

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

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

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

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

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

1. General Information

Name of reporting Contracting Party

> Slovak Republic

Date of entry into force of AEWA in the Contracting Party

> 01.07.2001

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 of the Slovak Republic, Directorate of Nature Protection and Landscape Development

Name and title of the head of institution

> Mr. Mgr. Rastislav Rybanič, Director General of the Directorate

Mailing address - Street and number

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Website

> www.minzp.sk

Designated National Focal Point (NFP) for AEWA matters

Name and title of the NFP

> RNDr. Jana Janecová

Affiliation (institution, department)

> Ministry of Environment, Department of Nature Conservation

Mailing address - Street and number

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E-mail

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Website
> www.minzpz.sk

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

Name and title of the TC NFP
> None

Affiliation (institution, department)
> None

Mailing address - Street and number
> None

P.O.Box
> None

Postal code
> None

City
> None

Country
> None

Telephone
> None

Fax
> None

E-mail
> None

Website
> None

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

Name and title of the CEPA NFP
> None

Affiliation (institution, department)
> None

Mailing address - Street and number
> None

P.O.Box
> None

Postal code
> None

City
> None

Country
> None

Telephone
> None

Fax

> None

E-mail

> None

Website

> None

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.

Another person has been designated as the National Respondent

Name and title of the DNR

> Mr. Dr. Ján Kadlečík

Affiliation (institution, department)

> State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, Department of Environmental Education and International Cooperation

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Other contributors to the AEWA National Report 2012-2014

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

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

> Mrs. Ing. Andrea Lesova, PhD., Mgr. Jan Cernecky - State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, Banska Bystrica;

Jozef Ridzon, Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia, Bratislava;

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.

<http://www.tichodroma.sk/24.html#musil>

AEWA Species - *Alopochen aegyptiacus* / Egyptian Goose

English Common name(s):

Egyptian Goose

French Common name(s):

Oie d'Égypte, Oulette d'Égypte



Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

Native or non-native species

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

Non-native

Species Status

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

Both options can be selected

Breeding

Non-breeding/wintering

Species Status - Breeding

Latest population estimate

Year

> 2014

Population unit

Pairs

Minimum

> 1

Maximum

> 1

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

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

Population data quality

- Good

Source of information

> Kaňuščák, P. 2014: Hniezdenie húsky štíhlej (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*) na piešťanskej Slňave. *Vtáky, Časopis Slovenskej ornitologickej spoločnosti/BirdLife Slovensko* - Leto 2014, 9, 2: 17.

Previous population estimate

No information

- No information

Population trend

No information

- No information

Species Status - Non-breeding/wintering

Latest population estimate

Year

> 2007 - 2013

Population unit

- Individuals

Minimum

> 1

Maximum

> 4

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

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

Population data quality

- Good

Source of information

> Šrank V. 2009: The 9th report of the Rarities Committee of the Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia. *Tichodroma* 21: 119-121.

Kvetko R. & Šrank V. 2012: The 12th report of the Rarities Committee of the Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia. *Tichodroma* 24: 102-108.

Kvetko R. & Faunistická komisia SOS/BirdLife Slovensko, 2013: The 13th report of the Rarities Committee of the Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia. *Tichodroma* 25: 85-93.

Kvetko R. & FK SOS/BirdLife Slovensko, 2014: The 14th report of the Rarities Committee of the Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia. *Tichodroma* 26: 97-106.

Previous population estimate

No information

- No information

Population trend

Population trend

Increasing

Trend data quality

Moderate

Source of information

> Kvetko R. & Šrank V. 2012: The 12th report of the Rarities Committee of the Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia. Tichodroma 24: 102-108.

Kvetko R. & Faunistická komisia SOS/BirdLife Slovensko, 2013: The 13th report of the Rarities Committee of the Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia. Tichodroma 25: 85-93.

Kvetko R. & FK SOS/BirdLife Slovensko, 2014: The 14th report of the Rarities Committee of the Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia. Tichodroma 26: 97-106.

Species Status - Field for additional information (optional)

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

> First breeding recorded in 2014 (2 ad., 9 juv.).

Legal Status

Does the species have any legal status?

No

National Red List Status

Does the species have any National Red List Status?

No

Alien Species - *Oxyura jamaicensis* / Ruddy Duck

English Common name(s):

Ruddy Duck

French Common name(s):

Érismature rousse, Érismature rousse, Érismature roux



Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

Native or non-native species

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

Non-native

Species Status

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

Both options can be selected

Non-breeding/wintering

Species Status - Non-breeding/wintering

Latest population estimate

Year

> 2013

Population unit

Individuals

Minimum

> 1

Maximum

> 1

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely natural vagrants

Population data quality

Good

Source of information

> Kvetko R. & FK SOS/BirdLife Slovensko, 2014: The 14th report of the rarities Committee of the Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia. Tichodroma 26: 97-106

Previous population estimate

No information

No information

Population trend

Population trend

Unknown

Trend data quality

Good

No information

No information

Species Status - Field for additional information (optional)

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

> First documented occurrence in Slovakia.

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

> 2004-2007

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely escapes from collections

Source of information

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

Previous population estimate

No information

No information

Population trend

No information

No information

Legal Status

Does the species have any legal status?

No

National Red List Status

Does the species have any National Red List Status?

No

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

English Common name(s):

Bar-headed Goose

French Common name(s):

Oie à tête barrée



Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

Native or non-native species

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

Non-native

Species Status

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

Both options can be selected

Non-breeding/wintering

Species Status - Non-breeding/wintering

Latest population estimate

Year

> 2003 - 2013

Population unit

Individuals

Minimum

> 1

Maximum

> 1

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely natural vagrants

Occasionally recorded, most likely escapes from collections

Population data quality

Good

Source of information

> Kvetko R. & FK SOS/BirdLife Slovensko, 2014: The 14th report of the Rarities Committee of the Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia. Tichodroma 26: 97-106.

Kvetko R. & Šrank V. 2012: The 12th report of the Rarities Committee of the Slovak Ornithological

Society/BirdLife Slovakia. Tichodroma 24: 102-108.

Šrank V. 2009: The 9th report of the Rarities Committee of the Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia. Tichodroma 21: 119-121.

Previous population estimate

No information

No information

Population trend

Population trend

Unknown

Trend data quality

Poor

No information

No information

Species Status - Field for additional information (optional)

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

> Three documented occurrence in Slovakia (2003, 2011, 2013), most probably from the introduced population in Western Europe, or escape from collections.

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 - *Chen caerulescens* / Snow Goose

English Common name(s):

Snow Goose

French Common name(s):

Oie des neiges



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

> 2005

Population unit

Individuals

Minimum

> 1

Maximum

> 2

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely natural vagrants

Occasionally recorded, most likely escapes from collections

Population data quality

Good

Source of information

> Kvetko R. & Faunistická komisia SOS/BirdLife Slovensko, 2013: The 13th report of the Rarities Committee of the Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia. Tichodroma 25: 85-93.

Previous population estimate

No information

No information

Population trend

Population trend

Unknown

Trend data quality

Moderate

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

> 1

Maximum

> 1

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely escapes from collections

Population data quality

Good

Source of information

> Kvetko F. & FK SOS/BirdLife Slovensko, 2014: The 14th Report of the Rarities Committee of the Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia. Tichodroma 26: 97-106.

Previous population estimate

Year

> 1964 - 1997

Population unit

Individuals

Minimum

> 1

Maximum

> 30

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely escapes from collections

Population data quality

Good

Source of information

> Danko Š., Darolová A. & Krištín A. (eds), 2002: Birds distribution in Slovakia. Veda Bratislava, 688 pp.

Population trend

Population trend

Unknown

Trend data quality

Moderate

Legal Status

Does the species have any legal status?

No

National Red List Status

Does the species have any National Red List Status?

No

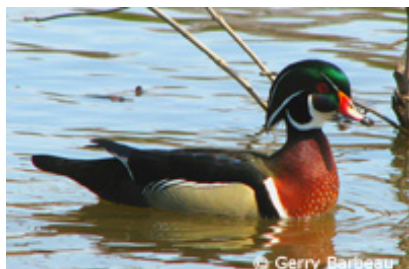
Alien Species - *Aix sponsa* / Wood Duck

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

> 2011-2012

Population unit

Individuals

Minimum

> 2

Maximum

> 5

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely escapes from collections

Population data quality

Moderate

Source of information

> Slabeyova K., Ridzon J., Karaska D., Topercer J. & Darolová A. 2014: Správa zo zimného sčítania vodného vtáctva na Slovensku 2011/2012. SOS/BirdLife Slovensko, Bratislava, 160 pp.

Previous population estimate

Year

> 2004-2005

Minimum

> 0

Maximum

> 1

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely escapes from collections

Population data quality

Moderate

Source of information

> Slabeyova K., Ridzon J., Darolova A., Karaska D., Topercer J. 2008: Správa zo zimného sčítania vodného vtáctva na Slovensku 2004/05. SOS/BirdLife Slovensko, Bratislava.

Population trend

Population trend

Fluctuating

Trend data quality

Moderate

Legal Status

Does the species have any legal status?

No

National Red List Status

Does the species have any National Red List Status?

No

Alien Species - *Aix galericulata* / Mandarin Duck

English Common name(s):

Mandarin, Mandarin Duck

French Common name(s):

Canard mandarin



Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

Native or non-native species

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

Non-native

Species Status

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

Both options can be selected

Breeding

Non-breeding/wintering

Species Status - Breeding

Latest population estimate

Year

> 2013

Population unit

Pairs

Minimum

> 1

Maximum

> 1

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely escapes from collections

Population data quality

Good

Source of information

> Kvetko R. & FK SOS/BirdLife Slovensko, 2014: The 14th report of the Rarities Committee of the Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia. Tichodroma 26: 97-106.

Previous population estimate

No information

No information

Population trend

No information

No information

Species Status - Non-breeding/wintering

Latest population estimate

Year

> 2011-2013

Population unit

Individuals

Minimum

> 5

Maximum

> 15

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely escapes from collections

Population data quality

Good

Source of information

> Slabeyova K., Ridzon J., Karaska D., Topercer J. & Darolova A. 2014: Report on winter waterbird census in Slovakia in the season 2011/2012. SOS/BirdLife Slovensko, Bratislava, 160 pp.

Kvetko R. & FK SOS/BirdLife Slovensko, 2014: The 14th report of the Rarities Committee of the Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia. Tichodroma 26: 97-106.

Previous population estimate

Year

> 2009-2010

Population unit

Individuals

Minimum

> 0

Maximum

> 5

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely escapes from collections

Population data quality

Good

Source of information

> Slabeyova K., Ridzon J., Karaska D., Topercer J. & Darolova A. 2012: Report on winter waterbird census in Slovakia in the season 2009/2010. SOS/BirdLife Slovensko, Bratislava, 160 pp.

Population trend

Population trend

Increasing

Trend data quality

Moderate

Species Status - Field for additional information (optional)

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

> During last years occurs regularly in winter, first breeding in the wild (escaped birds) recorded 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

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

> Shooting in bird nests, hunting during night (between two hours after sun set and two ours before sun rise), taking of eggs; it is prohibited to promote, offer and sell modes of taking prohibited (as above) - Act No. 274/2009 on hunting (as amended).

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation

> General provisions are included in the Act No. 543/2002 on Nature and Landscape Protection (§ 35), as amended, all prohibited modes of taking are listed in the Decree of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 24/2002 to this act, as amended. The same provisions and additional details are included in the Act No. 274/2009 on hunting, as amended.

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)

- (a) To prevent serious damage to crops, water and fisheries
- (b) In the interests of air safety, public health, public safety, or other imperative reasons of overriding public interests, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance to the environment

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> 400

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> all regions

Time span of the exemption

> 2009-2015

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014

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

> Ministry of Environment granted during the reporting period several exemptions to prevent serious damage to fisheries (killing, deliberate disturbance, scare away) in fish production areas, fishponds, reservoirs, rivers and for air safety in the airport.

Exemption for *Ardea cinerea* / Grey Heron

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

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

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

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> 50

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Kuchyna Airport (military), Bohelov fishponds (Western Slovakia), Velkoblahovské rybníky fishponds; Zilina Airport; Dubove, Turciansky Michal fishponds (Central Slovakia); Fishpond systems Turna nad Bodvou and Senne (Eastern Slovakia), Minovce

Time span of the exemption

> 2009 - 2015

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014

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

> Destruction, damage to and removal of nests; Killing; Deliberate disturbance, scare away

Exemption for *Casmerodius albus* / Great Egret

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

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

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

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> not specified - mostly scare away

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Kuchyna Airport (military), Bohelov fishponds (Western Slovakia)

Time span of the exemption

> 2010 - 2014

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2010, 2011

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

> Deliberate disturbance, scare away

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

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> 1 nest; not specified numbers for scare away

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Zilina Airport (Central Slovakia); Poprad (Eastern Slovakia)

Time span of the exemption

> 2009 - 2015

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2009; 2010

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

> Several exemptions were granted during the reporting period by the Ministry of Environment for destruction, damage to or removal of nests (1); deliberate disturbance, scare away from the airport (artificial light sources, acoustic alarm)

Exemption for *Cygnus olor* / Mute Swan

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

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

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

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

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> 2 - keeping and care; not specified numbers for scare away

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Zilina Airport (Central Slovakia), Kosice (Eastern Slovakia); Topolcianky - public park

Time span of the exemption

> 2009 - 2015

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2009, 2014

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

> Ministry of Environment granted exemptions for deliberate disturbance, scare away; and for keeping and care for wounded birds, breeding, for non-commercial use

Exemption for *Anser albifrons* / Greater White-fronted Goose

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

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> not specified - mostly scare away

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Kuchyna Airport (military) (Western Slovakia);

Time span of the exemption

> 09.10.2010 - 30.06.2014

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2010, 2011

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

> Killing; Deliberate disturbance, scare away

Exemption for *Anser anser* / Greylag Goose

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

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> not specified - mostly scare away

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Kuchyna Airport (military) (Western Slovakia); Zilina Airport (Central Slovakia)

Time span of the exemption

> 2009 - 2015

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2009, 2011

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

> Killing; Deliberate disturbance, scare away

Exemption for *Anas platyrhynchos* / Mallard

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

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> not specified

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Kuchyna Airport (Western Slovakia); Zilina Airport (Central Slovakia)

Time span of the exemption

> 2009-2015

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2009, 2011

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

> Destruction, damage to and removal of nests; Killing; Deliberate disturbance, scare away

Exemption for *Vanellus vanellus* / Northern Lapwing

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

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> not specified - mostly scare away

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Bratislava Airport (Western Slovakia); Sliac Airport, Zilina Airport (Central Slovakia)

Time span of the exemption

> 2009 - 2015

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2009, 2010

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

> Destruction, damage to and removal of nests; Killing; Deliberate disturbance, scare away

Exemption for Numenius arquata / Eurasian Curlew

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

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> not specified - mostly scare away

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Bratislava Airport (Western Slovakia)

Time span of the exemption

> 20.01.2010 - 31.12.2012

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2009

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

> Deliberate disturbance, scare away

Exemption for Larus argentatus / Herring Gull

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

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

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> not specified

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Bratislava Airport (Western Slovakia)

Time span of the exemption

> 20.01.2010 - 31.12.2012

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2009

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

> Destruction, damage to and removal of nests; Killing; Deliberate disturbance, scare away

Exemption for *Larus cachinnans* / Yellow-legged Gull

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

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

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> not specified

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Airport Zilina (Central Slovakia)

Time span of the exemption

> 09.09.2009 - 31.12.2015

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2009

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

> Deliberate disturbance, scare away

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

Purpose of exemption (from the AEWA Action Plan)

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

Number of individuals for which exemption was granted

> not specified - mostly scare away

Number of eggs for which exemption was granted

> 0

Territorial coverage of the exemption

> Bratislava Airport (Western Slovakia); Sliac Airport, Zilina Airport (Central Slovakia)

Time span of the exemption

> 2009 - 2015

Year when the exemption was granted

> 2009, 2010

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

> Destruction, damage to and removal of nests; Killing; Deliberate disturbance, scare away

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

> The Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic can allow the exemption from the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 543/2002 on Nature and Landscape Protection.

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 Slovakia

National Single Species Action Plan for Gallinago media

(Great Snipe)

No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> Non-breeding, rare species in Slovakia, not identified as a priority for NSSAP.

National Single Species Action Plan for Crex crex

(Corncrake)

NSSAP in place and being implemented

When was the plan approved and published? Please provide a web link or attach a file, if available. Please provide contact details for any person or organisation coordinating its implementation. Please list any activities and/or achievements over the past triennium.

> Approved by the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic on 21 January 2002 for years 2002 - 2006, available in Slovak only (<http://www.sopsr.sk/web/?cl=30>), coordinating agency is the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (www.sopsr.sk); updating of the plan is necessary, planned for next period; some measures have been included in the agri-environmental schemes (Rural Development Programme of the Slovak Republic).

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

<http://www.sopsr.sk/cinnost/programy/PZ%20Crex%20crex.pdf>

National Single Species Action Plan for Aythya nyroca

(Ferruginous Duck)

NSSAP in development

Please provide starting date and expected finalisation date

> 1 January 2011 - 31 December 2015, the draft for consultation and finalisation already prepared.

Field for additional information (optional)

> Development of the NSSAP is a part of the LIFE+ project LIFE09 NAT/SK/000395 „Conservation of Botaurus stellaris and Aythya nyroca in SPA Medzibodrozie in Slovakia“ (www.medzibodrozie.vtaky.sk), implemented by the Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia in partnership with the Slovak State Nature Conservancy.

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

<http://medzibodrozie.vtaky.sk/>

National Single Species Action Plan for Platalea leucorodia

(Eurasian Spoonbill)

No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> As there is only a small population in Slovakia in two main breeding sites, measures for spoonbill have been included in the management plans for these 2 protected areas (Special Protection Areas, Ramsar Site and nature reserve).

National Single Species Action Plan for Limosa limosa

(Black-tailed Godwit)

No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> Rare species in Slovakia, non-breeding during last decades, however some management measures have been implemented in the key site and potential habitats in Senne and Medzibodrozie SPAs.

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 Botaurus stellaris / Great Bittern

For Botaurus stellaris / Great Bittern

NSSAP in development

Please provide details

> LIFE+ project on protection of Great Bittern (and Ferruginous Duck) was approved in 2011 (implemented by the SOS/BirdLife Slovakia), which includes development of the national Action Plan. The planned duration of the project is by the end of 2015.

National Single Species Action Plan for Aythya nyroca / Ferruginous Duck

For Aythya nyroca / Ferruginous Duck

NSSAP in development

Please provide details

> LIFE+ project on protection of Ferruginous Duck Great Bittern (and Great Bittern) was approved in 2011 (implemented by the SOS/BirdLife Slovakia), which includes development of the national Action Plan. The planned duration of the project is by the end of 2015.

National Single Species Action Plan for Crex crex / Corncrake

For Crex crex / Corncrake

NSSAP in place and being implemented

Please provide details

> Adopted in 2002 by the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, but has not been updated.

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 guidelines were adopted according to national law, with similar structure and contents as AEWA Guidelines, national guidelines are now revised and will be harmonized with international guidelines.

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?

> not relevant

4.4 Re-establishments

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> No such projects have been planned / implemented.

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

> General provisions of the Decree of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 24/2003 (as amended) to the nature conservation act. Provisions are included also in the Act No. 27/2009 on hunting (as amended). Re-establishment activities are conditioned by approval by the Ministry of Environment (and if it is a game species also the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development).

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

No

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

Not applicable

Please explain

> No such activity implemented so far

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

> Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection, adopted in 2002 by the Government of the Slovak Republic, enforced by the Ministry of Environment; According to this Act it is allowed to spread invasive species behind the border of urban areas only with the approval of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic. Introduction of non-native game species (and cross-breeding) is prohibited also by the Act No. 274/2009 on hunting (as amended), adopted by the Slovak Government and enforced by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic.

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

> Act No. 39/2007 on veterinary care, adopted in 2007 by the Government of the Slovak Republic, enforced by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the State Veterinary Authority; According to this Act, § 6 the owner or keeper of an animal is obliged to take measures to prevent escape of the animal, its not planned or unwanted reproduction.

Field for additional information (optional)

> Only general requirements established in veterinary regulation.

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

Being developed

Please provide starting date and expected finalisation date of the process

> The draft National Strategy on Invasive Alien Species was developed in 2010, it was several times updated, after inclusion of the provisions of the EU Regulation 1143/2014 on Invasive Alien Species in 2015 the expected finalisation of the process of adoption is by the end of 2015; Ministry of Environment informed the relevant stakeholders about its intention to adopt the National Strategy as a comprehensive (cross-sectoral)

document and asked them to prepare their proposals for key actions which should be included into the National Strategy. The Action Plan for implementation of the updated national Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, adopted by the Slovak Government in 2014, includes several actions to be implemented by 2020.

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

Not applicable

Please explain

> No one non-native waterbird species occurs in the wild in the populations with required eradication, only occasionally individuals.

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)

Not applicable

Please explain

> No such measures needed so far.

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?

> New provisions of the EU Regulation 1143/2014 on Invasive Alien Species will be included in update of the act on nature and landscape protection and its regulations will be improved in near future and these can include more detailed principles and guidelines addressing this issue, including AEWA Guidelines.

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

> Special Protection Areas designated in 2003 and 2010; the Critical Site Network was established in 2011; Important Bird Areas (updated in 1992, 2000, 2004); Ramsar sites network (www.ramsar.org) designated in 1990-2007; there is a big overlap between these types of sites of international importance.

Field for additional information (optional)

> The national list of proposed Special Protection Areas was approved by the Slovak Government in 2003 and submitted to the European Commission, later in 2010 updated with more precise data on surface area and with additional sites. In 30 SPAs AEWA Table 1 species are criteria species for designation. 12 Ramsar Sites of total 14 in Slovakia are relevant for waterbird species.

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?

> Slovakia identified Special Protection Areas for Natura 2000 network according to the EU Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds) using its Standard Data Forms; for Ramsar Sites identification Ramsar Data Sheets were used; in national inventories national guidelines are used which are comparable with AEWA Guidelines. For Critical Sites Network identification relevant guidelines were used.

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

> 46

Total area (ha)

> 1254341

Out of the above total: number of protected sites
> 45

Out of the above total: protected area (ha)
> 1253211

Number of protected sites with management plans in place which are being implemented
> 4

Area under protection (in ha) covered by management plans which are being implemented
> 6401

All sites of national importance

Total number
> 71

Total area (ha)
> 1104

Out of the above total: number protected sites
> 71

Out of the above total: protected area (ha)
> 1104

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

> Process of zonation of protected areas has started in the country for national parks and other types of protected areas with other protection priorities than water birds, in later stages important bird areas will be re-assessed to maintain or increase their resilience.

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)

Yes

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

> Updated national Programme for Wetland Management 2015 - 2021 and its Action Plan for Wetlands 2015-2018 (developed in 2014-2015) include measures and activities to fill gaps in designation and/or management of important sites.

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)

Yes

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

> A number of documents developed and adopted in 2014/2015: National climate change adaptation strategy; updated National biodiversity strategy and the Action Plan for implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (adopted by the Slovak Government); updated Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection Policy to 2025 (under development).

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?

> General national guidelines for management of protected areas have been used; the management guidelines are currently revised according to the updated legislation and international obligations.

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

> In October 2011 was improved the protection information and the CSN tool was included in relevant documents and plans. In December 2013, when legislation designating SPA (and Ramsar Site) Dunajské luhy was under revision, the CSN was used to highlight importance of this SPA for wintering waterbirds in Central European space.

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

> EEA and Norwegian Funds projects - Conservation of Danube Floodplains as a centre of biodiversity (2009-2010) and EU LIFE project - Conservation of endangered bird species populations in natural habitats of the Danube inland delta (2009-2013) are implemented by NGO Regional Association for Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development BROZ; SOS/BirdLife Slovakia - project within the Programme of transborder cooperation PL-SK - Protection of threatened bird species of Western Carpathians (2009-2012); LIFE+ project Conservation of Botaurus stellaris and Aythya nyroca in SPA Medzibodrozie.

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

> All legally huntable species.

The whole territory of your country

> Data are collected by regional authorities for hunting and processed by the institute (National Forestry Centre)

All harvesting activities

> Hunting statistics and realization of exemptions.

Other

> For species for which exemptions were granted by the Ministry of Environment the collection of data on real use of the species is made by the Ministry of Environment.

Field for additional information (optional)

> Each hunting organization is responsible for managing hunting unit. They have obligation to register all individuals of game species they shot. This register is then passed to the National Forestry Centre, an expert organization under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic which develops records and statistics.

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?

> Prohibited methods and means of capture and killing of protected animals are stated in § 9 of the Regulation of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 24/2003 to the Act on nature and landscape protection. According to it, using of lead ammunition during hunt of waterfowl in wetlands is prohibited. Consequently, the use of lead shots is banned in the hunting law (Act No. 274/2009, § 65, par. 36) since 1 January 2015. The legislation is enforced by the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and their regional (district) authorities.

Has assessment of compliance with the legislation been undertaken?

Yes

Please explain how this was assessed.

> The national legislation is harmonized with EU legal provisions which include most of AEWA obligations.

Please explain what was compliance with legislation found to be:

Excellent (full compliance - 100%)

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

> na

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

> No special measurement of impact of the legislation is a part of regular monitoring.

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

> Nature conservation and hunting guards and specialized police departments exist, but in not sufficient numbers. Special environmental crime departments exist in the police and the Ministry of Interior.

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)

Club Affiliation

Game Management Plans

Other (please specify)

> Advisory Boards for all hunting regions are established, with participation of nature conservation bodies. All details and standards are included in the Act No. 274/2009 on hunting (as amended) and the Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture No. 344/2009 by which the Act is implemented.

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

Yes

Please provide details

> Sustainable harvest of water birds is applied according to national legislation, regulations and standards which are in line with AEWA Guidelines and other international principles, guidelines and standards (especially EU regulations).

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 6.1. Hunting

> According to the Act No. 274/2009 Coll. on hunting the employees of the State Nature Conservancy are members of the advisory boards for hunting regions (organized by the regional forestry offices).

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.

> This issue was included in the updated national Programme for Wetlands Management in Slovakia 2015 - 2021 and its Action Plan 2015 - 2018 to be addressed in coming 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

> Slovak Republic as a member of EU carries out Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of activities potentially affecting protected sites or areas important for species covered by the Agreement, according to the Act no. 24/2006 (as amended) on the environmental impact assessment, which implements relevant Directives of EU.

Do the SEA/EIA processes include public participation?

Yes

Please provide details

> The Act on EIA was updated in 2011 and 2014 and it enables wider and more effective public participation.

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

> EIA – 2012-2014: Expressway R7 in SW Slovakia; 2012: Motorway D2 Bratislava – border with Czech Republic; Hydropower plant Kralovany; 2013-2014: Hydropower plant Švošov; 2013: Hydropower plants Brestová; Liptovská Teplá II; reconstruction and increase of capacity of oil pipeline PS4 Tupá – Hungary in southern Slovakia; Expressway R1; 2014: Hydropower plant Lisková; SEA 2012: Road and bridge construction Ipolydamasd – Chlaba; land use plans; 2013: land use plans; 2014: Strategic plan of development of transport infrastructure; land use plans; Update of strategy for use of hydro-energetic potential of water courses of the Slovak Republic to 2030.

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

> It is a part of the SEA/EIA procedures, the Act No. 24/2006 on environment impact assessment and relevant guidance documents.

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

No

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

> General Guidelines for Environment Impact Assessment in the Slovak Republic (2006) which include principles of AEWA Guidelines and other international standards are used. The AEWA Guidelines will be translated into Slovak language (together with other relevant guidelines) in the following period and distributed to relevant stakeholders, as it is planned in the Action Plan 2015 - 2018 for implementation of the national wetland policy 2015 - 2021.

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

> Systematic collection of data on collisions and killing is undertaken by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic SNC SR using regular on the spot personal checks of the electricity line zones. The SNC SR has realized monitoring and documentation. It means, there exists “step by step” procedure, how the listing and evidence of power-pylon has to be done and how possible occurrence of injured/dead bird is documented (GPS coordinates, photo, type of pylon, type of insulator, etc.). These activities are for many years included in the annual work plan of the institution. They consist of identification of the most dangerous facilities (both constructions and power lines) via systematical and ad hoc monitoring of killed/hurt birds, compilation and data processing, supervision on practical application of decisions of nature protection authorities and of improvement of identified problematic facilities. Similar activities have been done by NGOs. For instance Raptor Protection of Slovakia has implemented several projects with both public awareness activities (leaflet on Poles of Death, exhibitions, negotiations...) and practical measures for monitoring the most problematic sections. Insulation of poles, marking of electric lines to be visible, as well as construction of artificial nest boxes for concerned birds were made. All activities are coordinated with the SNC SR. Energy distribution companies in Slovakia support activities on monitoring and surveys of birds affected by power lines. They are voluntary partners in different projects (mainly LIFE projects) where they together with public authorities (SNC SR) and NGOs cooperate. Organizations are concerned with the problem of electricity pylons (in terms of the collisions with birds). Permanently (once per year), the energy distribution companies organize meetings (workshops), where the collected data and experiences are discussed. Moreover, the project of Carpathian Foundation and the Eastern Energy Distribution Company on research of efficiency of using equipment reducing mortality on power-lines by electrocutions and injuries during flight on wires is under way. LIFE

Nature project LIFE 13 NAT/SK001272 Energy in the land - power lines and conservation of priority bird species in Natura 2000 sites is implemented jointly by energy companies, NGO (Raptor Protection of Slovakia), the State Nature Conservancy and the University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Kosice, mostly in wetland areas.

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

<http://www.lifeenergia.sk/index.php/en/>

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

Yes

Please provide details

> Collection of data on waterbird distribution, population sizes, migrations and movements is a part of the tasks of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, which is commenting all plans for power lines and proposes 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

> Development (reconstruction) of the electric lines using the underground installation is required, but in practice it is not feasible (being very expensive). Therefore this approach is not realistic neither in large scale areas (SPAs in Slovakia cover over 25 % of the territory) nor in other protected areas in wetlands (where it is too complicated to install underground lines). The most appropriate solution is using so-called triple cable in which all three conductors are within one cable that is better visible and does not present so dangerous barrier like three parallel conductors. All the new electric poles must be constructed towards minimizing negative effects on birds. Also within existing electric poles in problematic sections the technical measures are undertaken. The precise statistics is not completed (data base is created gradually with respect to the total number of electric poles, on various types and numbers of cross-arms/other technical measures and data are not available yet). The most appropriate type for the existing electric poles of the electricity lines is the following model of the additional preventive „protector“ (being used by all 3 electricity companies after the agreement with the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and NGOs). The SNC SR requests realization of technical measures for preventing bird killing on the power lines: Operative installation of protectors in critical sections; Installation of artificial breeding stands and protectors on power lines - poles; Replacement of whole consoles - according to our experience, comb protectors are ineffective.

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

> The provision is included in the Act No. 543/2002 on nature and landscape protection (§ 4.3) as obligation. New triangle consoles have been installed. Installation of tools for better visibility of power lines have been made - aerial marked ball for power lines - red and white colours, FireFly - Bird Flapper.

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

> Many problematic power lines are identified by the State Nature Conservancy staff members in cooperation with NGOs and relevant energy providing companies on regular basis and in projects. Priority areas are Natura 2000 sites - Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), and Ramsar sites. However there are hundreds of km of canals and other important wintering sites of waterbirds out of SPAs and many gaps in knowledge still remain.

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?

Yes

Please provide details

> The power lines (110kV, 22kV or 400 kV) in the potential and active breeding sites have been monitored (by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, NGOs and volunteers) and protected with console protectors (by energy companies). Dead and injured birds found under the pylons are documented, and the locations of problematic pylons have been sent to energy companies. More detailed monitoring at the 22 kV lines have been done mainly in Natura 2000 sites - Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA); Collection and processing of data and implementation of further elimination measures followed. A new LIFE Nature project "Energy in the land - power lines and conservation of priority bird species in Natura 2000 sites" was approved, aimed at developing strategy solution at the national level (commonly prepared by NGOs, all 3 energy distribution companies and State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, for approval by the Ministry), elaboration of the methodology of collection and evaluation of data, development of information centre and database; identification of risk sites along the migration corridors and main wintering sites, activities in pilot areas, etc. "Methodology of evaluation of bird killing on power lines" will determine the biological aspects of the impact of collisions with power lines on populations of threatened species in the study areas (SPAs in Eastern and Western Slovakia). Next goal will be development of a model to predict areas with high, medium, low risk of bird collisions. There are still some gaps in monitoring of important wintering sites out of Natura 2000 sites and protected areas.

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?

Yes

Please provide details

> The Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection as amended provides for general plant and animal protection (§ 4) with specific provisions on electricity lines: paragraph 4.4 "Everyone who constructs or carries out scheduled reconstruction of overhead electricity lines is obliged to use such technical solutions that prevent from killing birds", and paragraph 4.5 "If killing birds on electricity lines or telecommunication facilities is verifiable, the nature protection body may rule that an administrator of electricity lines or telecommunication facilities has to adopt measures to prevent killing birds." Administrator of the line is responsible for preventing electrocution of birds and must make arrangements to prevent electrocutions when erecting or reconstructing electric lines or when it is proved that a bird is killed on a pole. According to the nature protection act the district/regional offices (their units in charge for environment protection) give opinion for each territorial decision or building permits (including those for the electricity network), that is the opportunity to request for considering the issue of negative effects of 22 kV lines on birds. These offices have been asked to thoroughly check all the plans and request (in all the new facilities) to install the appropriate models of construction and in sites of high importance for birds (with verified damages) to insist on underground power lines. All plans and projects regarding the construction of power lines should comply with the Directives on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA Act. No 24/2006 Coll.). Where a high voltage (110kV, 220kV or 400 kV) transmission project, alone or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have significant impacts on Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA) e.g. Natura 2000 sites, or the risks of such effects cannot be excluded, Appropriate Assessment is required under the Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive (No 92/43/EEC). The elimination of electrocution was included also in the Action Plan for implementation of the updated National Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (approved in 2014 by the Slovak Government).

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

> Principles of the Guidelines are applied in the country. The Guidelines will be translated into Slovak language (together with other relevant guidelines) in the following period and distributed to relevant stakeholders, as it is planned in the Action Plan 2015 - 2018 for implementation of the national wetland policy 2015 - 2021 and will be included in a "Methodology for evaluation of bird killing on power lines".

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

> Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic in 2014 decided on updating of the strategy of use of the hydro-energetic potential of water courses of the Slovak Republic and on SEA for this plan. Appropriate Assessment to determine implications of the plan for Natura 2000 sites according to paragraph 6.3 of the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC has been taken. Guidance of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic on standards and limits for location of the wind power plants and wind farms established categories of suitability for location of wind farms and limits and conditions for planning of these farms taking into account areas of importance for migratory waterbirds and hydric bio-corridors, as well as inventory of birds.

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.

> Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6 (3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC is applied for assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites.

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?

Yes

Please provide details

> Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC should be applied in Natura 2000 sites.

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:

Other - Please specify

> Windfarms have not been developed in Slovakia, but relevant measures are included in guidance documents (e.g. EU Guidance on wind energy development in accordance with the EU nature legislation, 2011) which are to be applied in the country.

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?

Not applicable

Please explain

> Not relevant for the country.

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

Yes

Please provide details

> Monitoring of species of international importance and elimination of kills on power lines are activities included in the Action Plan for implementation of the updated National Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, adopted by the Slovak Government in 2014.

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

Not applicable

Please explain

> Small-scale fishery and sport angling on fishponds and other inland water bodies is applied in Slovakia as inland country, using of fishing gear is not a common method used and generally there is no by-catch of waterbirds.

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

> Slovakia is an inland country.

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

> The monitoring of *Ciconia ciconia* is organized by the Slovak Ornithological Society. Project Development of data on favourable conservation status of selected bird species and their habitats in SPAs (ERDF Operational Programme Environment - 2009-2014) implemented by the State Nature Conservancy (not all SPAs covered) tested the methodology for long-term systematic monitoring of selected birds. Four wetland sites have been under European programme of CES (Constant Effort Sites) in different parts of the country. Programme Breeding Waterfowl Census is implemented by the Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia. New monitoring system for species and habitats has been developed in the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and will be used from 2015.

Covering the passage/migration period

Partially

Please provide details

> Along with above mentioned project in SPAs census of waterbirds partly includes passage/migration period. Winter census of waterbirds covers in some parts of the country also passage/migration period.

Covering the non-breeding/wintering period

Fully

Please provide details

> Winter census of waterbirds (over 500 sites checked); Project Monitoring and management of Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) implemented by the State Nature Conservancy (2009-2015, ERDF). Monitoring is focused also on gees resting sites.

Field for additional information (optional)

> Bird ringing is coordinated by the Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia.

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

> There are some bilateral projects and cooperation agreements on monitoring of birds between the State Nature Conservancy (and/or some NGOs) and nature conservation institutions in neighbouring countries

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

Yes

Please provide details

> Standard methods used, available at www.vtaky.sk.

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

> Constant Efforts Sites (CES - 4 sites)

Programme of census of breeding birds (<http://www.vtaky.sk/stranka/96-Hniezdne-scitanie-vodneho-vtactva.html>)

Wintering birds census (<http://www.vtaky.sk/stranka/95-Zimne-scitanie.html>)

Programme RINGS (birds ringing - <http://vtaky.sk/stranka/106-Program-RINGS.html>)

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)

> Kaňuščák, P. 2012. Birds at the Sĺňava water reservoir near Piešťany (W Slovakia) in 1959-2012. Tichodroma 24: 76-91.

Kerestúr, D. & Mojžiš, M. 2012. Nature Reserve Kiarovský močiar marsh (S Slovakia) - results of bird trapping using CES scheme i.n 2010-2012. Tichodroma 24: 61-68.

Bohuš, M. 2013. Breeding bird assemblage of willow-poplar forest in Danubian flood plains before and after water regime change. Tichodroma 25: 56-66.

Sekeyová Z., Mediannikov O., Roux V., Subramanian G., Špitalská E., Kristofík J., Darolová A. & Raoult D. 2012. Vector-borne and Zoonotic Diseases, Vol. 12, No. 00.

Hoi H., Krištofík J. & Darolová A. 2013. Experimentally Simulating Paternity Uncertainty: Immediate and Long-Term Responses of Male and Female Reed Warblers *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*. PLoS ONE 8(4): e62541. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0062541.

Krištín, A. & Jarčuška, B. 2013. Waterbirds of water reservoir Môťová (C Slovakia) after 25 years. Tichodroma 25: 45-55.

Krištofík J., Darolová A., Griggio M., Majtán J., Okuliarová M., Zeman M., Zídková L. & Hoi H. 2013. Does egg colouration signal female and egg quality in reed warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*)? *Ethology Ecology & Evolution*, Vol. 25, No. 2, 129-143.

Brandl H. B., van Dongen W. F., Darolová A., Krištofík J., Majtán J. & Hoi H. 2014. Composition of Bacterial Assemblages in Different Components of Reed Warbler Nests and a Possible Role of Egg Incubation in Pathogen Regulation. PLoS One. 2014 Dec 10; 9(12): e114861. www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25493434.

Darolová, A., Krištofík, J. & Hoi, H. 2014. Are there habitat dependent differences in male quality in Eurasian Reed Warblers? The role of male song and feeding investment. Tichodroma 26: 1-8.

Darolová A., Krištofík J. & Hoi H. 2014. Vegetation type variation in marsh habitats: does it affect nest site selection, reproductive success, and maternal investment in Reed Warblers? *J Ornithol* 155: 997-1008.

Krištín, A., Jarčuška, B. & Kaňuch, P. 2014. Birds of wetland habitats in site Kórea near Zvolen (C Slovakia) in different periods. Tichodroma 26: 45-58.

Kerestúr, D. 2014. First record of the Paddyfield Warbler (*Acrocephalus agricola*) in Slovakia. Tichodroma 26: 59-62.

Krištofík J., Darolová A., Majtán J., Okuliarová M., Zeman M. & Hoi H. 2014. Do females invest more into eggs when males sing more attractively? Postmating sexual selection strategies in a monogamous reed passerine. *Ecology and Evolution*, 4(8): 1328-1339.

Trnka, A., Peterková, V., Prokop, P. & Batáry, P. 2014. Management of reedbeds: mosaic reed cutting does not affect prey abundance and nest predation rate of reed passerine birds. *Wetlands Ecology and Management*, 22: 227-274.

Trnka, A. & Trnka, M. 2014. On the return rate and breeding territory fidelity in the Great Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*) in south-west Slovakia. Tichodroma 26: 63-66.

Some information available on web sites of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (www.sopsr.sk) and the Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia (www.vtaky.sk); Research results usually published in Journal Tichodroma (www.tichodroma.sk/archiv.html); overview of publications included in the CMS National Report; Report on winter waterbird census in Slovakia in the season 2011/2012 published, available on the web (http://www.vtaky.sk/media/file/ZSVV/Sprava_ZSV_2011_12_web.pdf);

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

Yes

Nationally

Yes

Please provide details

> The IWC is coordinated by the Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia and implemented mostly by volunteers, but in some regions the census is made and/or coordinated by State Nature Conservancy staff members.

Internationally

No

Please explain the reasons

> Lack of funds.

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?

Yes

Please provide further details

> It is included in the Action Plan 2015 - 2018 for implementation of the national wetland policy 2015 - 2021.

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)

Being developed

Please provide starting date and expected finalisation date of the development process; contact details of a contact person for each programme

> This measure was included in the new Action Plan 2015-2018 to the Updated Programme of Wetland Management in Slovakia 2015-2021, as well as in the Action Plan for implementation of measures of the updated National Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (2014).

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

Yes

Field for additional information (optional)

> Current activities include provisions of the AEWA Action Plan (training programmes, information materials). Different events (Danube Day, European Birds Day, World Wetlands Day, camps, excursions, conferences) are used to highlight the themes.

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 capacity, but will be nominated for next period.

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

Yes

Please indicate which measures have been taken:

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> The national training programme will be developed in 2015.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> Training programmes and materials will be developed in 2015.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> No such resources available yet.

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

Yes

How can the effectiveness of the measures be rated?

High

Please provide details

> Long-term awareness campaign is focused on white stork; Bird of the Year 2014 (campaign of the Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia); Participation in International Census of White Stork; Educational materials produced. Effectiveness of the measures can be measured by positive attitude of public to white storks, support for their nesting, monitoring of migration, nesting, breeding success.

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.

> The information is placed on the web page of the State Nature Conservancy (SNC) and the activities are included in the annual work plan of SNC. Administrations of protected areas organize events every year connected with WMBD. The WMBD is promoted also in web site and magazine of the Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia and various activities are organized.

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

> Insufficient funds, co-financing provided for projects.

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)

It is currently considering

Please provide details on the answer given above

> The State Nature Conservancy established the Carpathian Wetland Centre in 2014, which can serve also as the AEWA Exchange Centre for the Carpathian region, but currently there is no specific staff working for the Centre and its funding.

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

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

Other

Please explain

> Not applicable

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

> The State Nature Conservancy staff members participated in the International training course organized by the Czech Ministry of Environment in Lednice (CZ) in September 2011 Wetlands as Waterfowl Habitats, no other training was organized.

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

> Insufficient capacity.

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)

Yes

Please list the IIT projects (see the full roster here) to which grants have been provided or for which initiatives have been undertaken and briefly provide any relevant information

> Projects of transborder cooperation (PL-SK, CZ-SK, HU-SK, SK-UA) were developed and supported for exchange of information, research, surveys and monitoring, exchange or transfer of expertise, implemented mostly by SOS/BirdLife Slovakia and Regional Association for Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development Bratislava (BROZ).

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

> Not sufficient funds in the budget.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> Insufficient funds and capacity.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> The implementation of AEWA is a part of the work of the Slovak Ramsar Committee composed of different stakeholders. National Focal Points and Administrative Authorities are the same for the Ramsar Convention and AEWA.

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

> Memorandum of Understanding was signed in 2014 between the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and Duna-Ipoly National park Directorate in Hungary for cooperation development in transboundary Ramsar Site Ipel/Ipoly River Valley (including monitoring of waterbirds, research and exchange of data)

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

> Both on the level of the Ministry of Environment and the implementing agency the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic are officers in the same department or are responsible for several conventions (including CBD and Ramsar Convention).

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?

> The Ministry of Environment and the State Nature Conservancy organize regular meetings and consultations and representatives of relevant departments are involved in different bodies of MEAs; the procedure of intersectoral consultations is based in the rules for commenting the documents submitted to the Government. Closer involvement and cooperation with NGOs and other partners is necessary because of lack of capacity in governmental institutions.

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

Planned

Please provide details

> Measures are included in recently adopted and/or developed strategic documents (climate change adaptation strategy, biodiversity strategy and its Action Plan, national wetland policy and its Action Plan).

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

Planned

Please provide details

> See above

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

Planned

Please provide details

> See above

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

Planned

Please provide details

> See 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).

Planned

Please provide details

> See above

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

No

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

> Relevant AEWA guidelines will be translated into Slovak language and distributed to relevant stakeholders.

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

> Measures to prevent the spread of the HPAI were adopted in 2005 and are regularly updated. The relevant decisions of the European Commission are also available on the web. The non-stop telephone line was established by the Ministry of Agriculture in 2006 for reporting on found dead birds. Generally information on wildlife or ecological / nature conservation aspects of the disease are missing.

67.2 List required further guidance or information

> Translation of existing guidance and information into the national language concerning waterbirds and wetlands and their publishing on the web to understand the risk of diseases that can be transmitted from these animals to humans and to ensure decisions and responses to disease outbreaks are effective and factually based.

67.3 Field for additional information (optional)

> No case of HPAI reported during this period.

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.

Scan_Submission_MoESR.pdf - Letter of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic

Date of submission

> 12 May 2015