



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

> Bulgaria

Date of entry into force of AEWA in the Contracting Party

> 01.02.2000

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

> Ministry of Environment and Water

Name and title of the head of institution

> Ivelina Vasileva - Minister

Mailing address - Street and number

> 22, Maria Luisa Blvd

Postal code

> 1000

City

> Sofia

Country

> Bulgaria

Telephone

> (+ 359 2) 988 25 77

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E-mail

> minister@moew.government.bg

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> <http://www.moew.government.bg>

Designated National Focal Point (NFP) for AEWA matters

Name and title of the NFP

> Mr. Valeri Georgiev, state expert

Affiliation (institution, department)

> Ministry of Environment and Water

Mailing address - Street and number

> 22, Maria Luisa Blvd

Postal code

> 1000

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> nnpsf@moew.government.bg

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> <http://www.moew.government.bg>

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

Name and title of the TC NFP

> N/A

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

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.

No

AEWA Species - *Larus marinus* / Great Black-backed Gull

English Common name(s):

Great Black-backed Gull

French Common name(s):

Goéland marin



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

> 2007-2011

Population unit

Individuals

Minimum

> 0

Maximum

> 6

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely natural vagrants

Population data quality

Moderate

Source of information

> National Monitoring System on Biodiversity: Middle Winter Water Birds Censuses in Bulgaria

Previous population estimate

Year

> 1997-2001

Population unit

Individuals

Minimum

> 0

Maximum

> 7

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely natural vagrants

Population data quality

Moderate

Source of information

> Mitchev, T., L.Profirov. (2003) Mid-winter numbers of waterbirds in Bulgaria (1977-2001). Pensoft Publishers. Sofia.159 p.

Population trend

Population trend

Unknown

Trend data quality

Poor

Source of information

> National Monitoring System on Biodiversity: Middle Winter Water Birds Censuses in Bulgaria

Legal Status

Does the species have any legal status?

Yes

National Red List Status

Does the species have any National Red List Status?

No

AEWA Species - *Larus ichthyaetus* / Great Black-headed Gull

English Common name(s):

Great Black-headed Gull, Pallas's Gull

French Common name(s):

Goéland ichthyaète



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

> 2007-2011

Population unit

Individuals

Minimum

> 0

Maximum

> 2

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely natural vagrants

Population data quality

Moderate

Source of information

> National Monitoring System on Biodiversity: Middle Winter Water Birds Censuses in Bulgaria

Previous population estimate

Year

> 1997-2001

Population unit

Individuals

Minimum

> 0

Maximum

> 2

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely natural vagrants

Population data quality

Moderate

Source of information

> Mitchev, T., L.Profirov. (2003) Mid-winter numbers of waterbirds in Bulgaria (1977–2001). Pensoft Publishers. Sofia.159 p.

Population trend

Population trend

Unknown

Source of information

> National Monitoring System on Biodiversity: Middle Winter Water Birds Censuses in Bulgaria

Legal Status

Does the species have any legal status?

Yes

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
- 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
- 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

> The methods are prohibited both by the Biological Diversity Act - listed in Annex 5 to Art 44 of the act, and according Art 65 of the Hunting and Game Protection Act.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[HuntGameProtAct_EN.pdf](#) - Hunting and Game Protection Act

[Biodiversity_Act_EN.pdf](#) - Biological Diversity Act

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)

- No

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 Bulgaria

National Single Species Action Plan for *Crex crex*

(Corncrake)

- No NSSAP

National Single Species Action Plan for *Gallinago media*

(Great Snipe)

- No NSSAP

National Single Species Action Plan for *Aythya nyroca*

(Ferruginous Duck)

- NSSAP in place and being implemented

When was the plan approved and published? Please provide a web link or attach a file, if available. Please

provide contact details for any person or organisation coordinating its implementation. Please list any activities and/or achievements over the past triennium.

> The plan was adopted on 12.05.2014. It can be found (in Bulgarian) on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Water at following link: <http://www.moew.government.bg/?show=top&cid=215>.

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

Single Species Action Plans in place. - in bulgarian only

National Single Species Action Plan for *Oxyura leucocephala*

(White-headed Duck)

NSSAP in place, but not being implemented properly or at all

Please explain the reasons

> The plan was adopted on 12.05.2014. It can be found (in Bulgarian) on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Water at following link: <http://www.moew.government.bg/?show=top&cid=215>.

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

•Single Species Action Plans in place. - in bulgarian only

National Single Species Action Plan for *Platalea leucorodia*

(Eurasian Spoonbill)

No NSSAP

National Single Species Action Plan for *Anser erythropus*

(Lesser White-fronted Goose)

NSSAP in development

Please provide starting date and expected finalisation date

> The elaboration of the plan was commissioned to Bulgarian Society on Protection on Birds in 2013.

National Single Species Action Plan for *Branta ruficollis*

(Red-breasted Goose)

NSSAP in development

Please provide starting date and expected finalisation date

> The plan was developed and introduced to the Ministry of Environment and Water for final check and adoption. It was tabled for consideration by the National Biodiversity Council. The draft of the AP can be found on the attached link.

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

<http://www.moew.government.bg/?show=top&cid=530>

National Single Species Action Plan for *Limosa limosa*

(Black-tailed Godwit)

No NSSAP

National Single Species Action Plan for *Glareola nordmanni*

(Black-winged Pratincole)

No NSSAP

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)

Yes

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

National Single Species Action Plan for *Pelecanus crispus* / Dalmatian Pelican

For *Pelecanus crispus* / Dalmatian Pelican

NSSAP in place and being implemented

Please provide details

> The NSSAP covers the period of 2013-2022 and was adopted on 28.11.2012. It can be found (in Bulgarian) on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Water at following link: <http://www.moew.government.bg/?show=top&cid=215>.

National Single Species Action Plan for Phalacrocorax pygmeus / Pygmy Cormorant

For Phalacrocorax pygmeus / Pygmy Cormorant

NSSAP in place and being implemented

Please provide details

> The plan was adopted on 12.05.2014. It can be found (in Bulgarian) on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Water at following link: <http://www.moew.government.bg/?show=top&cid=215>.

National Single Species Action Plan for Botaurus stellaris / Great Bittern

For Botaurus stellaris / Great Bittern

NSSAP in place and being implemented

Please provide details

> The plan was adopted on 12.05.2014. It can be found (in Bulgarian) on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Water at following link: <http://www.moew.government.bg/?show=top&cid=215>.

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?

> The Action Plans are elaborating according to the provision of the Regulation № 5 from 1.08.2003 on the terms and conditions to develop action plans for plant and animal species (SG No 73 from 2003).

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?

Not applicable

Please explain

> No emergency situation emerged.

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)

No

Please explain the reasons

> No such project in place at present.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> No need for such re-establishments of species hence there is no need of such framework.

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

> There is no need for such activities at present.

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

> Legislation:

1. Biological Diversity Act (SG No 77 from 2002, amended)
2. Regulation No 4 from 8.07.2003 on the terms and conditions for issuing permits for introduction of non-native or reintroduction of native animal and plant species into the nature. (SG No 65 from 2003).
3. 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 (into force since 1 January 2015).

The enforcing institutions are the Minister of Environment and Water and the Executive Forestry Agency

Field for additional information (optional)

> According to the National Biological Diversity Act (SG No 77 from 2002, amended) any introduction on non-native species could be executed only under permission from Director of the Executive Forestry Agency, for the hunting of species, and the Minister of Environment and Water for the others species including those, imported for breeding purposes. The Minister of Environment and Water has right to prohibit the introduction of non-native species which can be detrimental for the survival of the native species and can threaten their habitats.

The procedures of granting of permits for such introduction have been set under the provision of the Regulation No 4 from 8.07.2003 on the terms and conditions for issuing permits for introduction of non-native or reintroduction of native animal and plant species into the nature. (SG No 65 from 2003).

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

> Regulation № 6 from 23 October 2003 minimum requirements and conditions for keeping animals in zoos and centers for breeding and reproduction of protected species (SG No 105 from 2003, amended) enforced by the Ministry of Environment and Water.

The enforcing institutions is the Minister of Environment and Water.

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)?

No

Please explain the reasons

> The problem is planned to be considered during 2012 in the process of elaboration of a new amendment to the Biological Diversity Act (SG No 77 from 2002, amended). The draft was prepared in 2014 but was tabled for 2015 due to some changes in the biodiversity related legislation adopted by the European Parliament and the Commission.

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)

Not applicable

Please explain

> No invasive species of waterbirds are recorded in Bulgaria.

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?

> The AEWA guidelines is not transposed in the national legislation. The management authority in such cases use the Regulation No 4 from 8.07.2003 on the terms and conditions for issuing permits for introduction of non-native or reintroduction of native animal and plant species into the nature. (SG No 65 from 2003).

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

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[IMPORTANT_SITES_IN_BULGARIA_For_AEWA_AP_T1.doc](#)

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

> No special publication exists. The presented sites are part of the National Protected Areas Network and incl. NATURA 2000 sites, Ramsar sites and Protected Areas sites with importance to the waterbird species.

Field for additional information (optional)

> All sites in the uploaded list sustain the species listed in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan.

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?

> The network of wetlands of international importance had been identified under the provisions of Ramsar Convention. The network of sites of national importance are determined as Important Bird Areas (IBA) in Bulgaria (Kostadinova, I. and Gramatikov, M. (eds.), 2007 and part of them are protected areas designated under National Protected Areas Act. In most of the cases the sites designated for these different reasons are overlapping due to their true importance for the migratory bird species. The Natura 2000 sites are designated in the period 2002-2014 according the EU Bird Directive. All designated sites are part of the national ecological network which includes Protected areas, Natura 2000 zones and the Ramsar sites.

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

No

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

> 11

Total area (ha)

> 49912.43

Out of the above total: number of protected sites
> 10

Out of the above total: protected area (ha)
> 11894.6

Number of protected sites with management plans in place which are being implemented
> 8

Area under protection (in ha) covered by management plans which are being implemented
> 28680,73

All sites of national importance

Total number
> 110

Total area (ha)
> 2511933,57

Out of the above total: number protected sites
> 110

Number of protected sites with management plans in place which are being implemented
> 6

Area under protection (in ha) covered by management plans which are being implemented
> 253192

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

> The term 'buffer zones' is taken out of the national legislation. All the areas which need protection are designated in borders that can provide the necessary protection. Currently 34,4 % of the territory of the country is covered by areas with special status of protection.

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)

No

Please explain the reasons

> All necessary areas are already designated taking into account the huge territorial coverage of the National Protected Areas Network. No special Action plan need.

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

No

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

No

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

> The game waterfowl species that occur in the country from Table 1 are: Anser albifrons, Anas penelope, Anas crecca, Anas platyrhynchos, Anas acuta, Anas querquedula, Anas clypeata, Aythya fuligula, Galinago galinago,

The whole territory of your country

> The Executive Forestry Agency collects information on the hunting of waterfowl through its regional forestry boards.

All harvesting activities

> Hunt only.

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?

> The Biological Diversity Act (SG No 77 from 2002, amended) ensures the prohibition of lead shot in the wetlands. The ban is in place since 1 June 2008. The prohibition is enforced by the Executive Forestry Board and covers all existing wetlands across the country.

Has assessment of compliance with the legislation been undertaken?

No

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

Field for additional information (optional)

> Pilot study in cooperation with Spain - Donana Biological Station and Institute on Game Animals Research has been done in 2012. The study revealed higher level of Pb in Red-breasted Gees compared to Greater White-front Gees. Further studies in other parts of the wintering distribution are needed. The region of the field research is one of the main hunting ground for years.

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?

Low

Please provide details

> Many injured birds annually are still received by the existing Rescue Centers created to save protected species. Some of them bear also gunshot wounds. Many of them are birds of prey, but also some injured waterfowl exist as geese, ducks and swans.

Field for additional information (optional)

> The Bulgarian legislation provides administrative measures for reducing illegal killing and various offences against the protected and game species.

Biological Diversity Act (SG No 77 from 2002, amended) provides administrative fines for the following offences against the protected species:

1. all forms of deliberate capture or killing of specimens by whatever devices, means, or methods;
2. hunting and disturbance, particularly during the period of breeding, rearing, wintering and migration;
3. destruction or taking of eggs, even where abandoned; destruction of, damage to, or removal of nests;

- 4.damage to, or destruction of, breeding, resting or staging places;
- 5.taking of found dead specimens;
- 6.possession, keeping, movement, transport, export, trade and offering for sale or exchange of specimens taken in the wild;
- 7.stuffing, possession, exhibition to the public, movement, transport, export, trade and offering for sale or exchange of stuffed specimens.

Any licensed hunter who committed an offences listed above or using prohibited means and methods during hunting shall be punished with a respective fine and shall be divested of the right to hunt for a period of one to two years.

Where the violation has been committed in respect of an endangered species of world-wide or European-wide conservation concern, divesting of the right to hunt shall be for a period of three years.

If any of those is committed within special areas of conservation or affecting endangered species of animals of world-wide conservation concern, the fines provided shall be imposed double the amount.

The Hunting and Game protection Act (SG No 78 from 2000, amended) provides administrative fines for the following offences against the game species:

1. taking, carrying, transporting or concealment of game found live, wounded or killed or identifiable parts thereof without a written hunting permit;
2. killing or catching game without having a duly certified membership card or hunting licence, or with a hunting licence and duly certified membership card, but without a hunting permit, or outside the date, locality, game quantity or species limit specified by this permit;
3. killing or catching game during the time of prohibited hunting or at a location prohibited for hunting or by prohibited means or methods;
4. hunting without a duly certified hunting licence or with a hunting licence but without a written hunting permit or hunts outside the localities specified in this permit, without having killed or caught game.
- 5.killing or poisoning of game has taken place as a consequence of applying toxic preparations.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Hunting and Game Protection Act.pdf](#)

[Biological Diversity Act.pdf](#)

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

No

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

> No information.

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 6.1. Hunting

> Bulgarian Society of Protection of Birds (BSPB) has published several leaflets and a field guide for hunters. The field guide was reprinted by the Ministry of Environment and Water in 2014. These materials depict huntable and protected waterfowl and how to differentiate between them in order to reduce casual mortality due to miss identification. The filed guide was distributed for free.

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

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

> According the Environment Protection Act (SG No 91 from 2002, amended) EIA is carried out for plans, programs and investment proposals for construction, activities and technologies or their changes, upon which implementation are possible significant impacts over environment (incl. wetlands).

Do the SEA/EIA processes include public participation?

Yes

Please provide details

> All SEA/EIA are subject to public consideration before to be provided for final decision respectively to the

Ministry of Environment and Water or Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Water. Before the approval the SEA/EIA have to be put under consideration by the respective Advisory boards of the mentioned institutions. These Advisory boards are composed from different representatives of respective public institutions, scientist and NGO.

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

> N/A

Field for additional information (optional)

> All projects related to construction of Wind Generators are subject to the procedures of SEA or EIA.

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

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.

No

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

> Bulgaria has a proper map since 2013.

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

> In the past years the owners of the power lines grid with low voltage have started to secure the stork nests from the impact of electricity. During the period 2011 -2014 over 1300 stork nest were rebuild on metal platforms mounted on the electric poles. The process continues.

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

> A project named 'Mapping and determination of the conservation status of the habitats and species - Phase I. financed by the Operational Programme Environment 2007 - 2013 (OPE) of the EU European Regional Development Fund, Cohesion Fund has produced a Zoning map of the territory of Bulgaria in terms of opportunities for construction of wind turbines - Map of sensitive areas for birds. The results are published on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Water in 2013.

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

http://natura2000.moew.government.bg/PublicDownloads/Auto/OtherDoc/276299/276299_Birds_120.pdf - Mapping of the sensitive areas for Birds.

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

No Information

When and how do you intend to fill this information gap?

> The problem should be considered during the elaboration on amendment Act to the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act (SG No 41 from 2001, amended).

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)

No

Please explain the reasons

> The Fisheries and Aquaculture Act (SG No 41 from 2001, amended) regulates the by-catch of sea mammals, the animals caught shall be returned immediately to the sea, regardless of their condition. No similar provisions are in place for the sea birds. This problematic is not yet discussed between the relevant governmental bodies.

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

> The information is collecting in the frame of the National biodiversity monitoring system.

Covering the passage/migration period

Fully

Please provide details

> In the frame of the National biodiversity monitoring system.

Covering the non-breeding/wintering period

Fully

Please provide details

> The International Waterbird Census (IWC) has been carried out annually. It is part of the National biodiversity monitoring system. IWC is carried out by the Ministry of Environment and Water, Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Water and Executive Agency of Environment and Water in collaboration with NGOs (BSPB, Green Balkan Federation, Le Balkan Foundation, Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Researches at the Bulgarian Academy of Science.

Field for additional information (optional)

> Bulgaria has National biodiversity monitoring system which is administrate by the Executive Environmental Agency of the Ministry of Environment and Water.

The National biodiversity monitoring system is a comprehensive mechanism for long-term study and summary of the changes in the biodiversity of Republic of Bulgaria. This is possible on the one hand through concerted and long-term monitoring of the biodiversity components, accompanied by collection, processing, storage and data transmission, and through system of assessment and analysis of impacts on the biodiversity, its status as well as the measures taken to prevent its loss on the other hand. The National biodiversity monitoring system is an essential tool to help in making management decisions related to the biodiversity conservation in Bulgaria at national level, at the same time it serves the information needs of the widest possible range of users.

Due to the complexity and scope of tasks, the scarcity (and lack in some cases) of scientific data on some areas and components of the biological diversity, as well as the insufficient administrative and financial capacity, the National biodiversity monitoring system is developed in accordance with "growth model". This means that the National biodiversity monitoring system is a flexible system that can expand and change over time - for example by adding or excluding monitoring objects, as well as analysis at later stages with the aim to adjust the priorities of the system.

The main objective of the National biodiversity monitoring system is to provide information that is necessary for effective national environmental policy.

The specific objectives of the National biodiversity monitoring system are:

1. Systematic monitoring of the biodiversity components and the processes affecting its status, using a scientifically reliable and practical methods for collecting and processing data.
2. Assessment and analysis of: the biodiversity state; the influence of the anthropogenic factors on its components; the measures taken to prevent its loss.
3. Implementation of national legislation and national strategic documents, the country's obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international treaties.
4. Early warning about processes and trends leading to damage and extinction of species and habitats.
5. Provision of information about the biodiversity state that are suitable for use by the general public.

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

> Lack of funds.

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)

Yes

Please list those programmes and indicate which AEWA priorities they are addressing

> 1. During past 5 year period the 'National Nature Protection Service' Directorate at the Ministry of Environment and water lounge a project financed by the Operational Programme Environment 2007 - 2013 (OPE) of the EU European Regional Development Fund, Cohesion Fund, named 'Mapping and determination of the conservation status of the habitats and species - Phase I. The main goals of the projects are Mapping and identification of conservation status of natural habitats and species covered by Directive 92/34/EEC, and determining the risk to wild birds, Directive 2009/147/EO, areas for construction of wind turbines. The project require also mapping of the breeding birds in the protected zones covered by Natura 2000 network.

2.Counting of migratory bird take place annually from the middle of August to middle of September at Atanasovsko Lake near town of Bourgas at the Black Sea coast.

3.In the period 2011-2013 a field study experiment was designed to assess the impact of grazing geese on crops in Coastal Dobrudzha.The assessment is published in MSc thesis of Sofia University, Faculty of Biology. The Results have been used to base the new agri-environmental measure for the 2015-2020 period of National Agri-environmental Programme. Further assessments in other regions (i.e. Burgas lakes area) are envisaged in the draft national species action plan for the Red-breasted Geese.

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)

> Project named 'Mapping and determination of the conservation status of the habitats and species - Phase I. financed by the Operational Programme Environment 2007 - 2013 (OPE) of the EU European Regional Development Fund, Cohesion Fund. The results are published on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Water in 2013 (see web link below).

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

[Project 'Mapping and determination of the conservation status of the habitats and species - Phase I' - results \(in bulgarian\)](#)

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)

Yes

Nationally

Yes

Please provide details

> The International Waterfowl Census (IWC) as part of a national biodiversity monitoring system has targeted funding through the annual budget of the Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Water (RIEW), National Parks (NP) and Executive Environment Agency (EEA). The RIEW and NP provide experts and vehicle to support the teams formed mostly by scientists and birdwatchers from the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Researches at the Bulgarian Academy of Science and NGOs involved.

Internationally

No

Please explain the reasons

> No allocated funds.

49. Has the impact of lead fishing weights on watebirds 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

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)

No

Please explain the reasons

> No administrative capacity.

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

> No administrative capacity.

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 funds and administrative capacity.

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 assessed.

Please provide details

> Some activities related to raising awareness and understanding on waterbird conservation was carried out in the period 2012-2014:

1. Under LIFE+ project "Safe Ground for Redbreasts", LIFE09 NAT/BG/000230, implemented by the Bulgarian Society of the Protection of Birds (BSPB) a series of free training sessions for teachers from schools in Dobrich and Silistra Districts took place. Most of them were organized in collaboration with the Regional Education Inspectorate (REI) - Dobrich of the Ministry of Education and Sciences (MES). BSPB education experts have also participated in several annual meetings of RIE experts in science and in the national conference on environmental education, to reach an even wider range of teachers.

In 2012 in frame of the project was published the first part of the education manual for teachers, "With Redbreastie at school and in the wild", which is aimed at diversifying the subjects "Man and Nature" and "Biology" with interesting quizzes and games related to the conservation of the Red-breasted Goose and its winter habitats. The second part, which came out subsequently, targets a wider range of subjects - mathematics, Bulgarian, English, geography, technology, etc.

The two parts of the handbook, supplemented with other useful and entertaining materials, are included in the electronic guide for the teacher - environmentalist, which aims to help diversify the learning process and make a fun for the children.

2. In the past triennium a number of Festivals of the White Stork were organised in village of Belozem (the VII, VIII and IX Festivals) and village of Mramor (V, VI, VII Festivals). The Festivals are organised by local Municipality of v. Mramor) and by local Municipality and Green Balkans Federation in v. Belozem. The main purpose of the events is to promote the idea of a possible harmonious coexistence of people with nature and attract more tourists to this picturesque regions. The festival in Belozem takes place since 2005, when the

German foundation "Euronatur" designated Belozem as European White stork village.

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

> Restricted budget.

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 administrative capacity.

56. Training for CEPA (Communication, Education and Public Awareness) at national level is supposed to be conducted by staff who have been trained in the framework of an AEWA Training of Trainers programme. Have staff who were trained as part of a Training of Trainers workshop conducted national CEPA training in your country in the past triennium? (Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 4, Target 4.2)

Applicable only for countries in regions where Training of Trainers programme has taken place (for Eastern and Southern African countries in Naivasha, Kenya, May 2013, and for Lusophone African countries in Luanda, Angola, January 2014)

No

Please explain the reasons

> No administrative capacity and allocated funds.

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

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

> No allocated funds and restricted budget.

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

> No allocated funds.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> No allocated funds

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)

No

Please explain the reasons

> Low administrative capacity.

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)

No

Please explain the reasons

> No allocated funds and low administrative capacity.

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

> Almost all officers in Biodiversity division are engaged to work in this field but in different extend.

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

> Low administrative capacity and no allocated funds.

f. Other undertaken or planned relevant activities.

No

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

> No major threats from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza were detected in the past triennial hence no challenges had been identified.

67.3 Field for additional information (optional)

> The Veterinary Authorities in Bulgaria have responded to any possible threat from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza according to the existing veterinarian procedures.

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.

Date of submission

> 20 May 2015