



3th AEWA REPORT

OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

(2002- 2005)

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

Implementation during the period: 2002- 2005

Contracting Party: REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

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1. Overview of Action Plan implementation

1.1 Summary of progress to date

Implementation of the AEWA Action Plan has been harmonised with CMS Strategic Action Plan (2001-2005) and our National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (2003-2010).

Also Macedonian Committee of CMS (MBC), with co-operation of Macedonian Ramsar Committee (MRC), Macedonian Committee of Biological Diversity (MCBD) and MEPP has made Triennial Joint Programme of Nature Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (2003-2005). This actions has been fully supported by the Bird Study and Protection Society of Macedonia (BSPSM).

In this process we have co-operation of the government departments:

Agency of Environment (AE), Sector of Sustainable Development (SSD), MCIE in MEPP; Sector for Forestry (SF), Department of Hunting (DH), Depart. of Water (DW) in MAFWE; Sector of International Law (SIL) and Sector of Multilaterale (SML) in MFA; State Agency of International Co-operation (SAIC) in MES; State Statistical Institute in Macedonia (SSIM).

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

All activities related of AEWA Action Plan implementatiot (2006-2008) will be created with MBC and and BSPSM.

The basic components of our Action Plan is CMS Strategic Action Plan (2006-2011) and National Strategic Action Plan of Biodiversity Conservation, especially wetlands and waterbirds, including migratory species and their habitats and routs of migrations.

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

International co-operation is very important of the implementation of all international conventions and agreements.

The concept of MBC include priorities from our NBDSAP and the Yoint Programme of next tienium (2006-2008).

Species diversity sonservation and important habitats is our high priority, especially migratory waterbirds and wetlands.

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? No

If so:

- a. What are the main features of the policy/legislation? /
- b. Which organisations are responsible for implementation?
MEPP/EA DBD and MBC/BSPSM
- c. How does it relate to other national initiatives (e.g. national Biodiversity Action Plans)? NSBD and AP (MEPP, 2004).

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?

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? x
- 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.)

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.

Conservation of BD on the Vardar- Axios River Basin (BSPSM/RM and HOS/GR)
General Acton Plan of the Lake Prespa (trilateral transboundary park of Prespa Region).
Integral Conservation of the Lake Prespa (MEPP/RM and ME/AL).
Save of the Lake Doyran (MEPP/RM and UNESCO).

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.

Rehabilitation of the Katlanovsko Blato (wetlands): Re-establishment programme for wather-birds species (covered by the AEWA)

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).

Legal measures for integral conservation of wildlife and their natrural habitats on protected areas (Lake Ohrid, Lake Prespa and Lake Doyran);

Legal measures to prohibit the introduction of nonnative species in Ramsar Site Lake Prespa and Strict Natural Reserve Ezerani;

Legal measures to prohibit the introduction of nonnative species in Svetinaumski Izvori (Sprint Sent Naum) coestl on the Lake Ohrid (UNESCO Site, Natular Monument) ;

Legal measures to prohibit the introduction of nonnative species in Lake Tikvesh (artificial) and Strict Natural Reserve Tikvesh;

Legal measures to prohibit the implementation of nonnative species (Invasive Alien Species) in Lake Mavrovo (artificial) included on the National Park Mavrovo;

Legal measures to prohibit the introduction of nonnative species in Radica River/NP Mavrovo.

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.

No special inventory of important habitats for AEWA species. BSPSM has published spec. edition: Inventory of the wetlands in Macedonia (2002). On this publication also has been included data of 46 important habitats (wetlands) and migratory water-birds.

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.

No special strategic review of sites or areas for AEWA species. BSPSM has published CORINE Biotopes MACEDONIA: List of Macedonian CORINE Sites (author: Branko Micevski Dr.Sc., 2000). On this publication has been included data of 77 areas representing important bio-centres and bio-corridors of migratory species.

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.)

Lake Ohrid (UNESCO Site, 1982),
Lake Prespa (Ramsar Site, 1995),
Transboundary Park Prespa (2001)
Vardar-Axios River Basin
(Balkan Green Belt, 1999, European Green Belt, 2004).

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.

Only for National Park Pelister (Author: Branko Micevski, Dr.Sci., 2004).
It's planned for next triennium (2006-2008).

3.5 How many protected sites have formal management plans (please append a list of sites and their management planning status):

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| <i>a. Proposed?</i> | 4 |
| <i>b. In preparation?</i> | 1 |
| <i>c. Being implemented?</i> | - |

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.

The National Monitoring Network of the river basin and natural lakes in Macedonia (SAHMMW).

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.

No special policy for IRR of wetlands important AEWA species.

Macedonian Ramsar Committee, Macedonian Bonn Committee and Macedonian Committee of Biodiversity have established Joint Programme and Action Plan for IRR of natural eco-systems and biodiversity (2002-2005).

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 basis of our national legislation (with legal measures) for control hunting is the Law for Hunting (20/96).

In chapter 4 of our Law of Hunting fully protection have 37 waterbirds (see List of MAFWE).

The use of lead shot regulates this law of hunting (chapter 56), but use of poisoned baits and taking is prohibited.

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

Monitoring of hunting is regulated with the Law of Hunting and several sub-regulation of the Minister of agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (MAFWE).

The State Inspectorate of Hunting (SIH) have National network with 249 hunting organisations. On the state level the Government of Republic of Macedonia have 4 State areas for hunting. On the regional and local level we have 245 organisations (hunting clubs). They managed water eco-systems and other areas for hunting.

SIH have Central Register with data for monitoring. MAFWE have summary collection of information and reports. MAFWE/SIH made the Annual Report of the hunting management and monitoring in Macedonia and sent to Macedonian Government.

This Report has been included on the web-site of Macedonian Government and also web-site of MAFWE.

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.

Actions of hunting regulate the Law of Hunting (chapter 7- 17; 30-35).

Hunting organisations and clubs have legal obligation to make the basic economy plan for hunting management and use hunting species (chapter 44, 48-50).

They also have Annual Programme and Action Plan (chapter 50- 51).

Control of licences for hunting regulated the Law of Hunting. MAFWE/SIH organised testing of individual members. The hunting is prohibited of non-testing members.

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.

The programmes of eco-tourism have created the Ministry of Economy, Department of Tourism with co-operation of MEPP/AE and MAFWE/DF.

The Macedonian Society of Tourism (MST) and NGO-s have important role of eco-tourism development. Good example is co-operation of BSPSM and Travel agencies in Bitola. Every year young peoples on schools have visit the Strict Nature Reserve Ezerani and Ramsar Site Lake Prespa. The Research Center in village Asamati, SNR Ezerani have data of the number of visitors. In 2004 we have 350 visitors, and in 2005 this number is increased to 500 visitors. Very important is measures of limit of the visitor groups: 30 peoples.

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

In the moment, if we consider Prespa Lake and Ornithological Reserve EZERANI on Prespa Lake, only building activities are priorities as NGOs are out of the consultation and decision processes (I mean old and NGOs with capacities) not recently created and politically formatted "NGO"s. So, nothing is done important regarding sustainable development, nature protection and preservation and promotion of eco-tourism. In fact donors are not aware for necessity of such activities as their consultants take care only for their job and involvement and not for sustainability of the projects.

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.

Only formal. In many cases funny stories for EIA have been implemented (like new species of mammals with long tail- special long tail fox???, or rare pigeon with grey feathers etc.

It is interesting how such studies pass rigorous criteria of international experts? Are they experts? So, it seems that donors (here European bank for reconstructions, UNDP, KfW, World Bank etc) take care for their involvement and not for the real results???. As it is impossible such EIA to be accepted!!!). So they should work with the people with real references for such studies!

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.

No such examples. It is not known for the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MEPP). Problems - yes. In case of the Ornithological Reserve EZERANI (SNR) on Prespa Lake locals are interested for zoning implementation but the Ministry stick to such irrational law for total ban for any activities- in fact no ban as nobody take care for implementation of such law!!

No management body, no Management plan. Only some NGO's take care but without support is impossible.

BSPSM with co-operation of MRC, MBC and MCB and MEPP/AE will create important measures to minimise disturbance of waterbird species populations and to make limit of the human impact of waterbirds populations, especially on crops and fisheries in river basins, artificial lakes and our nature lakes: Ohrid, Prespa and Dojran.

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.

Macedonia, in the moment is doing or supporting no research activities, no monitoring programs, no bird ringing activities (also no telemetry). Some bird ringing, very modest is done from Bird Study and Protection Society of Macedonia (BSPSM).

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

Nothing is done. No support. No activities!!

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.

Inventory of Macedonian wetlands has been published by BSPSM by support of Netherlands Committee for IUCN (Small grants for wetland programs) in 2002.

BSPSM have organised every year several workshops and training for development of programmes and projects. Members of BSPSM developed and realised projects to support waterbirds and other birds conservation. This is good practice for implementation of CMS, CBD and RCW Joint Programme, including the AEWA Action Plan.

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

No such cases.

MBC, MRC, MCB and BSPSM will create concept for our future co-operation with the Coordinative Committee of the Prespa Park, MedWet Union Committee, Wetlands International, BirdLife International, EURONATURE, ECNC.

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)?

In 2002 supported by Netherlands Committee for IUCN (Small grants for wetland programs) , BSPSM has published a poster with waterbirds which was distributed to primary schools and also promoted during the World Ramsar days in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005. The book Inventory of wetlands was translated in Macedonian and posted to any community of Macedonia (123 in that time).

7. Final comments

7.1 General comments on the implementation of the AEWA Action Plan

It seems that Macedonia is doing nothing regarding the AEWA action plan implementation. Furthermore, what is more terrible international organization or donor community are not informed about such action plan - having in mind that they are not looking for such plan to be implemented when they support some environmental activities in Macedonia.

Capacity of the MEPP is limited for full implementation of the AEWA Action Plan. In this process very important is assistance of MBC, MRC and BSPSM.

The crucial role have prof.dr Branko Micevski, President of MBC, MRC and BSPSM. He has created all activities, programmes and projects of the implementation of CMS, RCW and AEWA.

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

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

Secretariat is functioning perfect. It is rare case that it is really functioning in best order and it is impossible to find any even small mistake.

International organizations: in case of Birdlife international- we could say that they co-operate on discriminatory bases (so Bird life partner's are involved and other national Bird life organization not) what is really "irrational" as it is lesson from the primary school that nature protection should be organized on co-operative bases, without borders without some discrimination because any such activity is without real success and without sustainability.

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

AEWA should find way how to inform international and European donor community and inform them about AEWA Action Plan in order such donors to have in mind general postulates of that Action Plan. That is only way in some countries (developing) to approach and be involved in some real AEWA activities.

The CMS Strategic Action Plan and the AEWA Action Plan have important rule for Sustainable Development, especially for global, regional, national and local conservation actions of migratory waterbirds and their habitats and migratory routes.

We have the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBDSAP) and we need international financial support of the implementation this very important document of our future development: economic, ecological and social.

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.

Unfortunately, no progress in the moment is done, nothing is visible, nobody exempt some NGOs are taking care for waterbirds, environment etc.

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

9. 5. Education and information

In the moment the only Info-centar (also research) exist in the vil. Asamati for the purpose and connected with the Ornithological reserve EZERANI (SNR). The centre, without any support from the government and last several years from no donors, is managed by the NGO - BSPSM.

This year 500 pupils have visited this centre and also SNR EZERANI. The pupils were taken by the tourist organization from Bitola with whom BSPSM has good connection regarding ecological tourism development (mainly good intentions and ideas).

In the centre there is exhibition form 10 tables (1x1m) which explain the functioning of the SNR EZERANI.

Also two view points are constructed by BSPSM, in the reserve itself, by help of Norwegian Embassy who was only supporter up to 2003.

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List of abbreviations and acronyms used in the report

AEWA - Agreement on the Conservation of African-Euroasian Migratory Waterbirds

AEWA/AP- Action Plan of AEWA

BSPSM- Bird Study and Protection Society of Macedonia. Exist from 1989.

CBD - Convention of Biological Diversity

CMS - Convention of Migratory Species

CW - Convention on Wetlands of the International Importance for Waderbirds

CMS/SAP- Strategic Action Plan of CMS

ECNC – European Center of Nature Conservation

EEA - European Environmental Agency (EU)

MBC - Macedonian Committee of implementation of the Bonn Convention (CMS)

MCBD- Macedonian Committee of Biological Diversity

MRC - Macedonian Ramsar Committee

MAFWE- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy,

MAFWE/SIH- State Inspectorate of Hunting of MAFWE

MEPP- Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning

MEPP/AE- Agency of Environment of MEPP

MEPP/SIE- State Inspectorate of Environment of MEPP

MES - Ministry of Education and Sciences

MES/SAS- State Agency of Sciences of MES

MFA – Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MFA/DIL- Department of International Law of MFA

MFA/DML- Department of Multilaterals of MFA

NBDSAP- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

NSSD – National Strategy of Sustainable Development

SNR - Strict Natural Reserve

SSIM – State Statistical Institute of Macedonia

SSD/MEPP- Sector of Sustainable Development of MEPP

References

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MEPP (2004), Vision 2008- Masedonian Rute of the Helt and Environmen (Midle Polisy);

MEPP (2004), National Biological Strategy and Action Plan; pp. 1-198;

Micevski, B., 2002. Inventory of Macedonian wetlands (as natural resources). BSPSM Special edition nr. 2. pp. 72. Skopje.

Micevski, B., 2003. Avifauna of Ohrid Lake. BSPSM Special edition nr. 5. pp. 42. Skopje.

Nastov A., and all. (2004). Changes of the Complex of Ecosistems in the Watershed of Treska river resulting from the conservation of the artificial accomulation Kozjak. Proceesing of 2nd Congress of Ecologists of the Republic of Macedonia with International Participation, 2003, Ohrid, Spec. issues of MES, pp. 590. Skopje.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Status of Single Species Action Plans /

Appendix 2: List of sites of international importance

Lake Ohrid: UNESCO World Heritage site (1980); Ramsar Shedow List (1B/1987); Nature Monument (1977), CORINE Site (P-003/2000); Wellands (Site code MKWS002/ Sub-Site Codes: MKWS0001A, MKWS0001B, MKWS0001C), BSPSM/02; Balkan Green Belt/1999; European Green Belt/2004.

Lake Prespa: Ramsar site (1995); Nature Monument (1977) Strict Natural Reserve Ezerani (1996); CORINE Site (P-001/2000); Wetlands (Site code MKWS001/ Sib-Site Codes MKWS001A, MKWS001B), BSPSM/02; Balkan Green Belt/1999; European Green Belt/2004.

Lake Dojran: Ramsar Shedow List (1B/1987); Nature Monument (1977), CORINE Site (P-002/2000); Wellands (Site code MKWS003), BSPSM/02; Balkan Green Belt/1999; European Green Belt/2004.

Vardar Drainage Basin: CORINE Site (GV: LE, PC, TR; SV: BR, CR; DV:DE/ BSPSM/02;
Vardar- Axios River Basin: Balkan Green Belt/1999; European Green Belt/2004.

Crni Drim Drainage Basin: CORINE Site (CD: RA, OE, PE/ BSPSM/02; Balkan Green Belt/1999; European Green Belt/2004.

Strumitsa Drainage Basin: CORINE Site (ST), Site code MKWS0016BSPSM/02); Balkan Green Belt/1999; European Green Belt/2004.

Katlanovsko Blato: CORINE Site P-004/2000; Wetlands (Site code MKWS0004), BSPSM/02.

Belchisko Blato: CORINE Site P-005/2000; Wetlands (Site code MKWS0005), BSPSM/02.

Monospitovsko Blato: CORINE Site P-006/2000; Wetlands (Site code MKWS0006), BSPSM/02.

Appendix 3: Status of management plans for sites of international importance /

Appendix 4: List of research and monitoring programmes and projects /

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

Institute of Biology, Zoological Department, Faculty of Sciences, Skopje
Macedonian Museum of natural History, Departmen of Vertebrata, Skopje

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

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