



Report on the implementation of AEWA for the period 2012-2014

The format for reports on the implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) for the period 2012-2014 was approved at the 9th meeting of the Standing Committee (18-19 September 2013, Trondheim, Norway) by Doc StC 9.11. This format has been constructed following the AEWA Action Plan, the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 and resolutions of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP).

In accordance with Article V.1(c) of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, each Party shall prepare to each ordinary session of the MOP a National Report on its implementation of the Agreement and submit that report to the Agreement Secretariat not later than 120 days before the session of the MOP. The 6th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP6) is taking place on 9-14 November 2015 in Bonn, Germany; therefore the deadline for submission of National Reports is 12 May 2015.

The AEWA National Reports 2012-2014 will be compiled and submitted through the CMS Family Online Reporting Facility, which is an online reporting tool for the whole CMS Family. The CMS Family Online Reporting System was developed in 2010-2011 by the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) in close collaboration with and under the guidance of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat.

To contact the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat please send your inquiries to aewa_national_reporting@unep.de

1. General Information

Name of reporting Contracting Party

> Belgium

Date of entry into force of AEWA in the Contracting Party

> 01.06.2006

List any reservations that the Contracting Party has made (if any) upon deposition of its instruments of accession on provisions of the Agreement or its Action Plan in accordance with Article XV of AEWA

> None

2. Institutional Information

Please update information on the National AEWA Administrative Authority, the National Focal Points, the Designated National Respondent and the other contributors to this report.

Designated National AEWA Administrative Authority

Full name of the institution

> Agency For Nature and Forests, Government of Flanders

Name and title of the head of institution

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Designated National Focal Point (NFP) for AEWA matters

Name and title of the NFP

> Mr. Michiel Vandegehuchte, Policy Advisor Species

Affiliation (institution, department)

> Flemish Government, Agency for Nature and Forests

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Designated National Focal Point for AEWA Technical Committee (TC NFP) matters

Name and title of the TC NFP

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Designated National Respondent (DNR) in charge of the compilation and submission of the AEWA National Report 2012-2014

Please select from the list below as appropriate.

The National Focal Point (NFP) has been designated as the National Respondent

Other contributors to the AEWA National Report 2012-2014

Please list the names and affiliations (institution, organisation) of the other contributors to this report

Please list the names and affiliations (institution, organisation) of the other contributors to this reports

> Muriel Vervaeke, Mark Van den Meererschaut, Bert Verbist, Els Martens, Sarah Roggeman, Geert Sterckx, Carl

De Schepper (Flemish Government, Agency for Nature and Forests)

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Status

3. Non-native Waterbird Species Status

Are there non-native waterbird species occurring in your country?

If you respond **negatively** to this question, please skip this chapter and proceed to chapter 4. Species Conservation. If you respond **positively** to this question, please select from the drop-down list below only the **non-native** species that occur in your country and fill out the required information.

Yes

AEWA Species - *Threskiornis aethiopicus* / Sacred Ibis

English Common name(s):

Sacred Ibis

French Common name(s):

Ibis sacré



Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

Native or non-native species

Please confirm whether the species is non-native to your country

Non-native

Species Status

Please select whether status will be reported for breeding or non-breeding/wintering population

Both options can be selected

Non-breeding/wintering

Species Status - Non-breeding/wintering

Latest population estimate

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely natural vagrants

Occasionally recorded, most likely escapes from collections

Risk or potential risk posed by the non-native species

Please select all relevant risks from the list below

Predation of native birds, eggs or young

Is predation a regularly observed behavior?

No

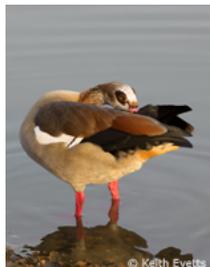
AEWA Species - *Alopochen aegyptiacus* / Egyptian Goose

English Common name(s):

Egyptian Goose

French Common name(s):

Oie d'Égypte, Oulette d'Égypte



Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

Native or non-native species

Please confirm whether the species is non-native to your country

Non-native

Species Status

Please select whether status will be reported for breeding or non-breeding/wintering population

Both options can be selected

Breeding

Non-breeding/wintering

Species Status - Breeding

Latest population estimate

Year

> 2004-2007

Population unit

Pairs

Minimum

> 800

Maximum

> 1 100

Source of information

> Banks, A.N., Wright, L.J., Maclean, I.M.D., Hann, C. & Rehfish, M.M. 2008. Review of the Status of Introduced Non-Native Waterbird Species in the Agreement Area of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement: 2007 Update. AEWA Technical Series No.32. Bonn, Germany.

Previous population estimate

Year

> 1996-2002

Population unit

Pairs

Minimum

> 150

Maximum

> 150

Source of information

> Blair, M.J., McKay, H., Musgrove, A.J. & Rehfish, M.M. 2002. Review of the Status of Introduced Non-Native Waterbird Species in the Agreement Area of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement. AEWA Technical Series No.25. Bonn, Germany

Population trend

Population trend

Increasing

Trend data quality

Good

Source of information

> Vermeersch, G., Onkelinx, T., Lewylle, I. 2014. Algemene Broedvogels Vlaanderen (ABV) - Nieuwe cijfers en trends. Vogelnieuws 23: 14-18

Onkelinx, T. & Vermeersch, G. 2014. Jaarlijkse analyse van de Algemene Broedvogelmonitoring (ABV). Rapporten van het Instituut voor Natuur- en Bosonderzoek. Instituut voor Natuur- en Bosonderzoek, Brussel.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Vermeersch et al. 2014](#) - Vogelnieuws

Species Status - Non-breeding/wintering

Latest population estimate

Year

> 2013-2014

Population unit

Individuals

Minimum

> 1780

Maximum

> 2486

Population data quality

Good

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Devos 2014](#) - Vogelnieuws

Source of information

> Wintering bird census data

Devos, K.& Onkelinx, T., 2013. Populatieschattingen en trends van overwinterende watervogels in Vlaanderen, periode 1991/1992 - 2012/2013. Natuur.oriolus 79: 113-130.

Devos K. 2014. Watervogels in Vlaanderen tijdens de winter 2013-2014. Vogelnieuws 22: 4-13.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Devos Onkelinx 2013](#) - Natuur.Oriolus

No information

No information

Previous population estimate

Year

> 2012-2013

Population unit

Individuals

Minimum

> 941

Maximum

> 2802

Population data quality

Good

Source of information

> Wintering bird census data

Devos K. 2013. Watervogels in Vlaanderen tijdens de winter 2012-2013. Vogelnieuws 20: 4-15.

No information

No information

Population trend

Population trend

Increasing

Trend data quality

Good

Source of information

> Devos K. 2013. Watervogels in Vlaanderen tijdens de winter 2012-2013. Vogelnieuws 20: 4-15.

No information

No information

Species Status - Field for additional information (optional)

Optionally you can provide additional information on the status of the species in the country

> As for Canada goose, Egyptian goose shows a significant increase both in the breeding and wintering population. Population estimate based on mean of winter peak numbers for the period 2008-2009 until 2012-2013 in Flanders (with imputation and rounding) is 2800 birds. This estimate is most likely an underestimation of the real population numbers since a lot of birds are missed in the waterbird census as they are on maize fields rather than wetlands and the winter maxima are a lot higher.

Legal Status

Does the species have any legal status?

No

National Red List Status

Does the species have any National Red List Status?

No

Risk or potential risk posed by the non-native species

Please select all relevant risks from the list below

Competitive exclusion of native species, or aggressive to native species

Eutrophication or pollution of waterbodies

Damage to natural or semi-natural habitats

Damage to man-made habitats or crops

Which species are excluded or are subject of aggressive behavior?

> During the nesting period, it develops an aggressive behaviour leading to nest usurpation and decrease of offspring number in several bird species, namely herons and raptors (nest usurpation of Falco peregrinus is reported from Belgium).

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

<http://ias.biodiversity.be/species/show/19>

Is aggression and exclusion a regularly observed behavior?

No

Please provide details and references, where available

> Such impact is only occasionally reported. There is no information on the impact of this on native species at the population level.

Please provide details and references, where available

> Paul Van Daele, Tim Adriaens, Sander Devisscher, Frank Huysentruyt, Berend Voslamber, Vincent De Boer, Koen Devos & Jim Casaer 2012. Beheer van Zomerganzen in Vlaanderen en Zeeuws-Vlaanderen. Rapporten van het Instituut voor Natuur- en Bosonderzoek 2012 (INBO.R.2012.58). Instituut voor Natuur- en Bosonderzoek, Brussel.

What types of habitats have been affected?

> Post breeding flocks are responsible for overgrazing and for the alteration of banks and quality of water bodies. Reported case studies show local damage to e.g. oligo-mesotrophic fens and vegetations of conservation concern. The species is also considered an agricultural pest especially on maiz.

Is this widespread or localized?

Localised

Please provide details and references, where available

>
<http://www.invexo.be/~media/Files/Invexo/Eindrapport%20werkgroep%20Zomerganzen%20Invexo%202013%20Van%20Daele%20et%20al%20INBOR201258.pdf>

What types of habitats or crops have been affected?

> oligo-mesotrophic fens
agricultural crops (mainly maiz)

Is this widespread or localized?

Localised

AEWA Species - *Tadorna ferruginea* / Ruddy Shelduck

English Common name(s):

Ruddy Shelduck

French Common name(s):

Tadorne casarca



Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

Native or non-native species

Please confirm whether the species is non-native to your country

Non-native

Species Status

Please select whether status will be reported for breeding or non-breeding/wintering population

Both options can be selected

Breeding

Species Status - Breeding

Latest population estimate

Year

> 2004-2007

Population unit

Pairs

Minimum

> 5

Maximum

> 10

Source of information

> Banks, A.N., Wright, L.J., Maclean, I.M.D., Hann, C. & Rehfish, M.M. 2008. Review of the Status of Introduced Non-Native Waterbird Species in the Agreement Area of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement: 2007 Update. AEWA Technical Series No.32. Bonn, Germany.

Previous population estimate

Year

> 1996-2002

Population unit

Pairs

Minimum

> 0

Maximum

> 0

Source of information

> Blair, M.J., McKay, H., Musgrove, A.J. & Rehfish, M.M. 2002. Review of the Status of Introduced Non-Native Waterbird Species in the Agreement Area of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement. AEWA Technical Series No.25. Bonn, Germany

Population trend

No information

No information

Legal Status

Does the species have any legal status?

No

National Red List Status

Does the species have any National Red List Status?

No

AEWA Species - Marmaronetta angustirostris / Marbled Teal

English Common name(s):

Marbled Duck, Marbled Teal

French Common name(s):

Marmaronette marbrée, Sarcelle marbrée



Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

Native or non-native species

Please confirm whether the species is non-native to your country

Non-native

Species Status

Please select whether status will be reported for breeding or non-breeding/wintering population

Both options can be selected

Non-breeding/wintering

Species Status - Non-breeding/wintering

Latest population estimate

Year

> 2004-2007

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely escapes from collections

Source of information

> Banks, A.N., Wright, L.J., Maclean, I.M.D., Hann, C. & Rehfish, M.M. 2008. Review of the Status of Introduced Non-Native Waterbird Species in the Agreement Area of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement: 2007 Update. AEWA Technical Series No.32. Bonn, Germany.

Previous population estimate

No information

No information

Population trend

No information

No information

Legal Status

Does the species have any legal status?

No

National Red List Status

Does the species have any National Red List Status?

No

Alien Species - *Oxyura jamaicensis* / Ruddy Duck

English Common name(s):

Ruddy Duck

French Common name(s):

Érismature rousse, Érismature rousse, Érismature roux



Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

Native or non-native species

Please confirm whether the species is non-native to your country

Non-native

Species Status

Please select whether status will be reported for breeding or non-breeding/wintering population

Both options can be selected

Non-breeding/wintering

Species Status - Non-breeding/wintering

Latest population estimate

Year

> 2013-2014

Population unit

Individuals

Minimum

> 5

Maximum

> 14

Source of information

> Minimum number is derived from waterbirds census (monthly maximum over six month period). This is to be considered an underestimation of the number of birds present as not all suitable wetland areas are included in the count. Maximum number is estimated from census data as well as opportunistic observations reported on the citizen science platform www.observations.be. Here, we calculated a maximum number of birds based on the sum of the maximum number of birds grouped per location.

No information

No information

Previous population estimate

Year

> 2012-2013

Population unit

Individuals

Minimum

> 7

Maximum

> 17

Population data quality

Good

No information

No information

Population trend

No information

No information

Species Status - Field for additional information (optional)

Optionally you can provide additional information on the status of the species in the country
> Waterbird census (oct-march) of 2013-2014 shows a maximum of 5 birds at 8 sites in Flanders. Taking into account missed birds due to wetland areas that are not included in this census, and based on opportunistic observations, the total number of birds in Flanders is estimated at 15-20 birds.

Before 2011, breeding couples and breeding attempts (mostly in Antwerp harbour area) were dealt with locally by terrain managers. Since 2011-12 coordinated active control started in Flanders with a small operational team culling birds. An early warning system involving citizen scientists (<http://www.waarnemingen.be/exoten>) is used as a source of observations. Since 2009, 19 adult and 16 juveniles/pulli were culled in Flanders Robertson et al. 2014). As a result (and also the announced actions in the NL) we expect the number of birds to drop in coming years.

Legal Status

Does the species have any legal status?

No

National Red List Status

Does the species have any National Red List Status?

No

Risk or potential risk posed by the non-native species

Please select all relevant risks from the list below

Competitive exclusion of native species, or aggressive to native species

Hybridisation with native species

Which species are excluded or are subject of aggressive behavior?

> Interactions with native *Tachybaptus ruficollis* and *Podiceps nigricollis* have occasionally been reported but are not expected to impact at population level of these species

Please provide details and references, where available

> Robertson P., Adriaens T., Caizergues A., Cranswick P., Devos K., Gutiérrez-Expósito C., Henderson I., Hughes B., Mill A., Smith G. (2015). Towards the European eradication of the North American ruddy duck. *Biological Invasions* 17(1):9-12.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Robertson_etal_2015_BiologicalInvasions.pdf](#) - Robertson et al. 2015

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Oxyura jamaicensis on Invasive species in Belgium](#)

Which species does it hybridise with?

> white-headed duck *Oxyura leucocephala*

Please provide details and references, where available

> White-headed duck does not occur in Belgium. Ruddy duck is managed in order to protect the Spanish population of white-headed duck. Meanwhile, comprehensive risk analysis meeting the standards for trade regulation is available for Belgium, see <http://ias.biodiversity.be/species/risk>.

Alien Species - *Cygnus atratus* / Black Swan

English Common name(s):

Black Swan

French Common name(s):

Cygne noir



Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

Native or non-native species

Please confirm whether the species is non-native to your country

Non-native

Species Status

Please select whether status will be reported for breeding or non-breeding/wintering population

Both options can be selected

Breeding

Species Status - Breeding

Latest population estimate

Year

> 2004-2007

Population unit

Pairs

Minimum

> 40

Maximum

> 45

Source of information

> Banks, A.N., Wright, L.J., Maclean, I.M.D., Hann, C. & Rehfish, M.M. 2008. Review of the Status of Introduced Non-Native Waterbird Species in the Agreement Area of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement: 2007 Update. AEWA Technical Series No.32. Bonn, Germany.

Previous population estimate

Year

> 1996-2002

Population unit

Pairs

Minimum

> 8

Maximum

> 8

Source of information

> Blair, M.J., McKay, H., Musgrove, A.J. & Rehfish, M.M. 2002. Review of the Status of Introduced Non-Native Waterbird Species in the Agreement Area of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement. AEWA Technical Series No.25. Bonn, Germany

Population trend

No information

No information

Legal Status

Does the species have any legal status?

No

National Red List Status

Does the species have any National Red List Status?

No

Risk or potential risk posed by the non-native species

Please select all relevant risks from the list below

Predation of native birds, eggs or young

Competitive exclusion of native species, or aggressive to native species

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

<http://ias.biodiversity.be/species/show/52>

Alien Species - *Anser indicus* / Bar-headed Goose

English Common name(s):

Bar-headed Goose

French Common name(s):

Oie à tête barrée



Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

Native or non-native species

Please confirm whether the species is non-native to your country

Non-native

Species Status

Please select whether status will be reported for breeding or non-breeding/wintering population

Both options can be selected

Breeding

Species Status - Breeding

Latest population estimate

Year

> 2004-2007

Population unit

Pairs

Minimum

> 25

Maximum

> 30

Source of information

> Banks, A.N., Wright, L.J., Maclean, I.M.D., Hann, C. & Rehfish, M.M. 2008. Review of the Status of Introduced Non-Native Waterbird Species in the Agreement Area of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement: 2007 Update. AEWA Technical Series No.32. Bonn, Germany.

Previous population estimate

Year

> 1996-2002

Population unit

Pairs

Minimum

> 0

Maximum

> 0

Source of information

> Blair, M.J., McKay, H., Musgrove, A.J. & Rehfish, M.M. 2002. Review of the Status of Introduced Non-Native Waterbird Species in the Agreement Area of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement. AEWA Technical Series No.25. Bonn, Germany

Population trend

No information

No information

Legal Status

Does the species have any legal status?

No

National Red List Status

Does the species have any National Red List Status?

No

Alien Species - *Branta canadensis* / Greater Canada Goose

English Common name(s):

Canada Goose

French Common name(s):

Bernache du Canada



Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

Native or non-native species

Please confirm whether the species is non-native to your country

Non-native

Species Status

Please select whether status will be reported for breeding or non-breeding/wintering population

Both options can be selected

Breeding

Species Status - Breeding

Latest population estimate

Year

> 2008-2012

Population unit

Pairs

Minimum

> 3000

Maximum

> 3000

Population data quality

Poor

Source of information

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[EU Birds Directive Article 12 report 2013](#)

Previous population estimate

Year

> 2004-2007

Population unit

Pairs

Minimum

> 1500

Maximum

> 1500

Source of information

> Banks, A.N., Wright, L.J., Maclean, I.M.D., Hann, C. & Rehfish, M.M. 2008. Review of the Status of Introduced Non-Native Waterbird Species in the Agreement Area of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement: 2007 Update. AEWA Technical Series No.32. Bonn, Germany.

Population trend

Population trend

Increasing

Trend data quality

Good

Source of information

> Devos, K.& Onkelinx, T., 2013. Populatieschattingen en trends van overwinterende watervogels in Vlaanderen, periode 1991/1992 - 2012/2013. Natuur.oriolus 79: 113-130.

No information

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[EU Birds Directive Article 12 report 2013](#)

Legal Status

Does the species have any legal status?

Yes

National Red List Status

Does the species have any National Red List Status?

No

Risk or potential risk posed by the non-native species

Please select all relevant risks from the list below

Competitive exclusion of native species, or aggressive to native species

Hybridisation with native species

Eutrophication or pollution of waterbodies

Damage to natural or semi-natural habitats

Damage to man-made habitats or crops

Is aggression and exclusion a regularly observed behavior?

No

Which species does it hybridise with?

> greylag goose Anser anser

Is hybridisation regularly occurring?

Yes

Please provide details and references, where available

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

<http://ias.biodiversity.be/species/show/147>

Alien Species - *Branta hutchinsii* / Cackling Goose

English Common name(s):

Cackling Goose

French Common name(s):

Bernache de Hutchins



Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

Native or non-native species

Please confirm whether the species is non-native to your country

Non-native

Species Status

Please select whether status will be reported for breeding or non-breeding/wintering population

Both options can be selected

Breeding

Species Status - Breeding

Latest population estimate

Year

> 2004-2007

Population unit

Pairs

Minimum

> 1 500

Maximum

> 1 500

Source of information

> Banks, A.N., Wright, L.J., Maclean, I.M.D., Hann, C. & Rehfish, M.M. 2008. Review of the Status of Introduced Non-Native Waterbird Species in the Agreement Area of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement: 2007 Update. AEWA Technical Series No.32. Bonn, Germany.

Previous population estimate

Year

> 1996-2002

Population unit

Pairs

Minimum
> 300

Maximum
> 300

Source of information

> Blair, M.J., McKay, H., Musgrove, A.J. & Rehfish, M.M. 2002. Review of the Status of Introduced Non-Native Waterbird Species in the Agreement Area of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement. AEWA Technical Series No.25. Bonn, Germany

Population trend

No information

No information

Legal Status

Does the species have any legal status?

No

National Red List Status

Does the species have any National Red List Status?

No

Alien Species - *Chloephaga picta* / Upland Goose

English Common name(s):

Magellan Goose, Upland Goose

French Common name(s):

Ouette de Magellan



Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

Native or non-native species

Please confirm whether the species is non-native to your country

Non-native

Species Status

Please select whether status will be reported for breeding or non-breeding/wintering population

Both options can be selected

Breeding

Species Status - Breeding

Latest population estimate

Year

> 2004-2007

Population unit

Pairs

Minimum

> 4

Maximum

> 7

Source of information

> Banks, A.N., Wright, L.J., Maclean, I.M.D., Hann, C. & Rehfish, M.M. 2008. Review of the Status of Introduced Non-Native Waterbird Species in the Agreement Area of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement: 2007 Update. AEWA Technical Series No.32. Bonn, Germany.

Previous population estimate

No information

No information

Population trend

No information

No information

Legal Status

Does the species have any legal status?

No

National Red List Status

Does the species have any National Red List Status?

No

Alien Species - *Aix sponsa* / Wood Duck

English Common name(s):

Wood Duck

French Common name(s):

Canard branchu, Canard carolin



Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

Native or non-native species

Please confirm whether the species is non-native to your country

Non-native

Species Status

Please select whether status will be reported for breeding or non-breeding/wintering population

Both options can be selected

Breeding

Species Status - Breeding

Latest population estimate

Year

> 2004-2007

Population unit

Pairs

Minimum

> 25

Maximum

> 30

Source of information

> Banks, A.N., Wright, L.J., Maclean, I.M.D., Hann, C. & Rehfish, M.M. 2008. Review of the Status of Introduced Non-Native Waterbird Species in the Agreement Area of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement: 2007 Update. AEWA Technical Series No.32. Bonn, Germany.

Previous population estimate

No information

No information

Population trend

No information

No information

Legal Status

Does the species have any legal status?

No

National Red List Status

Does the species have any National Red List Status?

No

Alien Species - *Aix galericulata* / Mandarin Duck

English Common name(s):

Mandarin, Mandarin Duck

French Common name(s):

Canard mandarin



Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

Native or non-native species

Please confirm whether the species is non-native to your country

Non-native

Species Status

Please select whether status will be reported for breeding or non-breeding/wintering population

Both options can be selected

Breeding

Species Status - Breeding

Latest population estimate

Year

> 2004-2007

Population unit

Pairs

Minimum

> 100

Maximum

> 100

Source of information

> Banks, A.N., Wright, L.J., Maclean, I.M.D., Hann, C. & Rehfish, M.M. 2008. Review of the Status of Introduced Non-Native Waterbird Species in the Agreement Area of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement: 2007 Update. AEWA Technical Series No.32. Bonn, Germany.

Previous population estimate

Year

> 1996-2002

Population unit

Pairs

Minimum
> 15

Maximum
> 15

Source of information

> Blair, M.J., McKay, H., Musgrove, A.J. & Rehfish, M.M. 2002. Review of the Status of Introduced Non-Native Waterbird Species in the Agreement Area of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement. AEWA Technical Series No.25. Bonn, Germany

Population trend

No information

No information

Legal Status

Does the species have any legal status?

No

National Red List Status

Does the species have any National Red List Status?

No

Alien Species - *Anas sibilatrix* / Chiloe Wigeon

English Common name(s):

Chiloe Wigeon

French Common name(s):

Canard de Chiloé



Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

Native or non-native species

Please confirm whether the species is non-native to your country

Non-native

Species Status

Please select whether status will be reported for breeding or non-breeding/wintering population

Both options can be selected

Breeding

Species Status - Breeding

Latest population estimate

Year

> 2004-2007

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely escapes from collections

Source of information

> Banks, A.N., Wright, L.J., Maclean, I.M.D., Hann, C. & Rehfish, M.M. 2008. Review of the Status of Introduced Non-Native Waterbird Species in the Agreement Area of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement: 2007 Update. AEWA Technical Series No.32. Bonn, Germany.

Previous population estimate

No information

No information

Population trend

No information

No information

Legal Status

Does the species have any legal status?

No

National Red List Status

Does the species have any National Red List Status?

No

Pressures and Responses

4. Species Conservation

4.1 Legal Measures

1. Please indicate which modes of taking are prohibited in your country (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.2(b))

Please select from the list below.

- Snares
- Limes
- Hooks
- Live birds which are blind or mutilated used as decoys
- Tape recorders and other electronic devices
- Electrocuting devices
- Artificial light sources
- Mirrors and other dazzling devices
- Devices for illuminating targets
- Sighting devices for night shooting comprising an electronic image magnifier or image converter
- Explosives
- Nets
- Traps
- Poison
- Poisoned or anesthetic baits
- Semi-automatic or automatic weapons with a magazine capable of holding more than two rounds of ammunition
- Hunting from aircraft, motor vehicles, or boats driven at a speed exceeding 5 km p/h (18 km p/h on the open sea)

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation

> Flanders: The Flemish Governmental Decree of 15 May 2009 on species protection and species management "Soortenbesluit"

Federal:

Law of January 20, 1999 on the protection of the marine environment in sea areas under Belgian jurisdiction "MMM-wet"

Royal Executive Decision of 21 December 2001 "Soortenbescherming in de zeegebieden"

Brussels Region: 'Ordonnantie betreffende het Natuurbehoud (1/3/2015)

WALLONIA: In Wallonia, there is no specific prohibition for the modes of taking, but a revision of the law is in project and all forms of non selective taking modes should be included in this revision.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Soortenbesluit](#)

[Soortenbescherming in de zeegebieden](#)

[MMM-wet](#)

2. Has your country granted exemptions from any of the above prohibitions in order to accommodate

livelihoods uses? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.2(b))

- No

3. Were any exemptions granted to the prohibitions laid down in paragraphs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 of the AEWA Action Plan? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.3)

- Yes

Please provide information on each species for which exemption was granted

Exemption for Tachybaptus ruficollis / Little Grebe

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

- (c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> For stuffing and keeping of birds born in captivity in the Antwerp Zoo

Exemption for Podiceps cristatus / Great Crested Grebe

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> For stuffing of old birds

Exemption for *Podiceps nigricollis* / Black-necked Grebe

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> For stuffing of old birds

Exemption for *Pelecanus crispus* / Dalmatian Pelican

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Province Antwerpen

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012, 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> For keeping and transport of birds born in captivity

Exemption for *Morus bassanus* / Northern Gannet

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> For stuffing

Exemption for *Phalacrocorax carbo* / Great Cormorant

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(a) To prevent serious damage to crops, water and fisheries

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> >1952

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Belgium

Time span of the exemption

> several exemptions

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012, 2013, 2014

Exemption for *Egretta garzetta* / Little Egret

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Territorial coverage of the exemption
> Belgium

Year when the exemption was granted
> 2012, 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)
> for stuffing and keeping in captivity at the Zoo in Antwerp and the Zwin in West-Vlaanderen

Exemption for *Ardea cinerea* / Grey Heron

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

- (a) To prevent serious damage to crops, water and fisheries
- (b) In the interests of air safety, public health, public safety, or other imperative reasons of overriding public interests, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance to the environment
- (c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted
> >201

Territorial coverage of the exemption
> Belgium

Year when the exemption was granted
> 2012, 2013, 2014

Exemption for *Ardea purpurea* / Purple Heron

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

- (c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Territorial coverage of the exemption
> Prov Antwerpen

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)
> Keeping of birds born in captivity in Antwerp Zoo

Exemption for *Bubulcus ibis* / Cattle Egret

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

- (c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes
- (d) To permit under strictly supervised conditions, on a selective basis and to a limited extent, the taking and keeping or other judicious use of certain birds in small numbers

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)
> keeping of birds in captivity and transport of birds

Exemption for *Ardeola ralloides* / Squacco Heron

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

- (c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted
> 2012, 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)
> keeping of birds in captivity

Exemption for *Nycticorax nycticorax* / Black-crowned Night-Heron

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Territorial coverage of the exemption
> Belgium

Year when the exemption was granted
> 2012, 2013

Exemption for *Ixobrychus minutus* / Little Bittern

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted
> 2012

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)
> stuffing

Exemption for *Botaurus stellaris* / Great Bittern

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted
> 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)
> stuffing

Exemption for *Ciconia nigra* / Black Stork

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)
> Capture for ringing

Exemption for *Ciconia ciconia* / White Stork

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(b) In the interests of air safety, public health, public safety, or other imperative reasons of overriding public interests, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance to the environment

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted
> >3

Year when the exemption was granted
> 2012, 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)
> Capture for ringing/destruction, damage and removal of nests/stuffing/keeping and transporting of birds born in captivity

Exemption for *Plegadis falcinellus* / Glossy Ibis

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012, 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> keeping of birds born in captivity

Exemption for *Platalea leucorodia* / Eurasian Spoonbill

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> >6

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012, 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> stuffing/keeping in captivity/transport of birds born in captivity

Exemption for *Cygnus olor* / Mute Swan

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012, 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> keeping in captivity, stuffing

Exemption for *Cygnus cygnus* / Whooper Swan

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> keeping in captivity

Exemption for *Branta leucopsis* / Barnacle Goose

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(a) To prevent serious damage to crops, water and fisheries

(b) In the interests of air safety, public health, public safety, or other imperative reasons of overriding public interests, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance to the environment

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> >280

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 652

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012, 2013, 2014

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> For capturing, killing, chasing, taking eggs, stuffing, transport

Exemption for *Branta ruficollis* / Red-breasted Goose

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012, 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> Stuffing/transport/keeping in captivity

Exemption for *Alopochen aegyptiacus* / Egyptian Goose

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(a) To prevent serious damage to crops, water and fisheries

(b) In the interests of air safety, public health, public safety, or other imperative reasons of overriding public interests, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance to the environment

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> >10

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2013, 2014

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> capturing/killing

Exemption for *Tadorna tadorna* / Common Shelduck

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> stuffing

Exemption for *Somateria mollissima* / Common Eider

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> keeping in captivity

Exemption for *Melanitta nigra* / Common Scoter

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> stuffing

Exemption for *Mergus serrator* / Red-breasted Merganser

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> keeping in captivity

Exemption for *Mergus merganser* / Goosander

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> stuffing

Exemption for *Grus grus* / Common Crane

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(d) To permit under strictly supervised conditions, on a selective basis and to a limited extent, the taking and keeping or other judicious use of certain birds in small numbers

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Prov. West-Vlaanderen

Time span of the exemption

> 1 year

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012, 2013, 2014

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> keeping in captivity

Exemption for *Rallus aquaticus* / Water Rail

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> stuffing

Exemption for *Crex crex* / Corncrake

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> stuffing

Exemption for *Porzana porzana* / Spotted Crane

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> stuffing

Exemption for *Haematopus ostralegus* / Eurasian Oystercatcher

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012, 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> stuffing/keeping in captivity

Exemption for *Recurvirostra avosetta* / Pied Avocet

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012, 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> keeping in captivity/stuffing

Exemption for *Pluvialis squatarola* / Grey Plover

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

(d) To permit under strictly supervised conditions, on a selective basis and to a limited extent, the taking and keeping or other judicious use of certain birds in small numbers

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012, 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> keeping in captivity, transport

Exemption for *Charadrius hiaticula* / Common Ringed Plover

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> stuffing

Exemption for *Scolopax rusticola* / Eurasian Woodcock

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012, 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> stuffing

Exemption for *Limosa limosa* / Black-tailed Godwit

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> 0

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012, 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> Stuffing, keeping in captivity

Exemption for *Limosa lapponica* / Bar-tailed Godwit

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012, 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> keeping in captivity/stuffing

Exemption for *Numenius arquata* / Eurasian Curlew

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> 0

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Exemption for *Tringa totanus* / Common Redshank

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012, 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> stuffing/keeping in captivity

Exemption for *Tringa nebularia* / Common Greenshank

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

(d) To permit under strictly supervised conditions, on a selective basis and to a limited extent, the taking and keeping or other judicious use of certain birds in small numbers

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012, 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)
> stuffing/keeping in captivity

Exemption for *Tringa hypoleucos* / Common Sandpiper

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Prov. Antwerpen : BE21

Time span of the exemption

> No end date for license to keep

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> to keep dead animals for education, Regularization of very old stuffed animals. No end date for license to keep.

Exemption for *Arenaria interpres* / Ruddy Turnstone

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012, 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> Transport/keeping in captivity/stuffing

Exemption for *Calidris canutus* / Red Knot

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012, 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> keeping in captivity

Exemption for *Calidris alba* / Sanderling

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> stuffing

Exemption for *Calidris alpina* / Dunlin

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012, 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)
> keeping in captivity/stuffing

Exemption for *Philomachus pugnax* / Ruff

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> keeping in captivity

Exemption for *Larus canus* / Common Gull

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012, 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> stuffing

Exemption for *Larus marinus* / Great Black-backed Gull

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> stuffing

Exemption for *Larus argentatus* / Herring Gull

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(b) In the interests of air safety, public health, public safety, or other imperative reasons of overriding public interests, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance to the environment

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012, 2013, 2014

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> Killing / deliberately disturbing / destructing, damaging, removing of nests / taking eggs / capture / keeping in captivity / stuffing

Exemption for *Larus fuscus* / Lesser Black-backed Gull

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(b) In the interests of air safety, public health, public safety, or other imperative reasons of overriding public interests, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance to the environment

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012, 2013, 2014

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)
> Destruction, damaging and removal of nests/ killing / taking eggs / disturbing/ capture / stuffing/ keeping in captivity

Exemption for *Larus ridibundus* / Common Black-headed Gull

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(b) In the interests of air safety, public health, public safety, or other imperative reasons of overriding public interests, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance to the environment

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> > 280

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012, 2013, 2014

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> Killing / scaring / stuffing

Exemption for *Larus melanocephalus* / Mediterranean Gull

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012, 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> keeping in captivity / stuffing

Exemption for *Sterna hirundo* / Common Tern

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> 0

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 20

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012, 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> stuffing / collecting of eggs for research

Exemption for *Alle alle* / Little Auk

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> 1

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Prov. Oost-Vlaanderen : BE23

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> stuffing

Exemption for *Uria aalge* / Common Guillemot

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> stuffing

Exemption for *Alca torda* / Razorbill

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> stuffing

Exemption for *Fratercula arctica* / Atlantic Puffin

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(c) For the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2013

Additional information on this exemption (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> stuffing

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 4.1. Legal Measures

> FLANDERS: The Flemish Governmental Decree of 15 May 2009 on species protection and species management has a provision that allows the competent authority (the Agency for Nature and Forests) to grant derogations to differ temporarily from the initial protection of wild birds, if there is no other satisfactory solution.

WALLONIA: The Government can give exemptions to bird species protection measures (art. 5. §1er). The exemption is only given if no other satisfactory measure exists and if the exemption will not be of any danger for the population of that species. All wild birds of the European continent, normal or mutant, alive, dead or stuffed are strictly protected (art. 2. of the Natura 2000 Decree).

The following actions are prohibited for these species:

- all forms of deliberate capture and deliberate killing;
- the deliberate disturbance of wild birds, particularly during the period of breeding, rearing and hibernation;
- the deliberate destruction or taking of eggs and nests from the wild or keeping these eggs and nests ;
- to possess, to trade, to sell, to give, to buy, to transport, even for transit, birds, eggs, clutch, feathers, part of the animal, or any product made of a bird easily identifiable or any product with a packing telling it contains protected species, except for importation, exportation and transit on non indigenous species

These prohibitions are not valid for poultry, for domestic pigeons, for hunted species and for mutants and hybrids of *Serinus canarius* with a non-protected species.

A Government bill regulates the breeding of birds in order to guarantee the bird's protection.

BRUSSELS: In the Brussels Region, all birds species whose actual or historical natural dispersion area lay within Europe are strictly protected (Order on Nature Conservation, 1/03/2012).

The Brussels Government can give exemptions to this protection measures if no other satisfactory measures exist (art. 83).

FEDERAL LEVEL: Belgian marine territory: the Royal Executive Decision of December 21, 2001 has a provision that allows the minister competent for the marine environment to differ temporarily from the initial protection of birds in the marine areas, if there is no other satisfactory solution.

4.2 Single Species Action Plans

4. Please report on the progress of turning the International Single Species Action

Plans (ISSAP), for species whose populations are listed on Column A of Table 1, developed under or recognised by AEWA, into National Single Species Action Plans (NSSAP). (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.2)

Please report on each relevant ISSAP for Belgium

National Single Species Action Plan for *Crex crex*

(Corncrake)

NSSAP in development

Please provide starting date and expected finalisation date

> FLANDERS and WALLONIA: regional action plan in development, development started 2013, expected finalisation date summer 2015

National Single Species Action Plan for *Gallinago media*

(Great Snipe)

No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> FLANDERS, WALLONIA and BRUSSEL REGION: not a priority species; a non-yearly migrant in small numbers

National Single Species Action Plan for *Aythya nyroca*

(Ferruginous Duck)

No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> FLANDERS, WALLONIA and BRUSSELS REGION: not a priority species; migrant and winter guest in very small numbers

National Single Species Action Plan for *Oxyura leucocephala*

(White-headed Duck)

No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> Not a native species

National Single Species Action Plan for *Platalea leucorodia*

(Eurasian Spoonbill)

No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> FLANDERS: population goal of 40 breeding pairs can be reached through actions in the framework of the Sigma project (nature restoration and protection from flooding along the river Scheldt) and through actions in the framework of Natura2000 in Special Protection Areas

Wallonia : Not a priority species, migrant guest in very small numbers. Brussels Region: very rare migrant guest

National Single Species Action Plan for *Anser brachyrhynchus*

(Pink-footed Goose)

No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> FLANDERS: The population goal for the Pink-footed Goose has been reached and is currently exceeded by approximately 7.500 individuals. The goal for habitat is dealt with in the framework of the Natura2000 programme. Flanders is an active partner in the AEWA International Working Group on the pink-footed goose and implements the International Species Management Plan.

Wallonia: not a priority species, rare migrant guest. Not present in Brussels Region

Field for additional information (optional)

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

<http://pinkfootedgoose.aewa.info>

National Single Species Action Plan for *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*

(Bewick's Swan)

No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> FLANDERS: Proposed population goal has been reached

WALLONIA: not a priority species, rare migrant and winter guest in very small numbers

No records found in Brussels

National Single Species Action Plan for *Limosa limosa*

(Black-tailed Godwit)

No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> FLANDERS: The black-tailed godwit belongs to a group of priority species in Flanders, which means that in the future policy actions on the black-tailed godwit can be taken. However, other priorities in the Flemish species policy, such as those related to Natura2000, are more urgent at present. The estimated Belgian black-tailed godwit population size in 2008-2012, according to the Bird Directive Article 12 report, was 900 - 1200 breeding pairs. Monitoring of the population by the Institute of Nature and Forest Research (INBO) reveals a stable short-term population trend.

Wallonia: Not a priority species, migrant guest in very small numbers

Brussels Region: not present

5. Does your country have in place or is your country developing a National Single Species Action Plan for any species/population for which an AEWA ISSAP has not been developed? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.2.2)

No

6. Has your country used the AEWA Guidelines for the preparation of National Single Species Action Plans for migratory waterbirds?

No

Please explain the reasons. What has been used instead as a basis for the preparation of NSSAPs?

> FLANDERS: For the corncrake action plan we used the quality handbook for 'species protection programmes' as developed by Antea group in 2012, commissioned by the Flemish Nature and Forest Agency and based on the legal requirements on species protection programmes in the Government of Flanders Decree concerning species protection and species management. The International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Corncrake (AEWA Technical Series No. 9) has been used for developing the Corncrake Species Protection Programme. That Action Plan follows the format for Single Species Action Plans as described in the AEWA Guidelines and approved by the AEWA 2nd Meeting of Parties in September 2002.

4.3 Emergency Measures

7. Please report on any emergency situation that has occurred in your country over the past triennium and has threatened waterbirds. (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.3)

Please indicate whether an emergency situation threatening waterbirds, such as botulism, chemical pollution, earthquake, extreme weather, fire, harmful algal bloom, infectious disease, introduction of alien species, lead poisoning, nuclear accident, oil spill, predation, volcanic activity, war or other emergency (please specify), has occurred in the country over the past triennium.

No emergency situation has occurred

8. Are there any other emergency measures, different from the ones reported above, but were developed and are in place in your country?

No

9. Has your country used the AEWA Guidelines on identifying and tackling emergency situations for migratory waterbirds?

No

Please explain the reasons. What was used instead as a basis for dealing with emergency situations?

> FLANDERS, WALLONIA and BRUSSELS REGION: Most of the emergency situations that can occur, will affect more than only the waterbirds. We have or are developing systems for diseases in wild animals, introduction of alien species and fire.

BRUSSELS: In the Brussels Region protocols exist for monitoring zoonoses or diseases caused by waterbirds.

4.4 Re-establishments

10. Is your country maintaining a national register of re-establishment projects occurring or planned to occur wholly or partly within your country? (Resolution 4.4)

Yes

Please provide details on the register

> Flanders: For re-introduction a derogation from the regional legislation has to be given. Therefore re-introduction programs are listed in the register of derogations.

WALLONIA:

- No re-introduction project has taken place.

- Re-introductions prohibited by article 5 ter of the law on nature conservation

BRUSSELS REGION:

- No re-introduction project has taken place

11. Is there a regulatory framework for re-establishments of species, including waterbirds, in your country (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.4)?

Yes

Please provide details

> FLANDERS: the Government of Flanders Decree concerning species protection and species management regulates the re-establishment of species in the wild.

WALLONIA: Art. 5ter of Law on Nature Conservation : it is forbidden to re introduce any indigenous species into the wild. A derogation system exists for this article.

In Wallonia the articles 5 and 5 bis of the nature conservation law give the possibility to derogate from some of the bans of this law (i.e. to capture, to hold, to transport some individuals). It is necessary to respect the three conditions fixed by the birds directive (no other satisfactory solution, respect the aim, not to put the species in danger).

BRUSSELS REGION: the Order concerning Nature Conservation (1/3/2012) regulates the re-establishment of species in the wild.

12. Has your country considered, developed or implemented re-establishment projects for any species listed on AEWA Table 1? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.4)

No

13. Has your country used the AEWA Guidelines on the translocation of waterbirds for conservation Purposes?

Not applicable

Please explain

> No re-establishments took place

4.5 Introductions

14. Does your country have legislation in place, which prohibits the introduction into the environment of non-native species of animals and plants which may be detrimental to migratory waterbirds? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.5.1)

Yes, and being enforced

Please provide the following details: title of legislation, year of adoption, institution that adopted it, institution that enforces it

> BELGIUM: Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species , adopted in 2014, enforced from 2015

FLANDERS: the Government of Flanders Decree concerning species protection and species: Art. 17 prohibits the deliberate introduction into the wild of species under the scope of this Decree, while Art. 21 states that specific derogations for the introduction of alien species can be granted, provided that a prior investigation of the impact demonstrates that there is no chance on adverse consequences for the natural habitats in their range of distribution in the Flemish Region or for animal or plant species that naturally occur in the wild in the Flemish Region. Adopted in 2009, enforced by the Nature Inspection of the Agency for Nature and Forests and the federal judiciary when necessary

WALLONIA: Art. 5ter. of the law on nature conservation : The introduction of non-indigenous species or indigenous species of non-indigenous origin in nature is forbidden except for species used for agriculture and forestry.

BRUSSELS REGION: Art. 77. of the Order on nature conservation (1/12/2015) : The introduction of non-

indigenous invasive species is forbidden. Art. 75.: the introduction of non-indigenous species is submitted to an authorization.

FEDERAL LEVEL: Belgian marine territory: the Law of January 20, 1999

15. Does your country impose legislative requirements on zoos, private collections, etc. in order to avoid the accidental escape of captive animals belonging to non-native species which may be detrimental to migratory waterbirds? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.5.2)

Yes, and being enforced

Please provide the following details: title of the document, year of adoption, institution that adopted it, institution that enforces it

> - Article 3 of the Royal decision of 10/08/1998 on the recognition of zoos states that all animal enclosures must be designed and kept in a way that in all circumstances escaping of animals is impossible and the safety of the animals, visitors and staff is guaranteed at all times. Enforcement in Flanders by the Animal welfare Service of the Government of Flanders and in the Brussels Region by the Service of Animal Welfare of Brussels Environment.

- Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species, adopted in 2014, enforced from 2015, states in Article 8 that licences for researching or keeping alien species are subject to the condition that they are physically isolated and cannot escape and that an emergency plan in case of escape should be made by the applicant. Enforcement in Flanders by the Nature Inspection of the Agency for Nature and Forests; in Wallonia by the Public Service of Wallonia, in Brussels by Environment Brussels and at the Federal level by the Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment.

There is no specific legal framework in Wallonia

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[AR_10-08-1998_0_823592_nl.pdf](#) - FED - Royal Decision on recognition of zoos

16. Does your country have in place a National Action Plan for Invasive Species (NAPIS) (in the framework of other MEAs, such as CBD, Bern Convention, and GISP (Global Invasive Species Programme) (Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 1, Target 5)?

Being developed

Please provide starting date and expected finalisation date of the process

> The National Biodiversity Strategy (adopted in 2006) has 2 operational objectives directly related to IAS (n°3.7.: "Avoid the introduction and mitigate the impact of invasive alien species on biodiversity" and n°5.7.: "Consider the potential impact on biodiversity, and in particular the invasiveness of species, in making import and export decisions")

A cooperation agreement is being developed to ensure an efficient implementation of the IAS legislation taking into account the responsibilities of the different authorities. This agreement also installs a formal contact group with the aim of providing a scientific background to political decisions and the administrative and political aspects in order to prepare Belgian positions for international meetings, elaborating programs related to Belgian international obligations and providing adequate feedback from the international decision-making scene to the scientific community. It will be proposed for approval at the end of 2015. Belgium also actively participates in the European scientific forum, committee and working group on invasive alien species.

17. Has your country considered, developed or implemented programmes to control or eradicate non-native species of waterbird so as to prevent negative impacts on indigenous species? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.5.3)

Yes

Please provide information on each species for which relevant action has been undertaken

Eradication programme for *Oxyura jamaicensis* / Ruddy Duck

For *Oxyura jamaicensis* / Ruddy Duck

Control or eradication programme developed and being implemented

Eradication programme for *Branta canadensis* / Greater Canada Goose

For *Branta canadensis* / Greater Canada Goose

Control or eradication programme developed and being implemented

Field for additional information (optional)

> On the initiative of the a Walloon interdepartemental structure responsible for coordinating work on invasive

species, control measures have been taken for this species.

18. Has your country considered, developed or implemented programmes to control or eradicate other non-native species (in particular aquatic weeds) so as to prevent negative impacts on migratory waterbirds? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.5.3 and Resolution 5.15)

Yes

Please list the species for which relevant action has been undertaken

> FLANDERS: Lagarosiphon major, Elodea callitrichoides, Elodea canadensis, Elodea nuttallii, Egeria densa, Hydrilla verticillata, Crassula helmsii, Lemna minuta, Lemna turionifera, Azolla filiculoides, Hydrocotyle ranunculoides

Please provide further information for each relevant programme

> FLANDERS: Information on management of these aquatic plants is disseminated via the website www.ecopedia.be and a technical handbook on the management on invasive alien plants, available in print and pdf.

The INVEXO project has resulted in a protocol for the management of Hydrocotyle ranunculoides.

BELGIUM:

Awareness raising on invasive alien plants in the horticultural sector at national level (federal + Regions): Life+ project "AlterIAS" (ALTERnatives to Invasive Alien Species, see: <http://www.alterias.be/>): Development of public awareness tools: update of the brochure "SOS invasions", new brochure on alternative plants to IAS, DVD, development of a code of conduct on invasive alien plants in Belgium, the ALTERIAS project resulted in a website with guidelines for alternatives for invasive alien plant species.

Development of black/grey lists of invasive alien species based on a standardised impact assessment protocol (ISEIA) (see: <http://ias.biodiversity.be/>),

BELGIUM: An early warning system is installed on www.waarnemingen.be/exoten.

WALLONIA:

Preventive and control actions against invasive alien species are coordinated through a dedicated interdepartmental unit (CiEi) that has been established in 2009 within the strategic plan of the Administration. This unit is in charge of the following tasks:

- . Identify priority pathways and develop preventive and regulatory measures accordingly, including guidelines for plantations, soil movement, green waste management, etc.

- . Prepare a coherent legislative framework to regulate preventive and control actions against invasive alien species in Wallonia.

- . Set up an early warning system in cooperation with the other regions in the country and nature conservation NGOs.

- . Identify and disseminate best practices for the management of invasive alien plants and animals;

- . Coordinate control action plans against priority species like giant hogweed, Japanese mosquito, Canada goose or muskrat.

- . Conduct studies to assess non-native species invasiveness in the field and compile information for risk analyses of priority species.

- . Communicate and develop capacity building actions towards field managers and the general public.

Nature Parks, many River Contracts and cities which have either a Municipality Plan for Nature Conservation or a 'Roadside management plan' actively manage invasive alien species at a local scale.

BRUSSELS REGION: participation on the Early Warning/Rapid Response installed on the Belgian Level by waarnemingen.be/observations.be. Daily management of invasive alien species in urban parks, Natura 2000 sites and nature reserves.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Ecopedia website on invasive alien plants \(Dutch\)](http://www.ecopedia.be)

<http://www.invexo.nl>

<http://alterias.be>

<http://www.waarnemingen.be/exoten>

19. Has your country used the AEWA Guidelines on avoidance of introductions of non-native waterbird species?

No

Please explain the reasons. What was used instead as a basis for dealing with the issue?

> There is no specific approach for waterbirds. The EU regulation is now operative and the prohibition on the introduction of species, including non-native waterbird species, is legally already anchored as mentioned under 14.

In Wallonia the law on nature conservation already forbid the introduction in nature of non native species. These dispositions will be specified to fully encounter the EU regulation.

Pressures and Responses

5. Habitat Conservation

5.1 Habitat Inventories

20. Has your country identified the network of all sites of international and national importance for the migratory waterbird species/populations listed on Table 1? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 3.1.2)

Yes

Please provide full reference, e.g. title, year, authors, etc. or a web link

> FLANDERS: In 2007, an extensive book about nature in a European Union Natura 2000 context in Flanders and the Belgian North Sea has been published by the Institute for Nature and Forest Research (INBO).

Based on the results of waterbird monitoring projects, a list of internationally important waterbird sites in Flanders is yearly updated by INBO. These sites are also listed as Important Bird Areas. There are no clear criteria for sites of national importance, although most of them are part of an ecological network and designated as nature reserves.

Walloon region:

- There are 4 sites registered on the Ramsar List of wetland's of international importance in Wallonia: "Les Marais d'Harchies Hensies Pommeroel", the "Vallée de la Haute-Sûre", the "Hautes Fagnes" and the "Grotte des Emotions" which are respectively marshes, a transboundary wetland, peatlands and a karst. The 3 first sites are particularly important for migratory birds.

Besides these, In 2010, we have Nature reserves (government nature reserve and chartered nature reserve) and wetland's of biological interest.

- Several initiatives have been carried out since the late 70's in order to have an inventory of the biological resources of the Walloon Region. These initiatives have led to the creation of lists of sites of great biological value ("Sites de Grand Intérêt Biologique" or SGIB). These lists of major sites are of major importance to the elaboration of the ecological network and in order to have a basis for political negotiation. The high biological value of these sites is due to the presence of protected or threatened habitats or species or even sites or species considered as having a great interest by naturalists.

- Natura 2000 sites are also of great importance in Wallonia for migratory waterbirds

Brussels Region

Lists exist of:

- sites of great biologic value

- N2000 sites

Federal level: Belgian marine territory : Two inventories have been made:

-- Derous S., Verfaillie E., Van Lancker V., Courtens W., Stienen E.W.M., Hostens K., Moulart I., Hillewaert H., Mees J., Deneudt K., Deckers P., Cuvelier D., Vincx M., Degraer S., 2007, A biological valuation map for the Belgian part of the North Sea: BWZee, Final report, Research in the framework of the BELSPO programme "Global chance, ecosystems and biodiversity"

- SPSP II, March 2007, pp. 99 (+ Annexes). - Courtens, W. en E.W.M. Stienen. 2006. Marine biological valuation of seabirds in the Belgian Part of the North Sea. INBO rapport A.2005.122: 25p

21. If your country has identified or is currently identifying the networks of sites of international and national importance, have you used the AEWA Guidelines on the preparation of site inventories for migratory waterbirds?

No

Please explain the reasons. What has been used instead as a basis for the inventory?

> In Flanders, Wallonia and for the North Sea (federal), the selection of internationally important sites is mainly based on criteria that are used in the framework of the EU Bird Directive, the Ramsar Convention and the designation of Important Bird Areas.

Field for additional information (optional)

> The Natura 2000 network is of major importance notably for waterbirds.

5.2. Conservation of Areas

22. Has your country assessed the future implications of climate change for protected areas and other sites important for waterbirds (i.e. resilience of sites to climate change)? (Resolution 5.13)

For one or more single sites

No

For the national protected area network

Yes

Please give details as to where relevant information about these assessments have been published (either as publications or web-link).

> FLANDERS: general implications of climate change on biodiversity have been assessed in the 2014 Nature Report by the Institute of Nature and Forest research

Wallonia: Développement d'indicateurs de l'impact des changements climatiques sur les oiseaux en Wallonie;

Aves, pôle ornithologique de Natagora - LAUDELOUT A., PAQUET J.Y.

Brussels Region: general implications of climate change on biodiversity have been assessed in the 2012 Nature Report by Brussels Environment.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[INBO Nature report 2014 - Biodiversity status in Flanders \(Dutch\)](#)

<http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be/index.php?page=etudes-detaillees>

[Nature Report of the Brussels Region \(2012\)](#)

23. Which sites that were identified as important, either internationally or nationally, for Table 1 migratory waterbird species/populations have been designated as protected areas under the national legislation and have management plans that are being implemented, including with the aim to increase resilience to the effects of climate change? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 3.2.1, AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 1, Target 1.2)

Please report separately on internationally important sites, nationally important sites and buffer zones.

Reporting on designation and management of internationally important sites

Reporting on designation and management of nationally important sites

Reporting on establishing buffer zones around waterbird sites (as an approach for maintaining or increasing resilience of ecological networks, including resilience to climate change)

All sites of international importance

Total number

> 59

Total area (ha)

> 255500

Out of the above total: number of protected sites

> 59

Out of the above total: protected area (ha)

> 251616

Number of protected sites with management plans in place which are being implemented

> 0

Area under protection (in ha) covered by management plans which are being implemented

> 0

All sites of national importance

Total number

> 13

Total area (ha)

> 1938

Out of the above total: number protected sites

> 6

Out of the above total: protected area (ha)

> 880

Number of protected sites with management plans in place which are being implemented

> 0

Area under protection (in ha) covered by management plans which are being implemented

> 0

Has your country identified around which nationally or internationally important sites the establishment of buffer zones is needed to maintain or increase resilience?

No

Please explain the reasons

> Flanders, Wallonia and the Brussels Region: the internationally important sites usually are relatively large (except for the Brussels Region where they are relatively small) and encompass more than pure waterbird habitat. The focus now is on rolling out site-specific strategic management plans for the sites themselves in order to reach conservation goals. In the framework of these strategic management plans, buffering of the nature values is taken into account through an approach for reducing impacts from surrounding land uses, but no specific zones have been designated.

24. Has your country developed a national action plans for filling gaps in designation and/or management of internationally and nationally important sites? (Resolution 5.2)

Being developed

Please provide starting date and expected date of finalisation

> FLANDERS: For all Natura2000 sites, site-specific strategic management plans are being developed. Different stages are foreseen. The goals per Special Protection Area are fixed in a 'strategic management plan 1.0'. Goals that can be realised in territory owned or managed by the government or nature organisations, will be agreed upon in a 'strategic management plan 1.1' by autumn 2015, which should be executed from then. By end 2017, for goals that are still open, voluntary actions by other stakeholders (agriculture, private land owners, economic sector, hunters associations...) can be agreed upon in a 'strategic management plan 1.2'. If necessary, still open goals will be filled in a compulsory way by the government in the last phase towards 'strategic management plan 1.3' by the end of 2019.

WALLONIA: 59 Natura 2000 sites (25 351,18ha) have had their designation orders adopted and have thus, in addition to the general measures applied to all Natura 2000 sites, specific measures which count for their management plan. These designation orders should be prepared for all Natura 2000 sites in the coming years. Brussels Region: Three designation orders are in preparation. For all N2000 sites, management plans will be developed thereafter.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Natura2000 planning for Flanders \(Dutch\)](#)

[Nature 2000 in the Brussels Region \(Dutch and French\)](#)

25. Has your country developed a strategic plan (independently or as part of your country's overarching biodiversity or protected area policy document) to maintain or increase the resilience of the ecological network (for waterbirds), including resilience to climate change, and to conserve range and ecological variability of habitats and species? (Resolution 5.2, AEWa Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 1, Target 1.2)

Yes

Please provide full reference or a web link, as well as details concerning the process and the status of this plan

> This is included in the national Belgian Biodiversity Strategy 2006-2016, more specifically objectives 2 and 3. The status of implementation can be consulted in the fifth national report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2014).

The three Belgian Regions - the Flemish Region, the Walloon Region and the Brussels-Capital Region - each have their own strategic documents and action plans in relation to biodiversity:

- The objectives for the conservation of biodiversity in the Flemish Region are included in the Policy Plan for Environment (2011-2015) under a specific chapter on biodiversity. Since 2006 the Agency for Nature and Forests also has its own Strategic Plan and a yearly operational plan giving more detailed information on objectives, actions and indicators related to actions and processes for the conservation and management of nature, forests and green spaces.

- The Wallonia Nature Network, a progressive catalogue of concrete and realistic actions, is also being developed; Given the difficulty to realise a Nature Plan, Wallonia decided to create a progressive catalogue of concrete and realistic actions, and whose implementation would bring tangible results. It was presented to the Walloon government for approval, after consultation with the advisory committees and concerned administrations. A steering committee and an animation cell will be set up. Once implemented, the catalogue would significantly increase the carrying capacity for wildlife in the Walloon region. Particular emphasis is put on the consideration of nature by all actors of the territory. As it is an open approach underpinned by a participatory process, the goal is to gradually expand the partnership while developing the catalogue of

measures. Creating a label "Network Wallonia Nature" will bring together and federate the actions already underway and new projects in favour of nature. This Wallonia Nature Network will also offer recognition and visibility to field actors through numerous communication tools.

<http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/reseau-wallonie-nature.html?IDC=5929>

- In application of a new global nature legislation (ordonnance du 1er mars 2012 relative à la conservation de la nature), the Brussels-Capital Region has adopted in September 2013 a project of regional nature plan. This project establishes the Brussels vision for nature at the horizon 2050 and sets up 7 main objectives for 2020 that are underpinned with a set of 26 measures. A public consultation on this project plan took place in the beginning of 2014.

The national Belgian Biodiversity Strategy has been updated in 2013 to align with international objectives for 2020. However, the same overarching objectives 2 and 3 are still valid. In the updated version, ecosystem services are also explicitly taken into account.

Four support mechanisms for implementation have been identified in the updated strategy:

SM1. By 2015, adopt, apply and publish indicators to measure progress against the strategic objectives of the NBS.

SM2. By 2015, implement the EU reporting tool for NBSs on the CHM website.

SM3. By 2015, have a functional Clearing-House Mechanism in place for the Convention and its protocols, including a network of practitioners.

SM4. By 2015, functional Clearing-Houses for implementation and technology transfer are in place for the CBD and its Protocols (BCH, ABS-CH).

In 2013, the EU portable toolkit for the CHM has developed a module for the online integrated reporting on the Aichi targets, the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the national biodiversity strategies. In line with SM2, the Belgian CHM website will integrate this module on its website. This will facilitate the sharing of, and access to, information related to the Aichi Targets, the EU biodiversity strategy and the national strategy. The information in the tool will be updated periodically based on the results of SM1. Belgium will be involved in further developing the tool, through a special working group of the EU, to ensure that the tool will allow adding implementation information between national and EU reporting cycles.

Flanders:

The operational objectives of MINA 4 plan are:

- In 2020, sufficient habitat will have been established, re-destined, improved or demarcated to achieve 70% of the conservation objectives of the species and habitats to be protected in Europe.

-In 2015, the condition of endangered and protected groups of species will have improved.

-In 2015, more quality nature under conservation management will have been achieved.

-By 2020, forested area extent and quality have improved.

A package of measures to be taken is provided to support these objectives, as well as the division of tasks and quantitative goals expected by 2015 for biodiversity, through indicators as the "butterfly index", forest indicators or the total area under conservation management specified in a management plan. The evaluation of the status of biodiversity in Flanders and the follow-up of the implementation of this policy plan are carried out by means of 21 biodiversity indicators, which are closely linked to SEBI European biodiversity indicators. The indicators are published and regularly updated on the biodiversity indicators website, on the website of the plan and on the environment indicators website.

Brussels region:

A new coordinated regional law about nature was adopted in March 2012, consisting of 119 articles and 8 annexes, with the general aim of contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of components of biodiversity. Measures taken under this nature law are intended to:

- maintain or restore to a favourable conservation status natural habitats and species of fauna and flora of community and regional interest;

- contribute to the establishment of an ecological network in Brussels;

- contribute to the integration of biodiversity in an urban context.

This regional law requires the elaboration of a regional plan for nature, which should be adopted at the latest two years after the coming into force of the law (articles 6 and 8 to 11). It also foresees the elaboration of more specific action plans (art. 6 and 12 to 14). These action plans would aim at:

- the improvement of the conservation status of natural species and habitats.

- the struggle against biodiversity threats such as invasive alien species.

- the encouragement of sustainable use of biodiversity components.

As required by the coordinated regional law about nature, Brussels is currently working on the elaboration of a regional plan for nature and biodiversity. A first project plan has been adopted in September 2013 by the Government. The project plan outlines the vision of the region for the long-term development of nature on its territory and articulates in the medium term around seven strategic objectives which are the following:

- Improve access to nature for Brussels inhabitants.
- Consolidate the regional green network.
- Integrate nature issues into plans and projects.
- Expand and strengthen the ecological management of green spaces.
- Reconcile wildlife hosting capacity and urban development.
- Raise awareness and mobilize Brussels inhabitants in favour of nature and biodiversity.
- Improve governance as regards nature.

These objectives are accompanied by a program of 26 measures. Some examples of these measures are given below:

- Strengthen the presence of nature in public spaces.
- Develop an operational plan for the implementation of the ecological network.
- Develop an integrated vision for the maintenance and restoration of agricultural areas and relics.
- Set up a "Nature Facilitator".
- Develop a synthetic indicator to assess the inclusion of nature into projects.
- Adopt a common referential for the ecological management of the green spaces.
- Reduce the fragmentation of biodiversity by finding ways to allow the fauna to move across transport infrastructure (ecoducts and ecotunnels for example).
- Optimizing the management of invasive alien species.
- Develop a comprehensive awareness raising strategy.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[5th national report of Belgium to the CBD](#)

[Belgium's national biodiversity strategy 2006-2016](#)

[Strategic and Operational Plan of the Agency for Nature and Forests in Flanders \(Dutch\)](#)

[More information on Wallonia Nature Network](#)

[Brussels region nature plan](#)

[Belgian Biodiversity Strategy 2020](#)

[Nature Indicators for Flanders \(Dutch\)](#)

[Flemish Policy Plan for the Environment \(Dutch\)](#)

26. Has your country used the AEWA Guidelines on the management of key sites for migratory waterbirds?

No

Please explain the reasons. What guidance has been used instead?

> Since the reported sites of international importance are Natura 2000 sites, they will be managed based on EU guidance.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[EU guidance on management of sites of international importance](#)

27. Has the Critical Site Network (CSN) Tool for the AEWA area been accessed and used in your country?

Yes

Please give examples of how you have used the CSN Tool

> To obtain a species list for Belgium, to see the range of the different subspecies. It's a bit difficult to work with the tool, because our screens are too small to see the complete boxes and thereby we can't tick the right button, eg to return to the main menu. On the homepage, the link to 'Species Search Page' with the bird icon is accompanied by the text 'Site Search Page'.

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 5.2. Conservation of Areas

> The number of sites of international importance contains sites which completely or partly overlap. For the Flemish and Brussels region, Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive and Sites of Community Importance under the Habitats Directive that protect at least one of the AEWA species have been listed and summed up. For the total area however, a GIS correction has been carried out to eliminate double counts of overlapping areas.

To select the sites of national importance in the Walloon region, the criteria used are at least 15 % of the total amount wintering birds of one species or at least 1000 birds counted. This exercise was only executed for Wallonia, therefore the given numbers only refer to the Walloon region. These sites include the sites of international importance in the Walloon region.

Pressures and Responses

6. Management of Human Activities

6.1. Hunting

28. Does your country have an established system for the collection of harvest data, which covers the species listed in Table 1? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.3)

Yes

Does it cover the following? (tick where applicable and provide details)

Only some AEWA species occurring in your country

> Only for species with an open hunting season

For Flanders: *Anser anser*, *Anas penelope*, *Anas platyrhynchos* and *Vanellus vanellus*

Wallonia: hunting season open only for 3 AEWA species: *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Anas crecca*, *Fulica atra*; Some hunting council hand in harvest data to the administration for these species; for the moment, this is on a voluntary basis. In 2016, the law which deals with the hunting council will be revised and such report should be made compulsory.

The whole territory of your country

Only part of the territory of your country

> Not in the Brussels Region

Only some harvesting activities

> In Flanders the majority of hunters collaborate in hunting associations which have to report on numbers culled for roe deer, red deer, fallow deer, wild boar, hare, rabbit, partridge, pheasant, wood pigeon, mallard, Eurasian wigeon, Canada goose, greylag goose, fox, semi-wild cat, crow, jay, magpie, starling and jackdaw. Also individual hunters are obliged to report this.

In Wallonia, all the harvesting data are collected on a voluntary basis for the moment, but could become compulsory soon.

Field for additional information (optional)

> FLANDERS: Flemish hunters are organized in 'Game Management Units' (GMU), which are obliged to report on game numbers and bag statistics. The information is received and analyzed by a scientific institute from the Flemish government, the Institute for Nature and Forest Research.

In the Brussels region hunting is prohibited since 1991.

29. Has your country phased out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.4)

Fully

When was the lead shot use in wetlands banned? What legislation is in place? Who does enforce this legislation?

> FLANDERS: A total ban on the use of leadshot has been adopted in 2003, by a Flemish Government Decree from September 19, 2003, on the use of firearms and ammunition for hunting in the Flemish Region. This law is enforced by Nature Inspection.

WALLONIA: Walloon Government arrest on the use of firearms and shots (05 october 2005). Article 3 of this arrest forbids the use of lead shots to shoot waterbird game species at less than 50 meters from a marsh, a lake, a pond, a water reservoir, a river or a canal.

BRUSSELS: Hunting is not allowed in the Brussels region. It is enforced by the Nature and Forest department.

Has assessment of compliance with the legislation been undertaken?

No

Please explain the reasons for not doing this

> FLANDERS: this legislation is broadly supported by the hunting sector. Violations of this law have not been observed during other compliance control actions with hunters. There was no known problem of lead poisoning in waterbirds.

Has measurement of impact of the legislation been undertaken i.e. where there was a problem of lead poisoning in waterbirds, has this been reduced?

No

Please explain the reasons for not doing this

> There was no known problem of lead poisoning with significant impact in waterbirds.

30. Are there measures in your country to reduce/eliminate illegal taking? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.6)

Yes

How would you rate the effectiveness of the measures?

High

Please provide details

> FLANDERS and Wallonia: hunting legislation and species legislation (Soortenbesluit for Flanders) provide a clear framework on the conditions that allow harvesting of species. Not allowed actions then provide the framework for control by authorised supervisors.

Brussels Region: Order on Nature Conservation (1/3/2012).

31. Are legally binding best practice codes and standards for hunting (e.g. bird identification) considered a priority or appropriate for your country? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 2, Target 2.4)

Yes

Are there legally binding best practice codes or standards in place?

Yes

What do these cover?

Proficiency test for hunters (including bird identification)

Game Management Plans

Other (please specify)

> Hunters need to pass a hunting exam before being entitled to a hunting licence. This exam consists of a theoretical part, including bird identification, and a practical part, including safety procedures and shooting competence.

In FLANDERS, Independent hunters or game management units need to provide a 'fauna management plan' which contains population goals for each huntable game species, data on habitat quality and quantity, measures for a sustainable game management. In the 'game report', game management units and independent hunters also need to report the estimated spring population state of game species within their hunting ground.

Optionally [Please upload links or examples]

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Hunting exam in Flanders \(Dutch\)](#)

[Fauna management plan in Flanders \(Dutch\)](#)

32. Has your country used the AEWA Guidelines on sustainable harvest of migratory birds?

Yes

Please provide details

> FLANDERS: Participation in the AEWA International Species Management Plan for the Svalbard population of the pink-footed goose. Within that framework, no open season exists for this species. Reporting of the number of harvested species mentioned under question 28 is required.

In Wallonia and the Brussels Region, no hunting of these birds.

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 6.1. Hunting

> FLANDERS: Prohibition to kill birds and to take eggs of all european wild bird species is included in the species legislation (Soortenbesluit), except for game species.

WALLONIA:

Prohibition to kill birds, to take eggs of all european wild bird species is included in the Law on nature conservation, except for game species (Law on nature conservation).

Law on hunting (28 February 1882) and its bills:

The different measures elaborated to reduce illegal hunting are:

In general: The law, Police units and the Forest and Nature division of the Walloon Region

In particular: the unit against poaching aiming particularly at fighting against illegal hunting.

Fines have also been increased.

6.2. Other human activities

33. Have restrictions on use of lead fishing weights been introduced in your country? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.3.12)

No

If appropriate, please provide further details.

> Although no official restrictions have been introduced, the Advising Interparliamentary Council of the Benelux has requested the governments to promote the use of ecological and degradable alternatives in sport fishing practice and to sensitize all actors involved in sport fishing for the problems and harmful consequences of lead weights.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Benelux_10_juli_2014_alternatieven_lood.pdf](#)

34. Does your country have legislation in place, which provides for Strategic Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA/EIA) of activities potentially negatively affecting natural habitats or wildlife? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.3.1)

Yes and being implemented

Do the SEA/EIA processes consider waterbirds and habitats on which they depend?

Yes

Please provide details

> FLANDERS: Decree concerning general provisions relating to environmental policy Decree of 5 April 1995 concerning general provisions relating to environmental policy and the Government of Flanders Decree of 10/12/2004 provide the procedure and a list of activities for which an Environmental Impact Report has to be written.

According to art. 36ter of the Decree for Nature Conservation, for every activity, plan or program that needs to be licenced and that might have a negative impact on a SPA, there has to be made an appropriate assessment.

Federal level: Belgian marine territory: royal Decrees (in pursuance of the MMM law of 20/01/1999): the RD of 09/09/2003 establishing the rules related to the environmental impact assessment and the royal decree of the 07/09/2003 establishing the procedures for granting permits and authorisations for some activities in the marine spaces.

Walloon Region : Impact assessments of projects, plans and programmes on the environment is included in Wallonia in the "environnemental code" part V, chapitre II « Système d'évaluation des incidences des plans et programmes sur l'environnement » and chapitre III « Système d'évaluation des incidences de projets sur l'environnement ».

Public Participation is included in the Environmental code, Part III "Information, sensibilisation et participation du public en matière d'environnement".

Brussels Region: Ordonnance du 1er mars 2012 relative à la conservation de la nature, Titre II, Chapitre 5 'Evaluation appropriée des incidences des plans et projets sur les sites protégés et critères de décision', which covers the appropriate impact assessment of plans and projects on Natura 2000 sites and natural and forest reserves + art. 85 appropriate impact assessment on derogations of article 47 §2 and of article 48.'

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Decree of the Flemish Government concerning projects that need to be submitted to an EIA](#)

Do the SEA/EIA processes include public participation?

Yes

Please provide details

> FLANDERS: The procedure for the Environmental Impact Report includes public consultation. The request for a licence that might have an influence on a SPA is published for public consultation together with the appropriate assessment.

FEDERAL:

Belgian marine territory: royal Decrees of 09/09/2003 establishing the rules related to the environmental impact assessment and of the 07/09/2003 establishing the procedures for granting permits and authorizations for some activities in the marine spaces clearly specify in which cases a public consultation has to be organized.

35. In the last three years, has your country used SEA/EIA for all relevant projects, including energy sector projects such as renewable energy developments and power lines installation, to assess the impact of proposed projects on migratory waterbird species listed on Table 1 and/or habitats/sites on which they depend? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.3.1, Resolution 5.11 and Resolution 5.16)

Yes, all proposed projects

Please provide information on the outstanding cases

> FLANDERS: Projects from the list in the Government of Flanders Decree of 10/12/2004 were subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment following the procedure described in the Decree of 5 April 1995 concerning

general provisions relating to environmental policy . This lists includes power lines installation and the installation of hydropower facilities and the procedure requires to include the assessment of possible effects on biodiversity, fauna and flora. Plans or programmes that relate to energy, amongst others, and that form the framework for permits for projects from the above mentioned list and plans or programmes for which it could not be demonstrated that it will not have significant environmental impacts were subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

An appropriate assessment has been made for every activity, plan or program that needed to be licenced and that could have had a negative impact on a special protection area, according to art. 36ter of the Decree for Nature Conservation.

WALLONIA: The environmental code lists the projects subject to EIA, part V, chapitre II « Système d'évaluation des incidences des plans et programmes sur l'environnement » and chapitre III « Système d'évaluation des incidences de projets sur l'environnement ».

In Wallonia the decision of the walloon government of 04/07/2002 concerns the environmental impact assesment. This decision gives a list of acts and projects which require an environmental impact assessment and fixes the minimal information that these studies must include. This list includes power lines installation and the installation of hydropower facilities and the procedure requires to include the assesment of possible effects on biodiversity, fauna and flora.

An appropriate assessment has to be made for every plan or program that needs a licence and that could have had a negative impact on a special protection area (Natura 2000 site), according to art. 28, §1er of the Nature Conservation Law of 12/07/1973.

All the birds species except the game species are protected in Wallonia. The Nature Conservation Law forbids to deteriorate or to destroy the habitats of the protected species and to deliberately capture, disturb or kill individuals. It is possible to get a derogation for allowing one or several of these actions. This derogation can be delivered only if it is established that the derogation won't have a detrimental impact on the species conservation status. Therefore an environmental impact assesment of the project on the potentially impacted species needs to be realised.

Where an SEA/EIA has identified a likelihood of significant negative impacts on migratory waterbirds, have steps been taken to avoid these impacts, including avoidance of protected areas and other sites of importance for migratory waterbirds?

Yes

Field for additional information (optional)

> Under EU legislation it is mandatory to avoid significant negative impact

36. Has your country used the AEWA Guidelines on how to avoid, minimize or mitigate impact of infrastructural developments and related disturbance affecting waterbirds?

No

Please explain the reasons. What other guidance has been used instead?

> FLANDERS: The Flemish Government has published own methodological guidance documents, e.g. on EIA for thermic power plants (2009) and infrastructure (above ground power lines, 2007; underground tubes, 2007; railways, 2007, roads, 2007).

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Guidance documents from the Flemish Government](#)

37. Please report on the implementation of Resolution 5.11 on Power Lines and Migratory Waterbirds.

37.1. Are relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, scientific bodies, nongovernmental organisations and the energy sector, being regularly consulted in order to monitor jointly the impacts of power lines on waterbirds and to agree on a common policy of action?

Yes

Please provide details

> Elia, the manager of the high-voltage electricity transmission system in Belgium, has required the nature ngos Aves, Natuurpunt and Vogelbescherming Vlaanderen as well as the Flemish Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO) to produce a report "Reducing bird mortality caused by high- and very-high-voltage power lines in Belgium" and map the 'black lines' on the power line network. The report with national sensitivity map was published in 2012 (see web link). All available data from bird monitoring projects were put together to build this map. Bird species were classified according to their specific collision risk. According to the local abundance of each species, a "Bird Collision Risk" score has been calculated for each line section. Most of the dangerous power lines are located in areas where major concentrations of waterbirds occur. Elia will use the sensitivity map to adjust the network by placing markers or "diverters" on the most dangerous lines in order to try to reduce the number of collision fatalities drastically. For the power lines with the highest risk on the

sensitivity map, in 2014 a field study was performed to determine the actual risk, so that Elia can prioritize mitigation measures further. The results of the gradual applied mitigation measures will also be monitored and evaluated on a project level during the coming years.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Information on project on powerlines and bird collisions \(Dutch\)](#)

[Report: "Reducing bird mortality caused by high- and very-high-voltage power lines in Belgium"](#)

37.2. Have a baseline of waterbird distribution, population sizes, migrations and movements (including those between breeding, resting and feeding areas) been established as early as possible in the planning of any power line project, over a period of at least five years, and with particular emphasis on those species known to be vulnerable to electrocution or collision; and, if such studies identify any risks, has every effort been made to ensure these are avoided?

Yes

Please provide details

> FLANDERS: Methodology is described in the guidelines for EIA for above ground power lines (Richtlijnenboek Bovengrondse Hoogspanningsleidingen; Dienst MER; oktober 2007; 62pag.). Basis is the setting up of a population-ecological modelling and population structure for the baseline situation which then should be compared with the situation after the establishment of the power line.

Examples: according to the EIA-database (can be consulted on-line)

1. Leidingstraat Tesserderlo-Diest; July 2014

SEI : Dossiercode PL0172

Initiatiefnemer Fluxys Belgium Nv

Studiebureau Antea Belgium nv

2. Hoogspanningsverbinding 380 kV Zomergem – Zeebrugge; Oktober 2013

EIA : Dossiercode PR0694

Initiatiefnemer Elia Asset nv

Several mitigation activities : parts of the line underground construction in stead of above ground; replanting of forests and linear elements; avoiding breeding and migration periods; in certain areas installing visual markers on the lines,.....

3. Ondergrondse 150 KV verbinding in Waregem, March 2014

EIA :Dossiercode OHPR0625

Initiatiefnemer Elia Asset nv

Studiebureau Arcadis Belgium nv

37.3. Have the location, route and direction of new power lines been designated on the basis of national zoning maps; and has, wherever possible, the construction of power lines along major migration flyways and in habitats of conservation importance* been avoided, where such construction is likely to have significant effects on waterbirds?

* such as Special Protection Areas under the EU Birds Directive, Important Bird Areas, protected areas, Ramsar sites, the West/Central Asian Site Network for Siberian Crane and other waterbirds and other critical sites as identified by the Critical Site Network (CSN) Tool for the African-Eurasian region.

Yes

Please provide details

> Location of power lines must be integrated in national zoning maps and the system of land use planning. This process must always be accompanied by a SEA at the level of the spatial planning and EIA for the concrete project.

37.4. Are bird-safe designs in the construction of new power infrastructure, including measures designed to reduce electrocution and collisions been used in your country?

Yes

Please provide details

> Balls and 'curls' on the power lines are and will be installed on the most sensitive stretches of high-voltage power lines.

37.5. Have those sections of existing power lines that are causing relatively high levels of waterbird injury and/or mortality due to electrocution and/or collision been identified and modified as a matter of priority?

Yes

Please provide details

> This is an ongoing process. Based on the monitoring of bird mortality due to high- and very-high-voltage power lines in Belgium, a sensitivity map was prepared, indicating those sections that are causing relatively

high levels of (water)bird injury and/or mortality due to electrocution and/or collision. The report with national sensitivity map was published in 2012 (see web link). Elia, the manager of the high-voltage electricity transmission system in Belgium, will use the sensitivity map to adjust the network by placing markers or “diverters” on the most dangerous lines in order to try to reduce the number of collision fatalities drastically. For the power lines with the highest risk on the sensitivity map, in 2014 a field study was performed to determine the actual risk, so that Elia can prioritize mitigation measures further. The results of the gradual applied mitigation measures will also be monitored and evaluated on a project level during the coming years.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Report: "Reducing bird mortality caused by high- and very-high-voltage power lines in Belgium"

37.6. Is there in your country regular monitoring and evaluation of the impact of power lines on waterbird populations at the national scale, as well as of the effectiveness of mitigation measures put in place to minimise the impact of power lines on waterbird populations?

No

Please explain the reasons. What are the constraints preventing implementation of this activity?

> There is no long-term monitoring and/or mitigation project on the impact of power lines on waterbird populations. No budget was available for such monitoring. But the manager of the high-voltage electricity transmission system in Belgium (Elia) has started a national mitigation project to place markers or “diverters” on the most dangerous lines, based on a national sensitivity map (see question 37.1). Within this project, short term monitoring of some high risk power lines is planned, with the objective to evaluate the mitigation measures.

37.7. Have the measures contained in Resolution 5.11. been included in your country’s National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and relevant legislation?

No

Please explain the reasons. What are the constraints preventing implementation of this activity?

> Strategic Environmental Assessment for power lines is already covered by legislation in force. No budget could be allocated for monitoring specifically related to power lines. Other aspects of Resolution 5.11 are covered by the Elia project (see 37.5).

38. Has your country used the AEWA Guidelines on how to avoid or mitigate impact of electricity power grids on migratory birds in the African-Eurasian region?

No

Please explain the reasons. What other guidance has been used instead?

> FLANDERS: The Flemish Government has published own methodological guidance documents on EIA for above ground power lines, 2007 and underground tubes, 2007.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Guidance documents from the Flemish Government

39. Please report on the implementation of Resolution 5.16 on Renewable Energy and Migratory Waterbirds.

39.1. Has a national sensitivity and zoning mapping to avoid overlap of renewable energy developments with areas of importance for migratory waterbirds been developed in your country?

Yes

Please provide details

> FLANDERS: The Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO) has produced a report with bird sensitivity map in 2011 as a dynamic decision supporting instrument, with an update in 2013 and planned update in 2015. The instrument includes information and recommendations concerning the possible effects of planned wind turbines on birds and bats in Flanders. The instrument makes clear what essential steps have to be undertaken for new projects and plans of wind farms, and where the necessary information can be found to proceed these steps. The sensitivity map has several component maps, and can be consulted in a geographical web application on the INBO website. The 2015 update will also include a provisional bat sensitivity map.

WALLONIA: The ngo Natagora made a limited sensitivity map in 2008.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

INBO page on effects of wind turbines on fauna in Flanders

Sensitivity atlas Flanders

39.2. Please describe what international environmental guidelines, recommendations and criteria are being followed in your country for renewable energy developments impact assessment and the utilization of renewable energy sources.

> - EU Directive 2009/28/EG on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources: This Directive establishes a common framework for the use of energy from renewable sources in order to limit greenhouse gas emissions and to promote cleaner transport. To this end, national action plans are defined, as are procedures for the use of biofuels.

- EU Habitat Directive and EU Birds Directive:

These directives require that, within Natura 2000, Member States avoid damaging activities that could significantly disturb these species or deteriorate the habitats of the protected species or habitat types. Any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall undergo an Appropriate Assessment to determine its implications for the site. The competent authorities can only agree to the plan or project after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned.

In exceptional circumstances, a plan or project may still be allowed to go ahead, in spite of a negative assessment, provided there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project is considered to be of overriding public interest. In such cases the Member State must take appropriate compensatory measures to ensure that the overall coherence of the N2000 Network is protected.

- EU Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment:

This Directive requires certain plans and programmes, which are likely to have significant effects on the environment, to be subject to an environmental assessment. This assessment specifically enables environmental considerations to be integrated in the preparation and adoption of these plans and programmes. It also contributes to sustainable development.

- EU Council Directive 85/337/EEC of 27 June 1985 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment: The European Union requires an environmental impact assessment to be carried out before approval can be granted for certain public and private projects. The Directive lists the projects concerned, the information to be provided and the third parties to be consulted in connection with approving such a project.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32009L0028>

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32001L0042>

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:31992L0043>

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32009L0147>

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:31985L0337>

39.3. Is post-construction monitoring being undertaken of the renewable energy installations and associated infrastructure in your country?

Yes

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Report of WinMon.be - the monitoring of offshore wind farms in the Belgian part of the North Sea](#)

Has adverse effect on migratory waterbirds and their habitats been identified?

Yes

Are mitigation measures being implemented?

> Yes. Many terns collided with some small wind turbines next to their breeding colony (Natura 2000 site) in Zeebrugge. Between 2004 and 2008, these collisions resulted in a significant impact on the breeding population in Flanders. Early 2009, the small turbines were replaced by larger types, with more space between the turbines and more free space under the blades. The reason for this repowering was twofold: higher electricity production and less collision fatalities of the terns. It was estimated that this repowering would result in less fatalities, because most terns are flying at relatively low altitude when crossing the breakwater toward the sea and back. This 'win-win' situation was one of the conservation objectives in the Natura 2000 site.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Paper: Impact of wind turbines on birds in Zeebrugge \(Belgium\) significant effect on breeding tern colony due to collisions](#)

Please share information and lessons learnt from the post-construction monitoring and mitigation measures.

> For the mitigation monitoring in Zeebrugge after a retrofit (see above): compared to the period before 2009,

a clear reduction of the number of collision fatalities (both absolute and proportional to the number of breeding pairs) was noticed. But the exact rate of change still has to be determined, mainly because the other impact factors like the presence of a Red Fox. Further study during the coming years is recommended to get more clarity on the actual impact.

39.4. Where damage cannot be avoided or mitigated, has compensation for damages to biodiversity been provided?

Yes

Please provide details

> For some planned wind farms, compensation of meadow and farmland bird habitat was introduced, because of an estimated local-scale disturbance effect from the turbines.

39.5. Please indicate whether any of the following measures have been put in place to reduce the potential negative impact of terrestrial and marine windfarms on migratory waterbirds:

operate wind farms in ways that minimise bird mortality, for example by introducing shortterm shutdowns during peak migration and minimising lighting in wind farms

focusing research efforts on alleviating the negative effects on waterbirds from wind farms, such as the mapping of the main migration corridors and migration crossings for waterbirds also allowing the optimising of wind farm layouts

39.6. Have any specific measures been put in place to assess, identify and reduce potential negative impacts of biofuel production on migratory waterbirds and their habitats?

No

Please explain the reasons. What are the constraints preventing implementation of this activity?

> Priority is given to a general approach on the impact of biofuel production on biodiversity. This has been included in the National Biodiversity Strategy: 'Belgium will defend a position aiming at the compulsory inclusion of new environmental criteria within the framework of the revision of Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC. Incentives should be restricted to the promotion of biofuels produced from feedstock that do not create an additional demand for land and do not compete with other uses like food, materials, biodiversity.'

39.7. Have the measures contained in Resolution 5.11. been included in your country's National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and relevant legislation?

Yes

Please provide details

> National Biodiversity Strategy 2006-2016: 4c.8 Ensure that the production of plants for renewable energy does not negatively impact on biodiversity

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[National Belgian Biodiversity Strategy 2006-2016](#)

40. Is by-catch of waterbirds in fishing gear taking place in your country? (Resolution 3.8)

Yes

Please provide details

> The conclusions of the study: 'An integrated impact assessment of trammel net and beam trawl fisheries (WAKO II) ', state that the bycatch of seabirds is very limited, although for some sensitive birds it may have negative impact.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[WAKO II](#)

41. Has your country undertaken steps towards the adoption/application of measures to reduce the incidental catch of seabirds and combat Illegal Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing practices in the Agreement area? (Resolution 3.8)

Yes

Please provide short description of all actions

> The European Commission has developed an Action Plan for reducing incidental catches of seabirds in fishing gears.

Pressures and Responses

7. Research and Monitoring

43. Does your country have waterbird monitoring schemes for the AEWA species in place? (Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 3, Target 3.2)

Yes

Covering the breeding period

Fully

Please provide details

> Flemish region:

- Rare breeding birds. Since 1994, a monitoring scheme on breeding birds, the project 'Bijzondere Broedvogels Vlaanderen', has been set up in Flanders. The species involved include all colonial breeders, rare breeding species (less than 150-200 pairs in Flanders) and all exotic (feral) birds, altogether about 60 species. They are censused on a yearly basis and in a standardized way.

- Common breeding birds. In Flanders, a new monitoring project for common breeding birds started in 2007, in cooperation between the Institute for Nature and Forest Research and 'Natuurpunt' (NGO).

Walloon region:

- Spring Counting of water birds since 2014

- Rare birds counting in the framework of Natura 2000 and article 12 report of the Birds Directive.

- Breeding birds of Wallonia Atlas (co-ordination Aves): Elaboration of an atlas project. This atlas enables us to identify all breeding birds (approximately 175), even introduced species (approximately 12), to assess their repartition and their populations. A special attention is given to rare species. This atlas was published in 2011.

Monitoring of wintering birds (by Aves). Counting of waterbirds from October to March. Data are published in the « Bulletin Aves » magazine and communicated to Wetlands International.

Implementation of methods to collect data's on birds in the framework of the elaboration of the Natura 2000 site's designation bills.

Monitoring of common birds (started in 1990 by AVES).

Monitoring of birds for the State of the Walloon Environment "Etat de l'Environnement wallon"

Brussels Region (in association with):

- Spring Counting of water birds

- Common breeding birds (since 1992)

- Breeding birds of the Brussels Region: (2007)

- Monitoring of wintering birds. Counting of waterbirds in mid-winter. Data are published in the « Bulletin Aves » magazine and communicated to Wetlands International.

- Monitoring of birds breeding in colonies; sleeping site counts of Rose-ringed parakeet;

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

<http://environnement.wallonie.be/eew/default.aspx>

Covering the passage/migration period

Partially

Please provide details

> Although not strictly coordinated at a Belgian or regional level, counts of migrating birds are done by many volunteers. Data are entered in a online database and give a good picture of migration periods and monthly or yearly fluctuations.

Covering the non-breeding/wintering period

Fully

Please provide details

> Flemish Region:

- Waterbird counts. In Flanders, six waterfowl counts are organized every winter. coordination by the Institute of Nature and Forest Research. counts from October until March. The mid-January count makes part of the 'International Waterfowl Census', a monitoring project of Wetlands International. About 500-600 sites in Flanders are counted on a regular basis, including at least all major wetlands.

- Seabird counts. Counts of overwintering seabirds are done and beached birds are mapped along the Belgian coast

Walloon Region:

- Monitoring of wintering birds (by Aves). Counting of waterbirds from October to March. Data's are published in the « Bulletin Aves » magazine and communicated to Wetlands international.

Brussels Capital Region:

- Counting wintering waterbirds during mid-winter (since 1992) by AVES.

- Counting wintering waterbirds since 2003-2006. Waterbirds are counted from October till March in the valley of the Woluwe, one of the most important wintering places of waterbirds in the Brussels Capital Region.

44. Has your country supported, technically or financially, other Parties or Range States in designing appropriate monitoring schemes and developing their capacity to collect reliable waterbird population data? (Resolution 5.2)

No

Please explain the reasons

> Not possible to allocate any budget

45. Has your country used the AEWA Guidelines for a waterbird monitoring protocol?

No

Please explain the reasons. What guidance has been used instead?

> Monitoring programs were existing at the time the guidelines were established. It is possible to use the Guidelines in future monitoring protocols.

FLANDERS: Waterbird monitoring has been organized since 1967 in the framework of the 'International Waterbird Census', coordinated by Wetlands International, to which monitoring schemes are optimised.

BELGIUM: Since 1992 regular counts of seabirds are done from ships following standardized methods on an ad hoc basis, for research projects and in the framework of WinMon, a monitoring program to assess the impact of windmills that started in 2005.

Since 1997 monitoring of nesting gulls and terns is organized in the framework of ecological quality objectives of OSPAR

Wallonia: Trends in common birds numbers in Wallonia: through the environment dashboard in Wallonia, 75 species of birds are monitored. Though only representing 43% of the breeding species found in Wallonia, they account for 96% of the total bird population.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Guidance on waterbird monitoring methodology \(Wetlands International\)](#)

[Monitoring program to assess the impact of offshore windmills](#)

[OSPAR ecological quality objectives](#)

[Trends in common birds numbers in Wallonia](#)

46. Have any research programmes been established in your country in the last 5 years to address waterbird conservation priorities in accordance with the AEWA strategies and plans? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 3, Target 3.3)

No

Please explain the reasons.

> FLANDERS, WALLONIA and BRUSSELS: Research projects have primarily been planned and established in the framework of Natura2000 and species protection programmes. Some of this research is in the benefit of waterbirds but there is no specific research programme targeted to waterbirds.

47. List (or provide links to lists) of research related to waterbirds and their conservation that has been undertaken or results published in the past triennium (Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 3, Target 3.5)

> FLANDERS: An adaptation of the database for waterbird monitoring is planned in the framework of an Integrated Life Project 2014. A fragment of the Technical Application Form: 'WATERBIRDS DATA SYSTEM' The waterbirds data collection system is as a monitoring network for several bird species protected by the Birds Directive that is operational since several years. However it has a different approach not yet adapted to new monitoring systems. The existing legacy application needs to be updated and refactored.'

48. Has your government provided over the past triennium funds and/or logistical support for the International Waterbird Census at international or national level? (Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 3, Target 3.1)

No

Please explain the reasons

> Not possible to allocate any budget. In Flanders, a professional ornithologist at the Nature and Forest Research Institute (institute of the Flemish government) is responsible for coordinating the IWC and maintaining the waterbird database.

Wallonia: no budget and no human resource available for this monitoring

Brussels Region: ngo AVES is subsidised to do bird monitoring.

**49. Has the impact of lead fishing weights on waterbirds been investigated in your country?
(AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.3.12)**

No

Are there plans to investigate the impact of lead fishing weights on waterbirds in your country?

No

Please provide reason(s)

> no priority

Pressures and Responses

8. Education and Information

8.1. Communication, Education and Public Awareness

50. Has your country developed and implemented programmes for raising awareness and understanding on waterbird conservation and about AEWA specifically? (Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 4, Target 4.3 and AEWA Action Plan, paragraphs 6.1-6.4, Resolution 3.10, Resolution 5.5)

Yes, being implemented

Please describe the awareness programmes which have been developed. Please upload any relevant sample materials which have been developed and add contact details of a contact person for each programme.

> • Flemish Region:

- The Agency for Nature and Forests runs several nature visitor centers, where the public is informed on a large spectrum of nature conservation issues. Contact: Marie-Laure Vanwanseele, anb@vlaanderen.be
- Nature conservation NGO's also pay attention to raising public awareness about nature conservation in general, including waterbirds and wetland ecosystems. Contact: e.g. largest Nature NGO Natuurpunt, director Chris Steenwegen, chris.steenwegen@natuurpunt.be

• Walloon Region:

- The Nature and Forest Department organises CEPA activities (Philippe.vanasbroek@spw.wallonie.be);
- Naturalists' associations are financed in view to organize public awareness and education activities. Nature protection organizations such as the WWF, the 'Ligue Royale pour la Protection des Oiseaux' (LRBPO, protection.oiseaux@birdprotection.be), Natagora (info@natagora.be), "Ardenne et Gaume" (secretariat@ardenne-et-gaume.be), 'Les Cercles des Naturalistes de Belgique', 'Jeunes et Nature' and 'Forêt Wallonne' all have educational activities oriented towards nature conservation.
- Public education and awareness is one of the missions of Natural parks (info@fnpw.be)

• Brussels Region:

- Naturalists' associations are financed in view to organize public awareness and education activities. Nature protection organizations such as the 'Ligue Royale pour la Protection des Oiseaux' (LRBPO, director Corentin Rousseau, corentin.rousseau@birdprotection.be), Natagora/Aves (director Philippe Funcken, philippe.funcken@natagora.be), Natuurpunt (director Chris Steenwegen, chris.steenwegen@natuurpunt.be), and many others all have educational activities oriented towards nature conservation.
- Public education and awareness is one of the missions of Brussels Environment, the regional administration for energy and environment.

• Federal level: Belgian marine territory:

- A national campaign was launched in April 2005 in order to create a social basis for the different "values" of the sea.
- In 2012 a brochure has been published on the natural values of the sea to raise public awareness. Contact: Federal Public Service (FPS) Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment, marien.milieu.marin@environment.belgium.be

Does the programme specifically focus on AEWA and the provisions of its Action Plan?

No

51. Has a National AEWA Focal Point for Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) been nominated by your country? (Resolution 5.5)

No

Please explain the reasons

> CEPA is followed up by the National Focal Point, who informs the Regional Focal Points.

52. Have measures been taken by your country to implement the provisions related to "Education and Information" in the AEWA Action Plan over the last triennium? (AEWA Action Plan, Paragraphs 6.1-6.4)

Yes

Please indicate which measures have been taken:

a. National training programmes have been arranged for personnel responsible for implementing AEWA

No

Please explain the reasons

> No budget could be allocated for specific training programmes in the framework of AEWA. People involved in

the awareness programmes mentioned in question 50. are either trained professionals or volunteers that can follow various training programmes in their NGOs or through knowledge sharing institutions such as Inverde (part of the Flemish Agency for Nature and Forests). Those training programmes are usually situated in a broader biodiversity framework.

b. Training programmes and materials have been developed in cooperation with other Parties and/or the Agreement Secretariat

No

Please explain the reasons

> Training programmes and materials related to waterbirds usually are part of a broader nature training, developed by nature NGOs or government administrations. For programmes and materials in Dutch, the language is an extra barrier for co-developing such materials.

c. AEWA related information and training resources have been exchanged with other Parties and/or shared with the Agreement Secretariat

No

Please explain the reasons

> No dedicated AEWA related information and training resources were produced. Information and training resources related to waterbirds usually are part of broader nature information and training resources, developed by nature NGOs or government administrations. For information and resources in Dutch, the language is an extra barrier for exchanging these.

d. Specific public awareness campaigns for the conservation of populations listed in Table 1 have been conducted

Yes

How can the effectiveness of the measures be rated?

Other

> not evaluated

Please provide details

> FLANDERS: In the framework of Natura2000, public awareness for the conservation of populations of relevant waterbird species has been addressed by the website www.natura2000.vlaanderen.be

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

<http://www.natura2000.vlaanderen.be>

53. Have World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) activities been carried out in your country during this reporting cycle? (Resolution 5.5)

Yes

Please describe the activity/activities briefly and upload any sample materials, links or photos available related to the activity/event.

> In 2014, there was a birdwatching activity at Uitkerkse Polder and a press release on the reporting for the EU Birds Directive.

In 2012, there were activities (guided tours, photo workshop, birdwatching) at the Zwin.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Activity at Uitkerkse Polder](#)

[Press release on WMBD 2014](#)

54. Has your country provided funding and/or other support, as appropriate (e.g. expertise, network, skills and resources) towards the implementation of the AEWA Communication Strategy? Please consider both national and international funding and different types of support provided. (Strategic Plan 2009- 2017, Objective 4, Target 4.1 and Resolution 3.10, Resolution 5.5)

No

Please explain the reasons

> No budget available.

55. In Resolution 3.10 the Meeting of the Parties encouraged Contracting Parties to host AEWA Exchange Centres for their respective regions. Has your country considered/shown interest in

hosting a Regional AEWA Exchange Centre? (Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 3, Target 2 and Resolution 3.10)

Not considered yet

Please provide details on the answer given above

> No budget available.

Pressures and Responses

9. Implementation

57. Has your country approached non-contracting parties to encourage them to ratify the Agreement? (Resolution 3.10)

Report only on activities over the past triennium

No

Please explain the reasons

> This was not a priority. No opportunity arose to approach non-contracting parties on this issue.

58. Has your country supported/developed international co-operation projects for the implementation of the Agreement, according to the priorities outlined in the AEWA International Implementation Tasks (IIT) for the current triennium? (Resolution 5.3)

No

Please explain the reasons

> There was no budget available.

59. Has your country donated funds to the AEWA Small Grants Fund over the past triennium? (Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 5, Target 5.4)

No

Please explain the reasons

> There was no budget available.

60. Has your country donated other funding or provided in-kind support to activities coordinated by the Secretariat?

No

Please explain the reasons

> No budget available

61. Does your country have in place a national coordination mechanism for implementation of AEWA, possibly linking to national coordination mechanisms for other biodiversity Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)? (Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 5, Target 5.7)

Yes, it is operational on a regular basis

Please provide details

> The Coordination Committee for International Environmental Issues / Nature, an interregional coordination committee.

62. Has your country concluded, or considered concluding, site twinning schemes with other countries, the sites of which share common migratory waterbirds or conservation issues? (Resolution 5.20)

Yes

Please provide details on each twinning arrangement

> Twinning of sites near the Zwin Tidal Area in the ZTAR project and REECZ project: nature restoration and recreation/ecotourism.

The Hedwige-Prosper project across the Dutch/Belgian border in the Scheldt Estuary: restoring waterbird habitat.

Dune restoration in Flanders and North France via Life project FLANDRE.

Collaboration with the Netherlands and Germany in the tri-country Park: broad collaboration including landscape management.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Zwin site twinning Ztar project](#)

[Zwin site twinning REECZ project](#)

[Hedwige-prosper project \(English\)](#)

[Life project Flandre \(English\)](#)

[tri-country park](#)

63. Are those officers in your country's government responsible for AEWA implementation co-ordinated and engaged with national processes to implement and to assess delivery of the CBD Strategic Plan 2011 - 2020 including the Aichi targets?

Yes

Please provide details

> The Coordination Committee for International Environmental Issues / Nature takes this into account

64. How would your country suggest promoting further links between the biodiversity MEAs to which your country is a Contracting Party, so as to make your work more efficient and effective?

> By the harmonization of the reporting formats, harmonized cooperation between these conventions and agreements, use of "indicators": 'blinkers', which give signals and indications of situations and trends. Indicators could show how well which goals of the Agreement are being reached in a rather easy way, would allow a high degree of standardization in the reporting process.

Sets of indicators have been developed at EU-level (in the framework of the EU Biodiversity Strategy) and in the framework of the new Strategy for Migratory Species under CMS. Those sets could form a basis for specific indicators for the AEWA Action Plan.

Pressures and Responses

10. Climate Change

65. Please outline relevant climate change research, assessments and/or adaptation measures that are relevant to migratory waterbirds and which have been undertaken or planned in your country. (Resolution 5.13)

a. Research and studies of climate change impacts on waterbirds

No relevant activities

Please explain the reasons

> Research and studies of climate change impacts on waterbirds are not a priority in climate change research.

b. Assessment of the potential vulnerability to climate change of key habitats used by waterbird species (including those outside protected area networks) (Please note that the question asks about habitats, rather than sites. Question 22 in Section 5, sub-section 5.2 investigates vulnerability of sites to climate change)

Planned

Please provide details

> FLANDERS: Study in preparation: the Institute for Nature and Forest Research will perform an exploratory literature study to relevant research on the effects of climate change to nature in Flanders. Complementary to this planned study, Ghent University performed a general study on climate adaptation. One of the case studies dealt with the Blankaart area, which is key waterbird habitat.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[BIJLAGE - Discussienota_workshops.pdf](#) - Discussion document on workshops related to the Ghent University climate adaptation report (Dutch)

[20150324_Nota_Klimaatadaptatie_FINAAL.pdf](#) - Ghent University report on climate adaptation (Dutch)

c. Assessment of the potential vulnerability of waterbird species to climate change.

No relevant activities

Please explain the reasons

> Assessment of the potential vulnerability of waterbirds to climate change is not a priority in climate change impact assessment. The focus has been given in the first place to vegetation in general and impacts on water quantity and quality.

d. Review of relevant national conservation policies relevant to waterbirds and climate change.

Undertaken

Please provide references or weblinks to any such work so as to facilitate their use as potential case-studies to assist other Contracting Parties

> The National Biodiversity Strategy has been reviewed. This is relevant to waterbirds and to climate change, although its scope is much broader.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[National Belgian Biodiversity Strategy 2020](#)

e. National Action Plan for helping waterbirds adapt to climate change (as a separate implementation process or as part of a larger national framework for biodiversity adaptation to climate change. Please note that Question 23 in Section 5, sub-section 5.2 investigates national measures for increasing resilience of the ecological network for waterbirds to climate change).

No relevant activities

Please explain the reasons

> Flanders: there is a Flemish Climate Policy plan. The Flemish Adaptation plan contains a section on the effects and adaptation possibilities on nature in general, but nothing specified for waterbirds.

Brussels Region: Climate Plan (2002). new plan in prep.

Belgium: Draft Federal Adaptation Plan on climate change has a chapter on the marine environment in general, but nothing specified for waterbirds.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Flemish Climate Policy plan \(Dutch\)](#)

f. Other undertaken or planned relevant activities.

No

66. Has your country used the AEWA Guidelines on measures needed to help waterbirds to adapt to climate change?

No

Please explain the reasons. What other guidance has been used instead?

> Flanders, Wallonia and the Brussels Region: The Climate Action plan is a conceptual plan. At this stage it is not relevant to use specific guidelines for waterbirds. With the implementation at specific sites the local biodiversity (including waterbirds) will be taken into account.

Pressures and Responses

11. Avian Influenza

67. What issues have proved challenging in responding nationally to the spread of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in the last triennium and what further guidance or information would be useful in this respect?

67.1 List challenges

> The main challenge has been and still is the organization of the passive and active surveillance in wild birds in order to submit for a laboratory analysis a sufficient number of carcasses of wild birds that have died in nature. The notification of such suspicions in wildlife is at the moment mainly done by professional wild life "workers", e.g. ornithologists and employees of the regional nature authorities. In the last year, we have expanded this surveillance birds that die in wild birds refuge centers. A third pillar, that of a nationwide telephone number, free of charge, via which the public can notify suspect cases of mortality in wild birds, has not been very successful: once the attention skips away from bird flu towards other topics, the willingness of the public to notify wild birds found dead diminishes quickly.

67.2 List required further guidance or information

> It would be interesting to hear from other countries that have good experiences with public involvement how they have organized and stimulated the continuous awareness amongst the public.

12. Confirmation

Confirmation of information verification and approval for submission

Please confirm:

In addition a scanned copy of an official letter from the relevant state institution, approving the report for submission, can be attached.

I declare that the information provided in the Report on the implementation of AEWA for the period 2012-2014 has been verified and the report has been approved for submission by the appropriate state institution in the country.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Letter of approval AEWA report Belgium 2012-14.pdf](#) - Official letter of the Agency for Nature and Forests

Date of submission

> 07/05/2015