



# 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**

> Latvia

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

> 01.01.2006

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

> None

## 2. Institutional Information

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

### Designated National AEWA Administrative Authority

Full name of the institution

> Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development

Name and title of the head of institution

> Mr Guntis Puķtis State Secretary

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

Name and title of the NFP

> Mr. Vilnis Bernards, Senior Desk Officer of Species and Habitats Conservation Division

Affiliation (institution, department)

> Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Nature Protection Department

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### **Designated National Focal Point for AEWA Technical Committee (TC NFP) 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  
> No

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> No

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Postal code  
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City  
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Country

> No

Telephone

> No

Fax

> No

E-mail

> No

Website

> No

**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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> Latvian Ornithological Society

Institute of Biology Laboratory of Ornithology

## 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

#### 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

> 25

Maximum

> 125

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

- Occasionally recorded, most likely natural vagrants
- Occasionally recorded, most likely escapes from collections

Population data quality

- Poor

Source of information

> www.putni.lv

### **Previous population estimate**

No information

- No information

### **Population trend**

No information

- No information

### **Legal Status**

Does the species have any legal status?

- Yes

### **National Red List Status**

Does the species have any National Red List Status?

- No

### **Risk or potential risk posed by the non-native species**

Please select all relevant risks from the list below

- Other

Please specify the type of risk

> No specific risks

Please provide details and references, where available

> 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)
- Other non-selective modes of taking

Please specify

> Hunting by shotgun is only allowed method

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation

> Hunting Law (2003)

Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No 421 "Hunting Regulations"(2014)

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

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

- No

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

- Yes

**Please provide information on each species for which exemption was granted**

#### **Exemption for *Phalacrocorax carbo* / Great Cormorant**

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

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

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> 8

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Latvia

Time span of the exemption

> 02.03-15.11

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012

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

> Keeping in captivity for education and research purposes

### **Exemption for *Ciconia nigra* / Black Stork**

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

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

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> 12 dead chicks

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 16 damaged eggs

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Latvia

Time span of the exemption

> 15.04-31.08 and 18.04-31.08

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2009 and 2010

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

> Dead chicks and damaged eggs for DDT analysis

### **Exemption for *Ciconia ciconia* / White Stork**

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

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

(e) For the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the populations concerned

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> 2 birds

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Latvia

Time span of the exemption

> 01.03-31.12

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2012

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

> Keeping and caring for wounded birds

Removal of nests from electric powerlines or living house chimney (16 nests in 2012, and 9 nests in 2013)

### **Exemption for *Mergus merganser* / Goosander**

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

(e) For the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the populations concerned

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> 1

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption



> Latvia

Time span of the exemption

> 18.05-01.10

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2010

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

> Keeping and caring of wounded bird

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

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

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

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> 5

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Allregions

Time span of the exemption

> 20.08-31.12.

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2013

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

> Licensed taking by gun of 5 birds for the purposes of reserching and educatiob, acctually taken 2 birds

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

> Exemptions to the prohibitions laid down in paragraphs 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.1.3 are granted through specific licenses (single use permits) by the Nature Protection Board.

## **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 Latvia**

National Single Species Action Plan for *Crex crex*

(Corncrake)

No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> Limited funding.

Field for additional information (optional)

> NSSAP was drafted as example for single species management plan format.

National Single Species Action Plan for *Gallinago media*

(Great Snipe)

No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> Limited funding

Field for additional information (optional)

> NSSAP was drafted as example for single species management plan format.

#### National Single Species Action Plan for *Aythya nyroca*

(Ferruginous Duck)

No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> Species in passage-infrequent and small numbers

Field for additional information (optional)

> 15 records during last 100 years

#### National Single Species Action Plan for *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*

(Bewick's Swan)

No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> Species in passage

Field for additional information (optional)

> probably wintering 1-4 birds

#### National Single Species Action Plan for *Limosa limosa*

(Black-tailed Godwit)

No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> Limited funding

Field for additional information (optional)

> 80-100 breeding pairs

### **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 *Ciconia nigra* / Black Stork**

For *Ciconia nigra* / Black Stork

NSSAP in place and being implemented

Please provide details

> *Ciconia nigra* Species Management Plan for Latvia was adopted by Minister Order No 140 in 14.04.2005  
Plan revision and development of new version. Adoption of new version planned in first part of 2015

### **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?

> National Single Species Action Plan was elaborated in accordance with Ministerial Order No 142 On Species and Habitats Conservation Plans (2007)

### **Optionally you can provide additional information on section 4.2. Single Species Action Plans**

> Habitat Conservation Plan for habitat- Fenoscandian wooded meadows/wooded pastures is drafted and submitted for adoption

## **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?

> Cabinet of Ministers Order No 283

On the national contingency plan for oil, hazardous or noxious substances pollution incidents at sea (2010)

**Optionally you can provide additional information on section 4.3. Emergency Measures**

> Part of Latvia territory covered by African swine fever no direct impact to waterbirds

#### **4.4 Re-establishments**

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> No re-establishment projects planned

**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

> Species and Habitats Protection Law (adopted in 2000 by Parliament)

Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No 1165 Order on issuance of permits for taking of non-game species, introduction and reintroduction.(2010).

**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?

> Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No 1165 Order on issuance of permits for taking of non-game species, introduction and reintroduction.(2010).

**Optionally you can provide additional information on section 4.4. Re-establishments**

> No planned re-establishment projects

#### **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

> Species and Habitats Protection Law (adopted in 2000 by Parliament)

Animal Protection Law (adopted in 2000 by Parliament)

Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No 1165 Order on issuance of permits for taking of non- game species, introduction and reintroduction.(2010).

Nature Protection Board is responsible institution on issuance of permits and enforcement

Field for additional information (optional)

> No application for introduction during reporting period

**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

> Animal Protection Law (adopted in 2000 by Parliament)

Cabinet of Ministers Regulations Nr 1033 "On requirement of wild species in zoo and requirement on establishment and registration of zoo" (2010)

Nature Protection Board is responsible on enforcement

Field for additional information (optional)

> 5 registred zoos

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> Other legislation already in place. Species and Habitats Protection Law (adopted in 2000 by Parliament)

Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No 1165 Order on issuance of permits for taking of non- game species, introduction and reintroduction.(2010).

Field for additional information (optional)

> Participation in NOBANIS. The European Network on Invasive Alien Species (NOBANIS) was established as a network between authorities of the region. The network was initiated with funding by the Nordic Council of Ministers. One of the main goals is to provide tools for implementing the precautionary approach against the unintentional dispersal of invasive alien species. It also establishes regional cooperation to aid countries in eradication, control and mitigation of these 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)**

No

Please explain the reasons

> No need for eradication programm. Canadian goose included in the list of game species, small population.

**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

> No specific eradiction programes for non-native species witch have negative impacts to migratory watwerbirds species. Aquatic reed management in partcular sites (Natura 2000 sits-Lake Engure, Lake Liepaja and Lake Pape) as site management activity

**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?

> Prohibition for any introduction in wild set by Species and Habitats Protection Law (2000)

**Optionally you can provide additional information on section 4.5. Introductions**

> Stricter legislation. Prohibition of any introduction. EIA procedure.

# 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

> "Important Bird Areas of European Union Importance in Latvia" Compiled by Edmunds Račinskis (2004)

Field for additional information (optional)

> Studies for preparation of progress/implementation report (article 12, Birds Directive) 2008-2012

**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?

> Network of sites of international and national importance was identified before AEWA Guidelines on the preparation of site inventories for migratory waterbirds adoption and update

Field for additional information (optional)

> Natura 2000 network

**Optionally you can provide additional information on section 5.1. Habitat Inventories**

> Report under Habitats Directive, Art. 17: Conservation Status of Species & habitats, assessment 2007-2012.

### 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

> 71

Total area (ha)

> 873526

Out of the above total: number of protected sites

> 71

Out of the above total: protected area (ha)

> 873526

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

> 21

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

> 366917

### **All sites of national importance**

Total number

> 331

Total area (ha)

> 1246921

Out of the above total: number protected sites

> 331

Out of the above total: protected area (ha)

> 1246921

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

> 32

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

> 480417

### **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 concept of the buffer zone is not used. All nationally or internationally important sites are included in Natura 2000 network. Optimisation of strictly protected area borders is used if needed.

### **Examples of best practice (optional)**

If any site, in your opinion, represents an outstanding process of management planning or implementation, please highlight it as an example of best practice (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

> Lake Engure Nature Park

### **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 internationally and nationally important sites are covered by Natura 2000 network, no need for such plan

### **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, AEW Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 1, Target 1.2)**

No

Please explain the reasons

> No strategic plan to maintain or increase of the ecological network. Implemented Natura 2000 network and ongoing management of Natura 2000 sites

### **26. Has your country used the AEW Guidelines on the management of key sites for migratory**

## **waterbirds?**

Yes

Please provide details

> For many of important areas under protection management plans are implemented, for several territories management plans are in development.

Several aspects from Guidelines used during site assesment, establishment of protected areas.

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

Yes

Please give examples of how you have used the CSN Tool

> CSN Tool was accessed, but not really used yet. Good use perspective for future.

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

> Altogether in Latvia there are 683 specially protected nature areas certified by law or regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers "On Specially Protected Nature Territories."

4 national parks. Strict nature reserves are territories untouched by human activities or nearly natural, in which territories unhindered development of natural processes shall be ensured in order to protect and study rare or typical ecosystems and parts thereof. Strict nature reserves shall have zones in which all natural resources are completely excluded from economic and other activities.

1 biosphere reserve. Biosphere reserve are broad territory in which landscapes and ecosystems of international significance are located. The goal of establishing biosphere reserves is to ensure the preservation of natural diversity and to promote sustainable social and economic development of the territory.

42 nature parks. Nature parks are territories that represent the natural, cultural and historical values of a particular area, and that are suitable for recreation, education and the instruction of society. Organisation of recreation and economic activities in nature parks shall be carried out by ensuring the preservation of the natural, cultural and historical values located in such parks.

9 protected landscape areas. Protected landscape areas are territories remarkable for original and diverse landscapes and special beauty. The goals of such territories are to protect and preserve the cultural environment and landscapes characteristic of Latvia in all their diversity, as well as to ensure the preservation of environment appropriate for recreation of society and for tourism, and use of environment friendly management methods.

261 nature reserves. Nature reserves are nature territories little transformed or transformed in varying degrees by human activities, which territories include habitats of specially protected wild plant and animal species, and specially protected biotopes.

4 strict nature reserves. Strict nature reserves are territories untouched by human activities or nearly natural, in which territories unhindered development of natural processes shall be ensured in order to protect and study rare or typical ecosystems and parts thereof. Strict nature reserves shall have zones in which all natural resources are completely excluded from economic and other activities.

7 marine protected areas. Marine protected areas are locations in the territorial sea, exclusive economic zone or continental shelf of the Republic of Latvia, which are established for the protection of protected biotopes and specially protected species habitat, as well as migratory bird significant feeding and wintering places.

microreserves



# 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

> In accordance with Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No 760 "Hunting Regulations" (2003) replaced by Regulations No 421 "Hunting Regulation" (from 1 August 2014). Obligation report to State Forest Service any specimen of game species harvested during hunting season.

The whole territory of your country

> "Hunting Regulations" cover whole territory of country

All harvesting activities

> All harvested animals (birds) should be reported to State Forest Service

Field for additional information (optional)

> There is a statutory requirement for hunters to report information on the number of waterbirds shot during hunting season to State Forest Service.

Annual monitoring of the game bag is done by State Forest Service.

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

Partially

When was lead shot use in wetlands partially banned? What legislation is in place? Who enforces this legislation? What proportion of the country's territory (or wetlands) is covered by the ban?

> The use of lead ammunition is banned for waterbirds hunting in nature reserves by Cabinet of Ministers rules No 415 adopted in 22.07.2004, replaced by rules No 264 in 16.03.2010 and in other areas where ban introduced by particular nature area individual use and management rules. The ban covers all main waterbirds hunting areas. Control: State Forest Service, Nature Protection Board and State Police

Has your country introduced self-imposed and published timetable for banning fully the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands?

No

Please explain the reasons

> In all main wetlands lead ammunition prohibition introduced, limited hunting.

Has assessment of compliance with the legislation been undertaken?

Yes

Please explain how this was assessed.

> Control by State Forest Service, Nature Protection Board and State Police during hunting. Control on ammunition used by hunters.

Please explain what was compliance with legislation found to be:

Moderate (more compliance than non-compliance)

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

> Limited offer of lead free ammunition in trade. Hunters still prefer use of lead ammunition.

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

> Control by State Forest Service, Nature Protection Board and State Police. No information or evidence on problem with lead poisoning in waterbirds with need change legal acts.

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

Yes

How would you rate the effectiveness of the measures?

High

Please provide details

> No traditions for illegal taking (illegal methods or other forms of birds poaching)

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

Yes

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

Yes

What do these cover?

Proficiency test for hunters (including bird identification)

Optionally [Please upload links or examples]

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

Yes

Please provide details

> Sustainable harvest is general principle for setting of hunting seasons and rules

**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.

> Topic on lead fishing weights is less discussed and relatively new for anglers community.

**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

> Environmental impact assessment is carried out in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the "Law on Environmental Impact Assessment" The Law incorporate legal provisions resulting from the EU Directives 85/337/EEC, 97/11/EC, 92/43/EEC, 2001/42/EC, 2003/35/EC and 2009/147/EC. Cabinet of Ministers Regulations determine order of EIA procedure.

Do the SEA/EIA processes include public participation?

Yes

Please provide details

> Public participation is obligatory part of each EIA process

**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

> Windfarm development projects in Ventspils, Durbe and Rucava Districts

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

> No projects with significant negative impacts on migratory waterbirds identified

**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

> All relevant information on minimization or mitigation of infrastructural development are used

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

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

Yes

Please provide details

> Regular consultation between Nature Protection Board and "Latvenergs"AS

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?

> EIA procedures for particular power lines projects. Best available information on birds in use.

Need for new scientific information (including Breeding Birds Atlas)

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

> Natura 2000 network with 98 Special Protection Areas for birds, covering 6 612,61 km<sup>2</sup> of terrestrial areas and 4 274,90 km<sup>2</sup> marine areas. EIA procedure for each project with potential negative impact to Natura 2000 network.

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

> Constructions to prevent electrocution and collision of White storks. Platforms for nests.

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

> Annual removal of old stork nests from most populated powerlines

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?

> No regular monitoring or evaluation of birds mortality. Lack of data. High pressure of predators (birds and mammals). No such monitoring in national scale.

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?

> The Latvenergo AS is state owned. The key environmental principles of Latvenergo Group are laid down in the Environmental Policy. The basic principles in the Environmental Policy describing the environmental philosophy of Latvenergo Group and its attitude toward the environment are as follows:

To reduce pollutant emissions into the environment;

To use natural resources efficiently;

To care for the preservation of biodiversity;

To inform the public and stakeholders regularly and openly about environmental activities;

To act in an environmentally friendly manner and encourage partners and the public to do the same. One of basic principles in Latvenergo AS Environmental Policy-take care and promote the conservation of biological diversity, evaluate and control the Group's impact on the specially protected natural areas, species and habitats. The plans and implements measures aimed at the conservation of biodiversity. The main direction in this area is the white stork protection.

**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?**

Yes

Please provide details

> All relevant information on minimization or mitigation of infrastructural development are used

**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

> Nature Protection Board project "Evaluation of the potential windfarms potential impact on birds and bats" Project "Gulf of Riga as potential source of wind energy" (Latvian Fund for Nature)

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.

> Guidelines for wind power plant environmental impact assessment, requirements and recommendations for wind power plant construction. In guidelines are used examples from other EU member states

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

No

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

> Research on birds and bats mortality, but not regular post-construction monitoring

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

No

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

> No precise mortality data available

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:

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?

> No significant potential negative impact identified.

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 were not included in Environmental Policy Strategy (2009-2015) (in force till 26.03.2014). Particular projects. Nature Protection Board project "Evaluation of the potential windfarms potential impact on birds and bats" EIA procedure.

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

Yes

Please provide details

> Limited fisheries in inland lakes and rivers. By-catch of waterbirds in coastal marine fisheries

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

Yes

Please provide short description of all actions

> Fishing equipment development, fishing seasonal prohibitions

## 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

> - Survey of duck and wader nests on permanent study plots and following their fate till hatching or destruction and survey of nesting larids and mapping of colonies on whole Lake Engure, survey of aquatic invertebrates.

- Monitoring of breeding success of the White Stork
- Assessment of the breeding population of White Stork
- Monitoring of farmland birds and habitats

##### Covering the passage/migration period

Partially

Please provide details

> Migratory birds ringing

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

Partially

Please provide details

- > - Monitoring of migrating cranes, geese and swans
- Wintering waterfowl count was carried out, in total 42 coastal and 170 inland sites were checked.
- Monitoring of Great Snipe leks, Lesser Spotted Eagle and Black Stork.

#### 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

> Limited funding

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

Yes

Please provide details

> "Birds monitoring" is part of chapter Biological Diversity Monitoring Sub-Programm in State Environmental Monitoring Programm. Methodology of specialize birds monitoring. Natura 2000 sites monitoring methods. Involment of professionals as well as volunteers.

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

No

Please explain the reasons.

> Limited funding

#### 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)

> "Birds in Lake Kanieris, dynamics and influence factors" J.Viksne (Laboratory of Ornithology)(2013) ([www.daba.gov.lv](http://www.daba.gov.lv))

"Priority actions for Ciconia nigra protection in Latvia" (Latvian Ornithological Society)(2013)([www.lob.lv](http://www.lob.lv))

"Research of Breeding Whooper Swans Cygnus cygnus in Latvia"

"Moult migration of Latvian Whooper Swans Cygnus cygnus"D.Boiko (Latvian Museum of Nature History(

www.dabasmuzejs.lv)

Magazine "Putni dabā" ("Birds in Nature") issued by Latvian Ornithological Society four times a year.

Internet portal: www.putni.lv

Study of migration patterns according ringing records. Latvian birds ringing centre a member of EURING (www.lubi.edu.lv)

Biodiversity Monitoring data (daba.gov.lv)

**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

> Lack of financial resources during last triennium

**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)

> Relatively small fishing intensity. Limited funding and lack of methodology that would clearly identify the origin of lead

# 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

> Awareness raising on Nature and Natural Species (not particular to waterbirds). Waterbirds and migratory species are significant and important part of awareness raising on conservation of wildlife and natural habitats.

Field for additional information (optional)

> - The Natural History Museum of Latvia gathers and maintains collections of natural specimens from Latvia and the world, does scientific research on the collections and popularizes them in permanent and temporary exhibits and other display activities.

- Magazine "Putni dabā": information about birds, but also about environmental problems in general. For example, about logging, environment-friendly farming, Bird's watchers tournament "Tornu cinas" organized by LOB traditionally attracts interest of press and general public.

Internet portal: [www.dabasdati.lv](http://www.dabasdati.lv)

Internet portal: [www.putni.lv](http://www.putni.lv)

**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 human resources. National focal point for AEWA only.

Field for additional information (optional)

> The Nature History Museum, The Latvian Ornithological Society and Latvian Fund for Nature are involved in awareness raising

**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

> General education and information measures implemented. No special actions related to AEWA or to waterbirds.

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

Yes

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

> In the frame of WMBD "Birds Festival 2014" (10.,11 May) in Kolka organised by [www.latvijasputki.lv](http://www.latvijasputki.lv), [www.dabastures.lv](http://www.dabastures.lv) and Latvian Owl researcher society.

**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 finance resources



Field for additional information (optional)

> No funding or support provided

**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 information on Exchange centre in region

Field for additional information (optional)

> Need for additional information regarding existing centres

Field for additional information (optional)

> "Birds days" organised by Latvian Nature History Museum

**Optionally you can provide additional information on section 8.1. AEWA Communication Strategy**

> "Eiro Birdwatch " activities in 2012, 2013, 2014 organised by LOB, Nature Protection Board with financial support by Latvian Environmental Protection Fund

# 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

> Lack of finance and human resources for international informal meetings with non-contracting parties. Less non-parties states.

Field for additional information (optional)

> Informal private discussions with non-party state experts and NGO (Russia).

### **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

> International co-operation projects focused to environmental protection, but not to Nature Protection or species conservation. Lack of finance resources for international co-operation projects

### **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

> Lack of financial resources

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> Lack of financial resources

### **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

> Good coordination. One focal point for all CMS family agreements. Small number of involved person in nature conservation

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

Yes

Please provide details on each twinning arrangement

> Cooperation with Estonia in cross-border protected areas important for waterbirds (Ziemeļu putvi-Nigula)

### **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

> Nature Protection Department is responsible on Impementation of AEiWA and other CMS agreements as well as CBD, including strategic plan.

**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?**

> Develop close linkages and synergies, in particular with Ramsar.

Closer cooperation between the treaties: the Ornithological Committee of the Birds Directive has developed action plans for a number of quarry species of waterbirds with unfavourable conservation status in the EU. Although these have yet to be implemented, there is significant potential for collaboration in their development for the whole of the relevant biogeographical populations.

## 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

> No specific research, assessment or adoption measures relevant to migratory waterbirds. Main research in forestry sector.

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

> Lack of financial and human resources

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

No relevant activities

Please explain the reasons

> Lack of financial and human resources

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

No relevant activities

Please explain the reasons

> Lack of financial and human resources

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

> Lack of financial and human resources

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

> No priority species particularly vulnerable to climate change or populations particularly vulnerable to climate changes presented

## 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

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Vai\\_Tu\\_zini\\_kas\\_ir\\_putnu\\_gripa.pdf](#)

[Miti\\_un\\_patiesiba\\_par\\_putnu\\_gripu.pdf](#)

67.2 List required further guidance or information

> No specific need for further guidance or information at this stage

67.3 Field for additional information (optional)

> EU level actions

**Optionally you can provide additional information on section 10. Avian Influenza**

> The Food and Veterinary Service is competent state institution regarding veterinary issues including Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. Actual information on HPAI in Food and Veterinary Service web page [www.pvd.gov.lv](http://www.pvd.gov.lv)

## 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.

[scanAEWA ORS 2015](#)

#### Date of submission

> 13.04.2015