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**Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds  
(The Hague, 1995)**

**Implementation during the period 2002 and 2005**

**Contracting Party:** Germany

**Designated AEWA Administrative Authority (full name of the institution):**

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety  
N I 4 International Nature Conservation Activities

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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, but nevertheless conservation concepts and measures are permanently improved by advanced scientific knowledge. Waterbird conservation is embedded in the general conservation of nature including its strategies and regulations. International standards have influenced the situation in Germany to an increasing extent. Apart from the AEWA the Birds Directive of the European Union is of great importance for the conservation of waterbirds, also demanding all-embracing conservation of species as well as habitats. This Directive provides a framework for the implementation of the provisions of AEWA in Germany. In the last years with the aid of both the Birds and Habitats Directives further sites have been designated as protected areas. Compared with the Birds Directive, the AEWA provides more extensive regulations in terms of monitoring and hunting. During recent years, using lead shot for hunting waterbirds near wetlands has been more and more restricted.

In order to install a coherent monitoring system in the federal states, further efforts are being made (see below).

### 1.2 Outline of priorities for national implementation over the next three years

German activities for the implementation of the AEWA correspond to the main emphasis of environmental policy of the Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMU). With regard to conservation of nature this statement especially goes for the preservation of Biological Diversity, which is part of the national policy for sustainability.

Conservation of biological diversity has to be based on the results of the world summit for sustainable development (WSSD) that took place in Johannesburg in 2002, calling for a significant reduction of the current losses of biological diversity by the year 2010.

During the recent Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2004, Kuala Lumpur) the 2010 goal was addressed by a series of important decisions. One of the agreements made there is a working programme for the installation of a global network of protected areas.

In the following years the Federal Government will align its international nature conservation activities with the consistent implementation of this 2010 goal, e.g. within the 6<sup>th</sup> Environment Action Programme. This also applies for the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) as well as for the AEWA. The 2010 goal will be prioritised in the implementation of the AEWA.

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

Subject to the availability of current and future resources, priority should be given to an enhanced international co-operation between the AEWA Parties. Efforts for encouraging countries to join the AEWA should be continued unrestrictedly.

Concerning the external relations of the AEWA, Germany will lay stress upon the continual orientation of the AEWA towards the CBD, i.e. goals and activities should be corresponding (as applies for the CMS). If possible, other Agreements, e.g. the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), or the conservation of primeval forest should be taken into account.

From the German point of view the Special Protection Area system Natura 2000 is of particular importance at the European level. In Germany this system will be completed and linked with biotope network sites and other suitable areas in order to create a common, well working network of terrestrial, limnic and marine habitats.

Additionally, Germany will give substantial financial support to the “African Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Flyways” GEF project in the coming years. This project supports and implements a lot of priority activities (see 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.

## 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?

In Germany, waterbird conservation is centrally integrated within general conservation for natural assets and biodiversity (Arts. 1 and 2 Federal Nature Conservation Act - BNatSchG): "The natural and historically grown variety of wild fauna ... shall be conserved since they are a part of the balance of nature". This includes comprehensive legislation – standardisation of which is planned in the form of an environmental code – and a range of special species conservation projects. The Länder are responsible for such conservation, and 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.

All of the AEWA species are protected by the EU Bird 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 the AEWA.

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

The most important measure for conservation of migratory waterbird species is to set aside areas, pursuant to Art. 33 BNatSchG (Art. 4 (1) and (2) of the EU Bird Directive), as "Special Protected Areas" (SPA). This enables the most suitable – in terms of size and numbers of birds harboured – breeding, moulting and wintering areas, as well as resting and flyway areas, to be placed under special protection. Such areas are part of the "Natura 2000" network pursuant to Arts. 33 ff. BNatSchG and receive its protection. All plans, projects and actions that can significantly undermine the conservation aims for these areas are prohibited. Exceptions are permitted only where required by important reasons relative to the common good and where suitable measures are taken to protect or restore the coherence of the Natura 2000 network. In such cases, an impact assessment must be carried out.

Concerning species conservation the Federal Government regards consequent implementation of EU Regulations as well as international Agreements as of a high importance. For specially and strictly protected species, the Federal Nature Conservation Act (BNatSchG) mandates comprehensive prohibitions on taking, disturbing, possessing and selling the species. Such prohibitions include injunctions against damaging or destroying bird nests.

All bird species in Germany belong to these specially protected species.

##### b. Which organisations are responsible for implementation?

The relevant federal state (*Bundesländer*) agencies are responsible for carrying out waterbird conservation measures. In most of the federal states there are institutions for bird conservation

(*Vogelschutzwarten*), which are responsible for professionally drawing up and implementing conservation measures. In general this includes identification of protected areas, but may also mean endeavours of contracts for nature conservation without any formal declaration. Consequently, 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 realized 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 means 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 international regulations, such as the EU Directives, but also the development of existing Agreements are indispensable prerequisites. The AEWA-related measures are part of the overall strategy for the conservation of the diversity of wild animals and plants.

**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 utilisation 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 (*Bundesartenschutzverordnung*). 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*) 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.**

<i>Casmerodius albus</i>
<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
<i>Anas querquedula</i>
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>
<i>Branta ruficollis</i>
<i>Grus grus</i>

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

Scientific name	German Name
<i>Gavia immer</i>	Eistaucher
<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	Rothalstaucher
<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	Ohrentaucher
<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Schwarzhalstaucher
<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	Zwergdommel
<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Rohrdommel
<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	Weißstorch
<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Singschwan
<i>Crex crex</i>	Wachtelkönig
<i>Porzana parva</i>	Kleines Sumpfhuhn
<i>Porzana porzana</i>	Tüpfelsumpfhuhn
<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	Säbelschnäbler
<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Goldregenpfeifer
<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Sandregenpfeifer
<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Flussregenpfeifer
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Seeregenpfeifer
<i>Eudromias morinellus</i>	Mornellregenpfeifer
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Kiebitz
<i>Gallinago media</i>	Doppelschnepfe
<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Bekassine

Scientific name	German Name
<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	Zwergschnepfe
<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Uferschnepfe
<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Großer Brachvogel
<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Rotschenkel
<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	Teichwasserläufer
<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Waldwasserläufer
<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Bruchwasserläufer
<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>	Flussuferläufer
<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Alpenstrandläufer
<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Kampfläufer
<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Odinshühnchen
<i>Sterna nilotica</i>	Lachseeschwalbe
<i>Sterna caspia</i>	Raubseeschwalbe
<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	Brandseeschwalbe
<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	Rosenseeschwalbe
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Flussseeschwalbe
<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Küstenseeschwalbe
<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	Zwergseeschwalbe
<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Trauerseeschwalbe

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

Scientific name	German Name	Appendix
<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>	Brillenpinguin	B
<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	Krauskopfpelikan	A
<i>Casmerodius albus albus</i>	Silberreiher	A
<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Schwarzstorch	A
<i>Geronticus eremita</i>	Waldrapp	A
<i>Platalea leucorodia leucorodia</i>	Löffler	A
<i>Platalea leucorodia major</i>	Löffler (South Asian subspecies)	A
<i>Phoenicopterus ruber roseus</i>	Rosaflemmingo	A
<i>Phoenicopterus minor</i>	Zwergflemmingo	B
<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	Weißkopfruderente	A
<i>Branta ruficollis</i>	Rothalsgans	A
<i>Sarkididornis melanotos melanotos</i>	Höckerente	B
<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Knäkente	A
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Moorente	A
<i>Grus leucogeranus</i>	Nonnenkranich	A
<i>Grus virgo</i>	Jungfernkranich	B
<i>Grus paradisea</i>	Paradieskranich	B
<i>Grus carunculatus</i>	Lappenkranich	B
<i>Grus grus</i>	Kranich	A
<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>	Dünnschnabel-Brachvogel	A

**b. Methods of taking?**

There have been no changes since the last report (BMU 2002).

**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. There have been no changes since the last report (BMU 2002).

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

Hunting is not centrally controlled in Germany. No change from last report (BMU 2002).

**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 Federal Nature Conservation Act (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 German state (*Bundesland*) has established a hunting season (see Table 10): 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 Federal Nature Conservation Act (BNatSchG) which are conform with 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. For seven populations international Single Species Action Plans should be prepared with German cooperation.

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

German name	<i>Scientific name</i>	Population	Category	Intern. SSAP
Purpureiher	<i>Ardea p. purpurea</i>	W Europe, W Mediterranean/ W Africa	A / 2	
Silberreiher	<i>Casmerodius albus albus</i>	W, C & SE Europe/ Black Sea & Mediterranean	A / 2	
Gr. Rohrdommel	<i>Botaurus s. stellaris</i>	Europe (bre)	A / 3c	
Schwarzstorch	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	C & E Europe/ Sub-Saharan Africa	A / 2	
Löffler	<i>Platalea leucorodia leucorodia</i>	W Europe/ W Mediterranean & W Africa	A / 1c	X
Zwergschwan	<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>	W Siberia & NE Europe/ NW Europe	A / 3c	
Ringelgans	<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	Svalbard / DK & UK	A / 1c	X
Moorente	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	E Europe/ E Mediterranean & Sahelian Africa	A / 1a 3c	X
Zwergsäger	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	NW & C Europe (win)	A / 3a	
Wachtelkönig	<i>Crex crex</i>	Europe & W Asia/ Sahelian Africa	A / 1b	X
Goldregenpfeifer	<i>Pluvialis apricaria apricaria</i>	Britain, Ireland, Denmark, Germany & Baltic (bre)	A / 3c*	X
Seeregenpfeifer	<i>Charadrius a. alexandrinus</i>	W Europe & W Mediterranean/ W Africa	A / 3c	
Mornellregenpfeifer	<i>Eudromias morinellus</i>	Europe/ NW Africa	A / (3c)	
Alpenstrandläufer	<i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i>	Baltic/ SW Europe & NW Africa	A / 1c	X
Lachseeschwalbe	<i>Sterna n. nilotica</i>	W Europe/ W Africa	A / 2	
Raubseeschwalbe	<i>Sterna caspia caspia</i>	Europe (bre)	A / 1c	X
Zwergseeschwalbe	<i>Sterna a. albifrons</i>	E Atlantic (bre)	A / 3b	
Weißbartseeschwalbe	<i>Chlidonias hybridus hybridus</i>	W Europe & NW Africa (bre)	3c	

In Germany, the federal states (*Länder*) are responsible for preparing the national Single Species Action Plans. At present the draft national action plan for the Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*) is in preparation.

Apart from the Single Species Action Plans under the AEWA, the action plans elaborated in the framework of the Birds Directive are of great importance in Germany. The following species are concerned:

- Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*)
- White headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*)
- Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*)
- Corncrake (*Crex crex*)
- Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*)

Germany welcomes that the AEWA Secretariat has taken the initiative to update and revise the above mentioned Single Species Action Plan for the Lesser White-fronted Goose.

The European Commission has submitted Action Plans for the Corncrake and the White headed Duck that are to be adopted at the AEWA Meeting of the Parties in 2005.

### **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 cooperate in emergency response to incidents in the North Sea, the Baltic Sea and in trans-boundary rivers, that threaten flora and fauna. This also applies to situations that threaten populations of AEWA species (pursuant to 2.3 of the AEWA Action Plan).

Since the last report (BMU 2002) there have not been any alterations in the existing regulations in terms of international co-operation to handle accidents within the Baltic and North Seas.

In addition, on Dec 6, 2002 the European Council of Ministers agreed in Brussels to an extensive package of measures for the conservation of coastal lines as well as ocean environment. All the statesmen did confirm these measures during their meeting held in Copenhagen on Dec 12/13, 2001. This package is of a high standard and stipulates that already existing measures have to be implemented faster. On the other hand further action is needed. For a short-term implementation, the following measures will be taken in Germany:

##### 1. Emergency berth places

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Ships that find themselves in dangerous situations must get help also by providing harbours or secure anchorage. A respective draft guideline is already existing in Germany. It plans to provide a chain of 40 emergency berth places. The draft was matched at Federal Government level and was presented to the *Länder* at the end of October 2004.

## 2. Transit routes for tankers

Within the Baltic Sea it is necessary to improve the route guidance, especially for ships carrying dangerous cargo load. In the course of talks with Russia, Germany is going to try to obtain a duty of taking on marine pilots within the Cadet Channel and other critical shipping routes.

## 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, providing for the necessary provisions regarding the ban to enter harbours.

## 4. Intensified implementation of port State control

In Germany there are more inspections being carried out compared to the internationally required proportion of 25% according to the international standards for pollution prevention and shipboard living and working conditions (port State control). 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 Shipping Organisation Germany is going to press that so-called flag of convenience states have to subject themselves to external assessment procedures (audit). In the long run it is planned that only flag states being successful in this audit are allowed to take part in the international maritime traffic.

## 6. Supplementary fund of liability for oil

The existing International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage established in 1992 has to be improved. Among other countries Germany took initiative to rise liability sums up to 270 Mio. Euro as of Nov 1, 2003. It is intended to set up this sum up to 1 Billion Euro.

## 7. Implementation of AIS fast and entirely

With the aid of the Automatic Ship Identification System (AIS) it is largely possible to get information of the whole traffic flow. It is intended to have this system ready for use at the international level as soon as possible. In Germany this system is already reality. From 2008 on 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. Recently it is discussed internationally to shorten this time limit during which all ships have to install this system.

In order to implement the Agreements in Germany there is a common institution to coordinate procedures in case of general averages. Since Jan 1, 2003 the Average Headquarters

(*Havariekommando*) of both the Federal Government and the coastal *Länder* situated in Cuxhaven has been working. The Average Headquarters is a competence centre for precaution of cases of maritime emergency. Core part of this institution is a 24 hours working maritime operation centre, made up equally of personnel from the Federal Waterways and Shipping Administration (*Wasser- und Schifffahrtsverwaltung des Bundes*) and the harbour police of the coastal states, where all relevant information converge. During day-to-day operation, the Headquarters acts as a competence centre for controlling pollutant disasters, for controlling ship fires, for taking care of injured persons, as well as for public relations activities. In case of serious disasters the Head of the Average Headquarters is the person in charge of operations.

With regard to trans-boundary European rivers, the countries concerned have established "International Commissions". The Federal Republic of Germany is member of the Commissions for the trans-boundary rivers Oder, Rhine, Elbe, Danube, Moselle and Saar. There have been no changes since the last report (BMU 2002).

### **Re-establishments**

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

There have been no changes since the last report (BMU 2002).

Just one project for the re-establishment of an AEWA waterbird species has been carried out, concerning the White Stork in Rhineland-Palatinate and the Saarland (STOLTZ & HELB 2004).

### **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).

There have been no changes in legislation since the last report (BMU 2002).

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 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 (GEBHARDT et al. 1998; BfN 2005).

**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	Breeding bird
<i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>	Africa	Escaped from parks	Breeding bird
<i>Aix galericulata</i>	East Asia	Escaped from parks, escaped from captivity	Local breeder

**Table 6: Waterbird neozoa that have not yet become definitely established in Germany (according to BAUER & BEZZEL 2001, BEZZEL 1985, BAUER et al. 2002).**

Scientific name	origin	Reason established	Status
<i>Phoenicopiterus ruber</i>	Mediterranean & north Africa	Escaped from captivity	Breeding colony
<i>Phoenicopiterus chilensis</i>	South America	Escaped from captivity	Breeding attempts
<i>Cygnus atratus</i>	Australia	Released	Breeding
<i>Anser cygnoides</i>	East Asia	Escaped from captivity	Breeding
<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Northern Europe	Escaped from captivity	Breeding attempts
<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Northern Europe	Escaped from captivity	Breeding in SH, NI, NW
<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Southwest Asia	Escaped from captivity	Breeding irregularly
<i>Anser indicus</i>	Central Asian uplands	Escaped from captivity, park bird	Isolated breeding colonies
<i>Anser caerulescens</i>	North America	Escaped from captivity	Breeding observations
<i>Cairina moschata</i>	South America	Released, Escaped from captivity	No breeding observations yet
<i>Aix sponsa</i>	America	Escaped from captivity	In 20th century breeding at Lake Constance
<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	North America	Escaped from captivity	In 2001 first breeding in Germany

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## 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.

To date, no German federal state has developed and published an inventory of important habitats for species listed in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan (according to 3.1.1 of the AEWA Action Plan). Subject to further studies, it is assumed that the existing Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive cover the set of sites relevant under the AEWA.

A list of Special Protection Areas as notified in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> *tranche* was published in the *Bundesanzeiger* in June 2003 (BUNDESANZEIGER 2003).

On June 11, 2004 the *Bundesrat* agreed to the European Commission list of Sites of Community Interest according to the Habitats Directive for the continental and atlantic regions. This list contains a large number of wetland areas which are important for waterbirds.

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.

A list of “Important Bird Areas”, set up by the leading ornithological associations, points at sites that can be of particular importance for waterbird populations of Table 1 (SUDFELDT et al. 2002). More detailed studies are available for single federal states (e.g. ABBO 2003; SCHELLER et al. 2002; MELTER & SCHREIBER 2000). The distribution of seabirds in the Baltic and North Seas was mapped in the course of federal Research and Development Projects; the results were published by MITSCHKE et al. (2001) and GARTHE et al. (2003).

### 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 Federal Nature Conservation Act. 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). There have been no changes since the last report (BMU 2002).

By Dec 31, 2003, Germany had a total of 7,278 nature reserves, taking up a total area of 2.9% of the country's territory (BUNDESAMT FÜR NATURSCHUTZ 2004).

Today there are 15 National Parks in Germany, which are listed in Table 7. Since the last report (BMU 2002) “Kellerwald” and “Eifel” had been designated as National Parks. Both are of great importance for breeding areas of the Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*). North Rhine-Westphalia is planning the establishment of an additional National Park (Senne-Eggegebirge).

**Table 7: National parks in Germany.** Abbreviations see tab. 8.

National park (State)	Year established	Total area [ha]	Priority habitats protected	Importance for water-birds
Bayerischer Wald (BY)	1970	24,250	Mixed mountain forests, subalpine spruce forests, fens, scrub heaths	-
Berchtesgaden (BY)	1978	20,776	Alpine rock communities, alpine meadows, brush, subalpine, montaneous and submontaneous forests, pastures and lakes	-
Schleswig-Holsteinisches Wattenmeer (SH)	1985	441,500 (incl. water areas)	Wadden Sea, salt marshes, polders; not including islands and inhabited Hallig islands	IBA for many waders and waterfowl
Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer (NI)	1986	280,000 (incl. water areas)	Wadden Sea, salt marshes, polders, East Friesian islands	IBA for many waders and waterfowl
Hamburgisches Wattenmeer (HH)	1990	13,750 (incl. water areas)	Wadden Sea in the Elbe estuary, with strong tidal and brackish-water impacts	IBA for many waders and waterfowl
Jasmund (MV)	1990	3,003 (incl. water areas)	Various beech forests on calcareous soils, chalk cliff coastline	-
Hochharz (ST)	1990	5,868	Subalpine spruce forests, fens, heaths, block fields and rock formations	-
Sächsische Schweiz (SN)	1990	9,300	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	31,878	Beech forests, fen forests, pine forests, lakes and wetlands	IBA for water-birds
Vorpommersche Boddenlandschaft (MV)	1990	80,500 (incl. water areas)	Boddens (flat bays), various coastal formations and forests	IBA for many waders and waterfowl

National park (State)	Year established	Total area [ha]	Priority habitats protected	Importance for water-birds
Harz (NI)	1994	15,800	High-montaneous spruce forests, beech forests, fens, watercourse	-
Unteres Odertal (BB)	1995	10,500	Riparian meadow landscape, oxbows and meanders, reedbeds and rushes, grassland, flood plains	IBA for many waders and waterfowl
Hainich (TH)	1997	7,600	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	11,000	Mixed mountain forests and beech forests in various stages of succession	Breeding area for the Black Stork

The 17 biosphere reserves recognised in Germany to date are shown in Table 8. Since the last report no further biosphere reserves have been designated. The “Halligen” surrounding the National Park “Schleswig-Holsteinisches Wattenmeer” are of great importance for coastal birds of the mudflats and so they were included in the biosphere reserve in 2005.

**Table 8: German biosphere reserves recognised to date by UNESCO** (from: BUNDESAMT FÜR NATURSCHUTZ 2004 and EUROPARC 2001).

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. BNatSchG = Federal Nature Conservation Act.

Biosphere reserve (State)	Year established	Area [ha]	Description	Importance for water-birds	Designated by
Flusslandschaft Elbe (BB, MV, NI, SH, ST)	1997	375,000	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) Nordvogesen	1992	179,800	Deciduous-forest area with species-rich valley meadows, fen forests, wet meadows, fens and transition mires, springs	-	UNESCO

<b>Biosphere reserve (State)</b>	<b>Year established</b>	<b>Area [ha]</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Importance for water-birds</b>	<b>Designated by</b>
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	TH: UNESCO/ BNatSchG, BY / HE: 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 wading birds and water-birds	BNatSchG
Spreewald (BB)	1991	47,492	Large lowland area, with semi-natural alder fenforest complexes, extensive wet meadows, and a blackstork population	IBA for white stork, bean goose and spotted crane	BNatSchG
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	BNatSchG
Vessertal-Thüringer Wald (TH)	1979	17,242	Extensive mountain meadows, remains of seminatural mixed mountain forests with firs at the northern limit of their natural range, silicate block fields, rocks, raised bogs and semi-natural water-courses	IBA for black stork	UNESCO/ BNatSchG
Oberlausitzer Heide- und Teichlandschaft (SN)	1996	30,102	Lake-rich, oligotrophic heath landscapes with mires	IBA for Eurasian bittern, Bean goose, Whitefronted goose and Common crane	UNESCO
Berchtesgaden (BY)	1990	46,742	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

<b>Biosphere reserve (State)</b>	<b>Year established</b>	<b>Area [ha]</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Importance for water-birds</b>	<b>Designated by</b>
Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer (NI)	1992	240,000	Wadden Sea	IBA for waders and waterbirds	UNESCO
Schleswig-Holsteinisches Wattenmeer (SH)	1990	441,000	Wadden Sea, includes the National Park as its core area and buffer zone and the embedded islands „Halligen“	IBA for waders and waterbirds	UNESCO
Hamburgisches Wattenmeer (HH)	1992	11,700	Identical areas as national park of the same name	IBA for waders and waterbirds	UNESCO
Bayerischer Wald (BY)	1981	13,300	Identical areas as national park of the same name	-	UNESCO
Schaalsee (MV)	1990	30,260	Calcareous, deep lakes, forests, mires, grassland	IBA for waders and waterbirds	UNESCO

Until Dec 31, 2003 a total of 7,187 landscape reserves had been designated in the Federal Republic of Germany. They take up 10,601,045 hectares, i.e. about 29.7% of Germany's territory (BUNDESAMT FÜR NATURSCHUTZ 2004).

Germany's nature parks take up (as of Jan 31, 2004) an area of about 22.4% of Germany's territory (BUNDESAMT FÜR NATURSCHUTZ 2004).

Art. 30 of the Federal Nature Conservation Act provides another instrument for biotope conservation. The biotopes listed in this paragraph are protected by virtue of their being listed, without further designation as protected areas. The important protected biotopes with regard to protection of AEW species include:

- moorlands, swamps, reeds, wet meadows covered with sedges and rushes, headwater regions, natural undeveloped sections of brooks and rivers, terrestrialisation zones of standing waters,
- fen forests, marshy and riparian forests and
- rocky and steep coastlines, beach embankments and dunes, Bodden Areas, salt marshes and Wadden Sea, several marine habitats.

In their own state (*Land*) nature conservation acts, the *Länder* may specify additional biotopes that are to be protected.

Arts. 32 ff. of the Federal Nature Conservation Act transpose the Fauna, Flora and Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the European Bird Directive (79/409/EEC) with regard to establishment of the "Natura 2000" network of protected areas in the European Union. Pursuant to Art. 32 (2) Federal Nature Conservation Act, sites included in the list of sites of Community

importance are designated as protected natural and landscape sites in keeping with the relevant conservation aims.

As of 2004, a total of 511 EC special protection areas for birds, taking up 3,729,945 ha (incl. 1,169,540 ha wadden sea, water, bodden and marine areas) or 7.2% of Germany's area (without water areas), had been reported to the European Union. In the EEZ, another two SPAs with 514,499 ha have been reported.

According to the **Ramsar Convention** that came into force in 1971 one more Ramsar area has been designated since the last report (BMU 2002), the 8,605 hectares "Aland-Elbe Niederung und Elbaue Jerichow" in Sachsen-Anhalt. Due to their suitability, Ramsar sites are or will be designated as Special Protection Areas under Art. 4 (1) and (2) of the Birds Directive. The area of all Ramsar sites in Germany amounts for 835,797 hectares.

According to the „**Baltic Sea Protected Areas (BSPA)**” within the bounds of the Helsinki Convention (Helcom, Art. 15 in conjunction with recommendation 15/5) there have been no changes since the last report (BMU 2002).

### **Examples for international co-operation concerning the protected area category “National Park”**

Responsible authorities of the three Wadden Sea National Parks alongside the German North Sea coast continued their co-operation in the bounds of the trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation which was established between the Netherlands, Denmark and Germany in 1978.

The countries working together within the bounds of the Wadden Sea Convention additionally cooperate with other similar areas: The Wash (Norfolk, UK), Guinea-Bissau, Benin.

### **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.**

There have been no changes since the last report (BMU 2002).

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?**

There have been no changes since the last report (BMU 2002).

3.6 What measures does your country have in place to ensure the wise use of wetlands 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.

For the purpose of waterbird conservation, the federal states may also guide the exploitation of agricultural land (e.g. farmland, meadows, pastures) by contractual arrangements. To this end, nature conservation authorities sign contracts with landowners concerning the eco-friendly use of their land. For financial losses, farmers are being provided with compensation payments from the federal states' budgets. The respective programmes for nature conservation contracts differ enormously between the federal states. In most cases they cover habitats of the cultural landscape. For AEWA populations, programmes are of great importance which concern wet meadows or pastures.

Bavarian agro-environmental programmes – Bavarian contract-based nature conservation programme including compensation payments for wetlands

Restricting cultivation of meadows through

- compliance with cutting periods
- total halt to cultivation from 15 March up to agreed cutting period
- preservation as permanent grassland (ploughing and resowing are not permitted)
- foregoing ameliorative measures (e.g. landfilling, drainage)
- mowing and collection of cuttings at least once per year of obligation (the biological life cycle is to be preserved when recycling the cuttings, e.g. spreading on arable land, composting, recycling as litter or in biogas plants)

- isolated control of problem plants is permitted in principle (permission is required from the local nature conservation authority).

At European level the **EU 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 the promotion of a balanced and sustainable water engineering.

The WFD covers surface waters (rivers and lakes), ground water, coastal lines as well as transition waters (between river and sea) and partly also refers to other wetland types. The aim of the WFD is to maintain or improve the aquatic environment 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 catchments of the respective waters and shall not end at administrative borders.

With the 7<sup>th</sup> amendment of **Water Resources Act** (*Wasserhaushaltsgesetz*), coming into force on June 25, 2002, the Federal Government implemented the European Water Framework Directive at national level and thus created the prerequisite in order to achieve the European goal of good water conditions. However, due to the Federal Government's 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 ecobalance and as a habitat for animals and plants. They shall be managed in such a way that they serve the general well-being and, in harmony with this, also serve the purposes of an individual and that any avoidable damage to ecological functions does not occur.

Negative effects on AEWA-relevant sites by air pollution or noise are addressed by the **Federal Immission Control Act** (*Bundesimmissionsschutzgesetz*). There have not been any changes since the last report (BMU 2002).

### **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.**

At federal level many research and exemplary projects were and are still being carried out, aiming at the conservation and restoration of wetlands and wetland inhabiting species.

In many cases, the need for compensation measures in the context of intrusions into nature leads to restoration measures for wetlands which are carried out elsewhere rather than in the affected areas. In the federal states Bremen and Lower Saxony a respective concept was developed which primarily concerns habitats of waterbirds in the Unterweser region. During the next 10-15 years extensive compensation measures will have to be carried out for more than 5,000 hectares in the municipalities Bremen, Bremerhaven, Delmenhorst and the districts of

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Cuxhaven, Wesermarsch, Oldenburg, Diepholz, Verden, and Osterholz. For the entire planning area an agreed concept for the identification of compensation areas will be established, taking into account nature conservation and regional planning aspects. This concept will help prepare an inter-communal pool of areas, comprising potential areas for compensation measures required at the federal state, district and municipality level.

### **Borghorster Elbwiesen**

The federal states Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein join the responsibility for a 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 hectares. This plan is about to become reality by the re-establishment of former tide and flood level conditions.

### **Large-scale conservation project “Lenzener Elbtalaue”**

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 nature 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 setting back 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 Corncrake, Garganey or White-tailed Eagle, will take advantage from the new created biotope complexes.

The realisation of the large-scale conservation project “Lenzener Elbtalaue”, which is divided into two phases of realisation, is an unprecedented example of co-operation between water management and nature conservation. Phase one means to work out 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 realized during the second phase.

## 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 AEW waterbird species

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

The present hunting law has not changed substantially since the last report (BMU 2002). However, further species are concerned due to the extension of Annex 2 of the AEW.

Art. 2 of the Federal Hunting Act specifies which animal species or species groups are subject to German hunting law. These include AEW species *Podiceps cristatus*, *Ardea cinerea*, *Cygnus olor*, wild geese (genera *Anser* and *Branta*) and ducks (*Anatinae*), genus *Mergus* (incl. *Mergellus*), *Fulica atra*, *Scolopax rusticola* and gulls (*Laridae*).

The responsible Federal Ministry for Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture stipulates hunting periods for game animals by a separate ordinance. Game species without hunting season must not be hunted (Art. 22 Federal Hunting Act). Species with all-year closed season are: *Podiceps cristatus*, *Ardea cinerea*, *Anser brachyrhynchus*, *Branta leucopsis*, *Tadorna tadorna*, *Anas strepera*, *Anas clypeata*, *Netta rufina*, *Aythya nyroca*, *Somateria mollissima*, *Clangula hyemalis*, *Bucephala clangula*, *Mergus (Mergellus) albellus*, *Mergus serrator* and *Mergus merganser*. The federal states may deviate from these provisions and have partially issued different regulations, e.g. in Bavaria the Heron *Ardea cinerea* has a hunting season.

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, abolished or even intensified (see table 10). It is prohibited to remove eggs, except for scientific, research and teaching purposes (Art. 22 Federal Hunting Act).

With regard to any other wild living specimen 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 Federal Nature Conservation Act).

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

According to Art. 19 Federal Hunting Act it is not prohibited to use lead shot when hunting waterbirds. Meanwhile, the federal states Lower Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein, North Rhine-Westphalia, Mecklenburg-West Pomerania, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg 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 currently preparing a respective regulation and in Bavaria such a ban will be implemented not before 2007 (table 9). In Brandenburg it is generally prohibited to use lead shot in state-owned areas.

The use of poisoned baits is prohibited in Germany according to Art. 19 of the Federal Hunting Act.

**Table 9: Overview of current *Länder* regulations restricting the use of lead shot in hunting of waterbirds (as of April 2005).**

State	Use of lead shot
Baden-Württemberg	It is prohibited to use lead shot in hunting waterbirds at and above water bodies.
Bavaria	From 2007 on 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.
	In state-owned areas any use of lead ammunition is prohibited.
Bremen	No restrictions.
Hamburg	No restrictions.
Hesse	No restrictions.
Mecklenburg-West Pomerania	It is prohibited to use lead shot in hunting waterbirds.
Lower Saxony	Art. 24 (1) Lower Saxony Hunting Act (NJagdG): Apart from Art. 19 of the Federal Hunting Act, ... 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	Restriction in preparation.
Saarland	No restrictions.
Saxony	Restriction in preparation.
Saxony-Anhalt	Restriction in preparation.
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**

There have been no changes since the last report (BMU 2002).

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

In Germany, levels of hunting of waterbirds are 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 states keep bag statistics for hunting, usually broken down by species.

Federal authorities do not keep nation-wide bag statistics for waterbirds. The German Hunting Association (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 2003/2004 hunting season, a total of 520,823 wild ducks (primarily *Anas platyrhynchos*) were shot (DJV 2004).

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

There have been no changes since the last report (BMU 2002).

**Table 10: Overview of hunting seasons for waterbirds in the Federal Republic of Germany.**

	Germany	Baden- Württemberg	Bavaria	Berlin	Branden- burg	Bremen	Hamburg	Hesse	Mecklen- burg-West Pomera- nia	Lower Saxony	North Rhine- West- phalia	Rhine- land- Palatinate	Saarland	Saxony	Saxony- Anhalt	Schleswig- Holstein	Thuringia
<i>Cygnus olor</i>	01.11.- 20.02.	01.11.- 20.02.	01.09.- 15.01.	---	01.09.- 15.01.	01.09.- 20.02.	---	---	01.09.- 15.01.	01.11.- 30-11.	01.11.- 20.02.	---	01.11.- 20.02.	01.11.- 20.02.	01.11.- 20.02.	01.11.- 31.12 in case of agricul- tural dam- ages, with bullets	---
<i>Anser anser</i>	01.08.- 31.08. u. 01.11.- 15.01.	---	01.08.- 31.08./01. 11.-15.01.	---	01.08.- 31.01. 11.-15.01.	01.08.- 31.08./01. 11.-15.01.	01.11.- 15.01.	.	01.08.- 31.08./01. 11.-15.01.	1.08.- 31.08. / 01.11.- 15.01.	01.08.- 31.08. 01.11.-	---	01.08.- 31.08./01. 11.-15.01.	01.08.- 31.08. u. 01.11.- 15.01.	01.08.- 31.08./01. 11.-15.01.	01.08.- 31.08./01. 11.-31.12.	---
<i>Anser albifrons</i>	01.11.- 15.01.	---	01.11.- 15.01.	---	16.09.- 31.01.** 15.01.	01.11.- 15.01.	---	---	01.11.- 15.01.	---	---	---	01.11.- 15.01.	01.11.- 15.01.	01.11.- 15.01.	01.11.- 31.12.	01.11.- 15.01.
<i>Anser fabalis</i>	01.11.- 15.01.	---	01.11.- 15.01.	---	16.09.- 31.01.** 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 canadensis</i>	01.11.- 15.01.	---	01.11.- 15.01.	---	16.09.- 31.01. 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.	01.11.- 15.01.	01.11.- 15.01.	01.11.- 31.12.	---
<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.	---	---

	Germany	Baden- Württemberg	Bavaria	Berlin	Branden- burg	Bremen	Hamburg	Hesse	Mecklen- burg-West Pomera- nia	Lower Saxony	North Rhine- West- phalia	Rhine- land- Palatinate	Saarland	Saxony	Saxony- Anhalt	Schleswig- Holstein	Thuringia
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	01.09.- 15.01.	01.09.- 15.01.	01.09.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.12.	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.- 31.12.	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.- 31.12..	---
<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.	01.10.- 31.12...	---
<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>Anas querquedula</i>	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.- 31.12...	---
<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.	---	---

	Germany	Baden- Württemberg	Bavaria	Berlin	Branden- burg	Bremen	Hamburg	Hesse	Mecklen- burg-West Pomera- nia	Lower Saxony	North Rhine- West- phalia	Rhine- land- Palatinate	Saarland	Saxony	Saxony- Anhalt	Schleswig- Holstein	Thuringia
<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. – 15.01.	16.10. – 31.12.	16.10. – 15.01.	16.10. – 15.01.	16.10. – 15.01.	----	16.10. – 15.01.	16.10. – 30.11.	16.10. – 15.01.
<i>Larus canus, L. ridibun- dus, L. argentatus, L. fuscus, L. marinus</i>	01.10.– 10.02.	01.10.- 10.02. ( <i>L.ridibun- dus</i> )	16.08.- 30.04. ( <i>L. canus, L. argenta- tus, L. fuscus, L. marinus</i> ) 16.07.- 30.04. ( <i>L. ridibun- dus</i> )		16.08.- 30.04.	01.10.– 10.02.		01.10.– 10.02.	01.10.– 10.02.	01.10.– 10.02. . ( <i>L. canus, L. argen- tatus, L. fuscus, L. marinus</i> )	01.10.- 10.02. ( <i>L. ridibun- dus, L. argenta- tus</i> )	01.10.- 10.02. ( <i>L. canus, L. argenta- tus, L. fuscus, L. marinus</i> ) 16.07.- 30.04. ( <i>L. ridibun- dus</i> )	10.02.– 10.02.	----	01.10.– 10.02.	---	01.10.- 10.02. ( <i>L. ridibun- dus</i> )
<i>Fulica atra</i>	11.09.- 20.02.	11.09.- 20.02.	01.09.- 15.01.	01.10.- 15.12.	01.09.- 15.01.	11.09.- 20.02.	---	01.09.- 15.01.	11.09.- 20.02.	01.09.- 15.01.	01.09.- 20.02.	01.09.- 15.01.	01.11.- 15.01.	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?

The Federal Agency for Nature Conservation commits itself to support 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,
- encouraging offers for an environmental friendly tourism, e.g. “Viabono”, which is the umbrella eco-label for sustainable tourism in Germany,
- exchange of views and experiences that were made in other (protected) areas at the international level (bilateral co-operation, Columbia),
- the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation contributes to the development of international tourism policy, e.g. guiding principles for sustainable tourism in sensitive areas under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and also in the bodies of the European Community.

In Germany eco-tourism has not very far developed yet. In September 2001 an umbrella brand for environmental friendly tourism was founded, named “Viabono”. 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” (“a good way”) was established by the Federal Environment Agency. Viabono's criteria are very stringent and cover all the important aspects that make up natural enjoyment: regional cuisine, an environment and countryside that is intact and attractive, 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 also regional gastronomic business may profit from “Viabono” ([www.viabono.de](http://www.viabono.de)).

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 Bremen as they are situated close to the outskirts of Bremen and people can get

there easily by bicycle or public transport. This is backed up by the program “Erlebnisraum Natur”, which provides natural history information as well as a calendar of events related to important wetland areas (<http://www.erlebnisraum-natur.bremen.de>), being accompanied by 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 into the landscape along the old peat-shipping routes using traditional (imitation) peat-barges.

### **Geese watching**

During winter time Biological Stations near the “Unterer Niederrhein” (North Rhine-Westphalia) provide well-chosen bus-trips to places where nordic geese can be watched. On this occasion visitors get much information, e.g. about population development, the ecology of geese, and their conservation. Those well-chosen excursions help protect geese from unnecessary disturbances.

### **Bayern Tour Nature**

Since 2001 the “Bayern Tour Nature” of the Bavarian Ministry for the Environment in cooperation with associations, companies and private individuals has been existing. Annually more than 1,000, expert-guided natural history excursions are being offered at a fixed period of time. Many of those tours take place at ornithologically important wetlands. Tourism associations as well as boat, canoe and bicycle trip companies are particularly committed to this event ([www.tournatur.bayern.de](http://www.tournatur.bayern.de)).

### **Ranger**

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.

There have been no changes since the last report (BMU 2002).

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 emphasising successful solutions to problems encountered in promoting the wise-use of waterbirds and their habitats.

The protected area „Unterer Niederrhein“ represents one of the internationally most important resting and wintering places for nordic geese, above all for White-fronted geese. 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 NRW has also designated more than 20,000 hectares of the “Unterer Niederrhein” as Special Protection Area for a better conservation of the arctic geese.

### **The Cormorant Problem**

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

The Cormorant as a fish-dependent species gives causes for concern among anglers and fishing industry. The Federal Government is of the opinion that 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 Federal Ministry for the Environment worked out model regulations on the basis of current legislation of the Birds Directive as well as national species conservation law including their provisions for exceptions, being considered as suitable for preventing economical losses by Cormorants in the fishery industry. Representatives of the European Commission agreed on these model regulations. The federal states have implemented this model regulation in different ways, however, the Federal Government regards it as sufficient.

The Federal Government has doubts whether heavy losses occur in natural waters, such as large inland lakes, rivers, and coastal waters, where most of the Cormorants feed. The Euro-

pean Commission funded a project named “Reducing the conflict between Cormorants and fisheries on a pan-european scale (REDCAFE)”. Within this project the latest information on the conflict between Cormorant and fisheries has been collected and furthermore methods for mitigating the conflict have been identified, described and evaluated. By this project it is aspired to establish a new biological/socio-economic approach and furthermore it is intended to bring together all relevant stakeholders – including fisheries and nature conservation organisations – in order to discuss this conflict. This project presents a decision model considering various criteria and integrating appropriate socio-economic aspects. Strategies were worked out to serve as conflict resolutions at the local, national as well as European level. The final report recommends clever management measures directly at the waters concerned.

## 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 multi-lateral 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 Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (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, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), and other authorities in these institutions' sphere of competence, under consultation arrangements. At the beginning of each year, the plan is published in the BMU's "Umwelt" journal and in the internet.

The purpose of research and development 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 the following list.

#### List of current research and development projects with relevance to AEWA:

Environmental research plan 2003:

- Monitoring of bird species in Germany,
- Development of a national strategy for invasive alien species,
- Improvement of the punishment of law infringements with regard to import and export of endangered species,
- Implementation of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas,
- Economic effects of large-scale protected areas,
- Specific projects in order to delimitate protected areas according to the Habitats and Birds Directives including the assessment of suitable areas for wind power plants in Germany's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the North and Baltic Seas,
- Mapping of seabirds in the German EEZ of the North Sea and Baltic Sea,

- Effects of high-speed vessels on the marine environment with particular reference to the situation in the German coastal waters of the North and Baltic Seas.

Environmental research plan 2004:

- Drawing up a national report for the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the Ramsar Convention,
- Ecological re-orientation of the management of federal waterways,
- In-process scientific studies of preventive flood control measures,
- Taking into account the ecosystem approach of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) within the European Water Framework Directive,
- Evaluation of the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP),
- Fisheries management in protected areas,
- Specific projects in order to delimitate protected areas according to the Habitats and Birds Directives including the assessment of suitable areas for wind power plants in Germany's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the North and Baltic Seas, a compendium to develop products of nature experience.

Environmental research plan 2005:

- Integrated management of coastal and marine areas – requirements for strategy and implementation,
- Survey and analysis of possible measures for avoiding or reducing bird collisions at offshore wind power plants and development of suitable evaluation procedures,
- Environmental and nature friendly fisheries management in protected areas,
- Establishment of a network of marine protected sites in the framework of HELCOM and OSPAR,
- Feeding ecology of marine mammals and birds with regard to the management of Natura 2000 sites,
- Specific projects with regard to the EEZ.

Additional research projects are being carried out in each of the federal states.

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, institutions for bird conservation (*Vogelschutzwarten*), and universities.

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

In September 2002 a conference on „Bird monitoring and international reporting obligations“ took place in Steckby, Saxony-Anhalt, during which bird monitoring in Germany was discussed intensively. More than 40 experts and colleagues from the technical authorities of the federal states, from the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, the Federal Ministry for the Environment as well as the associations and working groups attended the meeting which was hosted by the inter-state working group of bird conservation institutions (*Länderarbeitsgemeinschaft der Vogelschutzwarten*) and the NGO Dachverband Deutscher Avifaunisten. The three-days conference was divided into four themes:

1. International experience regarding organisation and integration of monitoring projects,
2. Status quo and perspectives of nation-wide monitoring projects in Germany,
3. Ongoing programmes and monitoring concepts of the federal states and the Federal Government,
4. Further steps to be taken in order to develop a national bird monitoring.

The result of this conference were the so-called “Principles and goals from Steckby”, bringing together common principles as well as necessary steps towards a 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 tight and trustful co-operation and the promotion of synergies. Both professional and voluntary institutions are willing to enforce the existing co-operation in this way ([www.vogelmonitoring.de](http://www.vogelmonitoring.de)).

During recent years theoretical background as well as practical experience for a nation-wide bird monitoring were collected in the framework of ongoing programmes. At present a research and development programme is running which aims at a better adaptation of the existing monitoring programmes to the technical requirements, at strengthening their technical basis and at assuring their long-term operability.

**Table 11: 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; BS = Biological station; CWSS = Common Wadden Sea Secretariat; D = Germany; DDA = Dachverband Deutscher Avifaunisten; DK = Denmark; IWC = International Waterbird Census; NL = Netherlands; NPA = National Park administration; OAG = Ornithological working group; TMAP = Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme; VSW = Bird Conservation Institution (*Vogelschutzwarte*); ZWFD = Centre for Waterbird Research and Wetland Conservation in Germany (*Zentrale für Wasservogelforschung und Feuchtgebietsschutz in Deutschland*).

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, NPA, WWF Wattenmeerstelle within the bounds of Wadden Sea cooperation between D, DK, NL.	International; HH, NI, SH
Monitoring of breeding populations	Breeding populations of coastal birds on the North Sea coast	VSW, NPA; AG "Seabird conservation", data transferred into TMAP	National; HH, NI, SH
Monitoring of breeding populations	Breeding populations of coastal birds on the Baltic Sea, within protected areas	VSW, OAG, AG „Coastal bird Conservation“ MV	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	NPA, VSW, data transferred into TMAP	National; SH, NI
Monitoring of pollutants with coastal birds	Pollutant load of eggs of selected species of coastal birds	Data transferred into TMAP	National; SH, NI
Monitoring of migrant birds	Distribution and change of resting and wintering populations of waterbirds at the North Sea	Schutzstation Wattenmeer, NPA, data transferred into TMAP	National; SH, NI
<b>Waterbird Census</b>	Waterbird Census: Divers and grebes; Cormorant; swans; waterfowl; mergansers and Smew; Coot; gulls	West-D: ZWFD/DDA, c/o BS "Rieselfelder Münster". East-D: NABU resp.. ZWFD/DDA, c/o Förderverein für Wasservogelökologie und Feuchtgebietsschutz, data transferred to Wetlands International (IWC).	National; All

Name	Contents	Co-ordination	Level; states involved
<b>Geese census</b>	Census of geese	In selected areas in Saxony there is a programme for monitoring breeding waterbirds. West-D: ZWFD/DDA, c/o BS im Kreis Wesel. East-D: NABU resp. ZWFD/DDA; data transferred to Wetlands International (IWC).	SN  National; all
<b>Waders census</b>	Populations of inland resting sites, surveys of habitat parameters	ZWFD/DDA data transferred to the "Wader Study Group"	National; all
Greylag Goose	Breeding, breeding success, resting populations in selected areas	VSW, Ministry of the environment	Regional; SH
Seabirds	Resting populations in selected areas	VSW, Ministry of the environment	Regional; SH, MV
<b>DDA monitoring programme for selected threatened bird species; "Indicator programme"</b>	Population data of selected species (36 species since 1990, since 1995 expanded to include all species with less than 1,000 BP in D)	DDA	National; All
Meadow Birds, "Indicators for meadows as well as pastures", partly also "for oligotrophic grassland"	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
Census of large birds	Threatened species of large birds, e.g. Black Stork	State agencies, VSW (depending on the respective federal state)	Regional; BB, RP
Black Stork	Breeding population, partly breeding success, recording of food habitats	State authorities, VSW	Regional: BB, HE, MV, NI, NW, RP, SLSH, TH
White Stork	Breeding population, partly breeding success, recording of food habitats	State authorities, VSW, NGOs	Regional: BW, BY, BB, HB, HE, MV, NI,

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Co-ordination</b>	<b>Level; states involved</b>
Common crane	Breeding population, breeding success	AG Kranichschutz (Crane Conservation) Germany, VSW, WWF	NW, RP, SL, SN, ST, SH, TH Regional: MV, NI, SH, ST
Meadow Birds	Breeding population of meadow birds	State authorities, NABU	Regional: BY, BE, BB, HB, HH, HE, NW, RP, SL, SH, TH

## 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 AEWB Action Plan.

There have been no changes since the last report (BMU 2002).

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

Within the bounds 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 the National Park Djoudj in Senegal, one of the largest protected areas for waterbirds in Western Africa and a very important resting areas for palae-arctic waterbirds at the edge of the desert Sahara. The Biological Station serves as the West African IUCN-Centre for training rangers.

The Bavarian Academy for Nature Conservation and landscape management (*Bayerische Akademie für Naturschutz und Landschaftspflege*) supports planning of the nature conservation academy in the Kozjanski National Park in Slovenia. In the Austrian/Italian/German area of the Alps as well as in the German-Czech mountains near the border there are seminars in order to educate nature guides. Conferences are taking place, such as “Wasserschloss Alpen” or “River Danube – lifeline of Europe”, bringing together neighbouring countries.

The Academy for Nature and Environment Schleswig-Holstein brings together experts of the Agenda 21 and of species conservation. “Coastal Network Coastal Zone 21” helps connect the whole network of Baltic Agenda-protagonists.

The International Nature Conservation Academy of the BfN (INA) provides seminars on management of protected areas, biodiversity or fund raising for Eastern European partners. Particular emphasis is laid on the introduction of an eco-tourism quality label according to Viabono.

The federal states of Bremen and Lower Saxony take part in the TEN-Project (Transnational Ecological Network), which aims at conservation and connecting of wetlands within the EC programme INTERREG III B. Via the project partners (also the provinces Drenthe, Overijssel and Groningen in the Netherlands and the counties Norfolk and Suffolk in the United Kingdom) it is intended to inform stakeholder groups, politicians and landowners in order to improve their awareness with regard to the meaning and conservation of wetlands (<http://www.ten-project.net/indexnew.htm>).

**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)?

There have been no changes since the last report (BMU 2002).

## **7. Final comments**

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

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

The AEWA Secretariat is headed by very competent executives. Its staff is fulfilling tasks in an unprecedented way.

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

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

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

Resolution 2.1 of the second Meeting of the Parties (Bonn, 2002) referring to amendments of Table 1 of Appendix 3 of the AEWA has not yet been implemented by national legislation.

## **9. OPTIONAL SECTION – Planned and future actions**

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