



AEWA REPORT

OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLODVA

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

Implementation during the period 2003 and 2005

Contracting Party:

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1. Overview of Action Plan implementation

1.1 Summary of progress to date

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

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

In accordance with Article III, paragraph 2(a), of the AEWA Agreement the Republic of Moldova assures the protection of the populations listed in the Action Plan. The national legal background on migratory species conservation is performed through:

- the elaboration and adaptation of laws on environmental protection, protection and sustainable use of animal kingdom
- the elaboration and adoption of normative documents for the executive branch of power, concerning the implementation of the main stipulations of the mentioned legislation
- the elaboration of normative documents on state bodies activity in the field of environment protection, measures of biological diversity conservation and integration of biodiversity conservation requirements into sectoral practice.

The existing legislation provides for the solution of the environment problems, however the implementation of the legislative provisions face some difficulties, including:

- unsatisfactory implementation of the legislation
- presence of contradictions in some paragraphs of the laws
- Ineffective application of penalties.

In order to solve such difficulties the Republic of Moldova adhered to the AEWA Agreement and other international agreements regarding the nature protection.

At the same time it should be mentioned that the current legislation is far from being perfect. There is a total absence of normative documents on conservation and maintenance of the genetic fund of spontaneous faunistic species. There is no law approved on landscape protection, which regards on sites protection for migratory species. At the moment there is in process of elaboration the Law regarding the landscape protection.

Development of researches

The majority of researches on “in situ” and “ex situ” biodiversity have performed within the framework of fundamental multisectoral researches based on biological, ecological, agricultural, chemical, medicinal and pharmaceutical sciences.

Many investigations on the status and fauna species protection are made by the Academy of Science as well as by the National Institute of Ecology, Moldova State University, Agrarian State University and NGOs.

The investigations on fauna are made at the level of species (populations and individuals). Little attention is paid to migratory species study at the ecosystem level, database development and recording.

Within the intersectoral technico – scientific programs “Fauna”, “Ecology” elaborated in common with some institutions the following trends of research have been developed:

- Evaluation of fauna and migratory species status and their communities
- Elaboration of scientific bases and recommendations on genetic fund protection (animals)
- Optimization of technogenic influence on environment etc.

The socio-economic changes during the transition period in the Republic of Moldova have

negative consequences on the realization of these programs. The directions and volume of researches have been considerably reduced in the last years because of the drastic budget reduction.

The National Institute of Ecology elaborates annual reports on the status and environment protection in the Republic of Moldova. These reports include information on migratory species protection. Annually the experts of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and those from the scientific research institutions, State Forestry Agency in collaboration with the representatives of public administration elaborate norms, Shares for the hunting and fishing season in conformity with the current legislation, the current status of animal populations and scientific recommendations. Information on status of animal species, including the migratory species is published once in three years.

The first edition of the Red Book of the Republic of Moldova appeared in 1976 and the second edition – in 2002.

Comparing the actual number of animal species which are vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered with that of 15 – 20 years ago, we can easily come to the conclusion that the ecological state of many of them has become critical. In the first edition of the Red Book of Moldova included 29 species of animals, then the present edition comprise 116 species of animals. The respective situation represents an alarming signal which proves the necessity of undertaking some urgent and efficient actions with the aim of conserving, protecting and restoring the ecosystems and threatened with disappearance or is on the point of doing that.

The urgent solution of the first rate necessity is stipulated in the AEWa Agreement, UN Conference documents from Rio de Janeiro 1992, in the international Conventions and Agreements and the national legislation:

1. Animal Kingdom Law (1995)
2. Law on Zone and Strips for Rivers and Water Basins Protection (1995)
3. Forest Code (1997)
4. Concept on Hunting Property Development (1997)
5. Law on State Protected Fund of Natural Areas (1998)

“Horizontal” laws which refer to various environmental aspects, including fauna species

6. Environmental Protection Law (1993)
7. Natural Resources Law (1997)
8. Law on Green Spaces of Urban and Rural Localities (1999)

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

According to the overall goals of the National Strategy on biodiversity conservation the principles regarding the migratory species conservation are the following:

1. Priority of in situ conservation of the migratory species
2. Significant loss of biological diversity compensation by the extension of natural protected areas and new green spaces
3. landscapes maintenance in accordance with their biological richness

The main activities for migratory species conservation:

- a) improvement of the legislative and institutional basis

Should be start the reforms of the national legislative system regarding the integration in the European Union. The actions on improving the existing legislative basis are the following:

- to finish the elaboration of the draft law on the National Ecological Network

- which will provide the general principles of creating an ecological network with positive impact on migratory species
- improvement of the Law regarding the zones and protection strips of rivers and water basins
 - elaboration of the regulation regarding the migratory protected species and habitats which will provide general regulations on territorial management for the protection of migratory species, as well as the adoption of the new list of protected species
 - elaboration and improvement of the legislation and regulations regarding the protection of significant natural habitats taking into consideration the national requirements and those of international agreements
- b) in situ protection of the migratory species
- The protection of the migratory species should be ensured by state, as a rule, be two ways: protection by state of new natural areas and in situ protection
- The recommended by National Strategy on biodiversity Conservation actions to ensure protection of species are as following:
- to establish a system of evaluation and monitoring of migratory species in order to draft methods of their protection
 - to prepare programmes of action for migratory species protection at national and regional levels
 - to promote the public awareness activities
 - to strictly stipulate the tasks of local administration for environment protection
- c) protection of natural significant habitats
- d) ex situ protection of the migratory species
- e) protection and restoration of migration routes

The Republic of Moldova is a region of major importance regarding the migration routes of birds, bats, butterflies, dragon-flies, amphibians etc

The international responsibilities that provide animal migration between Europe and Africa, the regions of West and Central Europe and those of North and East Europe oblige us to pay special attention to preserving the quality of the environment and important habitats. The preservation of fish migration routes, the spawning areas and the insurance of water high quality for the conservation and protection of fish species and ichtiocenoses are of special value for biodiversity conservation.

The maintenance of the migration routes requires the implementation of the following actions:

- identification and map-drawing of migration routes of animals, the evaluation of intersection places and their protection
- the elaboration of a research programmes of migration routes and the evaluation of the importance for animals migration
- the further development of subregional cooperation in order to do away with the fragmentation of migration routes of animals, ensurance of their continuity from country to country.

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?*

Improvement of the legislative base through the reforms of the national legislative system to the EU Directives.

b. *Which organizations are responsible for implementation?*

Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Moldova

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

The Action Plans for conservation of the migratory species are included in the National Strategy on Biodiversity Conservation. At the moment in Moldova is not elaborated the special Programs for the implementation of the AEWAs Action Plan.

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?*

In Moldova there is elaborated the Concept on Hunting Property Development. The concept of hunting should be developed with chapters regarding the methods of taking, monitoring etc.

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.)

The Institute of Zoology examine the possibility to develop the regional Programs and Action Plan for the conservation of the following species:

- *Cygnus olor*
- *Ciconia nigra*
- *Ciconia ciconia*
- *Aythya nyroca*

The problem regarding the Acton Plan development consists on financial capacity.

The problems in the field of financing activites of biodiversity conservation are the following:

- the incapacity of the state and local budget to provide sufficient financial resources in the field
- budget system imperfection regarding payment accumulation into local budgets for the utilization of natural resources, while the problems of biological diversity conservation, in most cases, are of regional or national character
- lack of alternative sustainable financial resources
- the imperfection of the economic and financial mechanisms that do not encourage the economic agents to meet the environmental requirements.
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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.

It was not agreed any bilateral or multilateral co-operative actions on migratory species conservation. It should be done under the auspicious of AEWa or other institutions that can provide the financial support in order to start the cooperation and to develop a project on relevant migratory species or habitats conservation.

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.

At moment is in process of elaboration the Law on National Ecological Network. The law will provide “green way” for development of the territorial Ecological Network at the national al local levels. This will contribute to the diminution of the unfavorable impact of natural habitats fragmentation and to the protection of the corridors for the migratory species.

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 the National Strategy on Biodiversity Conservation there are stipulated the measures regarding the prohibitions of the introductions of the alien invasive species.

In the period of 16-17 October 2003, in Moldova was developed, under the auspices of the Council of Europe the Regional Scientific Seminar on Invasive Alien Species: problems and solutions. The main conclusions of the seminar are the following:

Moldova, Romania and Ukraine are Contracting Parties to the Bern Convention and are thus required to implement its provision;

Recall that under Article 8.h of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio, 1992) each Party undertakes to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threatened ecosystems, habitats or species;

Recall Decision VI/23 of the 6th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity on alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species, and the definitions used in that text;

Acknowledge the commitment of the Government of Moldova to seriously address the problem of IAS in the light of the international treaties signed and using as a source of inspiration the measures proposed in the Draft European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species,

Recommend that the government of Moldova, in co-operation as appropriate with other neighbouring states:

Information and monitoring

1. Carry out a thorough scientific assessment of invasive alien species in its territory, including on their effects on native species and ecosystems and on the economy;
2. on the basis of point 1 above, elaborate comprehensive lists of Invasive Alien Species (plants, vertebrates, invertebrates), ascribing the species to management categories, assessing in particular their possibilities of spread to other regions or states and their risks to native species and natural habitats;
3. periodically update lists of Invasive Alien Species and monitor their distribution through appropriate mapping systems, giving priority attention to species with high invasiveness and/or posing greater risks to native species or natural habitats;

Prevention and mitigation

4. Draw up a list of processes or actions which present the highest risks to the introduction (voluntary or unintentional) of Invasive Alien Species, so as to identify and implement measures preventing the introduction of new alien species that may become invasive; in that context pay particular attention to pathways related to trade and analyse how to improve procedures for screening living species entering the country;
5. Develop methods and procedures of rapid response to newly detected introductions; establish a priority list of species targeted for containment and/or eradication programmes, taking into account points 1 to 3 above Bern Convention Recommendation No. 77 (1999) on the eradication of non-native terrestrial vertebrates,

IUCN guidelines and other similar international instruments; in this context undertake urgent measures to stop the spread of the insect *Diabrotica virgifera*;

Political, legal and administrative

6. Assess the compliance of existing legislation and practise on the field of Invasive Alien Species with the requirements of international treaties ratified by Moldova, analysing in particular the present legal provisions are sufficiently enforced and making efforts to improve law enforcement as a matter of urgency;
7. Draw and implement a national strategy on invasive alien species linked to the National Biodiversity Strategy taking into account, in particular, the proposals of this recommendation and the Bern Convention Draft European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species;
8. Consider the need to improve the present legal and administrative framework dealing with Invasive Alien Species, through new laws or orders as appropriate;
9. Identify and attribute the roles and responsibilities on Invasive Alien Species (including inspection, reporting, issuing or permits our authorisation, etc.) of different state bodies (Ministerial departments, regional and local authorities, forest managers, etc.), economic agents and research institution;
10. Establish a national authority, or equivalent mechanism, to lead and co-ordinate the efforts of different agencies on Invasive Alien Species issues, including combating its effects;
11. Promote the development of effective financial mechanism to facilitate prevention action to carry out the conservation-oriented research and monitoring needed and to implement the management actions required to control Invasive Alien Species;

Public Awareness

12. Integrate the Invasive Alien Species issue into environmental education practice and public awareness programmes, launching if necessary a campaign focussed on particularly harmful species;

International co-operation

13. Work closely and develop synergies with international organisations with expertise in the field of Invasive Alien Species, in particular the Council of Europe, IUCN/SSC, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP);
14. Promote a regional initiative of co-operation with neighbouring states, aimed i.a. to harmonise action and management, in transboundary area, exchange experiences and prevent Invasive Alien Species crossing borders;
15. Inform the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention and the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the implementation of their recommendations.

The information from thematic Report on alien species, prepared basing on the available information from the current assessment of the First National Report on Biological Diversity,

National Strategy and Action Plan on Biological Diversity Conservation and the Second National Report on Biodiversity in the Republic of Moldova:

CBD Article 8h Alien species

1. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low			
2. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	
3. Has your country identified alien species introduced?							
a) no							
b) only major species of concern						X	
c) a comprehensive system tracks introductions							
4. Has your country developed national policies for addressing issues related to alien invasive species?							
a) no							
b) yes – as part of a national biodiversity strategy (please give details below)						X	
c) yes – as a separate strategy (please give details below)							
5. Has your country assessed the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species?							
a) no							
b) only some alien species of concern have been assessed						X	
c) most alien species have been assessed							
6. Has your country undertaken measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species?							
a) no measures							
b) some measures in place						X	
c) potential measures under review							
d) comprehensive measures in place							

Decision IV/1 Report and recommendations of the third meeting of SBSTTA

7. Is your country collaborating in the development of projects at national, regional, sub-regional and international levels to address the issue of alien species?	
a) little or no action	X
b) discussion on potential projects under way	

c) active development of new projects	
8. Does your national strategy and action plan address the issue of alien species?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	X
c) yes – significant extent	

Case-studies

9. Has your country submitted case-studies on the prevention of introduction, control, and eradication of alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species, in response to the call by the fourth meeting of SBSTTA?	
a) no – please indicate below whether this is due to a lack of available case-studies or for other reasons	X
b) yes – please give below any views you may have on the usefulness of the preparation of case-studies for developing a better biological understanding of the problem and/or better management responses.	
10. How many case-studies are available that could be used to gain a better understanding of the issues surrounding alien species in your country?	
a) none	
b) 1-2 – limited understanding	X
c) >2 – significant information available	

Transboundary issues

11. Are known alien invasive species in your country also a problem in neighbouring or biogeographically-similar countries?	
a) not known	
b) none	
c) a few – but in general alien invasive species problems are specific	
d) more than a few - in general we share common problems with other countries	X
12. Is your country collaborating in the development of policies and programmes at regional, sub-regional or international levels to harmonize measures for prevention and control of alien invasive species?	
a) little or no action	X
b) discussion on potential collaboration underway	
c) development of collaborative approaches for a limited number of species	
d) consistent approach and strategy used for all common problems	

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.

In the Red Book of Moldova there is the description of the migratory species habitats.

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.

The strategic review of sites should be done in the development of the National Ecological Network.

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 Moldova there is only one site of International Importance for Conservation, designated by the Ramsar Convention – Scientific Reserve Lower Prut. In the Law on State Protected Fund of Natural Areas (1998) there are stipulated the accepted and prohibited measures on the territories of protected areas, including the Scientific Reserve Lower Prut.

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 Moldova there are 5 protected areas with status of the Scientific Reserves. These areas have the Management Plans, approved by the General Scientific Council of the Protected Areas.

The State Forest Agency of the Republic of Moldova is responsible for the Management Plans implementation.

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Moldova is responsible for the supervision of the Management Plans 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?*

Scientific Reserves, Botany Garden, Dendrological Gardens and some Landscape Reserves have the Management Plans.

The natural protected areas constitute a network for the conservation of biological resources, inclusively the migratory species, its nucleus being scientific reserves (which occupy 29,4 % of total protected areas) followed by landscape reservation (51,5%). A characteristic feature of the national network of natural protected areas is that 92.4% (60721 ha) of the total surface of these areas is under forestry sector, which represents about 18,8% of the total area of forest fund.

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 Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources provided the financial support for development of the ecological projects within the frame of protected areas. Between the main public awareness activities we can mention the elaboration of scientific – popular edition *The Fauna and Flora of the Republic of Moldova*.

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources maintain permanent relations with the country's population by conducting press conferences, round tables etc., in particular upon drafting projects, taking major decisions and important proposal on environment.

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 Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources provided the financial support for the development of ecological projects within the frame of protected areas.

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).

At present, hunting, poaching and animal disturbance in the period of reproduction have a severe impact on many faunistic species of economic importance for Moldova. It is these causes that reduce the number of several sedentary animals.

The hunting of the migratory species is prohibited by the legal base:

- Animal Kingdom Law (1995)
- Concept on Hunting Property Development (1997)
- Law on State Protected Fund of Natural Areas (1998)

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 licenses and proficiency testing of individual members.

The Forest State Agency is responsible for the hunting monitoring and delivering of the hunting licenses. The hunting monitoring is not successfully developed.

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 infrastructure for Eco-tourism in Moldova unfortunately, is not developed and the local population has not any benefit from visitors and tourists.

The Republic of Moldova has a sufficient base for organizing eco-tourism formed by nature monuments, unique sceneries and landscapes. The use of these for touristic purposes will require the solution of such issues as protection of territories, destined to eco-tourism, from the expansion of economic activities and the impact of unorganized tourism. Chaotic streams of people may become a destructive factor of natural complexes. Inappropriate measures and standards of tourism regulation and executive tourism load in the natural ecosystems negatively influence the status of a series of animal species.

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 Environmental Impact Assessment is done by the State Ecological Inspectorate for the concrete projects regarding the construction and territorial planning.

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.

The legal base of the Environmental Impact Assessment there is the Regulation regarding the impact assessment from economical agents / industrial enterprises on the environment. The existing legal base should be improved.

Big enterprises such as the Electric Thermocentral from Cuciurgan, the Metallurgical Plant from Rabnita and Concrete Plant of Rezina etc., constitute the major sources of environmental pollution. In addition, industry contributes significantly to chemical and organic pollution of water basins. The environment state is also aggrieving, because of the transboundary transfer of harmful substances on the territory of the republic, due to the mass of air streams from the North – West.

The essential negative consequences are brought about by the pollution of the environment with industrial and domestic toxic offal, especially with the heavy metals. They accumulate in soil and water, organs and tissues. The thermal pollution of water has a narrower character but causes serious changes of the biological cycle. These effects are more pronounced in the influence zone of warm waters of the Cuciurgan liman.

All these led to a series of districts of Moldova, and as a consequence, the abundance and vitality of the populations of come sedentary and migratory species rapidly degraded.

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.

The Academy of Sciences of Moldova provides the scientific researches according the its Action Plans. These Action Plans are coordinated with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Moldova. The priorities for research are identified according the National Programs and National Strategies provisions.

The researches on nature conservation are identified according the National Strategy on Biodiversity Conservation.

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

The monitoring system on migratory species is not developed.

It is necessary to offer truthful and accessible information regarding the current status of biodiversity with the view to sustainable use of natural resources. Thus, the data collected by different institutions should be compatible and have unique interpretation. It is of use to create a complex system of monitoring, to select indicators etc.

A biodiversity information department should be created within the frame of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, which would coordinate research, monitoring and information storage.

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.

The existing system of personnel training seeks to provide various institutions and organizations with specialists in the field of biological diversity conservation and sustainable use of biological resources.

Under the auspices of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, National Ecological Institute and Biodiversity Office periodically were organized the trainings, round tables, seminars, conferences at the local, national and regional levels for large public.

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

In the field of AEWA Action Plan no *multilateral activities were undertaking.*

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)?

A number of state institutions and non-governmental organizations are actively involved in informative materials, conducting seminars and educational campaigns to raise the public awareness regarding the biological diversity conservation.

The most important state organizations in the field of education are as following: the Institute of Botany Garden of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, the Zoological Garden from Chisinau, the National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History, Moldova State University, the Scientific Reserves "Codru", "Lower Prut", "King Forest".

About 100 NGO exist in Moldova. About 40 NGO conduct important activities toward public education and awareness activities on ecology and solution of the biological diversity conservation problems.

The population education on the importance of biological diversity, inclusively migratory species conservation, and the ways of its improvement are inadequately conducted and do not meet the requirements of different conventions and agreements in the respective domain.

There are no educational state programmes concerning the ecological education and nature protection for schools. There is no strategy on ecological education of the society for the time being. This issue is becoming more and more important, in particular due to land reforms conducted in the republic when individuals receive land plots into ownership. Most of them have already begun using natural resources without processing adequate

knowledge of the methods of sustainable use of agricultural land or wetland and the importance of biodiversity conservation.

The TV programme “Ave Natura”, the radio broadcast “Ecoterra” etc., play an important role in public awareness.

At present, the main periodicals “Natura” (published since 1989) and Guta (a magazine for children, founded in 1996) cover issues on nature protection and biological diversity conservation.

The Ministry of Ecology and natural Resources in cooperation with the Regional Centre of Environment is conducting workshops with NGOs addressing urgent issues on environmental protection.

7. Final comments

7.1 General comments on the implementation of the AEWA Action Plan

Generally, the measures AEWA Action Plan are included in the National Strategy on Biological Diversity Conservation of the Republic of Moldova.

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

a. The Agreement Secretariat

b. International organisations

c. AEWA NGO partners

The AEWA Secretariat and AEWA NGO partners should take the auspices for initiation of the regional cooperation and monitoring regarding the migratory species conservation.

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

We propose to develop Regional and Subregional Programmes in order to preserve in network the relevant migratory species.

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.

Generally, the AEWA Resolutions and Recommendations are implemented by Moldova. The common actions with the neighboring states, Romania and Ukraine, as well as in the frame of the environmental regional programmes in the Black Sea basins and the Danube constitute an integral part of the environmental policy of the Republic of Moldova.

The rivers Danube and Nistru, the stream Prut, as well as wetlands with unique landscapes and monuments of nature, wetlands and rare migratory species are attributed to sectors of mutual interest. The implementation of these the AEWA Action Plan and Recommendations in these regions should be the parts concerned and on international assistance.

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

The future actions will be developed according the provisions of the National Strategy on Biological Diversity Conservation, approved by the Parliament Decision, 2002.

List of abbreviations and acronyms used in the report

References

1. Bulletin of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova 1998 - 2004
2. Conception on environmental protection in Moldova 1995
3. National Strategy on Biological Diversity Conservation 2001
4. Rare and endangered birds in Moldova 1989
5. Concise collection of statistical data 1999- 2004
6. Red Book of Moldova (second edition)
7. Report on Invasive Alien Species in Moldova

Appendices

Appendix 1: Status of Single Species Action Plans

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

Appendix 4: List of research and monitoring programmes and projects

Appendix 2: List of sites of international importance

1. Lower Prut Lakes – the Ramsar site

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

1. Institute of Zoology of the Academy of Science of Moldova
2. National Institute of Ecology
3. NGO Association of Zoologists from Moldova

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

Biodiversity Office of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Moldova
bsapm@dnt.md

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

No any projects on migratory species conservation / rehabilitation