

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

**Implementation during the period November 2004 and June 2005**

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**Designated AEWB Administrative Authority:**  
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## **1. Overview of Action Plan implementation**

### *1.1 Summary of progress to date*

The Agreement was ratified in November 2004.

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

Monitoring of waterbirds and habitats.

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

## 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?

All species of Table 1 of the Agreement and their habitats are protected by these national legal acts:  
Law on Protected Areas (1993, (as) amended in December 2001),  
Law on Wild Fauna (1997, (as) amended in December 2001),  
Law on Protected Plant, Animal and Fungi Species and Communities (1997, (as) amended in December 2001).

Government Resolution No. 130 of 7 February 2005 on the approval of the National Biodiversity Monitoring Programme for 2005-2010

Government Resolution No. 276 of 15 March 2004 on approval of the General Statutes for SCI and SPA.

Order of the Minister of Environment No. D1-233 of April 29, 2004 Concerning the amendment of order No. D1-57 on the compilation of the list of the sites that meet pSCI's criteria, and the submission of the list to the EU together with the list the habitats and species of EU important of found on these sites".

Law on Hunting (2002).

Rules on Hunting in Lithuania (2002).

Rules on Trade in Wild Animals (2004)

b. Which organisations are responsible for implementation?

Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania;  
The State Environmental Protection Inspectorate;  
State Protected Areas Service under the Ministry of Environment;  
Regional Environmental Protection Departments.

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

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)?

The national Hunting Law prohibits the taking of birds listed in Column A of Table 1, except *Anser albifrons* which hunting is allowed in restricted period. Two bird species listed in Column B of table 1 are hunted in Lithuania (i.e. *Anas querquedula*, *Gallus gallus*). However, the taking of these bird species is regulated by the Lithuanian hunting legislation.

The trade in birds in Lithuania is regulated by the Rules on Trade in Wild Animals. The international trade in birds is regulated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered

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Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and EU Regulations.

*b. Methods of taking?*

Only firearms are allowed.

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

There are no limits. Regional Nature Protection Departments summarise information collected from hunters and provide reports on hunted birds/animals in their region to the MoE (twice during the hunting season).

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

No hunting of such species is allowed.

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

### **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?*

No.

*b. In preparation?*

No.

*c. Being implemented?*

No.

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

### **Emergency measures**

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

Lithuania has signed Intergovernmental bilateral agreements concerning the cooperation on environmental issues with Latvia, Belarus, Sweden and Russian Federation. In addition there are many bilateral institutional agreements between Lithuanian institutions and institutions of other countries (Sweden, Austria, Poland, Holland, Finland, Belarus, Denmark, Kazakhstan, Latvia and Slovak Republic) concerning the cooperation on environmental issues or specific environmental questions.

The trilateral cooperation among the Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) on environmental issues is well developed and is based on the agreement among the Governments of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia (signed in 1995). Within this framework the Ministers of Environment of all three Baltic states periodically meet on environmental protection issues.

Permanent international cooperation of Lithuanian environmental specialists is not limited by the Baltic Sea Region. Such cooperation is promoted devising and implementing working plans for

bilateral intergovernmental and interdepartmental agreements between Lithuania and foreign countries.

Being a Party to the Baltic Sea Environment Protection Convention (Helsinki Convention) from 1994 and a Party to the Convention on Fisheries and the Protection of Fish Resources in the Baltic Sea from 1994, Lithuania actively participates in the implementation of biodiversity and its resources protection in the Baltic region.

Strengthening international relations with other European States Lithuania has signed two Conventions of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe – the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

Lithuania actively participates in the implementation of the joint programme Baltic 21. This is a joint programme for sustainable development in the Baltic sea region approved by the Council of Baltic Region Countries (Ministers of Foreign Affairs) in 1998.

### Re-establishments

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

There is no special programmes for species re-establishment in Lithuania. The general policy in Lithuania is to protect and restore wetlands.

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### Introductions

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

According to the Law on Wild Fauna and the Rules on Introduction of Wild Animals in case of deliberate introduction of non-native species it is necessary to get permit from MoE.

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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.*

73 areas have been designated as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) according to the EEC Bird Directive. 5 of these are Ramsar Sites according to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Information on these sites has been published in book and the information is on the home-page :<http://www.am.lt/natura2000/>

S. Svazas, E. Drobelis, L. Balciauskas, L. Raudonikis Important wetlands in Lithuania, 2000;

L. Raudonikis, P. Kurlavicius Important Bird Areas in Lithuania, 2000;

L. Raudonikis Important Bird Areas of The European Union importance in Lithuania, 2004;

Inventory of coastal and marine Important Bird Areas in the Baltic Sea, 2000.

*3.2 Has your country undertaken a strategic review of sites to develop a national network of important sites or areas for species covered by the Agreement? Please append a list of identified sites of international importance.*

See point 3.1

### 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.)

Internationally important protected sites are protected according to the provision in the EEC Bird Directive, the Ramsar Convention and national legislation – nature conservation areas and/or wildlife reserves.

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

In the beginning of 2004 started project EUROPEAID/113516/D/SV/LT on Development of Management Plans in Protected Areas of Lithuania. This project will prepare 20 management plans for important SPA's for migratory species.

In year 2005 started PHARE project "Protection of endangered species of fauna and flora and their habitats through implementation of CITES, Bonn and Bern Conventions and related EU legislation". One of the objectives of this project is to prepare management plans for some of the Bern and Bonn Conventions species. Project will end in November 2006.

During the PHARE project "On Protection of Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna and their Habitats through implementation of CITES and the Bern and Bonn Conventions and related EU Legislation" there is foreseen to prepare Species action plans for 16 rare and migratory species and their habitats, site management plans for 4 Special Protected Areas (SPAs) and 2 planned proposed Sites of Community Importance (pSCIs); to prepare reports on the national inventory of at least 38 species listed in the appendices of Bern and Bonn Conventions and related EU Directives.

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?

36 management plans for NATURA 2000 sites.

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 crosssectoral co-operation or public participation.

The most relevant legal instruments regarding conservation and wise use of wetland are the following:

Law on Environmental Protection (1992),  
Law on Protected Areas (1993, (as) amended in December 2001),  
Law on Wild Fauna (1997, (as) amended in December 2001),  
Law on Protected Plant, Animal and Fungi Species and Communities (1997, (as) amended in December 2001).  
Law on Hunting (2002)

In Lithuania the national wetland policy is covered by an integrated and a comprehensive set of nature protection and environmental laws and strategies which also complies with article 6 of the Convention of Biological Diversity. Lithuania has prepared a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan which contains section of Action Plan for the protection of wetlands ecosystems.

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## 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.

The objectives of Lithuanian Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan are conserve wetlands, ban new exploitation of wetlands and restore damaged wetland and meadows. Some smaller wetlands have been restored since 1999.

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## 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).

Administrative authority competent for hunting policy in Lithuania is the Ministry of Environment. MoE confirms hunting rules, list of huntable species and terms of hunting; allowable and forbidden hunting methods and terms of their use; allowable and forbidden hunting tools, list of species whose hunting is limited and their annual hunting limits evaluation order, sets the order of issuing of licences for huntable species; sets the order of hunting exam and program.

There are two main legal acts regulating hunting in Lithuania: Law on Hunting (2002) and Rules on Hunting in Lithuania (2002).

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

Bag statistics in Lithuania are collected since 1934. In our country Regional nature protection departments of MoE (we have 8 dep.) collect data on bird hunting bags twice a year. Since hunting period 2003/2004 the bags are recorded per bird species. Before 2003 the bags were recorded per group of bird species (geese, ducks), 4 times a year.

Hunters in Lithuania are obliged by law to give their annual bag. Hunters after each hunting must fill a special hunting data sheet (special list) and sign it (it is obligatory). In such data sheet there is an information about hunting place and hunting date, name of a hunter, names of species of harvested birds (or animals) and number of harvested individuals. These documents are regularly controlled by environment inspectors. Hunting clubs twice a year make a summary (report) about harvested species and number of individuals and submit this information to Regional nature protection departments (special form confirmed by a minister of environment).

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Regional nature protection departments summarises information collected from hunters and provide a reports about harvested birds/animals in their region to the MoE (twice during hunting season).

Also there are collected data about accidentally killed animals on the roads; how much domestic animals were killed by wolfs; harvested animals sick with tuberculosis and cases of rabies (hydrophobia).

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MoE every year makes the report about harvested **animals** in all the country (based on collected information from Regional nature protection departments). Every person can get the information about bag statistics for free.

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.

There is the common educational and examination programme for hunters in Lithuania approved by the Ministerial Order 2002 No. 510

### 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.

In the most of the National and Regional parks and Strict Nature Reserves are constructed watchtowers for bird watching and nature trails for eco-tourists.

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

Benefits to the local communities from the conservation of waterbird sites are insignificant.

#### **Other human activities**

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

The main features of the Lithuanian EIA are that companies or others making specific constructions (airports, infrastructures, farms, plants) have to make an assessment of the potential impact on the environment, including wetlands and migratory birds. If the impact is assessed to be significantly negative alleviating measures has to be carried out or the construction may even be translocated to another place.

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

Impact from sailing, hunting and other recreation activities have been minimised by establishing more NATURA 2000 sites and by restriction of hunting season.

### **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.

Priorities for research are identified individually by the different research institutes. Ornithologists from the Institute of Ecology, Lithuanian Ornithological Society and Protected Areas are participating in different research and monitoring programmes, but there is no centralised information on all projects in one place. The information is scattered in different institutions.

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

A new National Environment Monitoring Program for 2005-2010 was adopted in February. In this new NEMP is included monitoring of bird species listed in the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC). This year in Lithuania started monitoring of few breeding and migratory bird species in Natura 2000 sites. According to the requirements of Birds Directive Lithuania must submit to European

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Commission a report on monitoring every 3 years.

Since 2003 monitoring of wintering water birds is going on in Lithuania. This monitoring makes Institute of Ecology.

Also some project concerning waterfowl and other bird species were carried out in last few years: 1) Important trans-border wetlands in Lithuania, Belarus and the Kaliningrad region of Russia (2001-2002); 2) Reduction of impacts of gillnet fisheries on migrating and wintering waterfowl and seabirds in the Lithuanian inshore waters of the Baltic Sea (2001-2002); 3) Protection and management of Important Bird Areas included into Natura 2000 network in Lithuanian inshore waters of the Baltic Sea (2003-2004).

## 6. Education and information

### Training and development programmes

6.1 Describe the status of training and development programmes which support waterbird conservation and implement the AEWA Action Plan.

No special training or development programmes specific to the AEWA Action Plan, but training in general nature conservation is taken care of by some NGOs.

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

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### 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)?

NGOs regularly organise actions and meetings on nature protection and species conservation for public.

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## 7. Final comments

7.1 General comments on the implementation of the AEWA Action Plan

No special comments.

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

a. The Agreement Secretariat

No special comments.

b. International organisations

No special comments.

c. AEWA NGO partners

No special comments.

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

**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
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**

The Ministry of Environment - MoE

**References**

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