



# 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](mailto:aewa_national_reporting@unep.de)

## 1. General Information

### Name of reporting Contracting Party

> Croatia

### Date of entry into force of AEWA in the Contracting Party

> 01.09.2000

### 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 Nature Protection, Nature Protection Directorate

Name and title of the head of institution

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### Designated National Focal Point (NFP) for AEWA matters

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**Designated National Focal Point for Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA NFP) matters**

Name and title of the CEPA NFP

> CEPA NFP has not been designated

**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

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> Jelena Kralj, Institute of Ornithology, CASA

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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

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

[Kralj & Barišić 2013 - RARE BIRDS IN CROATIA](#)

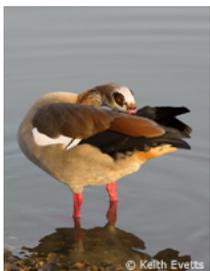
#### AEWA Species - *Alopochen aegyptiacus* / Egyptian Goose

##### 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

Non-breeding/wintering

#### Species Status - Non-breeding/wintering

#### Latest population estimate

Year

> 2012

Population unit

Individuals

Minimum

> 0

Maximum

> 1

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely escapes from collections

Population data quality

Good

### **Previous population estimate**

No information

No information

### **Population trend**

Population trend

Unknown

### **Species Status - Field for additional information (optional)**

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

> First time recorded in 2005. Occasional records of individual birds.

### **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 - *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

Non-breeding/wintering

### Species Status - Non-breeding/wintering

### Latest population estimate

Year

> 2012

Population unit

Individuals

Minimum

> 0

Maximum

> 6

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely escapes from collections

Population data quality

Good

### Previous population estimate

No information

No information

## **Population trend**

Population trend

Unknown

## **Species Status - Field for additional information (optional)**

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

> First time recorded in 1991. In total, 7 records of 12 birds reported between 1991 and 2012.

## **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

Non-breeding/wintering

### Species Status - Non-breeding/wintering

### Latest population estimate

Year

> 2013

Population unit

Individuals

Minimum

> 0

Maximum

> 1

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely escapes from collections

Population data quality

Good

### Previous population estimate

No information

No information

## **Population trend**

Population trend

Unknown

## **Species Status - Field for additional information (optional)**

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

> Only one record in 2013

## **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

Non-breeding/wintering

### Species Status - Non-breeding/wintering

### Latest population estimate

Year

> 2012

Population unit

Individuals

Minimum

> 0

Maximum

> 7

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely escapes from collections

Population data quality

Good

### Previous population estimate

No information

No information

## Population trend

Population trend

Unknown

## Species Status - Field for additional information (optional)

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

> First time recorded in 1890. In total, 4 records of 11 birds recorded during last 50 years. All records out of the breeding season (Oct-Dec, one record in April).

## 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

Non-breeding/wintering

### Species Status - Non-breeding/wintering

### Latest population estimate

Year

> 2012

Population unit

Individuals

Minimum

> 0

Maximum

> 2

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely escapes from collections

Population data quality

Good

### Previous population estimate

No information

No information

## **Population trend**

Population trend

Unknown

## **Species Status - Field for additional information (optional)**

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

> First time recorded in 1903. In total 7 records of 8 birds during last 50 years. All records from winter period (Nov-Jan).

## **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

> In respect of the hunting, capture or killing of naturally occurring birds in the wild state in the territory of Croatia, the above mentioned modes of taking are prohibited by provisions of Article 66, Paragraph 1 of the Nature Protection Act (OG 80/2013). Exceptionally, the Ministry of Environmental and Nature can allow those modes of taking, but only where there is no other satisfactory solution, for the following reasons:

- in the interests of public health and safety (including the air safety),
- to prevent serious damage to crops, livestock, forests, fisheries and water,
- for the protection of flora and fauna;
- for the purposes of research and teaching, of re-population, of re- introduction and for the breeding necessary for these purposes;
- to permit, under strictly supervised conditions and on a selective basis, the capture, keeping or other judicious use of certain birds in small numbers.

In cases of huntable bird species, the above mentioned modes of taking can exceptionally be allowed under the Hunting Act (OG 140/05, 75/09, 153/09 and 14/14) by the minister responsible for hunting. This permit is subject to prior approval by the ministry responsible for nature protection.

#### 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 Croatia

National Single Species Action Plan for *Crex crex*

(Corncrake)

- No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> Lack of human and financial resources for drafting NSSAP, but species is adequately monitored, educational and promotional activities are organized and agri-environment measures (payment for the delay of mowing) are underway.

Field for additional information (optional)

> Presentation of traditional mowing practice in Croatia is organized within the Corncrake conservation awareness raising event. This manifestation is being organized by Public Institution for Conservation of Natural Values in Zagreb County, annually, since 2009.

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

Corncrake event in Croatia - Corncrake event in Croatia

National Single Species Action Plan for Gallinago media

(Great Snipe)

No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> Species is irregular species, present in small numbers during the passage period and development of this NSSAP is not priority.

National Single Species Action Plan for Aythya nyroca

(Ferruginous Duck)

No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> Lack of human and financial resources for NSSAP development.

National Single Species Action Plan for Platalea leucorodia

(Eurasian Spoonbill)

No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> Lack of human and financial resources for NSSAP development.

National Single Species Action Plan for Limosa limosa

(Black-tailed Godwit)

No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> Lack of human and financial resources for NSSAP development.

**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?

> Although the national single species action plans (NSSAPs) are not developed yet preparations for their development were made and in this process AEWA Guidelines were used and will be used in the future because they correspond to principles and methods used in preparation of action plans for other species (e.g. large carnivores, saker falcon etc.).

### 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?

> There were no emergency situations in the reporting period.

#### **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

> Until now no re-establishment project was proposed, approved or undertaken. Nevertheless, according to the Nature Protection Act (OG 80/13) and Ordinance on the method of preparing and implementing risk assessment studies with respect to introduction, reintroduction and breeding of wild taxa (OG 34/08), the ministry responsible for nature protection is obliged to keep the records of granted authorisations for introduction, reintroduction or breeding.

**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

> Re-introduction of extinct wild species and repopulation of wild species is regulated with the Nature Protection Act (OG 80/13) (Articles 74-77) and Ordinance on the method of preparing and implementing risk assessment studies with respect to introduction, reintroduction and breeding of wild taxa (OG 34/08). It is important to stress that provisions related to re-introduction and re-population of wild species are in force since 2005 and were a part of the former Nature Protection Act (OG 70/05, 139/08, 57/11).

**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?**

No

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

> No translocation was done in the reporting period 2012-2014.

#### **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

> Title of legislation: Nature Protection Act (OG 80/13)

Year of adoption: 2013

Institution that adopted the Nature Protection Act: Croatian Parliament

Institution that enforces the Nature Protection Act: Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection

Field for additional information (optional)

> According to the Nature Protection Act (OG 80/13)(Articles 68-73) it is forbidden to introduce alien wild species into the nature of the Republic of Croatia and into the ecosystems where they do not naturally occur. Exceptionally, introduction can be authorized by the competent authority (Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection) if it does not pose the risk for biodiversity, human health and does not harm the economic activities. Any legal or physical person wishing to obtain the permit for introduction of alien wild species into the nature must apply for it to the Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection. In the procedure of authorization, the Ministry requests an expert opinion from the State Institute for Nature Protection. In case when, according to the opinion, there is no ecological risk, the Ministry can authorize introduction. In case when, according to the opinion, ecological risk can not be excluded, the Ministry will ask the applicant to deliver the study on the assessment of the risk of introduction into the nature. The Ministry is obliged to inform the public about the application and the study on the assessment of the risk of introduction into nature and to carry out the public hearing, as well as to obtain the opinion on the study from the State Institute for Nature Protection. Also, in case of alien bird species, the Ministry must obtain an opinion from the European Commission. The Ministry decides on the basis of the opinion from the State Institute for Nature Protection and the opinion of the public, and in case of alien bird species, also takes into account the opinion from the European Commission. The exception from this rule relates to alien species that are used for hunting, fishing and in forestry and agriculture where authorization is granted by the Ministry of Agriculture but subject to prior approval by the Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection. It is important to stress that provisions prohibiting the introduction of alien species into the nature of Republic of Croatia are in force since 2005 and were a part of the former Nature Protection Act (OG 70/05, 139/08, 57/11).

**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

> Title: Animal Protection Act (OG 135/06, 37/13 and 125/13)

Year of Adoption: 2006

Institution that adopted it: Croatian Parliament

Institution that enforces it: Ministry of Agriculture

Title: Ordinance on establishing and licensing of the ZOOs (OG 67/05)

Year of Adoption: 2005

Institution that adopted it: Ministry of Agriculture

Institution that enforces it: Ministry of Agriculture

Field for additional information (optional)

> ZOO licensing is regulated with Animal Protection Act (OG 135/06, 37/13 and 125/13) and Ordinance on establishing and licensing of the ZOOs (OG 67/05). According to Article 6 of this Ordinance, a plan for preventing the escape of animals from the ZOO and preventing intrusion from outside, must be a part of the application for ZOO licence.

**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 Republic of Croatia did not develop the National Action Plan for Invasive Alien Species (IAS).

Nevertheless, it is considered that National Strategy for the Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity of the Republic of Croatia (NSAP) from 2008 gives clear framework in relation to the IAS. NSAP recognizes IAS as one of the most important threats to the biological diversity. The new strategy (in preparation) will also take into account the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 and its actions related to IAS. Existing legal framework provides wide basis to combat IAS. The new Nature Protection Act (OG 80/13) in Articles 68-73 regulates import, placing on the market and introduction into the nature of all alien species (including IAS). In general, import, placing on the market and introduction into the nature of alien species is forbidden. Exceptionally, those activities can be allowed only if they do not pose the risk for biodiversity, human health and do not harm the economic activities. Procedures related to those exemptions are described under the question No.14. In addition, the Republic of Croatia as the EU Member State is obliged to secure effective implementation of the newly adopted 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.

**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

> There was no record on non-native waterbirds in Croatia, so no eradication deemed necessary.

**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)**

No

Please explain the reasons

> Up to now, negative impact of other non-native species (particular aquatic species) on migratory waterbird species was not evaluated.

**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?

> No, due to the fact that there was no record on non-native waterbirds in Croatia. However, certain elements of the AEWA Guidelines were implemented through the Nature Protection Act (OG 70/05, 139/08 and 57/11) and the Ordinance on the method of preparing and implementing risk assessment studies with respect to introduction, reintroduction and breeding of wild taxa (OG 35/08), as well as the new Nature Protection Act (OG 80/13) that entered into force in July 2013. Also, some elements are implemented through the Animal Protection Act (OG 135/06, 37/13 and 125/13) and Ordinance on establishing and licensing of the ZOOs (OG 67/05), where there is an obligation for ZOOs to have a plan for preventing the escape of animals from the ZOO and preventing intrusion from outside.

# 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

> Government of Croatia: Regulation on ecological network, OG 124/2013.

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

[NATURA 2000 u Hrvatskoj](#) - On-line database of Natura 2000 sites in Croatia

Field for additional information (optional)

> In 2007 the Government of Croatia has designated the National ecological network that included sites important for birds on national and international level (Regulation on proclamation of the ecological network, OG 109/07).

Upon the accession of Republic of Croatia to European Union in 2013, the Government of Croatia has designated the EU ecological network NATURA 2000 (Regulation on ecological network, OG 124/2013), including SPA's (Special Protection Areas) – internationally important sites for species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive as well as for all regularly occurring migratory birds. The online database on Natura 2000 in Croatia with the map showing these sites and its attributes is available on the web site of the State Institute for Nature Protection <http://natura2000.dzsp.hr/natura/>. SPA's are based on sites of previous National ecological network but elaborated more precisely, due to new information from recent ornithological surveys. Criteria used for designation of sites are BirdLife criteria for Important Bird Areas.

Several sites that are only of national importance for birds are not included in SPA's but are either protected in some of categories of protected areas or have been designated as SCI's of Natura 2000 (see Question 23 - All sites of national importance).

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

[Ecological networks - Natura 2000](#) - web page of the State Institute for Nature Protection

#### **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?

> Sites have been identified in the framework of preparation of National Ecological Network of Croatia (2005) and later on re-evaluated during preparation of the EU ecological network Natura 2000 (2013). The BirdLife criteria for Important Bird Areas in Europe were used as presented in the publication Heath and Evans 2004. These criteria are based on a site's international

importance for threatened bird species, congregatory bird species, assemblages of restricted-range bird species and assemblages of biome-restricted bird species. Criteria have been developed such that, by applying different ('staggered') numerical thresholds, the international importance of a site for a species may be categorized at three distinct geographical levels: global ('A' criteria),

European ('B' criteria) and European Union ('C' criteria). For the most categories of criteria, application of criteria involved comparing the data provided for each relevant bird species at the site – usually in form of an estimate of bird number of individuals or pairs of the species using the site – against a numerical threshold for the species concerned (normally representing 1% of the species population in question). Additionally, a national criteria (N) was established which allowed the evaluation of area for small number of species that are not listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive but threatened in Croatia. The area was considered nationally important according to this criterion if it supports  $\geq 1\%$  of the Croatian population of species.

Although AEWA Guidelines were not explicitly used, methodology and criteria for identifying sites of ecological network in Croatia also include requests from AEWA Guidelines.

Field for additional information (optional)

> The book „National Ecological Network – areas important for birds in Croatia“ with described implementation of BirdLife criteria can be downloaded from the web site of the State Institute for Nature Protection:

<http://www.dzsp.hr/eng/publications/brochures-and-bulletins/national-ecological-network---areas-important-for-birds-in-croatia-400.html>

## 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

> 30

Total area (ha)

> 1246861

Out of the above total: number of protected sites

> 25

Out of the above total: protected area (ha)

> 336771

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

> 9

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

> 175199

#### All sites of national importance

Total number

> 10

Total area (ha)

> 1189

Out of the above total: number protected sites

> 4

Out of the above total: protected area (ha)

> 621

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

> Croatia has designated ecological network Natura 2000 in 2013, based on the best available knowledge. It is considered that designated sites are large enough to be maintaining resilience of the network, so extra buffer zones are not needed.

**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

> The main reason is the lack of administrative and financial resources. Although Croatia has not developed a national action plans for filling gaps in designation and/or management of internationally and nationally important sites, it is considered that previously existing gaps have been filled in the framework of preparation and designation of ecological network (see question 20).

**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)**

No

Please explain the reasons

> Croatia has designated ecological network Natura 2000 just in 2013, based on the best currently available knowledge. During the coming years it will be possible to conclude if there is a need to increase resilience of ecological networks and the mentioned action plan will be prepared accordingly. If needed, adequate action plan will probably be included in revision of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

**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?

> Existing management plans were prepared based on general IUCN guidelines for management planning of protected areas as well as on propositions from the Nature Protection Act of Croatia. These are compatible with 8 steps proposed in AEWA Guidelines.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> Although CSN Tool has been used for other purposes, it has not been used directly in habitat conservation.

# 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)

All AEWA species occurring in your country

> According to the Hunting Act harvest data have to be collected for all huntable species, including those listed in AEWA Table 1.

The whole territory of your country

> The Nature Protection Act and Hunting Act apply to the whole territory of the Republic of Croatia.

All harvesting activities

> The Hunting Act applies to all harvesting activities.

Field for additional information (optional)

> Hunting levels are given only as very rough statistical data (for example, for ducks as a group).

#### 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?

> According to the Ordinance on amendments to the Ordinance on the modes of use of hunting weapon and charge (OG 66/10), a provision forbidding the use of lead shot in wetlands on the whole territory of the Republic of Croatia, entered into force on the date of accession of the Republic of Croatia to the EU. This Ordinance is a part of legal framework in hunting sector being one of ordinances passed under the Hunting Act (OG 140/05, 75/09, 153/09 and 14/14). Implementation and supervision of provision banning the use of lead shot is in the competence of the Ministry of Agriculture and its inner organizational unit responsible for hunting.

Has assessment of compliance with the legislation been undertaken?

Yes

Please explain how this was assessed.

> According to the Ordinance on amendments to the Ordinance on the modes of use of hunting weapon and charge (OG 66/10)

Please explain what was compliance with legislation found to be:

Good (almost full compliance)

Please indicate any known reasons for good compliance or any barriers to compliance. Please attach any published or unpublished references.

> Since the application of Ordinance on amendments to the Ordinance on the modes of use of hunting weapon and charge (OG 66/10) has not been detected use of lead shot in wetlands.

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

> Measurement of impact of the legislation has not been undertaken because Croatian legislation does not allow lead shot for hunting in wetlands.

#### 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?

Moderate

Please provide details

> According to the Hunting Act (OG 140/05, 75/09,153/09 and 14/14), measures for protection and breeding of game comprise all measures and actions stipulated by the hunting management plan, the game breeding programme or the game protection programme. Preventing illegal hunting is one of measures and as such is obligatory for hunting rightholders. Implementation of this measure in practice highly depends on number of hunting rangers in the hunting grounds as well as hunting inspectors and nature protection inspectors that is considered to be insufficient. Furthermore, much of the illegal hunting prevention depends upon education and conscience as well as the police surveillance/ presence in the field and cooperation between all parties included. Also, illegal hunting is a criminal offence according to Criminal Code (OG 125/11) that entered into force on 1st January 2013.

**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

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

Croatian Hunting Association - The web page of the Croatian Hunting Association contains detailed information on the procedure how to become a hunter in Croatia, including information on hunting courses and exams, hunting card etc.,

What do these cover?

Proficiency test for hunters (including bird identification)

Club Affiliation

Game Management Plans

**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?

> Although Guidelines were not used per se, elements of it can be found in existing national legislation.

**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.

> To be able to decide on restriction of use of lead fishing weights the comprehensive assessment is needed. It is planned to undertake such an assessment in the following years.

**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

> Both, the SEA and the EIA consider waterbirds and their habitats. Current SEA and EIA procedures in Republic of Croatia are prescribed by the Environmental Protection Act (OG 80/13) and are harmonized with relevant EU directives. Evaluation of impact on nature of plans or projects is undertaken according to the Environmental Protection Act, Regulation on strategic environmental assessment of plans and programmes (OG 64/08) and Regulation on environmental impact assessment (OG 61/14).

The Appropriate Assessment of the impact of plans, programmes and projects on the ecological network (e.g. its target features – species and/or habitats) is carried out, either in the scope of the SEA/EIA procedures (large scale projects/plans), or as stand- alone procedure according to provisions of the Nature Protection Act (OG 80/13) and Ordinance on the appropriate assessment for the ecological network (OG 146/14). Both, the Nature Protection Act and the Ordinance are harmonized with the EU Habitats Directive and Birds Directive.

Do the SEA/EIA processes include public participation?

Yes

Please provide details

> The obligation of public information and participation of the public, as well as the public concerned in the SEA and the EIA procedures is determined by the provisions of Article 160 Paragraph 1 of the Environmental Protection Act (OG 80/13). By the provisions of this Article, public authorities responsible for the strategic environmental assessment, environmental impact assessment, evaluation of the need for environmental impact assessment and for establishing the content of the environmental impact study prior to its preparation, are obliged to inform the public about those procedures. According to the Environmental Protection Act, the public has to be informed on the submitted request and the issued act stating the decision on the request, pursuant to the regulation referred to in Article 160, Paragraph 2 of this Act. By the provision of Article 161, Paragraph 2 of the Environmental Protection Act it is determined that the deadline which is set for informing the public in such cases may not be shorter than 30 days. The manner of informing the public and the public concerned in the aforementioned procedures is prescribed in details by the Regulation on information and participation of the public and public concerned in environmental matters (Official Gazette 64/08). More information on legal provisions can be found on the web page of the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection:

- <http://www.mzoip.hr/hr/okolis/propisi-i-medunarodni-ugovorixxxxx.html>

Details about finished and on-going studies on the environmental impact assessment can be found on the web page of the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection:

- <http://www.mzoip.hr/hr/okolis/puo-i-spuo.html>

**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

> Having in mind that all migratory waterbird species listed in Table 1 to the AEWA Action Plan occurring on the territory of the Republic of Croatia are either strictly protected according to the Nature Protection Act (OG 80/13) or managed in a controlled way and thus also protected according to the Hunting Act, the impact of projects on population of those species or their habitats must be assessed (as well as for all other protected birds in Croatia) as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment or as part of the Appropriate Assessment of the impact on target features of the national ecological network. For that reason all relevant projects falling into the scope of Environmental Protection Act (OG 80/13) and/or Nature Protection Act (OG 80/13) having impact on migratory waterbird populations were assessed in last three years and no outstanding project(s) can be pointed out.

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

Please describe the measures put in place

> In such cases the alternatives have been investigated and/or mitigation measures were prescribed related to the operating regime of the installations, painting the obstacles, warning obstacles on overhead power lines, administrative measures such as permitted operating time in a day/month/season, use of nondestructive construction methods, noise control etc.

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

Yes

Please provide details

> Although AEWA Guidelines on how to avoid, minimize or mitigate impact of infrastructural developments and related disturbance affecting waterbirds, have not been directly used, its elements are already implemented through the SEA and EIA procedures under the Environmental Protection Act (OG 80/13).

**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?

No

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

> Up to now, no formal and regular consultations have been established between government agencies, scientific bodies, nongovernmental organisations and the energy sector in order to monitor jointly the impacts of power lines on waterbirds. However, for power lines that undergo the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure, according to the Environmental Protection Act (OG 80/13), the impact assessment study is being evaluated by the expert committee comprising of experts from government agencies (including energy sector), regional/local authorities and scientific bodies. The nongovernmental organisations are involved through public consultations. According to the Environmental Protection Act, the public has to be informed on the submitted request, including the impact assessment study, and the issued act stating the decision on the request. Furthermore, similar procedure, applies for the strategic environmental assessment of county spatial plans in which the location, route and direction of power lines are defined. In this way consultations between government agencies, regional/local authorities and scientific bodies are conducted and the nongovernmental organisations are also involved through public consultations.

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?

No

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

> Although the baseline as mentioned in the Resolution 5.11. is not established as part of the special study, it is important to notice that waterbird migratory species naturally occurring in Croatia are target features of the ecological network Natura 2000, e.g. the target features of the Special Protection Areas (SPAs) that have been designated in accordance with provisions of the Article 4 of the Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive). For the Republic of Croatia the ecological network Natura 2000 is designated in October 2013 with the Regulation on the ecological network (OG 124/13). In that regard, the population size of those species for all SPAs has been estimated and information can be found on the web site of the State Institute for Nature Protection: <http://natura2000.dzsp.hr/natura/>.

In addition, the new Red Data Book of Birds of Croatia was recently published (Tutiš, V., Kralj, J., Radović, D., Čiković, D., Barišić, S. (ur.) (2013): Red Data Book of Birds of Croatia, Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection and State Institute for Nature Protection, Zagreb, 258 pages.), giving the latest information on population sizes and distribution of endangered bird species in Croatia, including the waterbird migratory species. When impacts of power line projects on the environment and nature, including the ecological network Natura 2000 are assessed, all publicly available data are used. Assessment is made in the scope of the SEA/EIA procedures according to the Environmental Protection Act (OG 80/13) and/or the Appropriate Assessment (AA) procedure according to the Nature Protection Act (OG 89/13). If the EIA/SEA study or AA study concludes that risk for the migratory bird species exists, it also propose the mitigation measures.

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, route and direction of a power lines are defined in relevant spatial plans. County spatial plans are subject to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) procedure according to the Environmental Protection Act (OG 80/13). Spatial plans of lower order (e.g. municipal plans, city plans etc.) have to be in line with the county plan according to the Physical Planning Act (OG 153/13). Furthermore, projects for construction of the power lines are subject to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure according to the Environmental Protection Act (OG 80/13). For power lines of the voltage of 220 kV and more, or length more than 10 km the EIA procedure is obligatory. For the power lines of the voltage of 110 kV and more and which are part of the transmission network, the evaluation of the need for environmental impact assessment has to be carried out. However, for all power lines that can have a negative impact on birds that are target features of the Natura 2000 sites (e.g. the Special Protection Areas – SPAs), including the waterbird migratory species,

the Appropriate Assessment (AA) has to be carried out according to the provisions of the Nature Protection Act (OG 80/13). If needed, in the scope of the AA procedure, the mitigation measures that minimize negative impacts on migratory waterbird species can be defined.

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

> Bird safe designs are used, whenever possible and in line with financial limitations.

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?

No

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

> Up to now, there are no sections of existing power lines, recognized as ones causing relatively high levels of waterbird injury and/or mortality due to electrocution and/or collision.

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?

> Post-construction monitoring is performed based on the EIA decision issued for the power line construction projects for which the EIA procedure has been conducted according to provisions of the Environmental Protection Act (OG 80/13). Upon expiration of the obligatory monitoring period defined in EIA decision, for the moment, there is no established regular monitoring at the national scale of impacts of power lines on bird populations, including waterbird populations. However, since July 2009 national distribution company "HEP-Operator distribucijskog sustava d.o.o." has begun collecting data about bird electrocution on distribution lines. In case of frequently transient faults on overhead lines, monitored by SCADA system, they send fieldworkers to check the reason of noted problems. Notes on date and place of electrocution (part of the power line) and bird species (if possible) are sent to central office. Bird electrocution monitoring is a standard activity of overhead lines inspection procedure in "HEP - Operator distribucijskog sustava d.o.o.". Parts of distribution network with highest bird casualties and with casualties of endangered bird species are rated as priorities for retrofitting or changes for bird conservation.

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?

> Measures contained in the Resolution 5.11. are not part of the existing National Strategy and Action plan for Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity of the Republic of Croatia (OG 143/08) because it was enacted in 2008. New Strategy on Nature Protection based on the provisions of the Nature Protection Act (OG 80/13) is in preparation and will be adopted by the end of 2015. However, recent legislation, specifically the Environmental Protection Act (OG 80/13) and the Nature Protection Act (OG 80/13) already give a framework for effective implementation of the Resolution 5.11.

**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?

> Although the Guidelines have not been used directly, some elements of it are implemented and/or used in practice. As mentioned previously the location, route and direction of power lines are defined in relevant spatial plans. County spatial plans are subject to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) procedure according to the Environmental Protection Act (OG 80/13) while spatial plans of lower order (e.g. municipal plans, city plans etc.) have to be in line with the county plan according to the Physical Planning Act (OG 153/13).

**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

> Based on data from available data bases as well as information collected in the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) procedure according to the Environmental Protection Act (OG 80/13) and the Appropriate Assessment (AA) procedure according to the Nature Protection Act (OG 80/13), the spatial plans take account on sensitivity of specific zones and wherever a likelihood of significant negative impacts exists, potentially problematic projects are dislocated.

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.

> In relation to the renewable energy projects different literature sources are used, like all relevant European Commission guidelines( for example the guideline "Wind energy developments and Natura 2000" (European Commission, October 2010)), expert and scientific papers, conference materials etc.

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

Yes

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

No

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

Not applicable

Please explain

> There were no cases where compensation of damage was needed

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?

> There was no projects of biofuel production in the reporting period.

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?

No

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

> Measures contained in the Resolution 5.11. are not part of the existing National Strategy and Action plan for Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity of the Republic of Croatia (OG 143/08) because it was enacted in 2008. New Strategy on Nature Protection based on the provisions of the Nature Protection Act (OG 80/13) is in preparation and will be adopted by the end of 2015. However, recent legislation, specifically the Environmental Protection Act (OG 80/13) and the Nature Protection Act (OG 80/13), already give a framework for effective implementation of the Resolution 5.11.

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

Yes

Please provide details

> Collection of information related to by-catch of seabirds is envisaged through the Data base on indicators of the state of marine environment (Croatian Environmental Agency: [www.izor.hr/azo](http://www.izor.hr/azo)), together with data on by-catch of sea turtles and mammals. By-catch of seabirds (e.g. *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*) is

occurring in Croatia, but there is no systematic collection of data and for that reason there is yet no official data on by-catch in a Data base. For the moment there are some sporadic data on by-catch only for ringed birds collected by the Institute of Ornithology.

**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)**

Not applicable

Please explain

> For the moment there is not enough data to support the need to take steps towards application of measures of reducing the incidental catch of seabirds.

## 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

Partially

Please provide details

> 47 AEWA bird species regularly breeding in Croatia have monitoring programme underway. For 19 species (40%) monitoring is adequate because species is monitored in whole or largest part of its area of distribution/ whole or largest part of breeding population (between 70-100%). For other 28 bird species monitoring is implemented on at least one breeding site.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[monitoring\\_AEWA\\_spec\\_Croatia.xlsx](#) - Review\_of\_monitoring\_programes

##### Covering the passage/migration period

Partially

Please provide details

> No AEWA bird species present in Croatia during the passage/migration period was adequately monitored in period 2012-2014, due lack of funds. Adequate passage bird censuses were implemented only on Neretva Delta.

##### Covering the non-breeding/wintering period

Partially

Please provide details

> International Winter Waterfowl Census programme covers only continental part of Croatia. Monitoring of wintering waterfowl at Vransko lake (Dalmatia). Monitoring of birds wintering in wetlands of Neretva Delta

Field for additional information (optional)

> State Institute for Nature Protection co-ordinates birds monitoring activities on national level. Institute for Ornithology co-ordinates birds ringing activities.

#### 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.

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

No

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

> Currently in Croatia there is still no AEWA - related national monitoring framework but the process of its establishing has started and AEWA guidelines are being taken into consideration. At present we have a number of individual monitoring programs created and implemented on case by case basis, including development of monitoring protocols.

#### 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

> Several scientific researches have been done. Probably the most important work is publishing Croatian Atlas of Migratory Birds in 2013. In this book Croatian bird ringing data for period 1910-2009 was presented and analysed.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Scientific articles Croatia.docx](#) - List of scientific articles

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

[Croatian Atlas of Migratory Birds](#)

**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)**

> List of technical reports about species monitoring is in attachment.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[List of the Technical monitoring reports.docx](#)

**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

> The IWC co-ordinator for Croatia has not asked support from the government.

**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)

> Lack of human resources and funds.

# 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

> Lack of funds and human resources

**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

> Lack of funds and human resources

**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)**

No

Please explain the reasons

> Lack of funds and human resources

**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.

> World Migratory Birds Day was celebrated each year across the country. Different activities including ornithological camps, workshops, excursions, exhibitions, drawing competitions and lectures were organized by Nature Parks, Museums, NGOs, ZOO etc.

International Wetlands Day was also celebrated by different activities organised by State Institute for Nature Protection and public institutions responsible for management of protected areas.

**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

> Lack of funds and human resources

**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

> Due to the lack of human resources it was not considered as priority.

# 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

> Although there were no contacts on the governmental level, Croatian FPTM in her role of Regional Representative contacted non-contracting parties in our region (Montenegro).

### **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

> Support or development of international co-operation project was not done due to limited financial resources in period 2012-2014.

### **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

> Croatia has not resourced the AEWA Small Grants Fund due to limited financial resources in period 2012-2014.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> Donation or other financial support was not done due to limited financial resources in period 2012-2014.

### **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

> Yes, through the implementation of the National Strategy for the Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity of the Republic of Croatia (NSAP) (OG 143/08) that is in force since December 2008 and has replaced former NSAP adopted in 1999 (OG 81/99). NSAP was prepared on the basis of the Report on the State of the Natural Environment and Nature Protection in the Republic of Croatia (2000-2007), which contains information on the state of landscape, ecological systems, habitat types, wild species and indigenous domesticated species. NSAP gives strategic objectives, strategic guidelines and concrete action plans (priority, short term, mid-term and long term) that should be fulfilled in order to preserve overall biodiversity in Croatia. NSAP is designed to fulfill the needs of EU Habitats Directive, Birds Directive and CITES Regulations, as well as other MEAs.

New Strategy on Nature Protection, based on the provisions of the Nature Protection Act (OG 80/13), is in preparation and will be adopted by the end of 2015.

### **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

> Lack of human and financial resources.

### **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

> Officers responsible for AEWA implementation work closely with officers responsible for implementation of the CBD and its Strategic Plan 2011-2020. Implementation of both the AEWA and CBD is coordinated by the Nature Protection Directorate of the Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection.

## **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?**

> None

## 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

> Up to now no such research was undertaken. Bird species listed in the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on measures needed to help waterbirds to adapt to climate change do not occur in the Republic of Croatia

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)

No relevant activities

Please explain the reasons

> As stated above, bird species listed in the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on measures needed to help waterbirds to adapt to climate change do not occur in the Republic of Croatia, For that reason habitats used by waterbird species in Croatia are not yet recognized as potentially vulnerable to climate change.

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

No relevant activities

Please explain the reasons

> As explained above

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

No relevant activities

Please explain the reasons

> As explained above

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

> As explained above

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?**

Not applicable

Please explain

> Bird species listed in the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on measures needed to help waterbirds to adapt to climate change do not occur in the Republic of Croatia.

## **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

> None

67.2 List required further guidance or information

> None

67.3 Field for additional information (optional)

> Highly pathogenic avian influenza has not been detected in Croatia since 2006. There is a national program for detection of avian influenza viruses in wild birds since 2005. The program is laid down by the State veterinary administration and conducted by the Poultry Centre of the Croatian Veterinary Institute in collaboration with ornithologists.

## **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.

[HR\\_NR\\_2012-2014\\_confirmation\\_letter.pdf](#)

#### **Date of submission**

> 11.05.2015.