



## **AEWA National Report**

**For The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya**

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

**Implementation during the period 2003 and 2005**

**Contracting Party: The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya**

**Designated AEWA Administrative Authority: Nature conservation dept. EGA**

**Full name of the institution: The Environment general Authority (EGA)**

**Name and title of the head of the institution: Dr. Abdul-Hakim ELWAER, Secretary of  
the people's committee of EGA**

**Mailing address: P.O. Box 83618**

**Telephone: +218 21 487 2160**

**Fax: +21821 487 02 66**

**Email: [aelwaer@environment.org.ly](mailto:aelwaer@environment.org.ly)**

**Name and title (if different) of the designated contact officer  
for AEWA matters: Abdulmaula A. HAMZA**

**Mailing address (if different) for the designated contact  
officer: P.O. Box 13793 University post, Tripoli**

**Telephone: +218 92 522 7298, +218 21 487 2160**

**Fax: +21821 487 02 66**

**Email: [abdhamza@yahoo.com](mailto:abdhamza@yahoo.com)**

**[khaledetayeb@yahoo.com](mailto:khaledetayeb@yahoo.com)**

## Table of Contents

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

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

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

*1.1 Libya acceded AEWA officially on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2005. although some activities was started before that date.*

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

**After the success of the wintering waterbirds survey conducted during January 2005, EGA is optimistic to continue such inventories that will increase our knowledge on water birds wintering, breeding and passing Libyan wetlands. In this context EGA under SAPBIO project of MAP-UNEP-RACSPA was prepared a comprehensive Action Plan for studying and conserving the marine and coastal bird species present in Libya, and listed in SPA protocol.**

**Establishment of protected areas for birds (IBA) is a peer priority on national level. EGA and other relevant authorities seek the best ways to declare and manage some natural sites important for birds as PA.**

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

**Libya is a contracting party for most international conventions dealing with conservation of water birds, such as Barcelona convention and SPA protocol, RAMSAR-MedWet CBD, CMS, CITES and lately AEWA. Bilateral international cooperation with some agencies and organizations working in bird conservation is already started since some years. In this context An MOU was signed in 2001 between EGA and office nationale de la Cahss et de la fauna sauvage (ONCFS-France) to strengthening collaboration in conducting inventories and training, this MOU would further developed to include some specific activities during the next triennium.**

**Contacts with IUCN-Mediterranean centre in Malaga is underway to establish a program of work for coastal and marine protected areas and awareness program for marine conservation issues, where marine birds are a vital component.**

## 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?

**In this context EGA under SAPBIO project of MAP-UNEP-RACSPA was prepared a comprehensive Action Plan for studying and conserving the marine and coastal bird species present in Libya, and listed in SPA protocol.**

**Libya also drafted the national biodiversity strategy in 2002, where most of the agreement water birds were included as a priority conservation demand.**

b. Which organisations are responsible for implementation?

**EGA, the National Agency for Agricultural development, the municipalities. Marine Biology Research Centre and the national Universities (for studies and monitoring)**

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

**The national action plan under SAPBIO is in harmony with the national biodiversity strategy, where bird and bird areas is a crucial part of it.**

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)?

b. Methods of taking?

c. Setting of taking limits and monitoring these limits?

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

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

**Generally, by law all bird hunting activities are banned, as far as 1989, although some illegal hunting is still in practice in some areas. Efforts to enforce national legislations on hunting control needs to be strengthened by national authorities involved.**

### 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.)*

**An action plan for the lesser crested Tern (*Sterna bengalensis*) is under preparation. Other action plans would be prepared in future.**

### **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.*

**N/A**

### **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.*

**N/A**

### **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).*

**EGA is preparing a national legislation dealing with invasive and alien species, to be approved later by the General People's Congress. CITES ratification by Libya in 28 April 2004 is another aspect where a national trading legislation in rare and endangered species would be drafted.**

### 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.*

**During January 2005 a preliminary inventory of water bird habitats was conducted in conjunction with the coastal wintering birds survey organized by EGA, RACSPA, AEWA.** Other inventory of those habitats might be covered during the MedWet national wetland inventory, dates of this inventory is still unfixed with MedWet coordination unit.

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.*

**Several sites have the potential to be IBAs, of those:**

**Farwa Lagoon, Tawergha spring and sebkha, Hisha sebkhas, Benghazi Lake, Ain Azzayana lagoon, ain Alghazala lagoon, Ain Elzarga and Ain Alshakika (ramsar sites).**

#### 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.)*

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.*

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.*

N/A

#### 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.

**N/A**

#### **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).*

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

*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.*

**See paragraph 2.2.**

##### **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?*

**N/A.**

##### **Other human activities**

*4.6 Does your country carry out Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of activities potentially affecting protected sites or areas important for species covered by the Agreement? If yes, briefly describe the main features of your EIA policy and procedures.*

**Yes, the law No. 15-2003 on protection and improvement of the environment, specify in details the process of EIA. EGA is a responsible institution to enforce such regulation, EIA studies either conducted by independent consultant and revise by EGA monitoring department, or conducted by a research team from EGA and up on the results the permission is granted or not.**

*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.*

**N/A**

## 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*

**Recent waterbird studies with bilateral cooperation has started as far as 1993, with coastal birds survey, that was conducted in collaboration with the former IWRB (Wetlands international), the mission team have surveyed the coastal area for census and identification of IBA's. In April 2001 a similar mission was organized by EGA and ONCFS-France after signing an MOU between the two institutions. This collaboration was continued by signing another MOU between RACSPA-UNEP-MAP and EGA to carry out a winter census of waterbirds (January, 2005) along the coastline and identify natural habitats of conservation interest; results of this mission will be published soon.**

**National Wetland inventory project in coordination of MedWet is under preparation. Under Mediterranean SAPBIO project leaded by RACSPA, Libya have proposed a national Action Plan for conservation and management of marine birds, which describes priorities for implementation on national level.**

## 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.

**No specific training programs in waterbird conservation and ornithology, very limited number of national researchers who are self motivated to build their capacity in such fields, moreover ornithology constitute small part of Biology studies at the universities. There is an urgent need to organize short term and long term training and postgraduate studies to build up the human resources needed on the national level.**

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

**A potential training opportunity for national biologists is foreseen through the national wetland inventory, with the good experience of MedWet centers, e.g. Tour du valet and Ekby. Contacts with ONCFS-France are underway to organize hunting control training sessions and basic ornithology training in future.**

### 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)?

**EGA is planning to organize a national workshop on bird conservation, in which AEWA would be an important part of it. Interviews with researchers working on birds are conducted with national and local radios and TV's. Wetlands and its biological, ecological and cultural importance were subjects of many articles in ALBEEAH (The Environment) magazine, and workshops organized during the last few years.**

## **7. Final comments**

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

**Libya is a new AEWA party, and we in EGA are very aware that many steps needed to effectively implement the Action Plan of AEWA, furthermore many species listed in the agreement action plans are in need to be assessed scientifically in Libya in terms of habitat availability and diversity.**

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

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

### **No observations**

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

**Concentrate more on training of young researchers for waterbird identification skills and conducting studies leads to degrees in this field, by organizing some full time scholarships for Libyan students and EGA-MBRC researches.**

**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.*

NA

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

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

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

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

EGA: Environment General Authority

EIA: Environment Impact Assessment.

CBD: Convention on Biodiversity.

CITES: Convention on Trade in Endangered Species

CMS: Convention on Migratory Species.

IBA: International Bird Areas.

IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature.

MAP: Mediterranean Action Plan.

MedWet: Mediterranean Wetland Initiative.

MBRC: Marine Biology Research Centre.

MoU: Memorandum of Understanding.

ONCFS: Office national de la chasse et l'fauna sauvage –France.

RACSPA: Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas.

RAMSAR: The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

SAPBIO: Strategic Action Program for coastal and Marine Biodiversity in the Mediterranean.

SPA Protocol: Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity in the Mediterranean.

UNEP: United Nations Environment Program.