



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

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

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

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

To contact the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat please send your inquiries to [aewa\\_national\\_reporting@unep.de](mailto:aewa_national_reporting@unep.de)

## 1. General Information

### **Name of reporting Contracting Party**

> South Africa

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

> 01/04/2002

### **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

> Department of Environmental Affairs of the Republic of South Africa

Name and title of the head of institution

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

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

Please select from the list below as appropriate.

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

**Other contributors to the AEWA National Report 2012-2014**

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

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> National Department of Environmental Affairs: Oceans and Coast Branch

South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)

south African National Parks (SANParks)

Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT)

Animal Demography Unit (ADU)

BirdLife South Africa (BirdLife SA)

CapeNature

## Status

### 3. Non-native Waterbird Species Status

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

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

Yes

#### AEWA Species - *Anas platyrhynchos* / Mallard

##### English Common name(s):

Common Mallard, Mallard

##### French Common name(s):

Canard colvert



#### Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

#### Native or non-native species

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

Non-native

#### Species Status

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

Both options can be selected

Breeding

#### Species Status - Breeding

#### Latest population estimate

Year

> 2015

Population unit

Individuals

Minimum

> 1

Maximum

> 382

## Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely escapes from collections

## Population data quality

Poor

## Source of information

> Data received from the Coordinated Waterfowl Count (CWAC) 2015. These figures are from numerous water bodies over the entire South Africa over the number of years. These would be absolute minimum numbers as Mallards usually inhabit wetlands in urban and semi-urban areas in which many of them are not surveyed.

No information

No information

## Previous population estimate

Year

> 1996-2002

Population unit

Pairs

Minimum

> 1 200

Maximum

> 1 200

## Source of information

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

No information

No information

## Population trend

Population trend

Unknown

Trend data quality

Poor

## Source of information

> Second South African Bird Atlas (SABAP2) of the Animal Demography Unit, University of Cape Town

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

> In the Free State Province the Mallard seems to occur mainly along the Vaal River, which is the northern boundary of the Province, with three other provinces.

## Legal Status

Does the species have any legal status?

Yes

## National Red List Status

Does the species have any National Red List Status?

No

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

Please select all relevant risks from the list below

- Competitive exclusion of native species, or aggressive to native species
- Hybridisation with native species
- Eutrophication or pollution of waterbodies
- Damage to natural or semi-natural habitats

Which species are excluded or are subject of aggressive behavior?

> Very few Anatidae occurs in urban /semi-urban because of territorial behaviour of this species. Only Egyptian geese (*Alipochen aegyptiaca*) are able to absorb exclusion pressured From Mallards

Is aggression and exclusion a regularly observed behavior?

- Yes

Which species does it hybridise with?

> Most commonly, indigenous species of similar genus *Anas*. These include the *Anas undulate* (Yellow-billed duck), *Anas erythrorhyncha* (Red-billed teal) and less commonly *Anas capensis* (Cape teal) and *Anas smitii* (Cape Shoveler)

Is hybridisation regularly occurring?

- No

Are hybrids produced?

- Yes

Do hybrids reproduce themselves?

- Yes

Is the hybrid population increasing?

- Yes

Is this widespread or localized?

- Localised

Please provide details and references, where available

> Localised in that in terms of certain wetlands within a given area, but wetland in which hybridisation occurs is widespread throughout South Africa

## Alien Species - *Cairina moschata* / Muscovy Duck

### English Common name(s):

Muscovy Duck

### French Common name(s):

Canard de Barbarie, Canard musqué



### Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

### Native or non-native species

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

Non-native

### Species Status

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

Both options can be selected

Breeding

### Species Status - Breeding

### Latest population estimate

No information

No information

### Previous population estimate

No information

No information

### Population trend

No information

No information

## Alien Species - *Callonetta leucophrys* / Ringed Teal

### English Common name(s):

Ringed Teal

### French Common name(s):

Canard à collier 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

> 1987-2007

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

## 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

No information

No information

### Previous population estimate

No information

No information

### Population trend

No information

No information

## Alien Species - *Aix galericulata* / Mandarin Duck

### English Common name(s):

Mandarin, Mandarin Duck

### French Common name(s):

Canard mandarin



### Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

### Native or non-native species

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

Non-native

### Species Status

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

Both options can be selected

Breeding

### Species Status - Breeding

### Latest population estimate

Year

> 2004-2007

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

Year

> 1996-2002

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely escapes from collections

Source of information

> Blair, M.J., McKay, H., Musgrove, A.J. & Rehfish, M.M. 2002. Review of the Status of Introduced Non-Native Waterbird Species in the Agreement Area of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement. AEWA Technical

Series No.25. Bonn, Germany

## **Population trend**

No information

No information

## Alien Species - *Anas rubripes* / American Black Duck

### English Common name(s):

American Black Duck

### French Common name(s):

Canard noir, Canard noirâtre



### Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

### Native or non-native species

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

Non-native

### Species Status

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

Both options can be selected

Breeding

### Species Status - Breeding

### Latest population estimate

Year

> 1987-2007

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

# 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.

No modes of taking has been prohibited

Please explain the reasons

> Please see the information below.

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation

> At A National Level the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act (Act 10 of 2004) provides for the following restricted activities to be regulated in relation to a specimen of a listed threatened or protected species, meaning:-

- (i) hunting, catching, capturing or killing any living specimen of a listed threatened or protected species by any means, method or device whatsoever, including searching, pursuing, driving, lying in wait, luring, alluring, discharging a missile or injuring with intent to hunt, catch, capture or kill any such specimen;
- (ii) gathering, collecting or plucking any specimen of a listed threatened or protected species;
- (iii) picking parts of, or cutting, chopping off, uprooting, damaging or destroying, any specimen of a listed threatened or protected species;
- (iv) importing into the Republic, including introducing from the sea, any specimen of a listed threatened or protected species;
- (v) exporting from the Republic, including re-exporting from the Republic, any specimen of a listed threatened or protected species;
- (vi) having in possession or exercising physical control over any specimen of a listed threatened or protected species;
- (vii) growing, breeding or in any other way propagating any specimen of a listed threatened or protected species, or causing it to multiply;
- (viii) conveying, moving or otherwise translocating any specimen of a listed threatened or protected species;
- (ix) selling or otherwise trading in, buying, receiving, giving, donating or accepting as a gift, or in any way acquiring or disposing of any specimen of a listed threatened or protected species; or
- (x) any other prescribed activity which involves a specimen of a listed threatened or protected species.

At a provincial level, these are some of the legislation used amongst others:-

The Free State Province Nature Conservation Ordinance No. 8 of 1969

Section 29, 32 and 33 of the Provincial Conservation Ordinances No 9 of 1974 of the Western Cape

Some of these legislation are in processes of being reviewed.

#### 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))

Yes

#### 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

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

> Explosives and poisons have been used in the past for the control of the Red-billed Quelea, which is not a waterbird species but few (if any) AEWA species are likely to have been affected.

### 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 South Africa**

National Single Species Action Plan for *Glareola nordmanni*

(Black-winged Pratincole)

No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> South Africa has not developed the National Single Species Action Plan for this species.

Field for additional information (optional)

> This Single Species Action Plan was developed in 2004. It is recommended that the document be revised as it has been developed more than 10 years ago to include Country specific activities and actions. The focus could have shifted since 2004. The species has been included in the Regional Red List for Birds of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. From 2000 to 2014 the species has been categorised as Near Threatened (NT).

National Single Species Action Plan for *Gallinago media*

(Great Snipe)

No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> South Africa has not developed the National Single Species Action Plan for this species.

Field for additional information (optional)

> This Single Species Action Plan was developed in 2004. It is recommended that the document be revised as it has been developed more than 10 years ago to include Country specific activities and actions. The focus could have shifted since 2004.

National Single Species Action Plan for *Oxyura maccoa*

(Maccoa Duck)

No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> Few years ago South Africa participated in the development of the Single Species of Maccia duck but not developed a National Single Species Action Plan for this species

Field for additional information (optional)

> n/a

National Single Species Action Plan for *Phoeniconaias minor*

(Lesser Flamingo)

No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> In 2010 South Africa initiated a process to develop a National Single Species for Lesser Flamingo. The challenge was the availability of key stakeholders in this regard.

National Single Species Action Plan for *Egretta vinaceigula*

(Slaty Egret)

No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> The development of this particular SSAP was recent. South Africa in 2014 nominated a south African representative to the International Single Species Action Plan Working Group which is coordinated by BirdLife Botswana. South Africa through BirdLife South Africa is involved in monitoring the status of this species though it is migrant to the country

Field for additional information (optional)

> n/a

National Single Species Action Plan for *Sarothrura ayresi*

(White-winged Flufftail)

No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> South Africa has not developed the National Single Species Action Plan for this species but implementing some aspect of the Action Plan namely the research.

Field for additional information (optional)

> SA through BLSA sourced tried to funding source funding for research and conservation on the White-winged Flufftail namely, "To establish and research the biology and behaviour of a captive population of the Endangered White-winged Flufftail to inform conservation action", to the Wildlife Without Borders Critical Fund (American donor). to do research for the implementation of the SSAP of white winged flufftail. The proposal was not successful.

Additionally, South Africa through BirdLife South Africa is coordinating a workshop which will take place in August in Ethiopia on the preparation and implementation of AEWA Single Species Action and Management Plans. The first review of this kind was presented to MOP4 in 2008 and the new review will cover implementation progress made during 2008-2015. Please see the attached questionnaire customised for the White-winged Flufftail ISSAP to be covered by the review.

National Single Species Action Plan for *Crex crex*

(Corncrake)

No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> South Africa has not developed the National Single Species Action Plan for this species.

**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

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[africanpenguin\\_biodiversitymanagement\\_gn824.pdf](#)

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

**National Single Species Action Plan for *Spheniscus demersus* / African Penguin**

For *Spheniscus demersus* / African Penguin

NSSAP in place and being implemented

Please provide details

> the Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) for African Penguin, which is equivalent to the National Single Species Action Plan which was developed in consultation with stakeholders and it is now being implemented. This document was published in a government gazette for implementation in 2013.

**National Single Species Action Plan for *Haematopus moquini* / African Black Oystercatcher**

For *Haematopus moquini* / African Black Oystercatcher

NSSAP in place and being implemented

**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?

> In developing the BMP for African penguin, South Africa used the National Norms and Standards for Biodiversity Management plans for Species (BMP-S) which were gazetted in 2009 in terms of the Biodiversity Act (Act 10 of 2004). The Norms and Standards are aligned with the AEWA guidelines for preparing National Single Species Action Plan in a way that they support Stakeholder engagements as well as the development of objectives with Actions as well as Time frame and Responsibility Organisation as well as annual reporting to the Minister.

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

> South Africa, through the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) is leading in the process to develop the draft of the International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Grey Crowned Crane. As well South Africa provided extensive comments to this document during the public participation period which closed on 17 January 2015 .

As well, a meeting to develop a multi-species action plan for seabirds in the Benguela upwelling system was held in Namibia in September 2014, under the auspices of AEWA. South Africa participated in this meeting and through BirdLife South Africa, coordinated the development of this document which will be consulted and maybe approved by MOP6.

### **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.

Emergency situation has occurred

#### **Please provide information on each emergency situation which occurred**

##### **Botulism**

Indicate when the emergency situation took place

> January-February 2013

Indicate where the emergency situation took place (including geographical coordinates)

> Upper reaches of the northernmost of the St Helena Mine evaporation dams, South of Theronia Sewage Works (28 00' 37.38"S; 26 41' 44.28"E)

##### **AEWA Species - *Anas capensis* / Cape Teal**

Number of individuals affected (all individuals exposed to the emergency situation)

> c.10

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

Please fill in the percentage (%) in the box below.

> 0.01

If mortality has been recorded, indicate number of individuals

> c.10

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

Please fill in the percentage (%) in the box below.

> 0.01

If a waterbird site has been affected, indicate the site(s) names(s)

> St Helena Mine Evaporation Dam (a site registered with the Coordinated Waterbird Counts CWAC Project of the Animal Demography Unit, University of Cape Town).

If a waterbird site has been affected, indicate area of habitat impacted (in hectares)

> 0.5

What proportion of the site has been affected?

Please fill in the percentage (%) in the box below.

> 5

Have emergency measures been implemented?

No

Please explain the reasons

> No resources available for implementing such measures, and the outbreak seems to have been minor and localised anyway.

Field for additional information (optionally you can provide additional information on the emergency case)  
> Outbreaks of botulism occur quite regularly on wetlands in the Goldfields region of the Free State Province of South Africa, and have been doing so for at least the past 45 years.

## **Infectious disease**

Indicate when the emergency situation took place  
> February/March 2015

Indicate where the emergency situation took place (including geographical coordinates)  
> Wilderness lake in the Western Cape Province

## **AEWA Species - *Cygnus cygnus* / Whooper Swan**

Number of individuals affected (all individuals exposed to the emergency situation)  
> Approximately 200 birds died

If a waterbird site has been affected, indicate the site(s) names(s)  
> Wilderness lake

If a waterbird site has been affected, indicate area of habitat impacted (in hectares)  
> not known

Have emergency measures been implemented?  
 Yes

### **Please provide details**

> Specimen of dead individuals have been sent to local state veterinarians for clinical examination. No diagnosis has been made at the time of writing. Infield control measures have consisted of the regular removal of dead individuals from waterbodies and the disposal of carcasses by burying.

Field for additional information (optionally you can provide additional information on the emergency case)  
> Approximately 200 dead or dying individuals have been observed over a three week periods, with affected species including Yellow-billed duck, Cape shoveller, White-backed duck, Red-billed teal, Fulvous duck, Maccos duck, Egyptian goose, Red-knobbed coot, White-breasted cormorant, Common tern, Grey-headed gull, Glossy ibis and African spoonbill. The most commonly affected species are Yellow-billed duck, Cape shoveller and Red-knobbed coot.

## **Oil spill**

Indicate when the emergency situation took place  
> Marine oil spills have in the past contaminated large numbers of seabirds and are a continuing threat around South Africa.  
An example, in 2013 a ship ran aground in Goukamma Nature Reserve outside of Knysna. Birds such as penguins were affected and most of them were successfully rehabilitated. The amount of work needed to help the birds is enormous because volunteers caught oiled birds to clean and non-oiled penguins to prevent them from getting oiled.

Indicate where the emergency situation took place (including geographical coordinates)  
> Goukamma has a small breeding colony of White-breasted Cormorant and Kelp Gull. There is also a small population of African Black Oystercatchers utilizing the rocky shore in the Nature Reserve (their breeding distribution extends well beyond Goukamma in both directions). These species would have the highest risk of becoming fouled by oil. The former two species are of "Least concern", while the latter is listed as "Vulnerable" in Red Data Book for birds.

Knysna Heads lies nearby, and has Cape and White-breasted Cormorant as well as Kelp Gull breeding on cliffs on both sides of The Heads. Cape Cormorants often forage with penguins and gannets and are at risk should an oil slick move in that direction or if birds forage to the west. The other two breeding species would be at risk should come closer inshore or onto the rocks. Cape Cormorants are classified as "Endangered". Satellite tracking of seabirds that breed at 6 islands in Algoa Bay, have indicated that juvenile and non-breeding adult African Penguins as well as foraging Cape Gannets pass through and/or forage on the eastern edge of the Agulhas Bank. Thus there would be a high risk of proportions of these populations becoming fouled by oil slicks at sea. African Penguins are listed as "Endangered" and Cape Gannets as "Vulnerable". Several lightly oiled Kelp Gull were observed in the immediate vicinity of the wreck and at Buffalo River Mouth, but these could not be captured. Regular patrols took place along the coastline, including as far afield as Bird Island, Port Elizabeth. There are currently 3 adult and 64 badly oiled African Penguin juveniles, one adult, and 172 oiled Cape Gannets being treated as a result of this incident.

## **AEWA Species - Spheniscus demersus / African Penguin**

Number of individuals affected (all individuals exposed to the emergency situation)

> 3 adults and 64 juveniles

## **AEWA Species - Morus capensis / Cape Gannet**

Number of individuals affected (all individuals exposed to the emergency situation)

> 172

If a waterbird site has been affected, indicate the site(s) names(s)

> See above

If a waterbird site has been affected, indicate area of habitat impacted (in hectares)

> see above

What proportion of the site has been affected?

Please fill in the percentage (%) in the box below.

> 0

Have emergency measures been implemented?

Yes

Please provide details

> Effected birds were sent to Tenikwa Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre outside Knysna, SAMREC at Cape Recife and SANCCOB Eastern Cape Rehabilitation Centre (SECRC) at Cape St Francis, for treatment. The birds from the two smaller centre's were later all transferred to SECRC

Field for additional information (optionally you can provide additional information on the emergency case)

> n/a

### **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?

> South Africa has its own guidelines in dealing with the satiation

## **4.4 Re-establishments**

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

Yes

Please provide details on the register

> Partially. Provided for in the BMP for African penguin

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

Partial

Please provide details

> These are species specific and not generic to all waterbirds

### **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)**

Yes

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

## Projects for *Spheniscus demersus* / African Penguin

For *Spheniscus demersus* / African Penguin

Re-establishment plan developed and being implemented

Please provide information on the time frame and the objectives of the project. Please provide a web link or attach a file, if available. Please provide contact details of any person or organisation coordinating its implementation. Please list any activities and/or achievements over the past triennium.

> see the attached African Penguin BMP document

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

Not applicable

Please explain

> No information in this regard

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

> no information in this regard

## 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

> The Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004) provides for the management of alien and invasive species through the control of their introduction and spread, as well as the control or eradication of those already established.

Field for additional information (optional)

> n/a

### **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

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Biodiversity Act act10.pdf](#)

[TOPS NEMBA Regulations Original Gazetted version.pdf](#)

[5th Amendments TOPS Regulations August 2012.pdf](#)

[1st Amendments TOPS Regulations and repeal Notice 28 January 2008.pdf](#)

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

> Duty of care on persons who carry out restricted activities with alien and listed invasive species, or who own land on which listed invasive species occur has been established.

Field for additional information (optional)

> Provided for by the National Environmental Biodiversity Act and its Threatened or Protected Species Regulations or Alien Invasive Species Regulations

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> No information

Field for additional information (optional)

> No information

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

Yes

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

**Eradication programme for *Anas platyrhynchos* / Mallard**

For *Anas platyrhynchos* / Mallard

Control or eradication programme developed and being implemented

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

Yes

Please list the species for which relevant action has been undertaken

> research undertaken by the Agricultural Research Council on the identification and dissemination of biological control agents, particularly for the control of aquatic plants such as water hyacinth *Eichhornia crassipes*, water lettuce *Pistia stratiotes*, and water fern *Azolla filiculoides*.

Please provide further information for each relevant programme

> No additional information

**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?

> South Africa has its own Regulations were are developed in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 10 of 2004)

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

> n/a

# 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

> National Protected Area Expansion Strategy for South Africa 2008. Priorities for expanding the protected area network for ecological sustainability and climate change adaptation, Government of South Africa, Pretoria

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[NPAES Policymakers Summary DRAFT for MinTech 150908.pdf](#) - National Protected Area Expansion Strategy for South Africa

Field for additional information (optional)

> South Africa's protected area network currently falls far short of sustaining biodiversity and ecological processes. In this context, the goal of the National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES) is to achieve cost-effective protected area expansion for ecological sustainability and increased resilience to climate change.

The NPAES highlights ways in which we can become more efficient and effective in allocating the scarce human and financial resources available for protected area expansion. It sets targets for protected area expansion, provides maps of the most important areas for protected area expansion, and makes recommendations on mechanisms for protected area expansion. The common set of targets and spatial priorities provided by the NPAES enable co-ordination between the many role players involved in protected area expansion.

#### **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?

> South Africa has developed the National Protected Area Expansion Strategy to assist in identifying sites of National importance

Field for additional information (optional)

> n/a

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

> n/a

### 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

Yes

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

> The NPAES takes into consideration ecological sustainability and climate change adaptation.

For the national protected area network

Yes

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

> The Review of NPAES is underway to include best information for National Freshwater Ecosystems Priority Areas as well as marine ecosystem by end of July.

**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

**All sites of international importance**

Total number

> 22

Total area (ha)

> 545048

Out of the above total: number of protected sites

> 20

Out of the above total: protected area (ha)

> 555678

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

> 20

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

> 14185

**All sites of national importance**

Total number

> 60

Total area (ha)

> 5826018

Out of the above total: number protected sites

> 60

Out of the above total: protected area (ha)

> 5826018

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

> 60

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

> 5826018

**Examples of best practice (optional)**

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

> n/a

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

Being developed

Please provide starting date and expected date of finalisation

> n/a

**25. Has your country developed a strategic plan (independently or as part of your country's overarching biodiversity or protected area policy document) to maintain or increase the resilience of the ecological network (for waterbirds), including resilience to climate change,**

**and to conserve range and ecological variability of habitats and species? (Resolution 5.2, AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 1, Target 1.2)**

No

Please explain the reasons

> n/a

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

Yes

Please provide details

> Indirectly

**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 process

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

> n/a

# 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

> n/a

Only some AEWA species occurring in your country

> Some species of ducks, geese and teal are allowed to be hunted in South Africa. These include amongst others the following species which are listed in terms of AEWA species list:

Yellow Billed Duck

Egyptian Goose

Spur-Winged Goose

White-Faced Whistling-Duck

Fulvous Whistling-Duck

South African Shelduck

Cape Teal

Southern Pochard

In relation to the rest, NO hunting is allowed for the Western Cape Province and maybe other provinces.

Only some harvesting activities

> Hunting

Other

> n/a

Field for additional information (optional)

> All species are not available in all areas, and local provincial restriction may apply. That is, hunting of some of the waterbirds species in South Africa is subject to a permit obtainable from Nature Conservation Authorities or Agencies. During certain months shooting of water birds is prohibited during breeding seasons. Timing must be confirmed in advance with the relevant Authorities or Agencies. Hunters are expected to indicate which species were harvested. The challenge is that not all hunters provide feedback to the provincial Authorities.

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

No

Please explain the reasons and barriers to introduction of legislation

> The banning of lead shot for hunting in wetlands has not been considered yet as hunting of water birds is not a big issues like in Europe.

The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 4 of 2004): Threatened or Protected Species Regulations regulates the use of lead shot hunting in wetlands by means of a permitting system.

Provincial legislation also regulates the use of lead shot for hunting.

South Africa does not experience a lot of duck hunting and in wetlands hence this is not really considered.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> See above explanation

Field for additional information (optional)

> n/a

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

Yes

How would you rate the effectiveness of the measures?

High

Please provide details

> South Africa through the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 4 of 2004): Threatened or Protected Species (ToPS) Regulations at a National level and Provincial legislation regulates illegal killing through a permitting system. For example the following species are listed as a threatened species in terms of Section 56 of NEMBA in terms of ToPS Regulations: The African Penguin; the Blue, Wattled and Grey crowned cranes as well as Black Stock. Subsequently, a permit is required in terms of Section 57(1) of NEMBA for the carrying out of any restricted activity involving a listed species. The Threatened or Protected Species Regulations, 2007, which are under review requires the relevant issuing authority to consider the provisions of the biodiversity management plan, when considering a permit application for any listed species if available.

Field for additional information (optional)

> n/a

**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?

No

Please explain the reasons

> Through the wing shooting/birds hunting industry, guidelines for interested people are developed for the industry and they are not legally binding. these guidelines talks to safety, preshoot consideration, the DO's and DON'T before and during the shooting and the use of the gun itself

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

No

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

> The guidelines has not been considered yet as bird harvesting is not of high priority in the country

**Optionally you can provide additional information on section 6.1. Hunting**

> n/a

**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.

> Restrictions have not been introduced yet. The use of lead in not really problematic in the country

**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

> SEA/EIA processes consider the environment comprising the natural, physical and socio-economic aspects. Biodiversity including all species is one of the chapter to be included in a Strategic Environmental Assessment and its normally captured along with the flora and fauna topics in the EIA process. SEA/EIA seeks to ensure that legal requirements are fulfilled while, at the same time, effectively and efficiently connecting relevant procedures, allowing the sharing and reuse of biodiversity. The habitats requirements of all species are commonly fulfilled during the planning and project design of the development which guided by the SEA process then followed by EIA process. That is the majority of activities that have the potential to significantly

impact on wetlands are covered by the NEMA: EIA Regulations

As well, the majority of activities that have the potential to significantly impact upon wetlands are covered by the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) EIA Regulations.

Do the SEA/EIA processes include public participation?

Yes

Please provide details

> There is no doubt that public involvement and consultation is a vital component of both successful EIA/SEA systems and specific EIA/SEA processes. It has been an integral part of EIA practice, but its use in SEA is less formal and systematic. Public Participation is included in the SEA/EIA processes as required by NEMA and the EIA regulations, as well as the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, 2000 (Act No 3 of 2000) [PAJA]

Field for additional information (optional)

> Additionally, Section 24(5)(bA) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act no 107 of 1998) [NEMA] provides for various environmental management instruments including the SEA and the EIA, for assessing the potential consequences for or impacts on the environment of activities.

The National Department of Environmental Affairs, in line with Section 24(5)(bA) of the NEMA, is in process developing Environmental Management Instrument Regulations. Once in place, these regulations will enable the utilisation of a range of instruments (including SEAs) to achieve, amongst others and where relevant, the following:

- ensuring the use of other instruments that are 'fit for purpose' (appropriate for the relevant activity or development type in its relevant geographical context);
- integrating environmental considerations into the formulation and implementation of policies, plans, programmes and projects;
- informing environmental decision making at both strategic and project specific levels; and
- reducing reliance on EIAs and / or environmental authorisations (EA).

**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

> The SEA process would most of the time be the first step to identify any impacts might cause by the proposed development to the receiving ecosystem or important biodiversity concerns areas. Since Infrastructure developments are a major source of ecosystem damage and habitat loss, which can have a variety of impacts on waterbirds. During planning EAPs are advised to apply Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and project Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) as part of a robust and transparent system for planning and implementing sustainable development.

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

> During project planning where SEA/EIA process has identified significant impacts on any environment or habitat, it is mostly advisable to introduce mitigatory measures by assessing either Alternative Location or Activity Alternative where impacts will be less on the receiving environment. Normally EMPr will be used to identify mitigatory measures prior to development commencement. Additionally, fitting of mitigation measures such as the bird diverters or flappers to make powerlines more visible to birds. Thus reducing waterbirds collision with powerlines in the vicinity of and over wetlands. As well alignment of proposed powerlines away from high concentration of waterbirds

Field for additional information (optional)

> n/a

**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?

> n/a

### **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

> South Africa through the EWT has initiated a Wildlife and Energy Programme. The role of the Endangered Wildlife Trust's Wildlife and Energy Programme (EWT-WEP) is therefore essential in ensuring that the impacts of these infrastructure on our wildlife is kept to an absolute minimum. The EWT-WEP's largest project is the Eskom-EWT Strategic Partnership.

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

> South African Bird Atlas Project provides distribution data of all avifauna within South Africa. Coordinated Waterbirds Counts the population sizes at important wetlands  
The EIA process uses the Avifaunal Specialist to compile site specific reports on the avifauna, possible impact and mitigations 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

> This applies usually to the transmission lines especially the larger ones. In relation to the distribution lines it is done partially and it is unclear what the power utility process is in this regard.

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 power utility companies have various mitigation measures for various situations which are implemented to reduce the risk of collision and electrocution. This is often done retrospectively when larger numbers of incidences are being recorded at a specific sites or in some case the mitigation measures are implemented/fitted during the construction phase. Retrofitting in this case is facilitated by the EWT's Wildlife and Energy Programme

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

> Mitigation measures are implemented at sites where high incidences are recorded. It is often not possible to visit these sites to compile a necessary report to enable mitigation measures to be implemented

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

> Though the EWT Wildlife and Energy Programme

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

No

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

> The NBSA is being revised to include migratory species

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

No

**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

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.

> The draft BirdLife South Africa/EWT Birds and Wind-Energy Best-Practice Guidelines (3rd edition) (attached) are available for comment. The updated guidelines are the result of an extensive literature review and have had input from a number of specialists working in South Africa and abroad. They have been reviewed by Rowena Langston and Peter Ryan, both internationally recognised experts.

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?

Yes

Are mitigation measures being implemented?

> Monitoring must be implemented in accordance with BirdLife South Africa / Endangered Wildlife Trust: best practice guidelines for avian monitoring and impact mitigation at proposed wind energy development sites in southern Africa . This includes, but is not limited to:

a. Post-construction monitoring should use similar methodology as pre-construction monitoring to ensure comparability of results, but should also include the collection of mortality data. (Condition)

b. Post-construction monitoring should start within 6 months of the turbines becoming operational and should span a period of at least 12 months . (Condition)

The results of post-construction monitoring may highlight the need for additional mitigation measures that may need to be incorporated in the environmental management programme. The applicant should be required to take all feasible and reasonable steps to reduce significant impacts on avifauna

It is recommended that construction-phase monitoring (observations over a period of at least three days per season) should be conducted by an avifaunal specialist . The results of this should inform any additional mitigation that may be required

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

> 1. Collision Risk Modelling requires a large amount of data, without which statistical confidence in the model's output will be low.

2. It is essential that avifaunal specialist spends time on site to orientate themselves and develop of monitoring protocols.

3. It was suggested that criteria to assess the "acceptability" of impacts be developed.

4. Mitigation proposed prior to the issuing of environmental authorisation, is received better by the developer than that suggested post authorisation.

5. Curtailment as mitigation is mostly not well received by developers as it implies a financial risk.

6. There is uncertainty around post-construction monitoring requirements and how this might link to enforcement. This needs to be clarified.

7. The impacts of associated infrastructure should be taken into account at an initial stages of application.
8. Identify a suitable control site can be challenging, but it is important to use one if possible.
9. It is critical that there is good communication between the avifaunal specialist, developers, consultants and landowners.
10. It is challenging to balance the economic realities and need for adequate data.
11. Climatic (inter-annual) variation should be kept in mind as monitoring is usually only done over one year (four seasons).
12. While international case studies are useful, it is important to take into account region-specific circumstances.
13. Sharing of data between different projects would be greatly beneficial. However it will take time to set up the necessary structures and agreements.
14. The fact that Best Practice Guidelines are not legally binding.  
The availability of observers can be a challenge. Observers must have good bird identification skills as well as local and regional knowledge of the area where the development is proposed.
16. It was debated whether time spent per vantage point should be reduced if there are many vantage points to cover

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

Yes

Please provide details

> The department of Environmental Affairs, working together with BirdLife South Africa and the Endangered Wildlife Trust strongly recommend that the Recommended Terms of Reference for Avifaunal Impact Assessment for Wind Energy Facilities are used to guide the scope of the impact assessment. This would include avifaunal specialist site assessments that cover all four seasons. If combined with monitoring of a control/ reference site, the impact assessment would be equivalent to pre-construction monitoring.

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

Yes

Please provide details

> A total of 19 species of seabirds has been recorded as being killed by longline fisheries within South Africa's territorial and EEZ waters around the sub-Antarctic Prince Edward Islands and the African Continent. Of these, nine are albatrosses (Diomedidae) and seven are petrels (Procellariidae). Other species known to have been killed are the Macaroni Penguin- Spheniscidae (Eudyptes chrysolophus), Cape Gannet-Sulidae (Morus capensis) and Subantarctic Skua-Stercoraridae (Catharacta antarctica).

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

Yes

Please provide short description of all actions

> There has been global concern about the bycatch of seabirds in fishing operations, in particular longline and trawl fisheries. In response to this South Africa has developed the National Plan of Action (NPOA) for Reducing the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries in 2008.

All seabirds affected by South African longline and trawl fisheries are protected in terms of the Sea Birds and Seals Protection Act 1973 (Act No. 46 of 1973). This Act prohibits the killing, capture or willful disturbance of seabirds unless sanctioned in terms of a permit issued by the Minister of Environmental Affairs or a delegated representative.

In this regard, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries requires application of mitigation measures to reduce seabird by-catch in permits it is due for a reviewed

**42. Please report on the implementation of Resolution 5.12 on Adverse Effects of Agrochemicals on Migratory Waterbirds in Africa (this question is applicable only to Contracting Parties in Africa).**

42.1. Have relevant government authorities developed and implemented regulations on the trade and application of agrochemicals known to have a direct or indirect adverse effect on waterbirds?

Yes and being implemented

Please provide details

> Animal protection, nature conservation, environmental management, land use and poison management

legislation, which includes the Provincial Ordinances and the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act provide for the this

42.2. Is the use of such agrochemicals regulated in the vicinity of nationally and internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds, particularly in wetlands, also taking into account run-offs from agriculture affecting aquatic ecosystems?

Yes

Please provide details

> In 2010, The Minister of the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries adopted the pesticide management policy for South Africa with the following objectives:

- To improve legislative framework to ensure that South Africans are better protected from health and environmental risks posed by pesticides;
- To encourage the development and use of alternative products and techniques and reduce dependence on chemical plant protection products
- To integrate relevant international agreements and initiatives from other government departments;
- Increased transparency, access to information and improve public participation in the registration of pesticides

This policy also provide for the protection of biodiversity which is another key issue for pesticides is the effect they might have on biodiversity. The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) 2004, (Act No. 10 of 2004) provides for the management and conservation of South Africa's biodiversity within the framework of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA); the protection of species and ecosystems that warrant protection; and the sustainable use of indigenous biological resources. Considering how prevalent the use of pesticide is in ecosystems where endangered species are at risk, the DAFF shall give explicit protection for such species. However, the approval system will not eliminate non-target species' effect altogether, and it will be difficult to reduce environmental effects from the use of pesticides to the low level desired, owing to the fact that much of the environmental impact from approved pesticides is attributed to indirect effects - for example, affecting bird chick survival rates by reducing insect populations at critical times.

These indirect effects often result from products acting as intended and could sometimes be tackled through major changes to agronomic practice - which may not be practical - or through mitigation. Examples of mitigation measures might include the requirement for the use of certain pesticides or prescribing use only at a specific time.

In terms of the water quality protection of which some of the waterbirds use as their habitat the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) makes provision for the protection of water resources, including the prevention of pollution. The Department of Water Affairs and Sanitation as initiated the National Toxicity Monitoring Programme, which will monitor the levels of a number of pesticides in groundwater and surface water to ensure that water pollution from pesticides does not threaten compliance with the National Water Act. An effective approach to reducing pollution o water by pesticides would be, first, to release fewer pesticides and/or less toxic pesticides into the environment and, second, to use practices that minimize the movement of pesticides to surface water and groundwater.

42.3. Are there any steps undertaken to control or reduce the use of avicides in areas frequented by populations listed in Table 1 of the Agreement?

No

Please explain the reasons

> n/a

42.4. Have education and training activities been implemented for relevant target groups on the proper use of agrochemicals that may have possible adverse effect on waterbirds?

Yes

**Optionally you can provide additional information on section 6.2. Other Human Activities**

> None

## Pressures and Responses

### 7. Research and Monitoring

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

Yes

##### Covering the breeding period

Fully

Please provide details

> The Southern African Bird Atlas Project 2

The South African Bird-Ringing Unit (SAFRING): SAFRING administers bird ringing in southern Africa, supplying rings, ringing equipment and services to volunteer and professional ringers in South Africa and neighbouring countries.

The Coordinated Waterbirds Counts (CWAC): CWAC is a South Africa's commitment to International waterbird conservation. This is being done by means of a programme of regular mid-summer and mid-winter censuses at a large number of South African wetlands. It is one of the largest and most successful citizen science programmes in South Africa, providing much needed data for waterbird conservation around the world. Currently the project regularly monitors over 400 wetlands around the country, and furthermore curates waterbird data for over 600 sites.

The Birds in Reserves Project (BIRP): The primary aim of the project is the collection of bird occurrence data, specifically inside South African protected areas (PAs). The process is fairly simple; volunteers go out to any PA and simply make a list of all the bird species observed. Data can be collected up to a maximum of seven days. This project is well suited for people that simply want to contribute their sightings (within protected areas) to a worthwhile cause. Equally, the BIRP project can serve as an avifaunal baseline monitoring tool for all protected areas, whether big or small. The data is submitted to the ADU, processed and made available on this website.

The Coordinated Avifaunal Roadcounts (CAR): Roadcounts were pioneered in July 1993 in a joint Cape Bird Club/ADU project to monitor the populations of two threatened species: Blue Crane *Anthropoides paradiseus* and Denham's/Stanley's Bustard *Neotis denhami*. The initial study area is known as the Overberg and consists of a mosaic of agricultural and natural landscapes on the coastal plain northeast of Cape Town in the Western Cape. The project began with 15 routes and detailed observations were recorded while driving slowly and especially during stops at regular two-kilometre intervals. CAR spread rapidly to other provinces and now monitors 36 species of large terrestrial birds (cranes, bustards, korhaans, storks, Secretarybird and Southern Bald Ibis) along 350 fixed routes covering over 19 000 km ( the flight distance between Cape Town, London and back!). Fourteen of these species appear in the Red Data Book. Twice a year, in midsummer (the last Saturday in January) and midwinter (the last Saturday in July), roadcounts are carried out using this standardised method.

African Cranes Conservation Programme: The African Crane Conservation Programme (EWT-ACCP) is a partnership programme between the Endangered Wildlife Trust and International Crane Foundation (ICF). The EWT-ACCP empowers individuals and organisations to develop conservation activities and promotes the sustainable use and wise management of wetland, grassland and Karoo ecosystems upon which our crane species depend. Cranes are spectacular, graceful, long-lived birds that have captivated the imaginations of thousands for millennia. The EWT-ACCP is working tirelessly to ensure that these deceptively fragile birds remain a beautiful part of the African landscape for many more years to come.

##### Covering the passage/migration period

Fully

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

Fully

#### 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)

Yes

Which country(ies) were supported?

> The Southern African Bird Atlas Project 2 is a regional programme which caters for the southern African region

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

Yes

**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)**

> Bird Ringing project coordinated by South Africa (SAFRING).

Coordinated Waterbirds Counts (CWAC)

Coordinated Avifaunal Roadcounts (CAR)

Save the albatross seabird programme

Life history of the White-fronted Plover

The Wakkerstroom Project

The African Crane Foundation Programme

In the past three years(2012-2014) quite a bit of research papers relevant to seabirds conservation in South Africa were published. These are:

2012

Crawford RJM, Dyer BM, Geldenhuys D, Makhado AB, Randall RM, Upfold L, Visagie J, Waller L 2012. Trends in numbers of Crowned Cormorants in South Africa, with information on diet. *African Journal of Marine Science* 34: 411-424.

Distiller G, Altwegg R, Crawford RJM, Klages NTW, Barham B. 2012. Factors affecting adult survival and inter-colony movement at the three South African colonies of Cape Gannet. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 461: 245-255.

Moseley C, Grémillet D, Connan M, Ryan PG, Mullers RHE, van der Lingen CD, Miller TW, Coetzee JC, Crawford RJM, Sabarros P, McQuaid CD, Pichegru L. 2012. Foraging ecology and ecophysiology of Cape Gannets from colonies in contrasting feeding environments. *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology* 422-423: 29-38.

Sabarros PS, Durant JM, Grémillet D, Crawford RJM, Stenseth NC. 2012. Seabird community ecology - differential responses of three sympatric marine predators to spatio-temporal variability of shared resources. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 468: 291-301.

2013

Crawford RJM. 2013. Long-term change in the population sizes and conservation status of southern African seabirds. *Ostrich* 84: v-ix.

Crawford RJM, Kemper J, Underhill LG. 2013. African Penguin (*Spheniscus demersus*). In Garcia Borboroglu P, Boersma PD (eds) *Penguins Natural History and Conservation*. University of Washington Press: Seattle and London. pp. 211-231.

Crawford RJM, Randall RM, Whittington PA, Waller LJ, Dyer BM, Allan DG, Fox C, Martin AP, Upfold L, Visagie J, Bachoo S, Bowker M, Downs CT, Fox R, Huisamen J, Makhado AB, Oosthuizen WH, Ryan PG, Taylor RH, Turpie JK. 2013. South Africa's coastal-breeding white-breasted cormorants: population trends, breeding season and movements, and diet. *African Journal of Marine Science* 35: 473-490.

Makhado AB, Crawford RJM, Waller LJ, Underhill LG. 2013. An assessment of the impact of predation by Cape fur seals *Arctocephalus pusillus pusillus* on seabirds at Dyer Island, South Africa. *Ostrich* 84: 191-198.

Sherley RB, Ludynia K, Lamont T, Roux J-P, Crawford RJM, Underhill LG. 2013. The initial journey of an Endangered penguin: implications for seabird conservation. *Endangered Species Research* 21: 89-95.

Sherley RB, Underhill LG, Barham BJ, Barham PJ, Coetzee JC, Crawford RJM, Dyer BM, Leshoro TM, Upfold L. 2013. Influence of local and regional prey availability on breeding performance of African Penguins *Spheniscus demersus*. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 473: 291-301.

2014

Blamey L, Shannon LJ, Bolton JJ, Crawford RJM, Dufois F, Evers-King H, Griffiths CL, Hutchings L, Jarre A, Rouault M, Watermeyer KE, Winker H. 2014. Ecosystem change in the southern Benguela and the underlying processes. *Journal of Marine Systems* 106: 80-95.

Crawford RJM, Makhado AB, Waller LJ, Whittington PA. 2014. Winners and losers - responses to recent environmental change by South African seabirds that compete with purse-seine fisheries for food. *Ostrich* 85: 111-117.

Green DB, Klages NTW, Crawford RJM, Coetzee JC, Dyer BM, Rishworth GM, Pistorius PA. 2014. Dietary change in Cape Gannets reflects distributional and demographic shifts in two South African commercial fish stocks. *ICES Journal of Marine Science* doi: 10.1093/icesjms/fsu203.

Ludynia K, Waller LJ, Sherley RB, Abadi F, Galada Y, Geldenhuys D, Crawford RJM, Shannon LJ, Jarre A. 2014. Processes influencing the population dynamics and conservation of African Penguins on Dyer Island, South Africa. *African Journal of Marine Science* 36: 253-267.

Sherley RB, Barham PJ, Barham BJ, Crawford RJM, Dyer BM, Leshoro TM, Makhado AB, Upfold L, Underhill LG. 2014. Growth and decline of a penguin colony and the influence on nesting density and reproductive success. *Population Ecology* 56: 119-128.

Trathan PN, Garcia-Borboroglu P, Boersma PD, Bost CA, Crawford RJM, Crossin GT, Cuthbert RJ, Dann P, Davis LS, De La Puente S, Ellenberg U, Lynch HJ, Mattern T, Pütz K, Seddon PJ, Trivelpiece W, Wienecke B. 2014. Pollution, Habitat Loss, Fishing, and Climate Change as Critical Threats to Penguins. *Conservation Biology* 29: 31-41. doi: 10.1111/cobi.12349.

Weller F, Cecchini L-A, Shannon LJ, Sherley RB, Crawford RJM, Altwegg R, Scott L, Stewart T, Jarre A. 2014. A system dynamics approach to modelling multiple drivers of the African Penguin population on Robben Island,

South Africa. Ecological Modelling 277: 38-56.

**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

> Funding was provided towards SAFRING project through the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)

**Internationally**

No

Please explain the reasons

> Limited Resources

# Pressures and Responses

## 8. Education and Information

### 8.1. Communication, Education and Public Awareness

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> Many different activities have taken place each year for the celebration of World wetland Day as well as the World Migratory Birds Day. For example in line with the Ramsar Convention, schools, government departments, public and NGO's involved in wetlands issues have participated on WWD each year. In case of World Migratory Birds Day press release, information pamphlets has been developed in celebration of this day each year

Field for additional information (optional)

> n/a

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

Yes

Is the National CEPA Focal Point from the government or non-governmental sector?

Non-Governmental

Has the AEWA CEPA Focal Point begun coordinating national implementation of the Communication Strategy and/or supported the revision process for the Communication Strategy?

Yes

Please provide details

> see 60. above

How can the cooperation between the appointed AEWA CEPA Focal Point and the Ramsar CEPA Focal Points be described?

There is some cooperation

Field for additional information (optional)

> The AEWA CEPA Focal Point within BirdLife South Africa has recently been replace. Work has started to link the with the Ramsar CEPA Focal Point to align CEPA issues between Ramsar and AEWA

**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

> In the process to arrange for training with the CEPA focal point and the Trained EWT official

Field for additional information (optional)

> n/a

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> During the training in Kenya in 2013 materials were made available to be adopted by parties

Field for additional information (optional)

> n/a

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

> Still developing the training material for South Africa

Field for additional information (optional)

> n/a

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

Other

> South Africa has an on-going education and information activities on waterbirds, waterbird habitats and the Agreement. These includes:

Save our Seabirds Festival

Held annually in the first week of October as part of the National Marine Week in Cape Town. This is to raise awareness and funds for seabird conservation by educating people of the threats seabirds face and to inspire people on seabirds and make a difference. The festival is centred around themes such as:

- Centred around a photographic competition "Oceans of Life" where the winning photographs are displayed at the Iziko Museum
- All activities (talks, lectures etc) are free to the public and all income generated by sponsorships etc goes to Seabird Conservation
- The Diemersfontein Wine Estate "For the Birds!" red wine launch. Proceeds from the sale of this wine go to African Penguin conservation
- Light boxes sourced for displaying the winning "Oceans of Life" photographic competition images.
- Independent Newspapers broadsheet adverts, reaching an estimated 2 million people;
- The photographic competition is now the biggest marine photographic competition in the world, with 2000 entries in 2011
- A small booklet was produced with details of the event, and
- Freshly Ground (a popular music group) gives a FlashMob performance at the V&A Waterfront which is posted to You Tube. They also promote seabird conservation at their concerts.

The SOS Festival has become an important event on the national environmental events calendar, and destined to become the biggest environmental event in South Africa.

Fluff-tail Festival

The objective of the Flufftail Festival is to raise awareness for the need to conserve, not only the White-winged Flufftail, but other wetland birds, their threatened habitat and our country's scarcest natural resource i.e. water. Launched in February 2013 in conjunction with Bird Life South Africa's 2013 Bird of the Year. The annual Flufftail Festival is held at Sandton City, Nelson Mandela Square in Johannesburg for a week. This is aimed at reaching thousands of business owners and residents of Johannesburg through displays and interactive activities with the aim of creating awareness about flufftails and other birds and their important wetland habitat, and it's an opportunity to reach thousands of residents of Johannesburg. Activities include but not limited to:

- A fashion show themed around Birds. Public figures grace this event;
- Orchestra/musical Event which feature a prominent figure;
- Bands for Birds featuring a popular music band e.g the Parletones;
- Comedy for Conservation;
- Series of evening lectures with drinks and snacks;
- Proximity to important wetland areas;
- Breeding centre for flufftails at Johannesburg Zoo;
- Photographic competition on wetlands/terrestrial birds. The winning photographs are displayed in the Square for the duration of the festival;
- Finding wetland-related species. Laminated cards that are assembled to spell a word or make a sentence;
- Assembling a jigsaw to 'restore a habitat';
- Eating wetland-themed foods. Use chopsticks to eat gummy fish hidden in chocolate 'mud' pudding;
- Identify bird calls of five common wetland bird species;

- Offering a family event by creating an activities suitable for all ages; encouraging families, groups of friends or workmates to work together to solve puzzles; inviting teams to come up with a creative team name and offering prizes for various challenges;
- Learn about wetland features with a number of wetland-related activities; and
- Get your feet wet. Create a 'wetland' for educational purposes.

Flufftails are used as ambassadors to raise awareness for other birds living in our threatened wetland and grasslands habitat.

#### World Migratory Bird Day

The WMBD is an annual event which is celebrated during the second weekend of May. The aim of this event is to raise awareness about the need to conserve and protect migratory birds and their habitats. Activities include:

- Development of a media statement on the WMBD.
- Development and printing of information pamphlet/posters on the importance of migratory birds and why we need to conserve them.
- Procurement of the drawstring bags branded and theme for School learners.
- Distribution of information material to disadvantaged schools using a "green" bus
- Full page publication of migratory birds in the Minimag and/or VukuZenzele Magazine

The timing of the international WMBD celebrations is linked to the return of migratory birds to the northern hemisphere in their summer months.

#### Please provide details

> As the timing of the international WMBD celebrations is linked to the return of migratory birds to the northern hemisphere in their summer months. It is recommended that a Southern Hemisphere celebration which migratory birds are within the continent is created

#### Field for additional information (optional)

> n/a

### **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.

> Awareness raising material, i.e. posters; pamphlet and drawstring bags has been developed for the 2014 WMBD awareness raising campaign which was conducted in 38 schools in KZN from 19-30 May 2014 during environmental awareness raising campaign. The media press statement was also released in celebration of the WMBD. Newspaper articles in two newspapers has been published in October 2014 to welcome migratory birds in South Africa as the timing of the international WMBD celebrations is linked to the return of migratory birds to the northern hemisphere in their summer months

### **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)**

Yes

#### 54.1 Has this funding or support been on the national or international level?

Please provide details in the corresponding box below

National Level Funding and Support

> n/a

International Funding and Support (through the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat)

> South Africa hosted regional workshop for the AEWA NFPs in Africa. The Workshop was held in Cape Town from 27 - 28 October 2013 and jointly organized by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and the TSU. The main aim of the Workshop was to identify sub-regional priorities for Eastern and Southern Africa from among the activities and actions identified in the AEWA PoAA.

#### 54.2 Has your country provided any funding or support towards the implementation of priority communication activities listed in the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009 - 2017 (Resolution 5.5)?

No

#### Please explain the reasons

> Limited Resources

54.3 Has your country provided any funding or support to the revision process of Communication Strategy?  
 No

Please explain the reasons  
> Limited resources

Field for additional information (optional)  
> n/a

**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)**

Yes, considered and is interested

Please provide details on the answer given above

> The Second Southern African Bird Atlas Project (SABAP2) is the most important bird conservation project in the region. It holds this status because all other conservation initiatives depend on the results of the bird atlas, to a greater or lesser extent.

The current project is a joint venture between the Animal Demography Unit at the University of Cape Town, BirdLife South Africa and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). The project aims to map the distribution and relative abundance of birds in southern Africa and the atlas area includes South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland and in May 2012 Namibia.

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

[Second Southern African Bird Atlas Project \(SABAP2\)](#)

Field for additional information (optional)  
> n/a

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

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> Work has been started towards this target though training has not been conducted.

For example, South Africa initiated the process with BirdLife South Africa as a nominated CEPA Focal Point for South Africa together with the EWT to develop programme to raising awareness and understanding on waterbird conservation and about AEWA specifically including the Flyway Network Training. The initial nominated CEPA Focal Point has to be replaced within the past triennium. As well a proposal was developed to seek funding from DEFRA within this Triennium which was not submitted due to short time available. In this triennium, South Africa, through the EWT has developed our own e-learning website and a potential idea (in the interim) was to load Module one of the AEWA flyaway toolkit. This would serve as a demonstration for us only (not in the public domain) in order to explore further opportunities for implementation together with strategic partners.

This approach would almost be a no cost start up and allows for several possibilities: (1) It is available for self-paying practitioners or students immediately; (2) Its available for pitching to donors to sponsor practitioners (or for DEA's account if budget has been allocated); (3) The option exists to complete the entire toolkit training or selected modules; (4) Registration can be open all year round if no contact sessions are required; (5) for practitioners it can include a workplace based components/ assignment(s); (6) Design of the programme could allow for theoretical sessions to be complimented with practical contact sessions, intermittently during the course of the programme and in the field (ideal for group registrations - also ideal for donor pitching); and (7) With the e-learning being 'borderless' it allows for practitioners from other counties who share the same species flyway's to also participate, having a multi-country collaborative approach - a comprehensive proposal could also be developed where the practitioners visit each participating country's wetlands/flyaway, whilst completing the theory online in between visits.

Field for additional information (optional)  
> n/a

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

> South Africa has contacted the Secretariat about the AEWA Communication Strategy for alignment when developing the national Strategy for CEPA activities.

## 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

Yes

Please list all non-contracting parties, which were approached, and describe each case, including achieved progress

> South Africa in partnership with the AEWA and the CMS Secretariats has approached the following countries for a possibility of acceding to the AEWA and CMS as they are range states to many migratory species: Namibia, Botswana, and Malawi. The major constraints for most of these countries are issues deliberated in CITES which in their national positions are in contradiction with the CMS and AEWA prescripts.

2. Botswana

Field for additional information (optional)

> Even though South Africa is developing itself it has made contacts with neighbouring countries to encourage them to ratify the Agreement

#### 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

> Firstly South Africa hosted regional workshop for the AEWA NFPs in Africa. The Workshop was held in Cape Town from 27 - 28 October 2013 and jointly organized by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and the TSU. The main aim of the Workshop was to identify sub-regional priorities for Eastern and Southern Africa from among the activities and actions identified in the AEWA PoAA.

Secondly, South Africa through the Wildlife Trust (EWT) International Crane Foundation partner coordinated the development of the Single Species Action for the Grey Crowned Cranes. This Single Species Action Plan aims ultimately to remove the Grey Crowned Crane from the globally threatened categories on the IUCN Red List and from Column A, Category 1 of the AEWA Table. The workshop for the development of this document was held September 2013 in Rwanda

Thirdly, South Africa Through BirdLife South Africa coordinated the development of the Multi-species Action Plan for Benguela Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds which was held in Namibia in September 2014

Field for additional information (optional)

> n/a

#### 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

> Limited funds.

Field for additional information (optional)

> n/a

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

Yes

Please provide details, including amount of funds donated

> In October 2013, South Africa successfully hosted AEWA southern and eastern African regional National Focal point meeting. The workshop focused on the implementation of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa (PoAA) 2012-2017

South Africa is also planning to host a Pre MOP Meeting in preparation of MOP6

CMS Family Capacity Building Workshop for CMS and AEWA African National Focal Points (NFPs) took place from 29 - 31 October 2013 in Cape Town, South Africa. The workshop brought together close to 40 participants from 26 African countries and focussed on building the capacity of National Focal Points using the new CMS

Family National Focal Point Manual. The workshop took place back to back with an AEWA Sub-regional National Focal Point (NFP) Meeting; for the Implementation of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017. The AEWA National Focal points for Africa were also given an extra day to comment on the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species which was later adopted during CMS COP 11 held in Ecuador.

Field for additional information (optional)

> n/a

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

Yes, it is operational on a regular basis

Please provide details

> South Africa has established the National Scientific Committee which will assist the government in coordinating the implementations of the CMS and its Agreement. This structure assist in compiling the national report and as well as the implementation of the objectives of the Agreement.

Field for additional information (optional)

> n/a

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> Twinning is a new concept and need to be understood

**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

> n/a

**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?**

> South Africa support synergies between related MEA's. though the work of the work of the other one is not compromised

**Optionally you can provide additional information on section 9. Implementation**

> n/a

# 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

Undertaken

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

> Understanding how weather affects survival and reproduction in birds should lead to a better understanding of their vulnerability to climate change.

This is clear from a study of the relationship between rainfall in South Africa's eastern Nama Karoo region and survival and reproduction in South Africa's national bird, the blue crane *Anthropoides paradiseus*

The results clearly showed that rainfall was correlated with reproduction and survival. Interestingly, it was not only important how much rain fell, but also at what time during the year it rained. August to November is the time when blue cranes mate and lay eggs, and rainfall during that time was related to reproductive success (first panel). Between December and March, the young birds fledge and start foraging. Rainfall during that season was related to the survival of fledglings (second panel). Blue cranes should occur in areas where the climate allows reproduction to balance mortality. Combining the effects of rainfall on survival and reproduction, we can therefore predict the overall effect of rainfall on blue crane populations (third panel). The contour lines represent population growth, and areas in the graph for which population growth is predicted to support cranes.

What does climate change mean for blue cranes? We expect that a drying climate will make life even more difficult for the birds in those areas that are already only marginally suitable for them. However, shifts in rainfall seasonality – for example, more rain in spring and less in summer – could affect breeding and survival in different ways, and their overall effect on the blue crane population should be monitored.

In addition to the above, in the same way that birds of prey are sentinels of the health of the terrestrial environment, so seabirds reflect the health of the marine environment. African penguins *Spheniscus demersus*, Cape cormorants *Phalacrocorax capensis* and swift terns *Sterna bergii* are all seabirds that breed on islands off south-western South Africa, and prey on sardines *Sardinops sagax* and anchovies *Engraulis encrasicolus*. Over the past decade, the centre of gravity of the distribution of these fish has moved eastwards, from north of Cape Town to east of Cape Agulhas.

The three types of seabirds have responded to this shift in different ways.

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)

Undertaken

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

> The Prince Edward Islands: a window into the Southern Ocean

For example, the islands provide an important breeding ground for many threatened seabirds, and place them in reach of the highly productive oceanic frontal systems that provide them with food. Recent trends in the numbers and breeding success of seabirds at Marion Island, the larger of the two islands in the group, appear to reflect oceanic changes that may have global consequences.

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

Undertaken

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

> See 65 (a) above

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

Planned

Please provide details

> n/a

f. Other undertaken or planned relevant activities.

No

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

No

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

> n/a

**Optionally you can provide additional information on section 9. Implementation**

> n/a

## **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

> Little data is available regarding the propensity of HPAI (H5N2) to cause human infection and diseases. Another big challenge is monitoring informing and monitoring those farms that are not members of the South African Poultry association.

67.2 List required further guidance or information

> None

67.3 Field for additional information (optional)

> None

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

> Not Applicable

## **12. Confirmation**

### **Confirmation of information verification and approval for submission**

#### **Please confirm:**

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

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

#### **Date of submission**

> 26/06/2015