



FORMAT FOR REPORTS

OF THE PARTIES

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

Implementation during the period 2004 and May 2008

Contracting Party: Israel

Designated AEWA Administrative Authority: Israel nature & Parks Authority

Full name of the institution: Israel nature & Parks Authority

Name and title of the head of the institution: Eli Amitai, Director General

Mailing address: 3 Am veolamo st., Jerusalem 95463, Israel

Telephone: +972-2-5005427

Fax: +972-2-5006281

Email: ohad@npa.org.il

Name and title (if different) of the designated contact officer

for AEWA matters: Dr. Eliezer Frankenberg

Mailing address (if different) for the designated contact

officer:

Telephone:

Fax:

Email:

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1. Overview of Action Plan implementation

Summary of progress to date

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

Since all Waterbirds' species (but Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Common Teal, Garganey, Common Pochard, Tufted duck & Coots in the hunting season September-January) are protected by law most of the actions in Israel are within the annual framework of the Israeli Nature & Parks Authority: to preserve the suitable habitats. The only direct implementation is to complete the measures taken in order to stop the use of lead shot pellets in hunting (including in the use of shot guns in culling and regulating wild or feral animals' populations).

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

- a. Mitigate the danger of electrocution of Storks (The Israeli Wildlife Medical Center treats over 20 electrocuted White Storks each year).
- b. Secure the supplementary of fish for feeding migratory White Pelicans (~35,000) in order to enable them to refuel and to prevent the severe conflict with inland fisheries in Israel.
- c. Ban the persecution of Storks (White & Black) with shot-guns (The Israeli Wildlife Medical Center treats few dozens of Storks each year that were shot during the migration before arriving in Israel).
- d. Reduce the danger of oiling to seabirds.

2. Species conservation

Legal measures

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

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

As all the relevant species are already protected in Israel, and as the Israel Nature & Parks Authority (INPA) is in charge of the enforcement of the wildlife protection laws as well as managing the Nature Reserves, there's no need for a specific policy or legislation in order to protect and conserve these species and their habitats. With one exception: the area of Judea foothills was declared in 2007 as an area with complete prohibition in hunting of waterfowl (as already the status of the Hula, Zevulun and Beit-She'an valleys and all the Negev) as this area is the wintering grounds of over 1500 White-headed ducks each winter.

b. Which organisations are responsible for implementation?

Israel Nature & Parks Authority (INPA)

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

Match completely, especially since the INPA is a key player in these initiatives.

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)?

It is completely prohibited to utilize or trade in any wild animal in Israel.

b. Methods of taking?

In Israel the law allows only hunting with a 12" gauge shot-gun of 5 birds/day of each of the species (Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Common Teal, Garganey, Common Pochard, Tufted Duck & Coots) during September-January and in only limited areas and by only ~2400 registered hunters.

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

As in b.

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

Not relevant to Israel

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

There are no exemptions.

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.)

There's no specific action plan for any species in Israel. None of the species require any specific national action plan but enforcing the existing protection laws and proper protection and management of the nature reserves. There are few management plans to assist certain species, such as the artificial supplement of fish to reservoirs that are used by migrating White Pelicans in order to enable some ~10,000 to refuel and compensate their energetic needs in order to complete their migration to east Africa.

Emergency measures

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

No such measures were taken.

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.

So far, no such programme was developed.

Introductions

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

In Israel, a risk assessment system exists for any importation of non-native species in order to prevent the importation of any species with invasion potential. In addition, all facilities that hold non-native species in their collection are instructed by law to prevent any escape. In case of an appearance of non-native escapee in the wild, the INPA rangers are instructed to trap or hunt it.

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.

Not developed.

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.

Not directly, but through the network of Important Birds Areas (IBA) as accepted and published by BirdLife International which cover most of important sites for all species that are included in table 1 in Israel. In Israel, there's an initiative to give the declared IBAs a statutory status that would improve the protection on wild avian species. The relevant sites are (out of 18 IBA in Israel):

- Hula valley
- Zevulun valley (Acre valley)
- Lake Kinneret and Kinerot
- Carmel Coast
- Hefer Valley
- Judean foothills
- Jezre'el, Harod and Bet She'an valleys
- Northern lower Jordan valley
- Western Negev
- Southern Arava Valley

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 Israel, the protected area covers 22% (~5000 km²) of the area of Israel. In addition most of the country hunting is totally prohibited. In all IBA, there is a good representation of fully protected nature reserves.

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

No such specific plans.

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

and their management planning status):

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

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.

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.

4. Management of human activities

Hunting

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

The limited hunting was described above. One must remember that there are only ~2400 registered hunters, most are not interested in waterfowl and the permitted area for hunting waterfowl is very limited and only during the hunting season and restriction on species and quantity.

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

The hunting is monitored and controlled by the INPA rangers at the field.

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.

It is done within the annual and continuous work of the permits department of the law enforcement division of the INPA – letter to the hunters and their clubs, meeting with them prior to the hunting season and publications in the newspapers and the electronic media.

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?

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.

EIAs are required by law for any development (e.g., construction of highway or constructing a new power line, etc.) especially when it is involve protected areas or sensitive sites for natural resources which includes also any threat to protected wildlife (which includes all species in the agreement). These EIA are used for determine if and how to allow the requested activity.

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

5. Research and monitoring

Status of research and monitoring programmes for species

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

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

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.

There's no such programme.

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

None

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)?

The only direct activity is by organizing the WMBD with the aims and important of AEWA and Migratory birds (not only waterbirds). Within the INPA campaigns to promote the conservation of birds, information on the AWEA and its objectives is publishes in the electronic and written media. It was successfully used to put the pressure on the parliament members in order to ban the hunting of waterfowl (yet, only permitted species as detailed above) in the area favored by the White-headed duck in northern Judea foothills.

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

a. The Agreement Secretariat

b. International organisations

c. AEWA NGO partners

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

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

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

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

White Pelicans - Large efforts are made to mitigate the conflict of fisheries with fall migrating White Pelican and at the same time enable those that make a stop over in Israel to feed safely. Thus, we provide fish (non commercial fish from inland fisheries or purchasing commercial fish) and populate it in Hula n.r. or some reservoirs in Northern Israel.

Common Crane – supplementary feeding of some 20-30,000 wintering cranes in order to prevent the conflict with farmers in the Hula Valley and thus, prevent any actions against the cranes.

2. Habitat conservation

3. Management of human activities

4. Research and monitoring

5. Education and information

List of abbreviations and acronyms used in the report

INPA - Israel Nature and Parks Authority.

IBA - Important Birds Areas

References

Appendices

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