas.

The Netherlands, Denmark and Germany have been co-operating trilaterally in protection of the Wadden Sea since 1978; in 1982, they signed a “Joint Declaration on the Protection of the Wadden Sea”<sup>35</sup>. With this declaration, they pursue the aim of effectively protecting the Wadden Sea and its sand and mud flats, the world’s largest mudflat area. Within the framework of nature conservation policy and trilateral management, the countries’ joint efforts are oriented to the overall aim of protecting the complete diversity of the habitat types that a natural, dynamic Wadden Sea should have. Each of the habitats must exhibit a certain quality (natural dynamics, absence of disturbance, absence of pollution) that can be achieved via suitable protection and management measures. The quality of the habitats is to be maintained or improved “by working towards achieving targets which have been agreed upon”.

Targets have been agreed for six habitat types, both for water quality and sediment quality (targets in these two areas apply to all habitats), and for birds and marine mammals (taken from the State Declaration, a ministerial declaration of the 8th Trilateral Governmental Conference on the Protection of the Wadden Sea, which took place in 1997<sup>36</sup>).

More success of the joint co-operation is to be expected: in January 2008, the German and Dutch governments finished the nomination dossier for the Wadden Sea as a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site. The potential nomination of the Wadden Sea national parks and NSGs or parts of them was an important topic of the 9th Trilateral Governmental Conference in Esbjerg in 2001 and was finally decided at the Trilateral Wadden Sea Conference on the island of Schiermonnikoog in November 2005 (Schiermonnikoog Declaration § 8).

During two years of intensive work, a German-Dutch working group chaired by the BMU drew up a comprehensive nomination dossier<sup>37</sup>. The Common Wadden Sea Secretariat in Wilhelmshaven co-ordinated and accompanied the work. The nomination dossier documents the global importance of the Wadden Sea ecosystem and the unique character of the geomorphological and biological processes, as well as the biodiversity of the Wadden Sea. The largest wadden sea area in the world is a hub of global bird migration. In addition to many breeding birds, the Wadden Sea is used by roughly ten million migrating birds, in particular waders, geese and ducks, such as the Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*), the Brent Goose (*Branta*

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<sup>35</sup> <http://cwss.www.de/>

<sup>36</sup> COMMON WADDEN SEA SECRETARIAT 2001

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/management/whs/whs.html>

*bernicla*), and the Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*). The nominated World Natural Heritage Site covers existing protected areas, in Germany the Lower Saxon Wadden Sea National Park and the Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park; in the Netherlands it covers the area falling under the corresponding key planning decision.

The Wadden Sea is already one of the 120 National Nature Landscapes in Germany. This term comprises the German national parks and biosphere reserves. The World Heritage Convention aims to conserve the cultural and natural heritage of humankind. To date, Germany has 31 cultural heritage sites but only one natural heritage site, the Messel Pit near Darmstadt protected because of its palaeontological value. The nomination of the Wadden Sea is intended to add the first natural heritage site in Germany for the protection of the biodiversity of our age.

The nomination of the Wadden Sea as a future UNESCO World Heritage Site aims to raise regional and supra-regional awareness for the special features of the Wadden Sea. Existing protection efforts and the joint Wadden Sea co-operation would be awarded a particular distinction.

UNESCO supported by IUCN as its advisory body, will now review the application. The UNESCO World Heritage Committee is expected to reach a decision on the Wadden Sea's inscription on the World Heritage List in summer 2009.

### **Unteres Odertal – A German-Polish International Park**

In its final session the *Volkskammer*, the parliament of the former GDR, decided a national park programme including the designation of the lower Odra River valley (*Unteres Odertal*)<sup>38</sup> as a national park. From the start, relevant efforts were undertaken for the creation of an “international park” that would include land on both sides of the Odra River. A joint declaration of the environment ministers of Germany and Poland, of the environment minister of Brandenburg and of the Woiwod of Szczecin then paved the way, at an international level, for such an area. The declaration, which is based on guidelines of the IUCN, expressed the Parties' intention to establish a contiguous protected area on both sides of the Odra River.

By a German-Polish resolution, a programme council was established to enhance co-operation between the various administrations for the protected area. The programme council's tasks include:

- Detailed assessment of the conservation status of the international park, including its buffer zones;
- Co-ordination of provisions for protection, as well as of a joint protection, management and development concept;
- Development of initiatives for joint scientific studies and for preparation of expert assessments;

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.unteres-odertal.de/index.php>

- Review of investment and business projects on the territory of the international park, as well as of other projects that could have lasting impacts on its conservation value;
- Development of proposals for enhancing protection and management of the protected area and promoting the interests of the international park and assisting in obtaining supporting funding (as described in the resolution of the environment ministers of Germany and Poland, of the environment minister of the state of Brandenburg and of the Woiwod of Szczecin from 11 December 1992).

The aforementioned declaration was implemented in 1995. Laws were passed to establish the Unteres Odertal National Park on the German side and two landscape reserves on the Polish side. The joint strategy for protection of the Unteres Odertal area thus produced a protected area totalling 117,274 ha.

*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 laws and ordinances that are individually prepared and adopted for each protected site describe the object of protection, the purpose of the protection, the requirements and prohibitions needed to achieve the protection purpose and, where necessary, the relevant management and development measures or empowerments (Art. 12 (2) BNatschG). Such provisions provide authorisation, as necessary, to manage the protected site in keeping with its conservation purpose. Relevant management can include special studies and planning, execution of measures and monitoring of the success of measures taken. NSGs, national parks, biosphere reserves and EC Special Protection Areas for birds play especially important roles as protected sites within the meaning of AEWA. Normally, so-called maintenance and development plans (*Pflege- und Entwicklungspläne*) or biotope management plans are prepared for protected sites. Such plans set forth measures for management of the relevant protected sites in keeping with their conservation purposes. The relevant site administrations or specialised authorities prepare such management plans and are responsible for ensuring that they are properly implemented.

Baden-Württemberg, for example, carries out a procedure for the elaboration of management plans as laid down in the “Manual for the Elaboration of Management Plans for NATURA 2000 Areas in Baden-Württemberg”. In the framework of these management plans, data concerning the current populations of relevant bird species and their habitats are collected to various degrees of detail. Subsequently, the management plans lay down concrete measures for the conservation or recovery of those populations required under the Birds Directive. In addition to the management plan procedures carried out in all Bird Protection Areas, management plans under EU LIFE programmes are developed and implemented in specific areas.

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?

To date, such a list has not yet been established for the federal level. However, for the bulk of SPAs under the EC Birds Directive or sites under the Habitats Directive, over the next few years management plans will be drawn up within the context of implementing the NATURA 2000 network, including explicit measures to conserve the ecological character of wetland sites. Insofar as these areas are related to AEWA, the requirements under AEWA will be met.

To date, 29 of Germany's Ramsar sites have management or maintenance and development plans in accordance with applicable nature conservation standards. Two further site management plans are currently being drawn up in this way. For the remaining 2 sites, suitable management foundations have been lacking to date, but these are at the planning stage.

For the Federal State of Baden Württemberg, the following management plans for Bird Protection Areas in which AEWA species occur have been prepared and implemented:

- Stromberg;
- Rhine Valley Karlsruhe-Rheinsheim (FFH area Rhine Valley from Karlsruhe to Philippsburg and LIFE project "Living Rhine Floodplain");
- Rhine valley Elchesheim - Karlsruhe ("LIFE project Living Rhine Floodplain");
- Lindenweiher (FFH area "Valley of the Umlach and Reiß South of Biberach");
- South-western Swabian Alb and upper Danube valley (FFH area "Upper Danube Valley from Beuron to Sigmaringen");
- Salem Abbey pond;
- Federseeried (LIFE project "Preserving and Developing Nature in the Federsee Area". Project concluded);
- Blitzenreuter Lake District (LIFE project "Blitzenreuter Lake District");
- Lake Constance, Lower Lake (LIFE project "Lower Lake Life". Project concluded).

Moreover, measures for the protection of waterbirds were carried out in the framework of the large-scale nature conservation projects (cf. Chapter 3.7) for representative areas of national importance. In particular, this concerns the "Wollmatinger Ried" and "Wurzacher Ried" projects, which are European Diploma Areas.

In the Federal State of Bremen two plans are projected as part of the management of SPAs (Blockland, Borgfeld Wümme Meadows, Oberneuland Wümme Floodplain), two are under preparation (Hollerland, Werderland) and one management plan is already being implemented (Niedervieland).

In Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, management plans have been elaborated and adopted for the three National Parks (Müritzer, Jasmund, Vorpommersche Boddenlandschaft).

*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 order to designate protected areas, decrees are enacted by the respective Federal States. According to 3.2.3 of the AEWa Action Plan, the use of protected areas or the prevention of their destruction or deterioration are subject to Federal State legislation and their relevant institutions. Where environmental pollution is concerned, there are also provisions in several Federal Government Acts.

Restrictions on agricultural uses can be imposed, at the Federal State level, by means of contract-based nature protection (*Vertragsnaturschutz*). In using this instrument, competent nature conservation authorities conclude agreements with landowners concerning the eco-friendly use of their land. Farmers are compensated for financial losses through payments by the Federal States.

Contract-based nature protection is used in areas designated as protected sites. It is also used as a substitute for the designation of protected sites (i.e. on areas worthy of special protection). Under contract-based nature protection arrangements, concerned landowners voluntarily enter into contractual obligations regarding agricultural use of the relevant sites (e.g. farmland, meadows, pastures). Usually, the restrictions involve extensification of grassland management and call for conversion of cultivated land into grassland. Agreements normally have five-year terms, to ensure that the desired conservation aims are achieved, and remain in force over significant periods of time. Contract-based nature protection is often divided into different extensification levels, in keeping with the most suitable aims for the relevant sites – for example, vegetation conservation or meadow bird protection.

The following restrictions play a particularly important role in connection with wetlands conservation for meadow-breeding birds:

- Prohibition of raking, grading, compacting or fertilising after the beginning of the meadow bird breeding season;
- In general sharp restrictions on fertilisation, and prohibition of biocides;
- Prohibition of ploughing of grassland, and requirements to convert farmland to grassland;
- Adaptation of livestock densities and grazing periods to needs of birds breeding on pastures;
- Selection of the time for initial mowing in keeping with needs of breeding birds (depending on the species, between 1 July and 1 September).

The respective programmes for nature conservation contracts differ enormously between the Federal States. In most cases they cover habitats of the cultural landscape. For wetland bird populations, programmes which concern wet meadows or pastures are of great importance.

Thus, in Lower Saxony and Schleswig Holstein, the EAFRD<sup>39</sup> nature conservation co-operation programme “Dauergrünland” protects White Storks (*Ciconia ciconia*) and meadow waders like the Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*), Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*), Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*), Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) or Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) and the programme “Resting and Feeding Grounds for Nordic Geese” protects Whooper Swans (*Cygnus cygnus*), Bewick’s Swans (*Cygnus bewickii*) and Nordic Geese.

The Cultivated Landscape Programme (*Kulturlandschaftsprogramm - KULAP*) promotes extensive modes of cultivation and rewards landscape management measures aimed at remediating, conserving, caring for and designing cultivated landscapes. The Agriculture Promotion Programme KULAP Brandenburg-Berlin is aimed at promoting meadow bird friendly cultivation of marshlands.

Public-sector purchase of valuable sites is yet another instrument for site protection – for example, for protection of wet meadows. This instrument is used especially when protection aims clash so sharply with agricultural uses that areas can no longer be used economically.

In addition to ordinances on protected areas, with their options to control uses in order to prevent wetlands degradation, and contract based nature protection, three key laws protect wetlands:

- At the European level the **EC Water Framework Directive (WFD)** is of great importance for the conservation of waterbird habitats. This Directive aims at the conservation and improvement of water quality as well as at the promotion of balanced and sustainable water engineering. The WFD covers surface waters (rivers and lakes), ground water, coastlines and transition waters (between river and sea) and partly also refers to other wetland types. The aim of the WFD is to achieve and maintain a “good water status” in the European Community by the end of 2015. One of the most important concepts of this Directive is that conservation measures have to take into account the catchment areas of the respective waters and shall not end at administrative borders.
- With the 7th amendment to the **Water Resources Act (Wasserhaushaltsgesetz)**, which came into force on 25 June 2002, the Federal Government implemented the WFD at the national level and thus created the prerequisite to achieving the European goal of good water conditions. However, due to the Federal Government’s

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<sup>39</sup> Support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: <http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/l60032.htm>

competence to enact framework legislation only, the Federal States have to regulate further details. The Water Resources Act fundamentally aims at securing waters as a part of the eco balance and as a habitat for animals and plants. They are to be managed in such a way that they serve the general well-being and, in harmony with this, also serve the purposes of individuals and ensure that no avoidable damage to ecological functions occurs. Germany can report that the development of the first national programme of measures and the first national or international river basin management plans according to the WFD are under way in the 10 river basin districts which are relevant for Germany (Danube, Rhine, Meuse, Ems, Weser, Elbe, Eider, Odra, Schlei/Trave, Warnow/Peene). The programmes and plans have to be established by December 2009, the measures have to be implemented by December 2012.

- Negative effects on AEWA-relevant sites by air pollution or noise are addressed by the **Federal Immission Control Act** (*Bundesimmissionsschutzgesetz*) and its numerous ordinances. The purpose of the Federal Immission Control Act is to protect people, animals and plants, the soil, water and the air from harmful environmental impacts and to prevent relevant threats. On the strength of this act, certain areas can be declared protected areas in which operation of certain facilities may be prohibited in order to guard against harmful impacts.

Water quality in the Elbe, for example, is monitored by the Working Group for Water Quality in the Elbe River (*Arbeitsgemeinschaft für die Reinhaltung der Elbe - ARGE Elbe*), in which the seven Federal States along the Elbe River, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Brandenburg, Lower Saxony, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein participate.

In 1999, in order to promote co-operation to protect the Odra River, Poland and Germany concluded an agreement on the establishment of an “International Commission for the Protection of the Odra”.

This co-operation makes it possible to monitor the Odra River’s water quality on an international basis.

Similar commissions have also been established to protect water quality in other major German rivers (cf. also Chapter 2.4).

## **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.*

Germany has several decades of experience in the renaturation of wetlands. Large-scale nature conservation projects of nationally representative importance are aimed primarily at protecting large habitats in natural and cultural landscapes.

The federal programme for “Establishment and safeguarding of valuable parts of nature and landscapes of nationally representative importance” was established in 1979. Within the framework of this programme, Germany protects nationally important landscapes, in order to help protect Germany’s natural heritage and to fulfil Germany’s international nature conservation obligations. The support programme helps protect natural landscapes on a lasting basis, and it helps secure and sustainably develop cultural landscapes with outstanding habitats of important, endangered plant and animal species.

In 1989, this support area within the “large-scale nature conservation projects” category was expanded to include a programme to promote natural vegetation along water bodies (*Gewässerrandstreifenprogramm*). The purpose of this programme is to help enhance the ecological quality of watercourses and their catchment basins. Projects are selected in accordance with the following criteria: representative nature, large size, naturalness, threat level and exemplary character. Large-scale nature conservation projects differ from other nature conservation projects especially in terms of the large areas they cover. The importance of large protected areas is that they minimise the impacts of negative external influences, which can weaken or even undermine the protective functions of small protected areas.

The stated aim of the Federal support programme is to legally secure the core areas, within project areas, by the time projects terminate. Support funding is used primarily for land purchases, as well as for long-term leases, management and development planning, execution of biotope-management measures and personnel and equipment costs. Shoreline vegetation projects also require long-term compensation payments.

For large-scale nature conservation and riverside-vegetation projects, the Federal Government assumes up to 75% of the incurred costs, while the relevant Federal States normally assume 15%, and the executing bodies (for example, rural districts, interest groups or associations) pay 10 % of the costs.

Since 1979, the Federal Government’s support programme has provided more than 350 million € in funding to representative projects of national importance aimed at securing these outstanding nature and landscape areas. In addition, some 150 million € have been provided by the Federal States and the executing organisations. The total area receiving this type of financial support comprises around 254,000 ha, which corresponds to 0.7% of the total area of Germany.

The following examples show that the majority of these projects aim to restore the wetland areas of importance to the species covered by the Agreement:

Four large-scale nature conservation projects in wetlands of national importance have now been completed, with an average project duration of 10 years. Since November 2005, 18 further large projects for the conservation and renaturation of wetlands have been launched in 9 Federal States, with an average funding period of 10 years and project budgets of up to

31.1 million €. In seven of these projects, the main emphasis is on the conservation of peatlands of varying characteristics and conservation statuses.<sup>40</sup>

### **Large-scale conservation project “Lenzener Elbtalau”<sup>41</sup>**

The floodplain of the River Elbe near Lenzen is of national conservation importance and represents a typical floodplain landscape of the middle Elbe with its characteristic biotope types and habitat complexes. There is a high capacity to develop large-scale, close to semi-natural riverside forests as well as to establish additional retention areas.

The BfN large-scale conservation project aims at restoring riverine pasture landscapes with natural flood regimes by deconstructing the dykes within an area of approx. 400 hectares. Within the enlarged area between the river and the dyke, the softwood and, above all, hardwood part of the riverside woodland is to be increased significantly. Some species, such as the Corn Crake (*Crex crex*), the Garganey (*Anas querquedula*) or the White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), will benefit from the newly created biotope complexes.

The realisation of the large-scale conservation project “Lenzener Elbtalau”, which is divided into two phases of realisation, is an unprecedented example of co-operation between water management and nature conservation. Phase one is intended to develop a management plan for the project area as well as to deliver planning of approval for the intended setting back of the dyke. Further measures, such as land acquisition, lease cede, setting back of the dyke and other biotope management measures are planned to be realised during the second phase.

### **Uckermärkische Seen**

The Uckermark Lakes comprise more than 170 natural lakes, hosting an impressive number of species and outstanding water quality. The core area consists of 84 lakes, whose banks, along with a total of 233 kilometers of rivers and brooks offer an enormous variety of habitats for both fauna and flora. The more than 200 moors are also remarkable. The “Kleine Schorfheide”, on the other hand, offers totally different types of biotopes. Its 2000 ha of open range are dominated by heathlands, dunes or dry meadows. The forests covering 70% of the core area are primarily old, semi-natural beech groves and bog and swamp forests that are largely intact and which highlight the value of the landscape. Three rare bird species, the Lesser Spotted Eagle (*Aquila pomarina*), the Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), and the White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) have between five and twenty breeding areas in the project area and there are some 100 breeding pairs of Common Cranes (*Grus grus*). In addition to conserving parts of the landscape worthy of protection (*inter alia* by acquiring land and designating nature protection areas) one of the declared aims of the project is to revitalise overexploited areas and to restore habitats to a semi-natural state. Measures taken so far comprise such activities as keeping heathlands open, rewatering moor areas that have been

<sup>40</sup> [http://www.bfn.de/0203\\_liste\\_laufend.html](http://www.bfn.de/0203_liste_laufend.html)

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.naturschutzgrossprojekt-lenzen.de/index.html>

negatively affected, and regulating access of visitors to the area. The project will receive a total of 20.6 million € by 2010 from BMU/BfN, the Federal State of Brandenburg and the Association “Feldberg-Uckermärkische Seenlandschaft”.

### **Peenetal / Peene-Haff-Moor**

The Peene Valley fen area, which has a largely intact hydrological regime, is one of the largest continuous riverine fen complexes of its kind in Europe, and is still characterised by a rich variety of natural and near-natural habitats. The Peene Valley represents biotopes typical of the North German Plain and is inhabited by numerous particularly threatened and protected bird species, such as the White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), Common Crane (*Grus grus*) cranes, terns, ducks, grebes, as well as bitterns.

Threats derive from the insufficient water quality of the Peene and recently also from intensification and land improvement measures which particularly threaten the fens. Another increasing impact derives from recreational activities and tourism (ship traffic, angling etc.). The primary aim of the project is to maintain and secure the status of the Peene as a largely unspoilt, undammed lowland river, to conserve the fen complexes and to activate growth of the fens in disturbed areas, to restore the natural water regime in drained areas or polder areas, to promote extensive agriculture and to regulate tourism and leisure activities. Overall, the project will receive 31.1 million € during the period from 1992 – 2008.

Since January 2006, the German Foundation for the Environment (*Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt - DBU*) has funded 25 national projects focussing on wetlands totalling 4,065,000 €, as well as 9 international projects with wetland relevance totalling 2,018,000 €<sup>42</sup>.

Apart from the large-scale nature conservation projects other programmes and funding mechanisms aimed at the conservation and renaturation of regionally and locally important wetlands exist in the majority of Federal States, some of them funded largely with EU LIFE Funds<sup>43</sup>. The following examples illustrate the commitment of the Federal States:

### **Mainaue Haßfurt<sup>44</sup>**

The river Main is a major shipping route and has been extensively canalised. The densely settled and intensively farmed valley through which it flows is lined with river ports and gravel pits. Several thousand birds use the section between Haßfurt and Eltmann every year as a staging point along their migration route. However, suitable habitats for the birds are gradually shrinking and disturbance is increasing. Because there are hardly any alternative habitats in the surroundings, the only option to secure the migrating birds is to reverse the decline of the existing habitats. The project intends to convert cropland and silage grassland

<sup>42</sup> [www.dbu.de](http://www.dbu.de)

<sup>43</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm>

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.hassfurt.de/index.phtml?object=nav|362.193.1||1>

into meadow habitats for the birds, using special combinations of seeds to accelerate the process. The traces of former side channels of the river are to be excavated, so that spring floods will turn them into temporary pools, while abandoned gravel pits are to be modified to become bird refuges. In addition to the semi-natural species-rich grasslands and tall-herb formations which are expected to arise, the project is also promoting the expansion of reed beds and floodplain forest to provide a wide range of bird habitats. Leisure activities are also increasing in the area, particularly in and around the lakes left behind by gravel quarrying. The project will also promote visitor guidance and control, building bird observation points and carrying out awareness-raising work.

### **Borghorster Elbwiesen<sup>45</sup>**

The Federal States of Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein have joint responsibility for an EU LIFE project at the River Elbe. Within the Besenhorster Sandberge and the Borghorster Elbwiesen it is planned to restore the limnic “Elbe Estuary” on more than 90 ha. This plan is about to become a reality by means of the re-establishment of former tide and flood level conditions.

A special programme for wetland restoration on peat soils (*Moorschutzprogramm*) was launched by the government of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania in 2000. This programme is planned to be continued until 2020. The ecological aim is the conservation of species and habitats and soils, as well as the protection of water and climate. Economic interests are also considered: The programme gives assistance to farmers who are willing to withdraw from economically not profitable wetland areas. The programme is co-financed by the EU. During the period 2000-2006, 42 projects with a total area of 8.716 ha have been accepted and, in most cases, implemented. Farmers or other land users participated voluntarily, since the general economic frame was not favourable for a continued agriculture management of peatlands.

Other large-scale restoration projects have been implemented or will be implemented in the near future as compensation measures for infrastructure projects, especially highway construction (e.g. restoration of the lakes Richtenberger See and Koblenzter See; restoration of the shallow water bay Mellnitz/Üselitzer Wiek on the isle of Rügen).

**Table 9: Overview of ongoing projects and initiatives aimed at restoring wetlands in the Federal States**

Baden-Württemberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large-scale nature conservation project “Pfrunger - Burgweiler Ried”</li> <li>• Habitat optimisation work was carried out in the areas of “Blitzenreuter Seenplatte” (2002-2007), “Rheinauen bei Karlsruhe” (2004-2009) and “Oberer Hotzenwald” (2005 - 2011) with funding from the EU LIFE Nature fund</li> <li>• Stromberg</li> </ul>
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<sup>45</sup> <http://borghorster-elbwiesen.hamburg.de/>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lindenweiher (FFH “Umlachtal and Riß to the south of Biberach”)</li> <li>• Südwestalb and Oberes Donautal (FFH “Oberes Donautal between Beuron and Sigmaringen”)</li> <li>• Salemer Klosterweiher</li> </ul>
Bavaria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fen development concept<sup>46</sup> (Breitfilz near Tradlenz, Weihermoos near Holzleuten, Langweihermoor and Zeitelmoos)</li> <li>• Flood plain programme<sup>47</sup></li> <li>• Large-scale nature conservation project “Waldnaab-Aue”<sup>48</sup> (Common Snipe, White Stork, Green Sandpiper)</li> <li>• 249 projects with an emphasis on wetland protection are currently being implemented within the context of the Bavarian Nature Network (<i>Bayern-Netz-Natur</i>)</li> <li>• Main flood plain Haßfurt (LIFE project)</li> </ul>
Brandenburg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large-scale nature conservation project “Uckermark Lakes” (Lesser Spotted Eagle, Osprey, White-tailed Eagle, Common Crane with approx. 100 breeding pairs)</li> <li>• Large-scale nature conservation project “Spreewald” (Black Stork, Common Crane, White-tailed Eagle, Osprey)</li> <li>• Large-scale nature conservation project “Lenzener Elbtalaue” (Corn Crake, Garganey, White-tailed Eagle)</li> <li>• Large-scale nature conservation project “Untere Havelniederung” (Bean Goose, Lesser White-fronted Goose)</li> </ul>
Hesse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large-scale nature conservation project “Kellerwald region” (Capercaillie, Partridge, Whinchat, Rock Bunting)</li> </ul>
Lower Saxony	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large-scale nature conservation project “Hammeniederung” (Montagu’s Harrier, Corn Crake, Common Snipe, Black-tailed Godwit, Sedge Warbler, Garganey, Short-eared Owl)</li> <li>• Large-scale nature conservation project “Niedersächsischer Drömling” (Common Snipe, Eurasian Curlew, Corn Crake, Common Crane, White Stork, Red Kite, Black Kite)</li> <li>• Large-scale nature conservation project “Hannoversche Moorgeest” (Hen Harrier, Crane, Short-eared Owl, Great Grey Shrike, Partridge, Common Snipe, Eurasian Curlew)</li> <li>• Nature conservation subsidy programmes make an important contribution towards wetland protection, such as the wet grassland protection programme, the White Stork protection programme, and the fish otter protection programme</li> </ul>
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large-scale nature conservation project “Ostrügensche Boddenlandschaft”</li> <li>• Large-scale nature conservation project “Peenteal/Peen-Haff-Moor” (White-tailed Eagle, Crane)</li> </ul>

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.lfu.bayern.de/natur/fachinformationen/moorentwicklungskonzept/umsetzungskonzepte/index.htm>

<sup>47</sup> [http://www.lfu.bayern.de/natur/fachinformationen/auenprogramm\\_ueberblick/index.htm](http://www.lfu.bayern.de/natur/fachinformationen/auenprogramm_ueberblick/index.htm)

<sup>48</sup> <http://www.stmugv.bayern.de/umwelt/naturschutz/foerderung/grossprojekte/waldnaabaue.htm>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large-scale nature conservation project “Schaalsee-Landschaft” (traditional breeding and resting ground for rare swamp birds, such as the Common Crane)</li> </ul>
North Rhine-Westphalia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large-scale nature conservation project “Senne/Teutoburgerwald” (European Kingfisher, Grey-headed Woodpecker)</li> <li>• 2 large-scale nature conservation projects at the “Unterer Niederrhein” (Alter Rhein near Bienen-Praest and Bislicher Insel)</li> <li>• Numerous measures in many sub-regions of wetlands of international importance, e.g. Kranenburger Bruch, Düffel, Hetter, Orsoyer Rheinbogen, aimed at improving and stabilising the hydrological situation and water quality, creating new flood plains, and protecting banks from over-intensive grazing</li> <li>• In the Ramsar site “Rieselfelder Münster”, new shallow water zones are being created within the context of a LIFE project, and the extensive grazing of water meadows and the development of a visitor guidance system are supported</li> </ul>
Rheinland-Pfalz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large-scale nature conservation project “Obere-Ahr-Hocheifel” (Dipper, Black Stork)</li> <li>• Large-scale nature conservation project “Bienwald and Viehstrich”</li> </ul>
Saarland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvement of shore area of Dillingen lake in the Bird Protection Area “Resting Grounds in the Middle Saar Valley”, funded through a Federal State programme for nature conservation and landscape protection</li> </ul>
Saxony	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large-scale nature conservation project “Presseler Heidewald und Moorgebiet” (1995-2007), aimed <i>inter alia</i> at securing the water balance of the fens. (Avifauna: 169 bird species are known to occur, among these breeding bird species that are rare throughout Germany, such as: Common Snipe, Eurasian Hobby, Common Crane)</li> <li>• Large-scale nature conservation project “Teichgebiet Niederspree-Hammerstadt” (1997-2006), aimed <i>inter alia</i> at conserving continuous, well-structured wetland areas and conserving important endangered species by means of improvement of the water regime</li> <li>• Large-scale nature conservation project “Lausitzer Seenland” (2003-2014), aims to conserve large, continuous post-mining landscapes and their natural dynamics and characteristic biodiversity (including waters)</li> <li>• Continued implementation of EU LIFE project “Doberschützer Wasser” (concluded in 1997), in particular to conserve and improve Eurasian Bittern habitats</li> <li>• Fen conservation project of the “Erzgebirge/Vogtland nature park” (since 1996), aims in particular at revitalising the fen (Corn Crane, Black Stork, Eurasian Eagle Owl, Whinchat, Northern Lapwing, Common Snipe, Black Grouse)</li> </ul>
Saxony-Anhalt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large-scale nature conservation project “Middle Elbe” (Black Stork, Lesser Spotted Eagle, White-tailed Eagle): in the Elbe area, the relocation of several dykes in order to restore floodplains that are</li> </ul>

	<p>largely intact and near-natural is in progress or planned. The reactivation of floodways, enlargement of forests in the floodplains and the relocation of the dyke are in preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large-scale nature conservation project to renature the lower Havel</li> <li>• Large-scale nature conservation project “Drömling” (Saxony-Anhalt sector)</li> </ul>
Schleswig-Holstein	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LIFE-Balt-Coast-Project<sup>49</sup> managed by Stiftung Naturschutz Schleswig-Holstein in co-operation with more than 20 partners from 5 Baltic Sea States (D, DK, S, EE, LT); Duration: 2005-2011; Aim: restoration of lagoons, dunes, salt marshes; Bird species: Dunlin, Ruff, Pied Avocet</li> <li>• LIFE-Bombina-Project<sup>50</sup> managed by Stiftung Naturschutz Schleswig-Holstein in co-operation with partners from four Baltic Sea states (D, DK, S, LV); Duration: 2004-2009; Aim: restoration of habitats for European Fire-bellied Toad and Great Crested Newt, also benefits waterbirds and waders</li> <li>• Species help programme of the Government of the Federal State of Schleswig Holstein, 2008. One of the main aims is the optimisation of breeding grounds for meadow birds</li> <li>• Large-scale nature conservation project “Obere Treenelandschaft”</li> <li>• Large-scale nature conservation project “Schaalsee – Landschaft” (traditional breeding and resting area for rare swamp birds and waterbirds, such as Common Cranes and Ospreys)</li> </ul>

<sup>49</sup> [www.life-baltcoast.eu](http://www.life-baltcoast.eu)

<sup>50</sup> [www.life-bombina.de](http://www.life-bombina.de)

## 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).

#### **Legislative basis for hunting AEWA waterbird species**

In the Federal Republic of Germany waterbird hunting is regulated by the Federal Hunting Act (*Bundesjagdgesetz* - *BJagdG*) enacted in 1952 (last revision 1976). This framework legislation is complemented and put in concrete terms by laws and ordinances of the Federal States.

In Germany, the right to hunt – unlike the rights conferred by many other countries' hunting license systems – is linked to ownership of land. Areas open to hunting in Germany are divided, in accordance with the so-called “district” (*Revier*) system, into hunting districts that are precisely parcelled out. The *BJagdG* differentiates, in keeping with property size, between private hunting districts (minimum size of 75 ha) and community hunting districts in which parcels smaller than 75 ha are combined. In private hunting districts, the property owner is entitled to hunt, while in community hunting districts the hunting association, comprising all property owners belonging to the relevant community hunting district, is so entitled. The right to hunt in a hunting district may be leased by the relevant property owner or hunting association. A central feature of the district system is that the person entitled to hunt in a given district is specifically responsible for ensuring that hunting in the district conforms to legal requirements. Pursuant to the *BJagdG*, he or she is required to care for the district, with the aims of conserving a diverse, healthy stock of game, adapted to the local landscape and cultural circumstances, and of managing and maintaining its basic resources.

A person who wishes to hunt in Germany must also have a hunting license. To obtain a hunting license, an applicant within the sphere of application of the *BJagdG* must pass the hunters' examination, which tests knowledge of subjects such as game biology and management, and laws pertaining to hunting, animal welfare, nature conservation and landscape management (cf. Chapter 4.3).

Art. 2 *BJagdG* specifies which animal species or species groups are subject to German hunting law. These include AEWA species Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*), Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*), wild geese (genera *Anser* and *Branta*) and ducks (*Anatinae*), genus *Mergus* (incl. *Mergellus*), Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*), Eurasian Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*) and gulls (*Laridae*).

The responsible German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (*BMELV*) stipulates hunting periods for game animals by a separate ordinance. Game species

without hunting season must not be hunted (Art. 22 BJagdG). Species with all-year closed season are: Garganey (*Anas querquedula*), Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*), Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*), Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*), Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*), Gadwall (*Anas strepera*), Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*), Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*), Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*), Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*), Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*), Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*), Smew (*Mergellus albellus*), Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) and Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*). The Federal States may deviate from these provisions and have partially issued different regulations. In case of disturbance of biological balance or severe damage to agriculture they can prescribe hunting seasons or, in individual cases, permit exceptions for scientific, educational or research purposes (Art. 22 para. 2. BJagdG). Thus, to name an example, there is a hunting season for the Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) in Bavaria because of severe overpopulation and damage to fish farming. Moreover, there is a hunting season for the Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) in Schleswig-Holstein, however this is restricted to areas outside of SPAs and shooting is allowed only to prevent damage to endangered field and grassland areas in the districts of North Frisia, Dithmarschen, Pinneberg and Steinburg. Prior to shooting, a certified expert must have confirmed the need to take action to prevent considerable damage to a grassland area.

For the other huntable waterbirds the Federal Hunting Season Ordinance (*Bundesjagdzeitenverordnung*) applies, setting open seasons from which the legislation of the Federal States may deviate. Hunting seasons may be shortened or abolished and closed seasons may be abolished for specific areas or hunting districts, in particular to fight wildlife diseases or to protect agriculture, to eliminate sick or degenerated game, to avoid excessive damage by game, or for scientific, educational or research purposes (Art. 22 para. 1. BJagdG).

It is prohibited to remove eggs, except for scientific, research and teaching purposes (Art. 22 para 4 BJagdG).

With regard to any other wild living individuals of bird species it is prohibited to pursue, capture, injure or kill them or to remove from the wild, damage, or destroy any forms of their life-cycle, their nesting or breeding sites, other living quarters or inhabited sites or any other places of refuge (Art. 42 BJagdG). Exceptions under Art. 43 BNatSchG exist for the Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) in nearly all Federal States. Hesse is planning to introduce a hunting season for the Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiacus*), whereas such a hunting season already exists in Schleswig-Holstein (1 August – 15 January).

### **Use of lead shot as well as poisoned baits**

According to Art. 19 BJagdG it is not prohibited to use lead shot when hunting waterbirds. Meanwhile, the Federal States Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Berlin, Brandenburg, Lower Saxony, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, North Rhine-Westphalia, Saarland, Schleswig-

Holstein, as well as Thuringia have implemented a ban of lead shot for waterbird hunting which is, in most cases, confined to hunting at inland waters.

Saxony-Anhalt is considering a legal regulation limiting the use of lead shot in the ongoing amendment of its legislation pertaining to the hunting of waterbirds. Hesse and Rhineland-Palatinate are currently preparing a respective regulation. In this context, all three Federal States refer to the recommendation by the German Hunting Association (*Deutscher Jagdverband - DJV*) and the BMELV, that only non-lead shot should be used for hunting game birds near water bodies. In Brandenburg it is generally prohibited to use lead shot in state-owned areas. Since 2006, the state-owned Sachsenforst forest has prohibited the use of lead shot in water game hunting for all forest districts where White-tailed eagles occur.

Use of poison baits, snares or other hunting methods that violate principles of animal welfare, or that are non-selective, have been prohibited in Germany for many decades.

**Table 10: Overview of current Federal State regulations restricting the use of lead shot in hunting of waterbirds (as of April 2008).**

State	Use of lead shot
Baden-Württemberg	It is prohibited to use lead shot in hunting waterbirds at and above water bodies.
Bavaria	It is prohibited to use lead shot in hunting waterbirds at and above water bodies.
Berlin	It is prohibited to use lead shot in hunting waterbirds at and above water bodies.
Brandenburg	It is prohibited to use lead shot in hunting waterbirds at and above water bodies. Gut piles have to be removed in a manner that no scavengers or birds of prey have access, e. g. by burying. In state-owned forests any use of lead ammunition is prohibited.
Bremen	No restrictions.
Hamburg	No restrictions.
Hesse	Restriction in preparation. Recommendation of BMELV, DJV and LJV: no use of lead shot near water bodies.
Mecklenburg-West Pomerania	Hunting of water game with lead shot is prohibited above and in a circle of 300 m around water bodies.
Lower Saxony	Art. 24 (1) Lower Saxony Hunting Act (NJagdG): Apart from Art. 19 of the Federal Hunting Act, it shall be prohibited, ... to use lead shot in hunting waterbirds at and above water bodies.
North Rhine-Westphalia	It is prohibited to use lead shot in hunting waterbirds at and above water bodies.
Rhineland-Palatinate	No restrictions. Prohibition of lead shot for hunting water game is planned as part of a projected amendment of the State Hunting Law.
Saarland	Use of lead shot is prohibited for hunting of water game in wetland areas. Wetland areas are defined as freshwater marshes, bogs and fens or water bodies that are naturally or artificially, permanently or temporarily stagnant or flowing.
Saxony	No restrictions. Since 2006, the state-owned Sachsenforst forest has prohibited the use of lead shot in water game hunting for all forest districts where White-tailed Eagles occur.

Saxony-Anhalt	No restrictions. Saxony-Anhalt is considering a legal regulation limiting the use of lead shot in the ongoing amendment of its legislation pertaining to the hunting of waterbirds.
Schleswig-Holstein	It is prohibited to use lead shot in hunting waterbirds.
Thuringia	It is prohibited to use lead shot in hunting in a circle of 100 m around water bodies.

### Prevention of illegal taking

As mentioned above in connection with the legal basis for controlling hunting, under the district system within the framework of the BJagdG, the person entitled to hunt in a given district is personally and fully responsible for his district (*hunting district*). He or she is legally obligated to manage the game properly – in particular, to maintain a diverse, healthy stock of game and to protect the basic resources upon which it depends. He or she is also personally responsible for fulfilment of, and compliance with, shooting plans, for prevention of epidemics in game and for the protection of game against poachers, starvation and other threats.

The hunting administration is responsible for monitoring the activities of persons entitled to hunt. It maintains offices at the district level in order to carry out its local tasks. Unlike the situation in countries in which the state provides individual hunting permits (license system), in Germany, persons entitled to hunt have a special local responsibility for fulfilling legal requirements, especially in connection with bagging game.

The hunting restrictions set forth by the BJagdG, such as prohibitions pertaining to places and times for hunting (off-seasons), restrictions regarding hunting equipment (use of bird glues, nets, fish traps and poison is prohibited) are to be understood in terms of animal welfare as well as in terms of the principle of caring properly for game stocks. As explained in detail above, the BJagdG expressly states what animals may be hunted. Hunting seasons are regulated by the Federal Hunting Season Ordinance. Hunting seasons are defined for each game species, in accordance with each species' conservation status and taking into account the data sheets provided by the European Commission in their Hunting Guide. Animal species that are subject to hunting law and are also endangered may not be hunted at any time of the year.

Violations of hunting restrictions are strictly prosecuted. Hunting of game subject to a year-round off-season, and hunting of animals with young are crimes under hunting law. In some Federal States, bag statistics are kept in connection with bag notifications. Entitled hunters – who are responsible for their hunting districts – report bag statistics to the competent hunting authority. In such reports, group designations such as “ducks” or “geese” are increasingly giving way to names of specific species. The bag lists also provide a basis for scientific studies and are evaluated and analysed with respect to necessary conservation population measures (cf. Chapter 4.2).

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

In Germany, hunting of waterbirds is monitored by having entitled hunters collect annual bag statistics for a hunting year (from 1 April to 31 March of the following year) and then report these statistics to the responsible hunting authorities. The Federal States keep bag statistics for hunting, usually broken down by species.

Federal authorities do not keep nation-wide bag statistics for waterbirds. The DJV publishes annual nation-wide statistics. These statistics do not break wild ducks and geese down to the species level, however. The number of wild ducks killed annually in the Federal Republic of Germany has averaged about 570,000 individuals since the beginning of the 1980s. In the 2006/2007 hunting season, a total of 462,930 wild ducks (primarily Mallard - *Anas platyrhynchos*) were shot. The total number of wild geese shot in the 2006/2007 hunting year was 45,456 individuals<sup>51</sup>.

*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.*

In the Federal Republic of Germany, training of hunters is mostly carried out by the DJV's member state hunting associations and their subdivisions, as well as by private owned hunting schools or the Ecological Hunting Association (*Ökologischer Jagdverein - ÖJV*). In most Federal States, admission to the hunter's examination is preceded by a 6 to 12-month training period or completion of a training course totalling at least 120 hours. To be permitted to hunt, a hunter must pass a hunter's examination administered by a state or state-accredited examining board. The hunter's examination includes a shooting-proficiency test and written and oral testing of knowledge in the following areas:

Animal species, game biology, game management, proper management of hunting operations, preventing damage caused by game, relevant aspects of agriculture and forestry, gun laws, weapons technology, proper handling of hunting arms and hunting dogs, proper handling of killed game (including proper hygiene), assessment of safe condition (food safety) of killed game and laws pertaining to hunting, animal welfare, nature conservation and landscape management. In addition, hunting associations offer regular refresher and further training courses<sup>52</sup>.

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<sup>51</sup> [http://www.jagd-online.de/datenfakten/jahresstrecken?meta\\_id=256](http://www.jagd-online.de/datenfakten/jahresstrecken?meta_id=256)

<sup>52</sup> DJG; DJV 2001

**Table 11: Overview of hunting seasons for waterbirds in the Federal Republic of Germany.**

	Germany	Baden- Württemberg	Bavaria	Berlin	Brandenb- urg	Bremen	Hamburg	Hesse	Mecklenb- urg-West- Pomerani- a	Lower Saxony	North Rhine- Westphali- a	Rhineland - Palatinate	Saarland	Saxony	Saxony- Anhalt	Schleswig- Holstein	Thuringia
<i>Cygnus olor</i>	01.11.- 20.02.	01.11.- 20.02.	01.11.- 20.02.	---	01.11.- 20.02.	01.11.- 20.02.	---	---	01.11.- 20.02.	01.11.- 30.11.	01.11.- 20.02.	---	01.11.- 20.02.	01.11.- 20.02.	01.11.- 20.02.	01.11.- 20.02.	---
<i>Anser anser</i>	01.08.- 31.08.	---	01.08.- 31.08.	---	01.08.- 31.01.	01.08.- 31.08.	01.11.- 15.01.	01.11.- 15.01.	01.08.- 31.08.	01.08.- 31.08.	01.08.- 31.08.	01.08.- 31.08.	01.08.- 31.08.-	01.08.- 31.08.	01.08.- 31.08.	01.08.- 15.01.	---
<i>Anser albifrons</i>	01.11.- 15.01.	---	01.11.- 15.01.	---	16.09.- 31.01.	01.11.- 15.01.	---	---	01.11.- 15.01.	---	---	---	01.11.- 15.01.	01.11.- 15.01.	01.11.- 15.01.	01.11.- 15.01.	01.11.- 15.01.
<i>Anser fabalis</i>	01.11.- 15.01.	---	01.11.- 15.01.	---	16.09.- 31.01.	01.11.- 15.01.	---	---	01.11.- 15.01.	---	---	---	01.11.- 15.01.	01.11.- 15.01.	01.11.- 15.01.	01.11.- 15.01.	01.11.- 15.01.
<i>Branta bernicla</i>	01.11.- 15.01.	---	01.11.- 15.01.	---	01.11.- 15.01.	01.11.- 15.01.	---	---	---	---	---	---	01.11.- 15.01.	01.11.- 15.01.	01.11.- 15.01.	---	---
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	01.09.- 15.01.	01.09.- 15.01.	01.09.- 15.01.	---	01.09.- 15.01.	01.09.- 15.01.	01.09.- 15.01.	01.09.- 15.01.	01.09.- 15.01.	01.09.- 15.01.	16.09.- 15.01.	01.09.- 15.01.	01.09.- 15.01.	01.09.- 15.01.	01.09.- 15.01.	01.09.- 15.01.	01.09.- 15.01.
<i>Anas penelope</i>	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	---	---	01.10.- 15.01.	---	---	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	---	---	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	---
<i>Anas crecca</i>	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	---	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	---	---	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	---	---	01.10.- 15.01.	---	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	---
<i>Anas acuta</i>	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	---	---	01.10.- 15.01.	---	---	---	---	---	---	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	---	---
<i>Aythya ferina</i>	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	---	01.10.- 15.01.	---	---	---	01.10.- 15.01.	---	---	---	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	---	---
<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	---	---	---	01.10.- 15.01.	---	---	---	---	---	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	---
<i>Aythya marila</i>	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	---	---	01.10.- 15.01.	---	---	---	---	---	---	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	---	---
<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	---	---	01.10.- 15.01.	---	---	---	---	---	---	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	---	---
<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	---	---	01.10.- 15.01.	---	---	---	---	---	---	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.01.	---	---
<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	16.10.- 15.01.	16.10.- 15.01.	16.10.- 15.01.	---	16.10.- 15.01.	16.10.- 15.01.	16.10.- 15.01.	---	16.10.- 31.12.	16.10.- 31.12.	16.10.- 15.01.	16.10.- 15.01.	16.10.- 15.01.	---	16.10.- 15.01.	16.10.- 15.01.	16.10.- 15.01.
<i>Larus canus, L. ridibundus, L. argentatus, L. fuscus, L. marinus</i>	01.10.- 10.02.	01.10.- 10.02. (L. ridibundus)	01.10.- 10.02.	---	01.10.- 10.02.	01.10.- 10.02.	01.10.- 10.02.	01.10.- 10.02.	01.10.- 10.02.	01.10.- 10.02. (L. canus, L. argentatus, L. fuscus, L. marinus)	01.10.- 10.02. (L. ridibundus, L. argentatus)	01.10.- 10.02. (L. argentatus)	01.10.- 10.02.	---	01.10.- 10.02.	01.10.- 10.02.	01.10.- 10.02. (L. ridibundus)

	Germany	Baden- Württemberg	Bavaria	Berlin	Brandenb urg	Bremen	Hamburg	Hesse	Mecklenb urg-West Pomerani a	Lower Saxony	North Rhine- Westphali a	Rhineland - Palatinate	Saarland	Saxony	Saxony- Anhalt	Schleswig- Holstein	Thuringia
<i>Fulica atra</i>	11.09.- 20.02.	11.09.- 20.02.	11.09.- 20.02.		11.09.- 20.02.	11.09.- 20.02.	---	11.09.- 20.02.	11.09.- 20.02.	11.09.- 20.02.	11.09.- 20.02.	11.09.- 15.01.	11.09.- 20.02.	11.09.- 20.02.	11.09.- 20.02.	11.09.- 20.02.	11.09.- 20.02.

## 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.*

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

According to estimates of the World Tourism Organization (WTO), seven percent of all travel expenditures world-wide go to nature tourism – and this figure is growing. The area of nature and special experience travel is booming like no other: whereas tourism overall is growing by about 4% annually, “eco-tourism” is growing at rates of 25% to 30% contributing a total of 223 billion US\$ at the international level. In Germany, eco-tourism, in the original sense of the term, is a niche product that has some 1-4% of the market. Fast growth is not expected.

The Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) commits itself to supporting an eco-friendly and sustainable development of tourism. The focus is on a concept to protect ecologically fragile areas in the long term as well as to enable people to enjoy nature. To this end, efforts to develop common guiding principles, aims, actions, and regulations with all relevant stakeholders are being supported, such as:

- The European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas<sup>53</sup>, which Germany has thus far successfully implemented in three Nature Parks (Steinhude Lake, Franconian Forest, Isle of Usedom), as well as in the Harz National Park and in the Palatinate Forest Biosphere Reserve;
- Encouraging offers for an environmental friendly tourism, e.g. “Viabono”<sup>54</sup>, which is the umbrella eco-label for sustainable tourism in Germany;
- Presentation of the umbrella brand name “National Nature Landscapes” for Germany’s nature conservation areas;
- Exchange of views and experiences that were made in other (protected) areas at the international level (bilateral co-operation, Colombia);
- The BfN contributes to the development of international tourism policy, e.g. guiding principles for sustainable tourism in sensitive areas under the CBD, the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and also in the bodies of the European Community.

In Germany eco-tourism is not yet very far developed. There is still a considerable potential for nature tourism. Germans are particularly fond of spending their vacation in the great outdoors. According to a recent study, 36% of those queried are planning a nature vacation in the next few years. Moreover, according to a survey conducted in December 2006 by

<sup>53</sup> [http://www.europarc.org/european-charter.org/Documents/charter\\_full\\_text.pdf](http://www.europarc.org/european-charter.org/Documents/charter_full_text.pdf)

<sup>54</sup> <http://viabono.de/down/e-partner.pdf>

Emnid on behalf of EUROPARC Germany, 62% of all Germans would prefer to spend those holidays spent in Germany in the National Nature Landscapes. This makes nature conservation an economic factor. For this reason, the BMU supports the umbrella brand name “National Nature Landscapes” launched just over a year ago to designate Germany’s protected areas. This brand name covers the most attractive nature and vacation regions and thus facilitates orientation for travelers.

Furthermore, in September 2001 the BMU introduced the “Viabono” (“a good way”) – an umbrella brand for environmentally friendly tourism. The purpose of this brand is to unite all existing environmental tourism services and products in the various tourism sectors, and to promote them using modern communication strategies. Viabono’s criteria are very stringent and cover all the important aspects that make up nature-friendly leisure activities: regional cuisine, an environment and a countryside that are intact and attractive, a stress-free journey, architecture and accommodation based on natural materials, intelligent use of water and energy. Large-scale protected areas (national parks, biosphere reserves, nature parks) can get involved. If they do so they will have an influence on shaping a tourism that treats protected areas with care. For local farmers there might be new possibilities of marketing their food products, but regional gastronomic businesses may also profit from “Viabono”.

Where day trip tourism is concerned there are several offers made by different institutions. Some examples are given below:

### **Wetlands around Bremen**

Wetlands in the Federal State of Bremen are of great importance for the recreation of the inhabitants of the city of Bremen as they are situated close to the outskirts of Bremen and people can get there easily by bicycle or public transport. This is enhanced by the programme “Erlebnisraum Natur”<sup>55</sup>, which provides natural history information as well as a calendar of events related to important wetland areas, and additionally offers a growing number of farm shops, small cafes and restaurants that are being established near wetlands and dykes. People also enjoy peat barge trips in the Wümme lowlands, where visitors can join guided tours to the landscape along the old peat-shipping routes using traditional (imitation) peat barges.

### **Goose watching**

Since the 1980s, “goose tourism” has developed into a factor in the Unterer Niederrhein (lower part of the lower Rhine) region. As the numbers of wintering wild geese there have grown sharply (from about 25,000, in the 1970s and 1980s, to over 150,000 individuals today), public interest in the geese has grown as well. As early as the 1980s, bus tours to the goose wintering areas were being organised<sup>56</sup>. On this occasion visitors obtain lots of information, e.g. about population development, the ecology of geese, and their

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<sup>55</sup> <http://www.erlebnisraum-natur.bremen.de>

<sup>56</sup> MOUJ 1988

conservation. These well-chosen excursions help protect geese from unnecessary disturbances.

In Lower Saxony, the Association for the Promotion of Nature Experiences (*Verein zur Förderung von Naturerlebnissen e.V.*) offers day excursions in the Stade district. The motto of the association's "birdwatcher bus"<sup>57</sup> ("*Vogelkieker-Bus*") is "take the double-decker bus to see the Black-tailed Godwit and the Barnacle Goose". This double-decker bus, which was specially purchased and painted for this purpose, takes guests on 2-3 hour tours of areas in which tens of thousands of Nordic migratory birds live in the fall and thousands of meadow-breeding birds breed in the spring and early summer (the Nord-Kehdingen bank of the Elbe). The bus serves as an excellent observation platform. Professional tour guides describe the various stations and provide background information.

Furthermore, since 2003 the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Protection of the Federal State of Lower Saxony has been developing a programme called "Experience Nature"<sup>58</sup> ("*Natur erleben*") which offers numerous attractive options for doing exactly that, i.e. experiencing nature. A map on the homepage guides visitors to points of interest to nature lovers and to nature tours. The points of interest comprise observation posts, nature paths, information centres, national park centres, environmental education centres, museums related to nature, zoos, and animal enclosures. The nature tours offer suggestions for tours of various lengths, be it on foot, by bike, on the water, on horseback or even by car. One suggestion currently in the programme is a White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) observation tour.

### **Crane watching**

Müritz National Park in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania offers an example of successful eco tourism and public private partnership in promoting nature conservation. The park has an extensive system of marked trails, cycle and canoe routes, platforms, hides and towers and hosts a variety of protected bird species, such as White-tailed Eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*), and Common Cranes (*Grus grus*). With virtually no tourism at the outset, it has become increasingly popular and now receives some 600,000 visitors per year, generating over 13 million € annually and supporting over 600 full-time jobs. The Müritz National Park Plan, developed by the National Park Authority in 2004, is the result of a participatory process involving local communities, the business community and other stakeholders in and around the park area. This participatory approach still prevails in the implementation of the plan and management of the park, providing an important mechanism for reconciling conservation with regional rural development.

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<sup>57</sup> <http://www.vogelkieker.de/>

<sup>58</sup> <http://www.natur-erleben.niedersachsen.de/startseite/index.php>

One example of this is the system put in place to control crane watching around the park's Lake Rederang. The park constantly hosts up to 8,000 migrating cranes in the months of September and October and also has a small breeding population of about 80 pairs. The cranes use the park's shallow lakeshores as safe overnight resting places, feeding on fields in the area during the day. Since they are sensitive to disturbance, an excessive influx of bird watchers could negatively impact the birds. To avoid this, a "Crane Ticket" system was introduced in 2003 as a public private partnership between the Müritz National Park Authority and a local tourism company, National Park Service OHG. Crane watching is conducted in groups of up to 20 persons, with a limit of 130 visitors per evening. The National Park Rangers control the restrictions and provide one guided tour to each location, and the tourism company offers further tours, usually guided by experienced conservationists. The revenue from this project does not directly support conservation in the park, but it contributes to this aim by minimising disturbance to the cranes by birdwatchers and by enabling the park to promote greater awareness of crane ecology and conservation. Since it also provides an incentive for tour operators linked to conservation, it also helps to promote tourism in the region outside of the high season. Monitoring of the cranes shows that impacts of the project on the cranes have been minimal.

The most important site for crane watching, however, is the National Park Vorpommersche Boddenlandschaft with up to 70,000 cranes during the peak of autumn migration. There are several sites for crane watching, well equipped with observation shelters etc., which are supervised by rangers of the National Park or, outside the park, the Crane Centre (Kranichzentrum) Groß Mohrdorf. Crane watching has a considerable positive effect on tourism after the summer season until the end of October.

### **Observation of Ospreys on their nests**

Tourists of the Müritz National Park and other regions have the possibility to watch Ospreys on their nests during breeding and hatching of the young via video camera systems at different locations, e.g. in the information centre Federow or from a hotel in Sparow, which provides excellent observation conditions without any disturbance for the birds.

### **Bayern Tour Nature**

The "Bayern Tour Nature"<sup>59</sup> of the Bavarian Ministry for the Environment in co-operation with associations, companies and private individuals exists since 2001. Annually more than 1,000 expert-guided natural history excursions are being offered at a fixed period of time. Many of these tours take place at ornithologically important wetlands. Tourism associations as well as boat, canoe and bicycle trip companies are particularly committed to this event.

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<sup>59</sup> <http://www.tournatur.bayern.de>

## Rangers

The Bavarian Fund for Nature Conservation (*Bayerischer Naturschutzfonds*), nature conservation associations as well as the European Social Fund (ESF) are funding 28 rangers (*Gebietsbetreuer*) in ecologically important areas in Bavaria. One of the main activities in those areas is to inform and to guide visitors. These offers are agreed with local tourism associations and are therefore regarded as part of the regional tourism activities. Rangers work in the Ammersee, Starnbergersee and Chiemsee/Chiemseemoore areas.

## 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.*

Environmental Impact Assessment (*EIA*) is a legal instrument for assessing projects that can cause environmental damage. Thus it is an instrument of precautionary environmental protection. As an integral part of authorities' administrative procedures, the EIA supports decisions on permissibility of projects.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Act (*Umweltverträglichkeitsprüfungsgesetz - UVPG*), like the relevant EC Directive, establishes the following aim for EIA: where projects are to be assessed, effective environmental precautions, in keeping with standardised principles, must be taken. Furthermore, at an early project stage, relevant environmental impacts must be comprehensively determined, described and assessed. Results of such assessment must be taken into account, as early as possible, in all decisions taken by authorities.

EIAs are carried out for projects as listed in Annex I of the UVPG. These include projects that involve interventions in waterbird habitats, such as widening and straightening of waterways, river channelling and flow correction, construction of dams and port facilities and mining of minerals in water bodies.

The assets to be protected, i.e. the focus of EIA, are:

- Human beings, including human health, fauna, flora and biological diversity;
- Soil, water, air, climate, landscapes;
- Cultural and other assets along with the relevant interrelationships between such assets.

EIAs are divided into three main sequential focus areas. The first area comprises definition of the necessary framework for the assessment; the second, and main area consists of the environmental impact study (*Umweltverträglichkeitsuntersuchung - UVU*), and the third area includes a summary and assessment of the relevant assets.

An EIA proceeds as follows: once the project backer has notified the competent authority of the planned project and has provided the authority with all materials regarding the nature and location of the project that are relevant to decision-making, the authority reviews whether the

project is subject to EIA requirements. If this is found to be the case, the assessment framework (pursuant to Art. 5 UVPG) must first be defined. This review, known as the “scoping process”, involves the participation of at least the competent authority, the project backer and the relevant specialised authority. The public and nature conservation associations may also be invited to participate.

The main EIA process which then follows is the UVU, which identifies the various assets concerned, including their interrelationships, in keeping with requirements as determined in identification of the framework (step 1), and determines the project’s possible consequences. The condition of the assets in question is analysed, and the possible project-related environmental threats are described. This is followed by a comprehensive, prognostic comparison of the relevant assets with the project’s estimated impacts. This prognosis covers the project’s various phases (construction, operation, decommissioning, follow-on uses, disruptions and [hazardous] incidents) and the various spatial and technical variants of the project, always taking the relevant interactions into account. The various impacts and alternatives are then assessed and compared, and a preferred option is identified. Relevant avoidance, reduction, compensation and substitution measures are also described. The final document, with the results of the UVU, is the Environmental Impact Assessment Study (*Umweltverträglichkeitsstudie - UVS*). The competent authority uses it, following relevant review on the basis of scoping criteria, for public notification.

Following public notification and the resulting discussion, the competent authority then prepares a summary of the project’s environmental impacts and a resulting assessment. The final decision regarding the project’s permissibility must then take this summary into account in weighing all interests affected by the project<sup>60</sup>.

Intervention regulations, pursuant to Art. 18 BNatSchG, must be applied, in connection with authorities’ permission or licensing, when land forms or uses are changed in such a manner that the vitality of natural systems or the landscape’s appearance could be considerably or lastingly impaired. This regulation is meant to reduce unregulated use of natural assets and landscapes, and to ensure that all of nature is protected throughout the country. In contrast to the EIAs, which support decisions on the permissibility of projects, intervention regulations support decisions on the direct legal consequences of projects<sup>61</sup>.

Where an intervention pursuant to Art. 18 (1) is given, all avoidable impairments must be avoided. All unavoidable considerable or lasting impairments must be compensated for, within a certain period, by means of nature-conservation and landscape-management measures. Where this is not possible, the various interests in question must be weighed. If weighing of all nature and landscape criteria shows that interests of nature conservation and landscape management have priority, the project is not permissible. If the project is permissible, all impairments that cannot be compensated for directly must be compensated for by means of adequately extensive substitution measures.

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<sup>60</sup> RIEDEL & LANGE 2001

<sup>61</sup> BERNADOT & HERBERT 2001

In protected areas pursuant to the EC Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) or Habitats Directive (Art. 6 of Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC), environmental impact assessment pursuant to Art. 34 BNatSchG must be carried out in addition to an EIA. So-called FFH “impact assessments” must be carried out for plans and projects that, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, could considerably impair an area.

Like intervention regulations, they have binding legal consequences. In contrast to the EIA, FFH impact assessments focus not on nature as a whole but on specific conservation objectives defined for the area in question – for example, protection of wetlands as resting areas for certain bird species. Consequently, plans and projects are not permissible if they can considerably impair a protected area for birds, by impairing the area’s key elements with regard to its conservation objectives or protection purpose.

Compensation and substitution measures may not be taken into account in impact assessments, since they do not rule out impairments – they simply eliminate or reduce them once they have occurred. Avoidance and reduction measures and project alternatives can and must be assessed. If a project is not permissible, an exemption may be granted only in the case of an overriding public interest and under the strict conditions laid down in Art. 6 Habitats Directive.

The studies and results carried out in the impact assessments as described above are announced to the public within the framework of the plan approval procedure, which follows the impact assessment phase.

*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.*

Measures to minimise disturbance of populations are predominantly laid down in the ordinances concerning relevant conservation areas. These measures might comprise temporary limitation of agriculture, forestry or hunting activities, or limitations on hunting birds, in particular geese.

To name one example: in 2006 Bavaria introduced both year-round and time-limited resting areas for waterbirds in the Chiemsee Ramsar site. In these areas, access on foot or by boat is prohibited to protect birds, fish and growths of reeds which are in decline. Similar concepts are under preparation for other Ramsar sites.

In Schleswig-Holstein, a reduction in pasturing in the Wadden Sea National Park has stabilised and increased the populations of bird species typically breeding in salt marshes and wetlands (Common Redshank, various species of ducks). Attractive breeding sites for reed birds and meadow birds (Greylag Goose, Barnacle Goose, some species of ducks, Northern Lapwing, Black-tailed Godwit, Common Redshank) and resting grounds for geese (Greylag Goose, Barnacle Goose) have been created by permitting ecological succession and extensive use of grasslands in the so-called nature conservation polders (*Naturschutzköge*)

along the west coast, in the estuary of the Eider and along the lower Elbe. The new species aid programme for 2008 is intended to continue improvement of habitats in particular of meadow birds.

In Hesse, the most common cause of abandonment of breeding sites of Black Storks (*Ciconia nigra*) is the destruction of eyries which crash to the ground because of storms or because branches break under heavy loads of snow. The most effective means of preventing this is the construction of platforms for the eyries by specialists. As a rule, the former breeding tree is used and the platform is installed in exactly the place where the nest used to be. Nearly 40 platforms for eyries have been set up by a team of VSW specialists in Hesse during the past 15 years. The majority of these are still in use today. Apart from the practical effect of protecting the species, this measure is also particularly suited to raising the forest owners'/users' awareness of the Black Stork.

The following are examples of how damages to agriculture and fisheries by populations were limited:

The protected area "Unterer Niederrhein" represents one of the internationally most important resting and wintering places for Nordic Geese, above all for Lesser White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons*). Since the beginning of the 1980s the numbers of wintering geese have been almost continuously growing and show maxima between 120,000 and 190,000 individuals since the 1987/1988 season. One of the reasons for the increasing numbers is that hunting arctic wild geese was prohibited in 1974 in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW). Furthermore, the Federal State provides compensation payments for farmers who do not scare the geese away and might therefore experience income losses. According to the Birds Directive the Federal State of NRW has also designated more than 20,000 ha of the "Unterer Niederrhein" as Special Protection Area for a better conservation of the arctic geese.

In Saxony-Anhalt, measures to limit damage to agriculture and fisheries are predominantly taken at the local level and on a case by case basis, for instance by way of management measures for damage by geese or to scare cormorants away from fishponds or to protect the local fish fauna.

The Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*) is an indigenous bird species. In Germany all indigenous wild species of fauna and flora, including their habitats, as an integral part of the ecosystem, shall be preserved in their natural and historically evolved diversity (Art. 2 BNatSchG). The Great Cormorant was formerly in danger of becoming extinct by intensive persecution. Due to European and national protection regulations, the species has recovered and is extending its breeding range. However, for several years there has been a tendency towards the reduction of the rate of increase and even negative rates in some countries. This might indicate that populations are gradually approaching towards habitat capacity.

The Great Cormorant as a fish-dependent species gives cause for concern among anglers and the fishing industry. In some Federal States Great Cormorants are culled on the basis of exception regulations. The Federal Government is of the opinion that if possible it would be

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better damage reduction should take place instead of cormorant reduction. National species conservation regulations – referring to the European Birds Directive – provide a sufficient framework for averting damages from commercial fishing.

The BMU developed model regulations on the basis of current legislation of the Birds Directive as well as national species conservation law including their provisions for exceptions, which are considered as suitable for preventing economical losses by cormorants in the fishery industry. Representatives of the European Commission agreed to these model regulations. The Federal States have implemented these model regulations in different ways. The European Commission funded a project named “Reducing the Conflict between Great Cormorants and Fisheries on a Pan-European Scale” (*REDCAFE*). Within the framework of this project the latest information on the conflict between cormorants and fisheries has been collected and furthermore methods for mitigating the conflict have been identified, described and evaluated. The results of this study seem to indicate that a massive, European-wide reduction of cormorant populations is possible with considerable effort, however it would not appear to be the most effective, economical or ethically acceptable possibility of resolving conflicts with fisheries. Other solutions, such as the improvement of habitats of affected fish species and passive protection measures for fish farms are considered more effective in the long term. REDCAFE therefore tends to favour intelligent management measures directly at the bodies of water concerned. This presupposes, however, that the birds are accepted around the larger bodies of water. The major milestone was a cormorant fisheries conflict workshop on cormorant ecology and management tools bringing together all relevant stakeholders – including fisheries and nature conservation organisations from 25 countries. This established a framework for improved communication and information transfer. Strategies were worked out to serve as conflict resolutions at the local, national as well as European level.

That progress notwithstanding, the Federal Government is aware of the enduring conflict of interest between cormorant protection and fisheries which has not been solved in a satisfactory way yet.

## 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 research priorities of the BMU are set forth in an annual Environmental Research Plan (*Umweltforschungsplan*), in the form of planned research and development projects (R+D projects). The plan is prepared by the BMU and its subordinated agencies like the BfN under consultation arrangements. At the beginning of each year, the plan is published in the internet.

The purpose of R+D projects is to provide a basis and orientation for the Federal Government's nature conservation and environmental protection policy. In particular, projects support preparation, review and refinement of national and international legal provisions and programmes, as well as national nature conservation tasks. Current R+D projects with relevance to AEWA are presented in Appendix 4.

Additional research projects are being carried out in each of the Federal States. Baden-Württemberg, for example, is the first Federal State so far to have launched its own research programme on avian flu. This research programme, entitled "Wild Birds and Avian Flu" ("*Wildvögel und Vogelgrippe*" - WuV<sup>62</sup>) aims to elucidate the mode of infection of 17 infected wild birds in Baden-Württemberg in order to take targeted and risk oriented action as soon as possible with a view to preventing an infection of domestic poultry or humans with avian flu. This means that immediate and intensive research into the virus reservoir of wild bird populations in Baden-Württemberg and possible ways the avian flu viruses might spread is needed. The research programme is complementary to the Federal State's monitoring measures. Currently, 13 research projects with a duration of nearly 3 years are receiving a total of 2.1 million € in support.

Regional and local research projects are carried out by various other institutions, including non-governmental organisations, e.g. large-scale protected area administrations, bird ringing centres, bird conservation centres (*Vogelschutzwarten*), and universities. Thus, the Bavarian Fund for Nature Conservation is funding a research project aimed at developing a management concept to optimise conditions at the Ismaninger Teichgebiet moulting centre for waterbirds. The project is to be carried out by the Ornithological Society Bavaria e.V.

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<sup>62</sup> [http://www.naturschutz.landbw.de/servlet/PB/menu/1201609\\_%7C1/index.htm](http://www.naturschutz.landbw.de/servlet/PB/menu/1201609_%7C1/index.htm)

(*Ornithologische Gesellschaft Bayern e.V.*) and Bund Nature Conservation in Bavaria (*Bund Naturschutz in Bayern e.V.*).

At the international level, as from 2008 Hesse is planning to participate in the programme to mark Black Storks (*Ciconia nigra*) with coloured bands that has been ongoing for 11 years. More than 20 nations are successfully taking part in this programme and telemetric research into the migration routes of Black Storks. The number of readings of coloured rings on Black Storks is increasing steadily. Large numbers of reports are providing important information about the choice of migration routes and their resting areas, wintering sites in Africa, Israel, Spain and Bulgaria and particularly about dispersal behaviour. This programme is therefore providing information of elementary importance to achieving the conservation aims of AEW. Apart from conclusions that are not yet available as to the migration behaviour (choice of migration routes within the “Zugscheide”<sup>63</sup> in north-eastern Germany), an increase in knowledge concerning the concrete names of wintering areas and also concerning the immigration behaviour of German Black Storks is to be expected.

*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*

The “Principles and goals from Steckby” agreed on at the conference on “Bird monitoring and international reporting obligations” in September 2002, bring together common principles as well as necessary steps towards nation-wide bird monitoring. The responsible Federal and Federal State authorities as well as non-governmental organisations with thousands of volunteers are very competent concerning bird monitoring in Germany. The existing capacities can be best made available by close and trustful co-operation and the promotion of synergies. Both professional and voluntary institutions are willing to reinforce the existing co-operation in this way. During recent years the theoretical background as well as practical experience for nation-wide bird monitoring were collected in the framework of ongoing programmes. In order to install such a coherent monitoring system, substantial efforts have been made in the framework of the R+D project “Monitoring of bird species in Germany – development and testing of a concept for the integration of voluntary participation in a programme for the monitoring of wild bird species in Germany”, that was carried out from October 2003 to April 2007 as a joint project of the BfN and the Federation of German Avifaunists (*DDA*) in co-operation with NABU and the German Ornithologists’ Society (*DO-G*). Based on voluntary bird monitoring programmes, monitoring activities in Germany have been subjected to a fundamental revision, aiming to achieve organisational

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<sup>63</sup> Storks of the western and the eastern flyway population breed here together in the same range.

improvements in the collection, dissemination and collation of data and to increase the methodological and conservation-related significance of the monitoring programmes.

The project has spawned a series of publications, such as, among others, “Birds in Germany 2007”<sup>64</sup> (“*Vögel in Deutschland 2007*”) which was extended and translated for the CBD COP 9 (“Birds and Biodiversity in Germany – 2010 Target”<sup>65</sup>). The status report analyses the status and trends of bird species in Germany. Trends are described for many migratory waterbird species and assessed in respect of underlying factors and anthropogenic influence on species and species groups. Composite bird indicators are used to assess state and trends in different habitats in Germany and show the state of indicator bird species including migratory species; sub-indicators review the state of freshwater habitats in Germany and of the German coasts/Sea.

In addition to this remarkable outcome of the research project, the DDA has developed a homepage on monitoring results<sup>66</sup> to improve availability of information. For each species data on state and trend are presented including additional information on distribution, red-list status, breeding and resting populations, relevant literature etc.

The “Administrative Agreement on Bird Monitoring” (*Verwaltungsvereinbarung Vogelmonitoring*) on the common use of data derived from voluntary bird monitoring in Germany was concluded between the Federal Government and the Federal State governments in order to establish voluntary bird monitoring as developed by DDA in the long term and thus to link this project up with its predecessor. It has been in force since 1 January 2008. The administrative agreement stipulates that the Federal Government and the Federal States will jointly fund the countrywide co-ordination of voluntary bird monitoring programmes, the collection and analysis of data by the DDA. The aim is to ensure long-term bird monitoring in order to be able to continuously use the data for nature conservation purposes. Among other things, these data also serve to comply with reporting obligations under AEWA and in connection with Germany’s membership of Wetlands International.

The BfN’s second R+D project “Sustainability Indicators for Nature Conservation, Phase II” (“*Nachhaltigkeitsindikatoren für den Naturschutzbereich, Phase II*”) ran from September 2004 until October 2006. The biodiversity sustainability indicator is one of the most important nature conservation indicators in national strategies. It is calculated on the basis of the population sizes of 59 species of birds annually. The project examined and improved the data on which the indicator is based and the conclusions derived from the indicator were extended. An information and communication strategy was developed to disseminate the results and to present the information they are based on. The publication “Nachhaltigkeitsindikator für den Naturschutzbereich” by ACHTZIGER, R., STICKROTH, H., ZIESCHANK, R., WOLTER, C. & SCHLUMPRECHT, H. (2007) was presented as a final report.

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<sup>64</sup> [http://www.bfn.de/fileadmin/MDB/documents/themen/monitoring/statusreport2007\\_eBook.pdf](http://www.bfn.de/fileadmin/MDB/documents/themen/monitoring/statusreport2007_eBook.pdf)

<sup>65</sup> FLADE et al. 2008;

[http://www.bfn.de/fileadmin/MDB/documents/themen/monitoring/Birds\\_Germany\\_2008\\_Target\\_2010.pdf](http://www.bfn.de/fileadmin/MDB/documents/themen/monitoring/Birds_Germany_2008_Target_2010.pdf)

<sup>66</sup> <http://www.dda-web.de/index.php>

A table of ongoing monitoring programmes on regional, national and international level is presented in Appendix 4. A brief description of individual important monitoring programmes and projects can be found below:

**The Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme for the Wadden Sea (TMAP)**<sup>67</sup> is an international programme carried out by the Wadden Sea countries Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands. The purpose of TMAP is to monitor and assess the ecological condition of the Wadden Sea and the implementation status relative to ecological objectives agreed in the framework of the trilateral Wadden Sea co-operation. The following section outlines the various projects being carried out within the TMAP framework, insofar as projects are of relevance to AEWA species.

Monitoring of Breeding Populations of Coastal Birds<sup>68</sup>:

Each year, censuses are carried out on Germany's North and Baltic Sea<sup>69</sup> coasts, within the framework of monitoring of coastal breeding bird populations. The term "coastal birds" refers to those species whose breeding range in Germany is limited to, or clearly concentrated in, coastal areas. This group includes nearly all wading birds (*limicolae*), gulls and terns, some ducks, the White Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*), Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) and Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*). The method of breeding bird monitoring used on the North Sea and Baltic Sea coasts is standardised in accordance with HÄLTERLEIN et al. (1995). On the North Sea coast, complete-coverage survey mapping is carried out for all outer dyke areas, islands and important mainland areas, especially recently dyked areas. On the Baltic Sea coast, survey mappings are carried out only in protected areas – which are the areas in which most coastal birds in the region breed. The coastal bird surveys monitor population sizes, trends and distributions. Breeding population survey data for the North Sea enters into the TMAP. Population trend data provides indications of habitat quality and facilitates prompt initiation of protection measures<sup>70</sup>.

Monitoring of Breeding Success of Coastal Birds:

In 1996 and 1997 a pilot study was carried out, within the TMAP framework, to monitor breeding success of coastal birds. Such studies are now to be carried out at five-year intervals; the first follow-on survey was carried out in 2001. The data collected include hatching and overall breeding success rates and body-mass development of the young of various coastal bird species. The overall aim of the efforts is to determine and monitor natural breeding success rates to facilitate prompt action in cases of negative trends<sup>71</sup>.

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<sup>67</sup> <http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/TMAP/Data-Unit/Data.html>

<sup>68</sup> <http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/TMAP/wse22/wse22.html>

<sup>69</sup> Not within the framework of TMAP

<sup>70</sup> HÄLTERLEIN et al. 2000

<sup>71</sup> THYEN et al. 2000

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*Monitoring of Pollutants in Coastal Bird Eggs*<sup>72</sup>:

The existing monitoring programme, whose beginnings reach back to 1981, has been a top-priority element of TMAP since 1994. Each year, eggs of selected coastal bird species are taken from representative breeding sites throughout the entire German Wadden Sea and analysed for concentrations of contaminants such as mercury, organic chlorine compounds, DDT and DDE. The results provide indications of chemical pollution loads in the environments of selected bird species – such as contaminants in food fish of arctic terns. Because of their position at the top of the food chain, birds are particularly useful indicators in this area. In combination with monitoring of breeding populations and breeding success, the contaminant monitoring system can facilitate the development of an early warning system that will enable early detection of negative environmental impacts, early response to such impacts and effective monitoring of success of relevant measures<sup>73</sup>.

*Monitoring of Beached Birds*<sup>74</sup>:

This programme monitors oiled beached birds on the North Sea coast. Further information is available on the webpage.

*Monitoring of Migratory Birds:*

The Wadden Sea constitutes one of the world's most important wetlands for migratory waterbirds. It is the single most important staging and moulting area and an important wintering area for waterbirds on the East Atlantic Flyway from the Arctic to South Africa. The Joint Monitoring of Migratory Birds (*JMMB*) programme constitutes an internationally coordinated long-term monitoring programme. It covers a large connected eco-region stretching from Den Helder in the Netherlands to Esbjerg in Denmark; regular ground counts for most species and areas plus aerial counts for others involve hundreds of volunteers. It is aimed at detecting changes in distributions and numbers of wading birds and waterbirds that come to the Wadden Sea. It is also designed to facilitate estimation of the total number of birds present in the Wadden Sea at all times and throughout yearly cycles. Data from the programme will moreover facilitate estimates of the total population in the east Atlantic flyway. Finally, the programme will also collect data that can help explain observed migratory and resting patterns. On a regional basis, this will facilitate management of national parks and other protected areas near and in the Wadden Sea<sup>75</sup>. Trends of 34 waterbird species for the international Wadden Sea and the four regions – Denmark, the

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<sup>72</sup> <http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/TMAP/wse18/wse18.html>; <http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/QSR/chapters/QSR-04.5-birdeggs.pdf>

<sup>73</sup> THYEN & BECKER 2000

<sup>74</sup> <http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/QSR/chapters/QSR-04.4-oiled-birds.pdf>

<sup>75</sup> RÖSNER & GÜNTHER 1996; GÜNTHER & RÖSNER 2000

Federal States of Germany, Niedersachsen and Schleswig-Holstein, and the Netherlands will be presented at the TMAP webpage<sup>76</sup> and updated on a yearly basis.

The “**Seabirds-at-Sea**” (SAS) Programme<sup>77</sup> surveys distributions and abundance of seabirds, coastal birds and marine mammals at sea in north-west European waters, especially the North Sea but also in the Baltic Sea through counts by aeroplanes and ships. The data, which are collected via a standardised method, enter into a joint database maintained by the “European Seabirds at Sea Co-ordinating Group” (ESAS). ESAS has already produced a number of atlases of seabird distributions at sea. The data for 1979-2004 comprise around 5,100 observer days or 1,005,000 km covered by ship or plane. At present, organisations from Belgium, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and the UK are participating. The counts in Germany are carried out by full-time and voluntary workers of the FTZ - Research and Technology Centre Westcoast (*Forschungs- and Technologiezentrum Westküste*), the Institute for Bird Research, Ornithological Station Heligoland and the Ornithological Working Group for Schleswig-Holstein and Hamburg (*Ornithologische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Schleswig-Holstein und Hamburg e.V. - OAG*). A number of institutes, authorities and shipping companies offer places on board of their ships for researchers. Without this option it would not have been possible to keep the programme going over such a long period.

The purpose of the monitoring programme is to learn about the distributions and abundance of seabirds and coastal birds and the relevant underlying factors, in order to be able to protect these species effectively. For the next 2-3 years, the German programme will focus mainly on the following four subjects:

- Establishing a monitoring scheme for seabirds at sea;
- Producing an atlas of seabirds of the German Bight;
- Analysis of data and development of conservation schemes for birds at sea (e.g. management in EU Bird Protection Areas in the Baltic and North Seas, impacts of various types of exploitation of the sea;
- Analysis of correlation between hydrographical phenomena, availability of food and distribution patterns of sea birds.

**Waterbird Census**<sup>78</sup>: The national programme for monitoring resting and wintering waterbirds in almost all wetlands of international or national importance, as well as on many significant local or regional waterways is one of the oldest permanent monitoring programmes established in Germany. It has been carried out since the end of the 1960s. This makes waterbird monitoring not only the oldest but also the most comprehensive federal bird monitoring programme. These counts are integrated in an almost world-wide network of

<sup>76</sup> [http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/TMAP/Migratory%20Birds/MIGB\\_trends/overviews/2007/trends\\_until\\_2005\\_2006.htm](http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/TMAP/Migratory%20Birds/MIGB_trends/overviews/2007/trends_until_2005_2006.htm)

<sup>77</sup> <http://www.uni-kiel.de/ftzwest/ag7/projekte/sas.shtml>

<sup>78</sup> <http://www.dda-web.de/index.php?cat=Monitoring&id=1&subid=5&ssc=1&subsubid=0&lang=de>

census areas which are monitored annually in mid-January within the framework of the International Waterbird Census (*IWC, organised by Wetlands International*). The IWC enables population figures to be registered and trends to be forecast for the vast majority of more than 2,300 waterbird species world-wide. In addition to the international census date in January (and additionally for individual goose species in autumn and spring) the counts in Germany are also carried out on up to 8 mid-month dates between September and April and, in selected areas of the Wadden Sea, throughout the whole year.

The aim of the census is, in the first instance, to provide answers to the following questions:

- How many individuals of the different species roost and spend the winter in Germany?
- Which sites are of international, national or regional importance?
- What is the population development of the different species?

Due to the long-term nature of the data collection impacts of climate change on birds, which are adapting their spatial and temporal distribution patterns to changing climate conditions, can also be demonstrated<sup>79</sup>. The data and findings of the monitoring will also be used in AEWA and Ramsar Convention frameworks. By the end of 2008 a manual comprising field methods and census techniques for non-breeding waterbirds will be published and provided to all volunteers participating in the various waterbird monitoring programmes.

In Saxony monitoring of waterbird breeding is carried out in 23 selected areas. Phase 1 was carried out from 2000 to 2003 and since 2007 the exercise is being repeated.

**The New Monitoring Programme of Common Breeding Birds:** Common and frequent species of breeding birds are among the best indicators of the impacts of large-scale land use (agriculture and forestry) on biodiversity. Since 1989, the DDA has been conducting a monitoring programme for frequent breeding birds, which was methodologically optimised and more specifically tailored to nature conservation issues in 2004<sup>80</sup>. The revised monitoring programme designates areas where samples have to be taken. These areas are based on random samples and cover various types of land use and landscapes. In Germany, there are 1,000 such areas of 1 km<sup>2</sup> for issues of countrywide relevance and 2,637 areas concerning matters related to the Federal States. The method of data collection has also been altered: line mapping is carried out over a distance of 3 km, providing a good representation of breeding bird populations in the sample areas<sup>81</sup>. Already by its fourth year (2007) the programme had met with considerable interest from voluntary mappers. 710 of the 1,000 nation-wide areas and an additional 640 areas at the Federal State level have already been attributed (overall 1,350 monitoring sites).

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<sup>79</sup> WAHL & SUDFELDT 2005

<sup>80</sup> MITSCHKE et al. 2005

<sup>81</sup> SÜDBECK et al. 2005

**The DDA Programme for Survey of Selected Endangered Bird Species:** Since 1977, the DDA has conducted surveys to collect population data on selected endangered bird species in Germany. The range of species covered has been expanded since 1995 and now includes populations of breeding birds that are represented by fewer than 1,000 breeding pairs in Germany (to the extent this can be documented by current data) and a few other rare breeding bird species. The purpose of the monitoring is to assess national population trends for rare bird species in Germany, in order to develop, review and implement conservation programmes and conservation measures.

The results of both breeding bird programmes form the basis for the threat classification of species (Red List), the compliance with reporting obligations under international law (e.g. Birds Directive, AEWA, Ramsar Convention) and nature conservation-related indicators (e.g. sustainability indicator for biodiversity). The data are collected by volunteer staff and provided, by the DDA, to representatives of the various relevant Federal States<sup>82</sup>.

In the framework of the R+D project “Monitoring of bird species in Germany”, the programme has been fundamentally reworked and adapted to currently relevant requirements of nature protection policy. In the future the programme will provide data on all protected and endangered breeding bird species in Germany. This includes, for example, the provision of data for the Atlas of German Breeding Birds “ADEBAR” – one of the most important projects at the moment:

In 2004 delegates of governmental and non-governmental institutions and organisations involved in bird monitoring schemes and bird protection at a national or Federal State level agreed on an ambitious concept for a new Atlas of German Breeding Bird Species (*Atlas DEutscher BrutvogelARten – ADEBAR*<sup>83</sup>) which envisions the nation-wide recording of all breeding bird species according to uniform, nation-wide, strictly standardised, quantitative mapping methods. The project is carried out by the German Bird Monitoring Foundation and the DDA.

The aims of ADEBAR go well beyond those of all other previous atlases. They are:

- The nation-wide presentation and interpretation of the distribution and frequency of all breeding birds;
- The estimation of the size of breeding populations in Germany;
- The identification of the main distribution areas of protected or endangered bird species in order to reinforce existing area nature conservation instruments (e.g. identification of NSGs) and

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<sup>82</sup> BOSCHERT 2005

<sup>83</sup> Adebar is also the German popular name for the White stork (*Ciconia ciconia*).

- The establishment of nation-wide methodical standards for ensuring the scientific reliability of the results and to guarantee their reproducibility when working on atlases in the future.

Data collection for the ADEBAR atlas of breeding birds is in its final phase. Analysis of the data collected will begin at the end of this year and it is planned to finalise the atlas in 2010<sup>84</sup>.

A number of additional monitoring programmes at the regional or national level concerning gulls, swans, Great Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*) and Black Terns (*Chlidonias niger*) are presented in Appendix 4.

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<sup>84</sup> GEDEON et al. 2004; see also [www.dda-web.de](http://www.dda-web.de)

## 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.*

Practical nature conservation, such as the management of protected areas or the execution of conservation measures – for example, care and maintenance of water bodies in order to protect water birds – is carried out largely by persons trained in the areas of agriculture, forestry, water resources management, horticulture or social pedagogy, as well as by a large number of volunteer staff.

Since 1998, a training course leading to certification as a “certified nature and landscape manager” (*Gepürfter Natur- und Landschaftspfleger*), a non-academic occupational qualification in nature conservation, has been available to this group. This training is designed to impart and improve knowledge and skills in the area of “nature conservation and landscape management”. It is also specially designed to provide highly marketable skills for the employment market<sup>85</sup>.

The training course imparts professional competence in conserving and protecting endangered habitats as valuable ecological and cultural assets of rural areas. In addition, it teaches people to protect areas and inform visitors in ways that will enhance public awareness of the need to protect biological and landscape diversity and that will assist people in experiencing nature and thus overcoming the alienation from nature that urban life can bring.

Occupational responsibilities of certified nature and landscape managers can vary widely depending on their place and area of assignment. In large protected areas such as national parks and biosphere reserves or sensitive NSGs, such responsibilities can include managing and guarding sites as well as informing, guiding, teaching and educating visitors. Environmental education and visitor guidance can also be highly relevant in other landscape areas, especially when there is a need to protect endangered and/or sensitive plant and animal species, such as waterbirds sensitive to disturbance. Other responsibilities can include co-ordination and execution of landscape management measures as well as efforts to improve protected and/or endangered habitats and their species, such as meadow birds in wetlands, within the framework of contract-based nature protection or in protected areas<sup>86</sup>.

Certified nature and landscape managers can find employment as salaried staff or workers in the public sector – for example, in administrations of protected areas –, as self-employed farmers within the framework of environmentally oriented agricultural programmes and

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<sup>85</sup> MITLACHER 2000a

<sup>86</sup> MITLACHER 2000b

contract-based nature protection or as freelance staff of municipalities, tourism organisations or nature conservation associations.

The curriculum of the training course for certification as “certified nature and landscape manager”, which comprises 640 hours of instruction, includes the following areas:

- Basic principles of nature conservation and landscape management (aims, species, ecological interrelationships);
- Information and visitor services (environmental education, information regarding management and care measures, events);
- Specific nature conservation and landscape management measures (planting and care of trees and shrubs, use of equipment, species and biotope protection, environmental education facilities);
- Relevant economic, legal and social skills (legal basis, organisational skills, tendering procedures, tax law)<sup>87</sup>.

In addition to this practical course, there are many courses of study that at least touch on areas of nature conservation.

Natural science programmes at universities and universities of applied sciences (*Fachhochschulen*), in areas such as biology, landscape management, ecology, forestry and agriculture, include conservation-related aspects in the study of the scientific basis, relevant legal provisions and practical implementation. Engineering studies in the area of technical environmental protection – for example, with an emphasis on water quality management – represent another area of specialisation with relevance to nature conservation and landscape management.

Apart from the above training and study programmes, further training programmes are available from state-supported providers of environmental and conservation training. Such providers are organised within the “Federal Working Group of State-Supported Educational Institutions for Nature Conservation and Environmental Protection” (*“Bundesweiter Arbeitskreis der staatlich getragenen Bildungsstätten im Natur- und Umweltschutz – BANU”*)<sup>88</sup>.

These institutions’ central services include education in areas relevant to sustainable development, specialised further training and continuing education and measures to enhance public awareness about nature conservation and environmental protection<sup>89</sup>. The courses and events offered by such institutions can differ widely in their aims and content. Their focuses can include dissemination about new scientific findings, discussion of nature conservation strategies, application and implementation of laws and regulations and co-ordination and implementation of practical nature conservation measures, also with regard to the achievement of AEW objectives (cf. Point 6 of the Action Plan).

<sup>87</sup> <http://www.landwirtschaftskammer.de/bildung/pdf/natur-landschaftspfleger.pdf>

<sup>88</sup> <http://www.umweltbildung-sachsen.de/banu/>

<sup>89</sup> NUA 2000

A total of 13 “nature conservation academies” and “environmental centres” belong to this working group. Depending on the Federal State concerned, the various educational institutions are organised within specific state authorities (e.g. Nature Conservation and Environmental Protection Academy in North Rhine-Westphalia), ministries (e.g. Academy for Nature Conservation and Environmental Protection in Baden-Württemberg) or non-profit associations (e.g. IWU Environmental Institute – *Institut für Weiterbildung und Beratung im Umweltschutz e. V.* in Magdeburg, in Saxony-Anhalt)<sup>90</sup>.

The Bavarian Academy for Nature Protection and Landscape Management offers two six-day training courses for voluntary nature protection wardens of district or municipal administrations. Furthermore, the Bavarian State Environment Agency (*Bayerisches Landesamt für Umwelt - LfU*) carries out training for waterbird censuses and co-ordinates the annual waterbird census.

Apart from state-funded educational institutions, nature conservation associations and other organisations also offer workshops and events in the areas of nature conservation and environmental protection (in some cases, such programmes and events are open only to the organisation’s members).

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

The International Academy for Nature Conservation (Internationale Naturschutzakademie - INA Insel Vilm)<sup>91</sup> is part of a branch office of the BfN. It provides a forum for the discussion and solution of national and international nature conservation issues. The INA’s tasks include:

- Exchange of information and transfer of knowledge by means of conferences and seminars;
- Contribution to meeting obligations under bilateral agreements and international conventions, in particular in the areas of capacity building and nature conservation consulting;
- Support to new EU Member States and candidate countries in the area of nature conservation.

Every year, the INA organises some 80 events, of which about one third are international. Since 1990, participants from more than 130 countries have visited the island. 20% of the training seminars taking place on the Isle of Vilm are intended for German-speaking participants. 70% are tailored to participants from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), including Central-Asian states and to experts from Central and Eastern Europe. The

<sup>90</sup> <http://www.umweltbildung-sachsen.de/banu/s12-13-brd-grafik-umweltakademien.pdf>

<sup>91</sup> [http://www.bfn.de/0310\\_steckbrief\\_ina.html](http://www.bfn.de/0310_steckbrief_ina.html)

remainder of the training sessions concern experts from the EU and from developing countries.

From 12-17 November 2008 the Academy will host the first workshop of a three-year workshop series (2008-2010) “The future of peatlands in Central and Eastern Europe in the view of climate changes”<sup>92</sup>. Peatlands are important sources or sinks for greenhouse gases, depending on the type of land use. In Central and Eastern Europe, there is a high potential to conserve and restore peatlands for climate protection as well as for biodiversity conservation. In this regard, diverse policies and legal tools are being developed, and numerous projects are being carried out in order to achieve conservation goals and sustainable use of peatlands. Parallel to these developments scientific research on peatlands has also intensified.

The aim of the workshop is to share information about research, policies and their implementation with respect to peatland conservation, restoration, and its sustainable use with relevant stakeholders of the target region and to show how this contributes to sustainable development. The practical requirements of conservation and restoration projects will be discussed and strategies to realise conservation and restoration goals within a comprehensive planning framework will be evaluated using actual projects as case studies. It will be analysed how ecological and socio-economic aims can be pursued simultaneously under the paradigm of sustainability in order to develop project strategies that satisfy the needs of biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and of local communities (e.g. how to “sell” the ecosystem services of peatlands? How to make people pay for them?).

One example for multilateral co-operative action to develop training programmes and share examples of good practice within the framework of AEWA is the international Flyway-project “Wings over Wetlands” (*WOW*<sup>93</sup>). The project’s aim is to improve the conservation of African-Eurasian migratory waterbirds along their flyways through implementing measures to conserve the critical network of sites that these birds require during their annual cycle.

The project consists of three different components:

1. Strengthening the rational basis for conservation activities through development of a comprehensive, flyway scale, critical site network planning and management tool;
2. Establishing a basis for strengthening decision-making and technical capacity for wetland and migratory waterbird conservation;
3. Enhancing availability and exchange of information through improved communications capacity and resource provision.

The project is a joint effort between several partners (Wetlands International, BirdLife International, AEWA, Ramsar), mainly sponsored by UNEP/GEF with 6 million US\$. An additional 6 million US\$ come from other donors. Germany provides 1 million € to this project and is therefore the second biggest donor.

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<sup>92</sup> [http://www.bfn.de/0603\\_kalender+M52087573ab0.html?&tx\\_blitzcalendar\\_pi1\[qlist\]=4](http://www.bfn.de/0603_kalender+M52087573ab0.html?&tx_blitzcalendar_pi1[qlist]=4)

<sup>93</sup> <http://www.wingsoverwetlands.org/>

Within the context of an Agreement which was concluded in 1990 by the ministers for the environment of the Republic of Senegal and the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia, a biological station was established in Senegal's Djoudj National Park, one of the largest protected areas for waterbirds in Western Africa with an area of 16,000 ha and a very important resting area for Palaearctic waterbirds (especially *Charadriiformes* like Black-tailed Godwit and Ruff) at the edge of the Sahara desert. The Biological Station serves as the West African IUCN-Centre for training rangers, offering, among other things, courses on area management, expanding eco tourism and scientific support to the National Park<sup>94</sup>.

The Schleswig-Holstein Academy for Nature and Environment brings together experts on Agenda 21 and on species conservation. "Coastal Network Coastal Zone 21" helps connect the whole network of "Baltic Agenda 21" protagonists.<sup>95</sup>

### **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)?*

As part of their environmental education programmes, large protected areas such as national parks and biosphere reserves, as well as large NSGs and nature parks, carry out measures to inform visitors and sensitise them to the natural environment and to promote public awareness.

In addition to information signs and networks of nature trails and walks, many protected areas have information and nature centres that provide important (and popular) information. Each information centre features exhibits and information about the protected area in which it is located, including topics such as the area's history and historical development, the area's flora and fauna, conflicts in nature conservation and threats to individual species and communities.

Germany's national parks, biosphere reserves and nature parks operate hundreds of nature and information centres, and additional centres are being planned. The three German Wadden Sea national parks alone have over 42 national park and information centres. In most cases, information centres are operated by volunteer staff who are members of local nature conservation associations or who are carrying out civil service (as a substitute for military service).

In many protected areas, information centres offer nature walks and tours. Large centres may also have travelling exhibits and nature-oriented events. The following section presents an

<sup>94</sup>[http://www3.lanuv.nrw.de/Willkommen/Aktuelles/Publikationen/LOEBF\\_Mitteilungen/Mitteilung\\_01\\_2001/Aus\\_dem\\_Inhalt/Seite42\\_51\\_sc.pdf](http://www3.lanuv.nrw.de/Willkommen/Aktuelles/Publikationen/LOEBF_Mitteilungen/Mitteilung_01_2001/Aus_dem_Inhalt/Seite42_51_sc.pdf)

<sup>95</sup> <http://www.conet21.de/>

example of such an information centre – the “Multimar Wattforum”<sup>96</sup> of the Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park, located in Tönning:

The “Multimar Wattforum” is one of Germany’s newest and most modern information centres. A captivating multi-station exhibit, spread over an area of 800 m<sup>2</sup>, presents the Wadden Sea habitat. A range of photos, films, models, computer graphics, microscopes and games make science come alive for visitors. Animations and hands-on exhibits, such as a display on tidal rhythms, make the general features of Wadden Sea nature phenomena easy to understand. Special events and materials are offered for school classes. The Pedagogic National Park Centre (*Pädagogisches Zentrum Nationalpark - PZN*) has developed the “Mobile Workshop” (“*Wanderwerkstatt*”) for schools: Wild birds in the National Park<sup>97</sup>. In the “Mobile Workshop” children are active with fun and excitement, researching the coastal birds. The “Mobile Workshop” is aimed at children of the primary and middle stage in Schleswig-Holstein and Hamburg. The curricula were considered in developing its programme. Pedagogues and biologists have prepared the contents colourfully and made all materials available. The principal items are the investigation columns with stuffed birds, task-cards and with Orni, the mascot of the “Mobile Workshop”, who guides the children through questions and experiments. At workbenches the pupils examine feathers, bills, duck feet and bird bones and do exciting experiments using magnifying glasses, microscopes, scales, and rulers. At the craftwork table they build flight models or draw and form bird’s heads and chicks. The workshop is supplemented by info stands, which inform about the species of birds in the investigation columns and about the National Park. Single and group work alternate. A final game helps the children to clarify their value concepts.

The “Multimar Wattforum” centre also presents current findings from ongoing monitoring. The aim is to show how scientific findings contribute to the protection and conservation of the Wadden Sea. The Multimar concept was developed by the centre’s staff, in co-operation with the National Park Authority and the city of Tönning.

A range of excursions and guided tours in the Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park begin at the Multimar centre. A number of different one-day and multi-day events, tailored to different age groups and with a range of different emphases, are also offered: for instance, a unique spectacle of nature took place from 19-27 April 2008 in the North Frisian halligs, when huge swarms of Brent Geese (*Branta bernicla*) could be observed on the hallig meadows. Since 1998 the hallig communities, nature protection organisations and the *Nationalpark Service gGmbH* have been inviting vacationers and day trippers to get a live impression of the impressive natural spectacle of arctic bird migration. The Brent Goose Days offer a variety of events. The opening event is always the presentation of the “Golden Brent Goose Feather” at Hooge Hallig. This award is presented to people who have made outstanding contributions to Brent Goose conservation. The opening ceremony is followed by numerous events related to the Brent Goose and its habitat, the Wadden Sea National

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<sup>96</sup> <http://www.multimar-wattforum.de/>

<sup>97</sup> <http://www.pzn-sh.de/>

Park. Hiking tours across the mudflats provide first hand impressions of nature on the seafloor and hikes in the salt marshes offer the opportunity to “feast like the geese”. The local drama groups offer “Rottgoostheater” and films and lectures offer insights into the life of these birds. There is also a special children’s programme. The habitat of the geese is explored and there are nature games and handicraft sessions related to the geese. The inns on the Halligs offer special culinary delights just for the Brent Goose Days<sup>98</sup>. Recently, Barnacle Goose Days (*Branta leucopsis*)<sup>99</sup> and Bewick’s Swan Days (*Cygnus bewickii*) have also been initiated in the Eider-Treene-Sorge area.

The Federal State of Hesse is especially active in protecting the Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*) for which numerous public awareness raising activities are taking place. The main focus is on educational activities, in particular a dialogue with forest owners. Numerous presentations and discussions have helped to promote understanding of this sensitive large bird species. In recent years, training programmes and seminars for foresters conducted by the bird conservation centre have been providing practical skills in Black Stork conservation. The most recent of these events was organised jointly by the Nature Conservation Academy of Hesse, the Hessian Ministry for the Environment and the Bird Conservation Centre of the Forestry School at Schotten. Moreover, the bird conservation centre has reacted to growing interest in Black Storks by compiling a media portfolio containing material for presentations on this species. It has frequently been used in forestry training and also by representatives of nature conservation organisations and contains numerous foil and slides.

In May 2005, a large traveling exhibition entitled “In the Realm of the Black Stork” was developed. The exhibition consists of nine informative and attractive panels and three exhibits<sup>100</sup>. In 2006, video cameras were used to successfully monitor and film the breeding process of a pair of Black Storks in eastern Hesse. Hessian television broadcasted five documentary films on the development of the young birds up to the point when they were fully fledged. The unique pictures of Black Stork breeding reached a broad public and are likely to have raised additional interest in this species.

Another focus of public information and outreach activities is on the production and distribution of brochures. The State Agency for the Environment, Measurement and Nature Conservation of the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg (*Landesanstalt für Umwelt, Messungen und Naturschutz Baden-Württemberg - LUBW*), acting on behalf of the Ministry for Food and Rural Areas (*Ministerium für Ernährung und Ländlichen Raum*), has produced brochures which are available free of charge and which also contain information on species listed in AEWA. The “Recommendations for Bird Protection Areas”<sup>101</sup> explain which types

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<sup>98</sup> <http://www.ringelganstage.de>

<sup>99</sup> <http://www.nonnenganstage.de/>

<sup>100</sup> <http://www.schwarzstörche.de>

<sup>101</sup> <http://rips-uis.lubw.baden-wuerttemberg.de/rips/natura2000-spa2008/navigation/sachdat/pdf/handlung.pdf>

of use and what activities have positive or negative effects on individual species. They indicate for each individual species which activities and measures

- Do not as a rule have a considerable negative impact;
- May have a considerable negative impact;
- Are important for the conservation of species;
- Are desirable to improve the conservation status.

The brochure is intended for land users, planners and government offices as well as the general public.

An understandable overview of the biology, occurrence and distribution of bird species for which Bird Protection Areas have been designated in Baden-Württemberg is contained in the brochure “Im Portrait – die Arten der EU-Vogelschutzrichtlinie”<sup>102</sup> (“Portraits of bird species protected under the EU Birds Directive”). In addition, conservation measures for each individual species are indicated. This brochure too is meant for the general public.

Finally, the DDA’s Birdrace<sup>103</sup> should be mentioned as an example of how monitoring, awareness raising and fundraising can be successfully combined. The birdrace combines the enjoyment of bird watching with volunteer work for bird conservation and measures to raise the public interest indispensable to informing the public about nature and bird conservation issues. These bird-related races attract considerable media attention and therefore permit awareness raising concerning voluntary work. In other words, it is the bird watchers and not the birds who are running. The idea is for teams of 3-5 persons to watch or hear as many species as possible in one day. The area in which the race is conducted is previously agreed on and usually comprises one district. Any species of bird indigenous to or naturally occurring in Germany counts, provided the majority of team members saw or heard it. Teams are invited to collect donations for a project which is designated on an annual basis. And the teams are off and fighting for the title of “King of the Bird Race Donation Collectors”. If friends or companies donate a particular amount for specific species this creates added incentive for the teams, as this means that every additional species leads to an increase in the sum collected. To date four nation-wide bird races were carried out and a total of 40,000 € was collected. Every year the DDA Meeting of Members decides which project will receive support. So far, the money was donated to the ADEBAR project, the most ambitious project of voluntary birders in Germany to date (cf. Chapter 5.3).

3 May was the decisive date in 2008. The 5th birdrace was carried out nation-wide and 117 teams participated. There were three categories: total number of species, number of songbird species and total amount collected. The 2008 record amount of 20,000 € will be made available to the ADEBAR project as in previous years. For the first time this year, those teams who exclusively used muscle power or public transport to get around received a

<sup>102</sup> [http://www.lubw.baden-wuerttemberg.de/servlet/is/21344/im\\_portrait\\_arten\\_vogelschutzrichtlinie.pdf?command=downloadContent&filename=im\\_portrait\\_arten\\_vogelschutzrichtlinie.pdf](http://www.lubw.baden-wuerttemberg.de/servlet/is/21344/im_portrait_arten_vogelschutzrichtlinie.pdf?command=downloadContent&filename=im_portrait_arten_vogelschutzrichtlinie.pdf)

<sup>103</sup> <http://www.dda-web.de/index.php?cat=Der%20DDA&id=2&subid=4&ssc=1&subsubid=1&lang=de>

special token of appreciation. Following initial contacts in 2007, the nation-wide bird race has now been designated as the official opening event of the 10th GEO Day of Biodiversity on 14 June 2008<sup>104</sup>.

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<sup>104</sup> [http://www.geo.de/GEO/natur/oekologie/tag\\_der\\_artenvielfalt/](http://www.geo.de/GEO/natur/oekologie/tag_der_artenvielfalt/)

## 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 AEWA Secretariat is headed by a very dedicated and competent executive officer. AEWA staff is fulfilling its tasks in an exemplary way. Because of the importance of maintaining a high awareness of AEWA activities not only within government agencies but also within the host country and the region, Germany appreciates the development of the electronic newsletter, outreach material (several brochures, postcards and posters), the website development and enhancement as well as the launch of the campaign “World Migratory Bird Day”<sup>105</sup>. Furthermore, Germany welcomes the fact that the AEWA Secretariat has taken the initiative to update and revise the Single Species Action Plan for the Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*). The co-ordination or implementation of current or proposed international action plans developed under the auspices of AEWA will play a major role in the future.

#### b. International organisations

Germany is gratified that AEWA maintains and continues to enhance excellent contacts with other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and international institutions. This concerns not only the mother convention, CMS, but also other relevant MEAs and organisations such as CBD, Ramsar or IUCN. One notable example of “multilateral” co-operation between AEWA and other international organisations is the public platform for information exchange and communication on Avian Influenza “AIWeb”<sup>106</sup>. In this project AEWA co-operates with such diverse partners as UNEP, CBD, CMS, Ramsar, WHO, FAO and UN/ISDR-PPEW. The latter, as a Bonn-based agency, also demonstrates the benefits and synergies to be derived from AEWA’s location in the UN City of Bonn.

#### c. AEWA NGO partners

NGO partners contribute considerably to the implementation of AEWA. This concerns not only international NGOs, such as Wetlands International, which plays the key role as an initiator of the International Waterbird Census, but also the numerous German NGOs

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<sup>105</sup> <http://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org/>

<sup>106</sup> <http://www.aiweb.info/>

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engaged in the conservation of birds and especially waterbirds. All these NGOs have been closely involved in delivering important elements of the Implementation Plan.

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

As noted during the Second International Conference on Wetlands and Development, held in 1998, “there is scope in the implementation of AEWA to develop close linkages and synergies with aspects of other conventions, particularly, but not restricted to, the Ramsar Convention, the CBD, the Convention on Migratory Species, and the European Union Birds Directive. All opportunities to develop such linkages and synergies between treaties should be explored so as to ensure that scarce conservation resources throughout the region are devoted primarily to implementation and practical conservation activity, and not to unnecessary bureaucracy”.

With this in mind, Germany will focus on relations of AEWA with other international instruments and processes, stressing in particular the need for the continual orientation of AEWA towards CBD. Goals and activities of AEWA and CBD should be harmonised. If possible, other Agreements, e.g. the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands or the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (*CITES*) should be taken into account.

## 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.***

Germany has supported the African-Eurasian Flyways Project (“WOW”) with a generous financial contribution of 1 million € (second biggest donor). Thereby essential help for the implementation of the AEWA resolutions and recommendations and for the conservation of waterbirds was given. This project supports and implements numerous priority activities (cf. Resolution 3.11 *International implementation priorities for 2005-2008*).

Concerning Resolutions 1.2, 2.7 and 3.14 on *financial and administrative matters*, Germany has paid its subscription dues for 2005, 2006 and 2007 as well as yearly voluntary contributions of 25,600 €.

Germany has fulfilled its reporting duties prescribed in Resolution 1.3 *National reporting* and 3.4 *Submission of National Reports to MOP*.

Concerning Resolution 1.8 *Establishment of the Technical Committee* and Resolutions 2.5 and 3.13 *Institutional arrangements: Technical Committee*: Germany has attended meetings of the Technical Committee as an observer and contributed to the meetings.

The implementation of Resolution 2.2 *Phasing out of lead shot for hunting in wetlands* has started in recent years by restrictions of use of lead shot for hunting waterbirds near wetlands at the Federal State level. Meanwhile, ten of the sixteen Federal States have implemented a ban of lead shot for waterbird hunting. Four Federal States are considering or preparing such a legal regulation. The two remaining Federal States are Hamburg and Bremen (including Bremerhaven) – both are city-states with extremely limited hunting areas.

Germany has started implementing Resolution 3.18 *Avian Influenza* by conducting the national research and development project “Talks on Avian Flu” (2005-2006) or the Baden-Württemberg research programme on avian influenza. This research programme aims to elucidate the mode of infection of 17 infected wild birds in Baden-Württemberg in order to take targeted and risk oriented action as soon as possible with a view to preventing an infection of domestic poultry or humans with avian flu. This means that immediate and intensive research into the virus reservoir of wild bird populations in Baden-Württemberg and possible ways the avian flu viruses might spread is needed. The research programme is complementary to the Federal State’s monitoring measures. Currently, 13 research projects with a duration of nearly 3 years are receiving a total of 2.1 million € in support.

Resolution 3.7 *Conclusions from the Waterbirds around the World conference* was implemented by further development of installing a coherent monitoring system in the Federal States. In 2008 a joint research project of the BfN and the DDA in co-operation with NABU and the German Ornithologists’ Society led to a breakthrough in terms of co-operation between the Federal level and the Federal States with respect to countrywide monitoring. Furthermore, the network of key sites for waterbirds has been extended and

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strengthened in the framework of the NATURA 2000 network.

Concerning Resolution 3.17 on *Climate change*, the reduction of climate change was adopted as a major goal in the National Strategy on Biodiversity. In the framework of the Waterbird Census, the long-term nature of the data collection now makes it possible to demonstrate impacts of climate change on birds which are adapting their spatial and temporal distribution patterns to changing climate conditions. In addition, the International Academy for Nature Conservation of the BfN will host the first workshop of a three-year workshop series (2008-2010) “The future of peatlands in Central and Eastern Europe in the view of climate changes” from 12-17 November 2008.

For the coming MOP, BMU is considering submitting a draft resolution in accordance with the spirit of the Joint Work Programme between the Ramsar Convention, CMS and AEWA aiming to establish a joint working group in the coming triennium. The working group should deal with the issue of future co-operation between CMS and AEWA. This concerns matters such as improving the efficiency of co-operation, but also the co-operation concerning the Raptors MoU, the Central Asian Flyway and the inclusion of other taxa of waterbirds presently not included in AEWA. In addition to the raptors (*Falconiformes*), this concerns the songbirds (*Passeriformes*). The aim is to include all endangered species of integrating wetlands birds, insofar as they are not yet covered.

## **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

All relevant information is already included in the previous chapters.

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

ADEBAR	Atlas <b>DE</b> utscher <b>B</b> rutvogel <b>AR</b> ten (= Atlas of German Breeding Bird Species)
AEWA	Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds/ African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement
AG	Arbeitsgemeinschaft (= working group)
AIS	Automatic Ship Identification System
AIWeb	The Avian Influenza, Wildlife and the Environment Web
App.	Appendix
ARGE Elbe	Arbeitsgemeinschaft für die Reinhaltung der Elbe (= Working Group for Water Quality in the Elbe River)
BANU	Bundesweiter Arbeitskreis der staatlich getragenen Bildungsstätten im Natur- und Umweltschutz (= Federal Working Group of State-Supported Educational Institutions for Nature Conservation and Environmental Protection)
BArtSchV	Bundesartenschutz-Verordnung (= Federal Ordinance on the Conservation of Species)
BfN	Bundesamt für Naturschutz (= Federal Agency for Nature Conservation)
BImSchG	Bundesimmissionsschutzgesetz (= Federal Immission Control Act)
BJagdG	Bundesjagdgesetz (= Federal Hunting Act)
BJagdZ-VO	Bundesjagdzeitenverordnung(= Federal Hunting Season Ordinance)
BMU	Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit (= German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety)
BMELV	Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz (= German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection)
BMVBS	Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Bau und Stadtentwicklung (= German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs)
BNatSchG	Bundesnaturschutzgesetz (= Federal Nature Conservation Act)
BSPAs	Baltic Sea Protected Areas
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
DJV	Deutscher Jagdverband (= German Hunting Association)
DBU	Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (= German Federal Foundation for Environment)
DDA	Dachverband Deutscher Avifaunisten (= Federation of German Avifaunists)
DDE	Dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene
DDT	Dichloro-Diphenyl-Trichloroethane
DENGER-Plan	Danish-German Joint Maritime Contingency Plan on Combating Oil and other Harmful Substances
DO-G	Deutsche Ornithologen Gesellschaft (= German Ornithologists' Society)
DRV	Deutscher Rat für Vogelschutz (= German Council for Bird Protection)
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EC	European Community

EEC	European Economic Community
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESAS	European Seabirds at Sea Co-ordinating Group
ESF	European Social Fund
EU	European Union
EU-LIFE	LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU
EU-WRRL	EU-Wasserrahmenrichtlinie 2000/60/EC (= EU-Water Framework Directive)
EUROPARC	Umbrella organisation of Europe's protected areas
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFH-RL	Fauna-Flora-Habitat-Richtlinie 92/43/EWG (= Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora)
FTZ Westküste	Forschungs- and Technologiezentrum Westküste (= Research and Technology Centre Westcoast)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIS	Geographical information systems
GROMS	Global Register of Migratory Species
HELCOM	Helsinki Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area
IBAs	Important Bird Areas
IKSE	International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe
IKSD	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube
IKSMS	International Commission for the Protection of the Moselle and the Saar
IKSO	International Commission for the Protection of the Odra
IKSR	International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine
IMC	International Meuse Commission
INA	Internationale Naturschutzakademie (= International Academy for Nature Conservation)
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
IWC	International Waterbird Census
IWU	Institut für Weiterbildung und Beratung im Umweltschutz (= Environmental Institute)
JMMB	Joint Monitoring of Migratory Birds
KULAP	Kulturlandschaftsprogramm (= Cultivated Landscape Programme)
LAG VSW	Länderarbeitsgemeinschaft der Vogelschutzwarten (= Ornithological Stations of the German Federal States)
LfU	(Bayerisches) Landesamt für Umwelt (= Bavarian State Environment Agency)
LJV	Landesjagdverband (= Federal State Hunting Association)
LSG	Landschaftsschutzgebiet (= Landscape Protection Area)
LUBW	Landesanstalt für Umwelt, Messungen und Naturschutz Baden-Württemberg (= State Agency for the Environment, Measurement and Nature Conservation of the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg)
MAB	Man and the Biosphere Programme
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements

MOP	Meeting of the Parties
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPAs	Marine Protected Areas
MV	Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania
NABU	Naturschutzbund Deutschland (= German Nature Conservation Association)
NETHGER-Plan	Netherlands-German Joint Maritime Contingency Plan on Combating Oil and other Harmful Substances
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NJagdG	Niedersächsisches Jagdgesetz (= Lower Saxony Hunting Act )
NRW	North Rhine-Westphalia
NSG	Naturschutzgebiet (= Nature Conservation Areas)
OAG	Ornithologische Arbeitsgemeinschaft (= Ornithological working group)
ÖJV	Ökologischer Jagdverein (= Ecological Hunting Association)
OSPAR	Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic
PZN	Pädagogisches Zentrum Nationalpark (= Pedagogic National Park Centre)
R+D projects	Research and development projects
REDCAFE	Reducing the Conflict between Cormorants and Fisheries on a Pan-European Scale
SAS	Seabirds-at-Sea
SH	Schleswig-Holstein
SPAs	Special Protection Areas
SSAP	Strategic Science Advisory Panel
TMAP	Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme for the Wadden Sea
UGB	Umweltgesetzbuch (= Environmental code)
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UN/ISDR-PPEW	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning
UVPG	Umweltverträglichkeitsprüfungsgesetz (Environmental Impact Assessment Act)
UVS	Umweltverträglichkeitsstudie (= Environmental Impact Assessment Study)
UVU	Umweltverträglichkeitsuntersuchung (= Environmental Impact Study)
VDN	Verband Deutscher Naturparke (= Association of German Nature Parks)
VSW	Vogelschutzwarte (= Bird conservation centres)
VoGeV	Verordnung über die Festlegung von Europäischen Vogelschutzgebieten sowie deren Gebietsbegrenzungen und Erhaltungszielen (= Ordinance on the Designation of European Bird Protection Areas and their Delimitation and Aims)
WEA	Windenergieanlage (= wind energy plant)
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WHG	Wasserhaushaltsgesetz (= Water Resources Act)
WHO	World Health Organization
WOW	Wings over Wetlands
WSG	Wader Study Group
WTO	World Tourism Organization
WuV	Wildvögel und Vogelgrippe (= Wild Birds and Avian Flu)
WWF	World Wide Fund For Nature

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## Appendices

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

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

**Table 6: German national parks** (from: BUNDESAMT FÜR NATURSCHUTZ 2008).

Abbreviations: BB = Brandenburg, BE = Berlin, BW = Baden-Württemberg, BY = Bavaria, HE = Hesse, MV = Mecklenburg-West Pomerania, NI = Lower Saxony, NW = North Rhine-Westphalia, RP = Rhineland-Palatinate, SH = Schleswig-Holstein, SL = Saarland, SN = Saxony, ST = Saxony-Anhalt, TH = Thuringia.

National park (State)	Year established	Total area [ha]	Priority habitats protected	Importance for waterbirds
Bayerischer Wald (BY)	1970	24,217	Mixed mountain forests, subalpine spruce forests, fens, scrub heaths	-
Berchtesgaden (BY)	1978	20,804	Alpine rock communities, alpine meadows, brush, subalpine, montaneous and submontaneous forests, pastures and lakes	-
Schleswig-Holsteinisches Wattenmeer (SH)	1985	441,500 (approx. 97.7 % of which covered by water)	Wadden Sea, salt marshes, polders; not including islands and inhabited Hallig islands	IBA for many waders and waterfowl
Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer (NI)	1986	277,708 (approx. 91.8 % of which covered by water)	Wadden Sea, salt marshes, polders, East Friesian islands	IBA for many waders and waterfowl
Hamburgisches Wattenmeer (HH)	1990	13,750 (approx. 97.1 % of which covered by water)	Wadden Sea in the Elbe estuary, with strong tidal and brackish-water impacts	IBA for many waders and waterfowl
Jasmund (MV)	1990	3,003 approx. 22 % of which covered by water)	Various beech forests on calcareous soils, chalk cliff coastline	-
Harz (ST/NI)	1990/1994	24,759	fens, heaths, block fields and rock formations, high-montaneous spruce forests, beech forests, watercourse, alpine meadows	-
Sächsische Schweiz (SN)	1990	9,350	Forest-rock complexes, warm and dry forests, forests in chasms and on steep slopes, submontaneous forests	Breeding area for the Black Stork
Müritz (MV)	1990	32,200	Beech forests, fen forests, pine forests, lakes and wetlands	IBA for waterbirds
Vorpommersche Boddenlandschaft (MV)	1990	80,500 approx. 84 % of which covered by water)	Boddens (flat bays), various coastal formations and forests	IBA for many waders and waterfowl
Unteres Odertal (BB)	1995	10,418	Riparian meadow landscape, oxbows and meanders, reedbeds and rushes, grassland, flood plains	IBA for many waders and waterfowl
Hainich (TH)	1997	7,513	Deciduous and beech forests on calcareous rock, in various stages of succession	-
Kellerwald (HE)	2004	5,724	Beech forests in various stages of succession	Breeding area for the Black Stork
Eifel (NW)	2004	10,700	Mixed mountain forests and beech forests in various stages of succession	Breeding area for the Black Stork

**Table 7: German biosphere reserves recognised to date by UNESCO** (from: BUNDESAMT FÜR NATURSCHUTZ 2008).

Biosphere reserve (State)	Year established	Area [ha]	Description	Importance for waterbirds	Approved by
Flusslandschaft Elbe (BB, MV, NI, SH, ST)	1997	276,114	Unique large semi-natural riparian-forest complexes (hardwood forests) along the Elbe River, with fen forests, semi-natural deciduous forests, wet meadows, pond landscapes, oxbows, breeding and resting sites for numerous waterbirds	Several IBAs for numerous wading birds and waterbirds	UNESCO
Pfälzerwald (RP)	1992	177,842	Deciduous-forest area with species-rich valley meadows, fen forests, wet meadows, fens and transition mires, springs	-	UNESCO
Rhön (BY, HE, TH)	1991	184,939	Large, semi-natural deciduous forests on limestone and basalt, chasm and scree forests, large grazed semi-dry grassland communities, semi-natural upland streams and their meadows	IBA for Black Stork	UNESCO
Schorfheide-Chorin (BB)	1990	129,161	Glacially formed landscape (ground and end moraines, outwash plains) with bogs, oligo-trophic lakes and old grazed forests and beech forests	IBA for waders and waterbirds	UNESCO
Spreewald (BB)	1991	47,492	Large lowland area, with semi-natural alder fen forest complexes, extensive wet meadows, and a Black Stork population	IBA for White Stork, Bean Goose and Spotted Crake	UNESCO
Südost-Rügen (MV)	1991	23,500	Extensively cultivated, richly structured and diverse cultural landscape with large, extensive sheep droves on moraine cores, bodden landscape and old deciduous forests	Part of the Greifswalder Bodden IBA; resting area for waterbirds	UNESCO
Vessertal-Thüringer Wald (TH)	1979	17,081	Extensive mountain meadows, remains of semi-natural mixed mountain forests with firs at the northern limit of their natural range, silicate block fields, rocks, raised bogs and semi-natural watercourses	IBA for Black Stork	UNESCO
Oberlausitzer Heide- und Teichlandschaft (SN)	1996	30,102	Lake-rich, oligotrophic heath landscapes with mires	IBA for Eurasian Bittern, Bean Goose, White-fronted Goose and Common Crane	UNESCO
Berchtesgaden (BY)	1990	46,710	Typical landscape of the northern calcareous Alps, with mixed mountain forests and subalpine spruce-forest complexes; includes the Berchtesgaden National Park as its core area and buffer zone	-	UNESCO
Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer (NI)	1992	240,000	Wadden Sea	IBA for waders and waterbirds	UNESCO
Schleswig-Hol-	1990	443,100	Wadden Sea, includes the National Park as its core area and buffer zone and the	IBA for waders and waterbirds	UNESCO

Biosphere reserve (State)	Year established	Area [ha]	Description	Importance for waterbirds	Approved by
steinisches Wattenmeer (SH) and Halligen			embedded islands "Halligen"		
Hamburgisches Wattenmeer (HH)	1992	11,700	Identical areas as national park of the same name	IBA for waders and waterbirds	UNESCO
Schaalsee (MV)	2000	30,900	Calcareous, deep lakes, forests, mires, grassland	IBA for waders and waterbirds	UNESCO

**Table 8: German Ramsar Sites** (from: BUNDESAMT FÜR NATURSCHUTZ 2008).

Area Name	Registration	Typical Habitats	Most common guest-bird species (numbers of individuals)	Area [ha]
Wattenmeer, Elbe-Weser-Dreieck (NI)	26.02.76	Mud and sand flats, coastal dunes, salt marshes	Oystercatcher (66,100) Dunlin (48,500) Common Shelduck (31,500)	38.460
Wattenmeer, Jadebusen und westliche Wesermündung (NI)	26.02.76			49.490
Wattenmeer, Ostfriesisches Wattenmeer mit Dollart (NI)	26.02.76			121.620
Niederelbe zwischen Barnkrug und Otterndorf (NI)	26.02.76	Mud flats, grassland, cultivated land in the Elbe estuary area	Northern Lapwing (35,000) Barnacle Goose (31,600) Eu. Golden Plover (20,000)	11.760
Elbaue zwischen Schnakenburg und Lauenburg (NI)	26.02.76	Flood plain for the middle Elbe, grassland, remains of riparian forest	Bean Goose (48,000) White-fronted Goose (35,000) Mallard (6,500)	7.560
Dümmer (NI)	26.02.76	Shallow, highly eutrophic lake with surrounding grassland	Mallard (30,000) Northern Lapwing (21,500) Bean Goose (3,700)	3.600
Diepholzer Moorniederung (NI)	26.02.76	Raised bog, grassland	Breeding site for a subspecies of the Eu. Golden Plover	15.060
Steinhuder Meer (NI)	26.02.76	Groundwater-fed lake with aggradation areas and surrounding grassland	Mallard (10,700) Northern Lapwing (5,000) Goosander (2,800)	5.730
Unterer Niederrhein (NW)	28.10.83	River lowlands, oxbows, gravel-bed watercourse, grassland, farmland	White-fronted goose (150,000) Northern Lapwing (100,000) Mallard (15,000)	25.000
Rieselfelder Münster (NW)	28.10.83	Wastewater treatment ponds, shallow water	Black-headed Gull (10,000) Northern Lapwing (4,500)	233

Area Name	Registration	Typical Habitats	Most common guest-bird species (numbers of individuals)	Area [ha]
		body with mud banks and aggradation areas	Common Teal (2,500)	
Weserstaustufe Schlüsselburg (NW)	28.10.83	Dammed river section, grassland, farmland	Northern Lapwing (15,000) Mallard (10,000) Common Pochard (4,600)	1.600
Rhein zwischen Eltville und Bingen (HE/ RP)	26.02.76	Central section of the Rhine River, with islands and bank sections, remains of riparian forest, shallow-water zones	Common Pochard (7,930) Mallard (3,155) Black Coot (2,417)	475
Bodensee: Wollmatinger Ried – Giehrenmoos (BW)	26.02.76	Extensive reedbeds with fronting shallow-water zones, wet meadows	Tufted Duck (14,134) Common Pochard (13,784) Black Coot (12,579)	767
Bodensee: Mindelsee bei Radolfzell (BW)	26.02.76	Alpine forelands, reeds, wet meadows, forest	Tufted Duck (11,000) Goosander (250) Great Crested Grebe (150)	310
Donauauen und Donaumoos (BY)	26.02.76	Straightened river, flanked by oxbows and riparian forest, former bog areas that have been stripped of peat, drained and used agriculturally	Mallard (15,000) Common Pochard (6,000) Tufted Duck (2,000)	8.000
Lech-Donau-Winkel (BY)	26.02.76	Dammed reservoir with reeds in its aggradation area	Black-headed Gull (3,200) Mallard (2,710) Black Coot (2,030)	230
Ismaninger Speichersee mit Fischteichen (BY)	26.02.76	Wastewater-storage lake, fishponds	Black-headed Gull (12,000) Black Coot (10,000) Mallard (4,950)	955
Ammersee (BY)	26.02.76	Alpine-foreland lake with delta-like bank area on its southern side, and fen complexes on its northern Norden	Tufted Duck (10,186) Black Coot (5,035) Mallard (2,260)	6.517
Starnberger See (BY)	26.02.76	Alpine-foreland lake (water area), bank zone	Black Coot (9,956) Tufted Duck (7,150) Black-headed Gull (1,803)	5.720
Chiemsee (BY)	26.02.76	Alpine-foreland lake (water area), alluvial delta, shallow-water areas	Black Coot (17,000) Tufted Duck (13,000) Common Pochard (7,000)	8.660
Unterer Inn zwischen Haiming und Neuhaus (BY)	26.02.76	Channelled lower section of the Inn river, with dams, shallow-water areas, islands, riparian forest, reedbeds	Black-headed Gull (20,000) Northern Lapwing (10,000) Mallard (5,000)	1.955
Boddengewässer Ostufer	31.07.78	Diverse coastal shallow-	Dunlin (40,000)	25.800

Area Name	Registration	Typical Habitats	Most common guest-bird species (numbers of individuals)	Area [ha]
Zingst, Westküste Rügen-Hiddensee (MV)		water areas, steep coastal sections, reedbeds, grassland	Common Crane (40,000) White-fronted Goose (30,000)	
Krakower Obersee (MV)	31.07.78	Lowland lake, islands, reedbed belt, grassland	Tufted Duck (12,000) White-fronted Goose (3,000) Greylag Goose (3,000)	868
Ostufer der Müritz (MV)	31.07.78	Forest, lake, swamp and marsh area, fens, reedbeds	Tufted Duck (20,000) Bean Goose (15,000) Common Pochard (15,000)	4.832
Galenbecker See (MV)	31.07.78	Lowland lake, reedbeds, fen forest, grassland	White-fronted Goose (20,000) Bean Goose (15,000) Black-headed Gull (3,000)	1.015
Unteres Odertal bei Schwedt (BB)	31.07.78	River lowlands, oxbows, canals, river estuary, reedbeds, remains of riparian forest, grassland	White-fronted Goose (33,000) Common Pochard (12,300) Northern Lapwing (10,000)	5.400
Niederung der Unteren Havel/Gülper See/Schollener See (BB/ ST)	31.07.78	Eutrophic shallow lake, river lowlands, grassland, remains of riparian forest	Bean Goose (60,000) White-fronted Goose (40,000) Mallard (12,000)	8.920
Teichgebiet Peitz (BB)	31.07.78	Ponds, belts of rushes	Mallard (6,000) Common Pochard (3,000) Black-headed Gull (3,000)	1.060
Helmestausee Berga-Kelbra (ST/ TH)	31.07.78	Dammed reservoir, salt springs, grassland	Common Crane (4,000) Common Teal (3,000) Northern Shoveller (750)	1.453
Nationalpark Hamburgisches Wattenmeer (HH)	01.08.90	Waddens, sandbanks, salt marshes	Dunlin (171,600) Red Knot (67,000) Common Shelduck (52,300)	13.750
Schleswig-Holsteinisches Wattenmeer (SH)	15.11.91	Waddens, sandbanks, marshes, salt marshes	Red Knot (425,000) Dunlin (350,000) Common Eider (150,000)	299.000
Mühlenberger Loch (HH)	09.06.92	Freshwater mud flats	Common Teal (8,000) Tufted Duck (10,000) Common Pochard (4,500)	580
Aland-Elbe-Niederung und Elbaue Jerichow (ST)	21.02.03	Flood plain with backwater, grassland	Bean Goose (35,000) White-fronted Goose (30,000) Northern Lapwing (8,000)	8.605
Bayerische Wildalm (BY)	09.10.07	Bogland, wet meadows		7

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**Appendix 3: Status of management plans for sites of international importance****Appendix 4: List of research and monitoring programmes and projects**List of current research and development projects with relevance to AEWA:Environmental research plan 2005:

- Integrated management of coastal and marine areas – requirements for strategy and implementation (2005-2007)
- Survey and analysis of possible measures for avoiding or reducing bird collisions at offshore wind power plants and development of suitable evaluation procedures (2005)
- Environmental and nature friendly fisheries management in protected areas (2005-2008)
- Establishment of a network of marine protected sites in the framework of HELCOM and OSPAR (2005-2007)
- Feeding ecology of marine mammals and sea birds with regard to the management of NATURA 2000 sites (2005-2007)
- Balancing of flood areas of flowing waters (2005-2008)
- Technical Talks on Avian Flu (2005-2006)
- Specific projects with regard to the EEZ.

Environmental research plan 2006:

- FFH impact assessment for projected mining activities in the EEZ (2006-2007)
- Implementation of EU Water Framework Directive and Habitats Directive with regard to the trans-boundary rivers Salzach and Inn (2006-2009)
- National programme for water meadows/Map of status of water meadows (2006-2009)

Environmental research plan 2007:

- Possibilities of improving biological diversity in developed segments of water bodies (2007-2009)
- Mapping of marine biotopes in selected marine areas of the North and Baltic Seas (2007-2008)
- Nature conservation-related analysis of connection of offshore windparks to the electricity grid (2007-2008)

**Table 12: Ongoing monitoring programmes on regional, national and international level (bold: international or independent national programmes)**

Abbreviations of Federal States: BB = Brandenburg, BE = Berlin, BW = Baden-Württemberg, BY = Bavaria, HB = Bremen, HH = Hamburg, HE = Hesse, MV = Mecklenburg-West Pomerania, NI = Lower Saxony, NW = North Rhine-Westphalia, RP = Rhineland-Palatinate, SL = Saarland, SN = Saxony, ST = Saxony-Anhalt, SH = Schleswig-Holstein, TH = Thuringia.

Other abbreviations: AG = Working Group; BP = Breeding pair; BSH: = Bundesamt für Seeschifffahrt und Hydrographie; CWSS = Common Wadden Sea Secretariat; D = Germany; DDA = Federation of German Avifaunists (Dachverband Deutscher Avifaunisten); DK = Denmark; ESAS = European Seabirds at Sea Coordinating Group; FTZ = Research and Technology Centre Westcoast; IWC = International Waterbird Census; NL = Netherlands; OAG = Ornithological working group; TMAP = Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme; VSW = Bird Conservation Centre (*Vogelschutzwarte*).

Name	Contents	Co-ordination	Level; states involved
<b>Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme for the Wadden Sea (TMAP)</b>	Biological, climatic, hydrological, geomorphologic, geographical data, pollutants and nutrients in water and sediments, intensity of fishing, agriculture, tourism	CWSS, National Park authorities within the bounds of Wadden Sea co-operation between D, DK, NL.	International; HH, NI, SH
Monitoring of breeding bird populations	Breeding populations of coastal birds on the North Sea coast	National Park authorities; "AG Seevogelschutz", monitoring within TMAP	International; HH, NI, SH
Monitoring of breeding bird populations	Breeding populations of coastal birds on the Baltic Sea coast, within protected areas	VSW; OAG; AG "Coastal bird Conservation"	National; SH, MV
Monitoring of breeding success	Hatching and breeding success as well as rate of increase of young birds of selected species of coastal birds on the North Sea coast	Projected within TMAP (Pilot phase 1996/ 97)	International; SH, NI, HH projected
Monitoring of pollutants in bird eggs	Pollutant load of eggs of selected species of coastal birds on the North Sea coast	National Park authorities; IfV; monitoring within TMAP	International; SH, NI, HH
Beached bird survey	Oiled beached birds on the North Sea coast	National Park authorities; monitoring within TMAP	International; SH, NI, HH
Monitoring of migratory bird populations	Distribution and change of resting, moulting and wintering populations of waterbirds at the North Sea coast, arctic breeding success of selected species (number of young birds)	National Park authorities; monitoring within TMAP	International; SH, NI, HH
<b>Seabirds at Sea (SAS)</b>	Seabird-Monitoring in coastal waters and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of North Sea and Baltic Sea, based by aeroplane and ship	National Park authorities; OAGs; BfN; BSH/ University Kiel; FTZ; data transferred to ESAS	International, SH (others projected)
<b>Waterbird Census</b>	Waterbird Census inland sites and Baltic Sea coast:	DDA/ regional ornithological NGOs (OAGs).	International (Midwinter)/

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Co-ordination</b>	<b>Level; states involved</b>
	Divers and grebes; Great Cormorant; swans; geese, ducks; mergansers and Smew; Coot; gulls	Data transferred to Wetlands International (IWC). In selected areas in Saxony there is a programme for monitoring breeding waterbirds.	National; all  SN
<b>Swan census</b>	Resting population, arctic breeding success (number of young birds)	DDA; regional ornithological NGOs (OAGs)	National, all
<b>Gull census</b>	Roost counts (winter)	DDA; regional ornithological NGOs (OAGs)	National, all
Golden Plover	Resting population on a international scale	DDA: data transferred to the “Wader Study Group”	National; all
Seaducks	Resting populations in selected areas of the Baltic Sea coast	VSW; Ministry for the Environment	Regional; SH, MV
<b>DDA monitoring programme for selected threatened bird species; “Indicator programme”</b>	Breeding population data of selected species (36 species since 1990, since 1995 expanded to include all species with less than 1,000 BP in Germany)	DDA	National; all
Meadow Birds, “Indicators for meadows as well as pastures”, partly also “for oligotrophic grassland”	Breeding populations of meadow birds as indicators of habitat quality	State authorities; Nature associations (depending on the respective Federal State)	Regional; BY, BE, BB, HB, HH, HE, NI, NW, RP, SL, ST, SH, TH
Monitoring of protected areas	Populations of breeding and resting birds in protected areas, large-scale protected areas and Special Protection Areas	State authorities; VSW	Regional; BE, BB, HB, HH, MV, NI, SN, ST, SH, NW
Census of large birds	Threatened species of large birds, e.g. Black Stork, Grey Heron	State authorities; VSW (depending on the respective Federal State)	Regional; BB, RP, SH, NI, NW
Black Stork	Breeding population, partly breeding success, recording of food habitats	State authorities; VSW	Regional: BB, HE, MV, NI, NW, RP, SL, SH, SN TH
White Stork	Breeding population, partly breeding success, recording of food habitats	State authorities; VSW; NGOs	Regional: BW, BY, BB, HB, HE, MV, NI, NW, RP, SL, SN, ST, SH, TH
Common Crane	Breeding population, breeding success	AG Kranichschutz (Crane Conservation) Germany; VSW; WWF	Regional: MV, NI, SH, SN, ST
<b>Cormorant census</b>	Breeding population	State authorities; VSW	National, all
<b>Black Tern census</b>	Breeding population, breeding success	State authorities	Regional: BE

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

### German Bird Conservation Centres:



<http://www.lfu.bayern.de/>

#### **Bayern**

Staatliche Vogelschutzwarte Bayern  
Bayerisches Landesamt für Umweltschutz (LfU)

Gsteigstraße 43  
82467 Garmisch-Partenkirchen

Telefon: (08821) 2330

Telefax: (08821) 2392

E-Mail: [heinrich.schoepf@lfu.bayern.de](mailto:heinrich.schoepf@lfu.bayern.de)

[guentervon.lossow@lfu.bayern.de](mailto:guentervon.lossow@lfu.bayern.de)

#### **Brandenburg**

Landesumweltamt Brandenburg  
Staatliche Vogelschutzwarte

Dorfstraße 34  
14715 Buckow bei Nennhausen

Telefon: (033878) 60257

Telefax: (033878) 60600

[Torsten.Langgemach@lua.brandenburg.de](mailto:Torsten.Langgemach@lua.brandenburg.de)

[Torsten.ryslavy@lua.brandenburg.de](mailto:Torsten.ryslavy@lua.brandenburg.de)

Außenstelle Rietzer See, Bruchstraße 60,  
14550 Groß Kreutz, Tel. (033207) 51271;  
Außenstelle Baitz, Im Winkel 13, 14806  
Baitz, Tel. (033841) 30220

#### **Hamburg**

Staatliche Vogelschutzwarte Hamburg  
c/o Behörde für Stadtentwicklung und  
Umwelt

Billstraße 84  
20539 Hamburg  
Tel. (040) 7880-2226  
Fax (040) 7880-2579

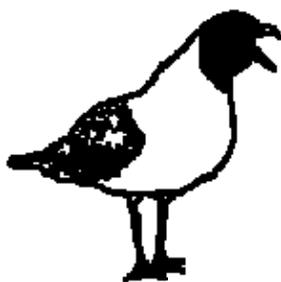
[bianca.krebs@bsu.hamburg.de](mailto:bianca.krebs@bsu.hamburg.de)

#### **Hessen/Rheinland-Pfalz/Saarland**

Staatliche Vogelschutzwarte für Hessen,  
Rheinland-Pfalz und Saarland Institut für  
angewandte Vogelkunde



<http://www.mluv.brandenburg.de>



<http://www.ornithologie-hamburg.de>



[www.vswffm.de](http://www.vswffm.de)

<http://www.vswffm.de>



<http://www.nlwkn.niedersachsen.de>

Landesamt für Natur,  
Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz  
Nordrhein-Westfalen



<http://www.lanuv.nrw.de>

<http://www.uni-kiel.de/zoologie/oekologie/>

Steinauer Str. 44  
60386 Frankfurt a. M.  
Tel. (069) 420105-0  
Fax (069) 420105-29

### **Mecklenburg-Vorpommern**

Landesamt für Umwelt, Naturschutz und  
Geologie MV

Goldberger Str. 12  
18273 Güstrow  
Tel. 03843-777 211  
Fax 03843-777 9 211

[Christof.Herrmann@lung.mv-regierung.de](mailto:Christof.Herrmann@lung.mv-regierung.de)

### **Niedersachsen**

Niedersächsischen Landesbetrieb für  
Wasserwirtschaft, Küsten- und  
Naturschutz ([NLWKN](http://www.nlwkn.niedersachsen.de)),  
Aufgabenbereich 5 Staatliche  
Vogelschutzwarte,  
Göttinger Chaussee 76, 30453 Hannover,  
Tel. (0511) 3034-3214

Fax (0511) 3034-3502,  
[Martin.Engelhaupt@nlwkn-h.niedersachsen.de](mailto:Martin.Engelhaupt@nlwkn-h.niedersachsen.de)

### **Nordrhein-Westfalen**

c/o Landesamt für Natur, Umwelt und  
Verbraucherschutz (LANUV), Fachbereich  
24 (Artenschutz, Vogelschutzwarte),  
Leibnizstraße 10, 45659 Recklinghausen,  
Tel. (02361) 305-3412,  
Fax (02361) 305-5412,

[joachim.weiss@lanuv.nrw.de](mailto:joachim.weiss@lanuv.nrw.de).

### **Sachsen**

Sächsische Vogelschutzwarte Neschwitz,  
Park 2, 02699 Neschwitz,  
Tel. (035933) 31115,  
Fax (035933) 32763

[vsw@vogelschutzwarte-neschwitz.de](mailto:vsw@vogelschutzwarte-neschwitz.de).

### **Sachsen-Anhalt**

Staatliche Vogelschutzwarte, c/o  
Landesanstalt für Umweltschutz Sachsen-  
Anhalt, Fachgebiet 44, Zerbster Straße 7,  
39264 Steckby,  
Tel. (0392) 44-94090,

[sfischer@lau.mlu.lsa-net.de](mailto:sfischer@lau.mlu.lsa-net.de).

### **Schleswig-Holstein**

Staatliche Vogelschutzwarte Schleswig-  
Holstein

c/o Abteilung für Tierökologie im  
 Zoologischen Institut der Christian-  
 Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel,  
 Am Botanischen Garten 1-9, 24118 Kiel,  
 Tel. (0431) 8804143,  
 Fax (0431) 8802403,  
[oekologie@zoologie.uni-kiel.de](mailto:oekologie@zoologie.uni-kiel.de).

<http://vogelschutzwarte.de/>

### Thüringen

Staatliche Vogelschutzwarte Seebach,  
 Referat 34 der Thüringer Landesanstalt für  
 Umwelt,  
 Lindenhof 3, OT Seebach, 99998  
 Weinbergen,  
 Tel. (03601) 4405-65,  
 Fax (03601) 4405-64,  
[vsw.seebach@tlugjena.thueringen.de](mailto:vsw.seebach@tlugjena.thueringen.de).

### Ornithological Associations and Societies:

### Ornithological Stations:

#### Institution

#### Website

#### Contact



Vogelwarte  
 Hiddensee  
 (Beringungszentrale)  
 Gemeinsame  
 Einrichtung der  
 Bundesländer  
 Brandenburg,  
 Mecklenburg-  
 Vorpommern,  
 Sachsen, Sachsen-  
 Anhalt, Thüringen

[http://www.lung.mv-  
 regierung.de/beringung/](http://www.lung.mv-regierung.de/beringung/)

Landesamt für Umwelt,  
 Naturschutz und Geologie  
 Mecklenburg-Vorpommern,  
 Beringungszentrale,  
 Badenstraße 18, 18439  
 Stralsund,  
 Tel. (03831) 696-243,  
 Fax (03831) 696-249,  
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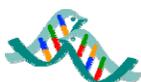
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	Landesbund für Vogelschutz (LBV) – NABU-Partner in Bayern	<a href="http://www.lbv.de/lbv.htm">http://www.lbv.de/lbv.ht m</a>	Dr. Hans-Jürgen Stork, Lotosweg 58, 13467 Berlin, Tel. (030) 4049000, <a href="mailto:Hans-Juergen.Stork@t-online.de">Hans-Juergen.Stork@t- online.de</a>  Landesbund für Vogelschutz in Bayern, Eisvogelweg 1, 91161 Hilpoltstein, Tel. (09174) 4775-30, Fax (09174) 4775-75, <a href="mailto:Dr.Andreas.von.Lindeiner,a-v-lindeiner@lbv.de">Dr. Andreas von Lindeiner, a-v-lindeiner@lbv.de</a>
			



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<http://www.do-g.de/>

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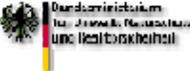


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 <p>Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit (BMU)</p>	<p><a href="http://www.bmu.de">http://www.bmu.de</a></p>	<p>Abteilung N (Naturschutz und nachhaltige Naturnutzung), Arbeitsgruppe N I 4 P (Internationaler Naturschutz), RDir'in Dr. Christiane Paulus (Mitglied) Tel. (0228) 99305-2630</p>
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 <p>Deutscher Rat für Vogelschutz e.V. (DRV)</p>	<p><a href="http://www.driv-web.de/">http://www.driv-web.de/</a></p>	<p>Deutscher Rat für Vogelschutz (DRV) e.V., Andreas von Lindeiner (Vorsitzender), Eisvogelweg 1 91161 Hilpoltstein <a href="mailto:a-v-lindeiner@lbv.de">a-v-lindeiner@lbv.de</a></p>
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<http://www.vogelkunde-untermain.de/>

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

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