

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

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

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

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

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

1. General Information

Name of reporting Contracting Party

> Switzerland

Date of entry into force of AEWA in the Contracting Party

> 01.11.1999

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

> Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)

Name and title of the head of institution

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Website

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Designated National Focal Point (NFP) for AEWA matters

Name and title of the NFP

> Sabine Herzog, deputy head of section, head of Wildlife protection & process management Sector

Affiliation (institution, department)

> Federal Office for the Environment FOEN, Species, Ecosystems, Landscapes Division

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

Name and title of the TC NFP
> Sabine Herzog, deputy head of section, head of Wildlife protection & process management Sector

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

Name and title of the CEPA NFP
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> <http://www.bafu.admin.ch/org/organisation/10994/11002/index.html?lang=en>

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

Please select from the list below as appropriate.

Another person has been designated as the National Respondent

Name and title of the DNR

> Dr. Eric Wiedmer

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Status

3. Non-native Waterbird Species Status

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

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

Yes

AEWA Species - *Alopochen aegyptiacus* / Egyptian Goose

English Common name(s):

Egyptian Goose

French Common name(s):

Oie d'Égypte, Oulette d'Égypte



Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

Native or non-native species

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

Non-native

Species Status

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

Both options can be selected

Breeding

Non-breeding/wintering

Species Status - Breeding

Latest population estimate

Year

> 2013

Population unit

Pairs

Minimum

> 8

Maximum

> 8

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely natural vagrants

Population data quality

Good

Source of information

> See below:

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

[Birds of Switzerland Egyptian Goose | *Alopochen aegyptiaca* L.](#) - Swiss Ornithological Institute; Database including information on: portrait, names, species & data, population, migration, situation, additional information

[Seltene und bemerkenswerte Brut- und Gastvögel und andere ornithologische Ereignisse 2013 in der Schweiz](#) - Müller, C. & B. Volet (2014): Rare and unusual records of breeding, migrating and wintering bird species in Switzerland, 2013. Ornithol. Beob. 111: 293-312.

[Non-indigenous bird species established in Europe - a review](#) - In Europe, at least 21 non-indigenous bird species have established breeding populations. Some populations have been increasing and spreading rapidly. (...). Therefore, preventive measures against further establishment of alien invasive species are of great importance. Kestenholz, M., Heer, L., & Keller, V. (2005). Etablierte Neozoen in der europäischen Vogelwelt-eine Übersicht. Ornithol. Beob, 102(3), 153-180

Previous population estimate

Year

> 2003

Population unit

Pairs

Minimum

> 2

Maximum

> 2

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely natural vagrants

Population data quality

Good

Source of information

> See above.

Population trend

Population trend

Increasing

Trend data quality

Good

Source of information

> see above

Species Status - Non-breeding/wintering

Latest population estimate

Year

> 2005-2014

Population unit

Individuals

Minimum

> 24

Maximum

> 28

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely natural vagrants

Population data quality

Good

Source of information

> Average winter number for the past 10 years for the whole of Switzerland
(Minimum: January; maximum: November)

Previous population estimate

Year

> -

Population unit

Individuals

Minimum

> -

Maximum

> -

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely natural vagrants

Source of information

> See above

Population trend

Population trend

Increasing

Trend data quality

Good

Source of information

> See Link:

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

[Birds of Switzerland Egyptian Goose | *Alopochen aegyptiaca* | - Swiss Ornithological Institute; Database including information on: portrait, names, species & data, population, migration, situation, additional information](#)

Species Status - Field for additional information (optional)

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

> Status (in CH): regularly breeding, introduced resident

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

Which species are excluded or are subject of aggressive behavior?

> Other waterbirds

Is aggression and exclusion a regularly observed behavior?

Yes

Please provide details and references, where available

> The Egyptian Goose initially comes from Africa where it lives along subtropical rivers and lakes which are rich of nutrients. This specie was kept in captivity in Europe since the 18th century. A free-living population originating from escaped birds grew rapidly. A population founded in the Netherlands and Belgium spread quickly along the Rhine and his tributaries. In Switzerland the species started to breed regularly in 2003.

AEWA Species - *Tadorna ferruginea* / Ruddy Shelduck

English Common name(s):

Ruddy Shelduck

French Common name(s):

Tadorne casarca



Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

Native or non-native species

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

Non-native

Species Status

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

Both options can be selected

Breeding

Non-breeding/wintering

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Segelbacher_2013.pdf](#) - Segelbacher, G. 2013: Genetische Analysen von Rostgansfedern - Kurzbericht. The study analyses the genetic diversity of Ruddy Shelducks populations in Switzerland and the Lake Constance region. The genetic diversity is compared with the one of populations in Asia and Russia as well as with birds in captivity. A high genetic diversity is observed in the Swiss/Constance region Ruddy Shelducks population, comparable with the one of wild bird populations in Asia and Russia. In conclusion, the study cannot exclude that the Swiss/Constance region Ruddy Shelducks population consists, to a certain degree, of wild birds. The status of the species has to be reassessed in Middle Europe.

Species Status - Breeding

Latest population estimate

Year

> 2008-2013

Population unit

Pairs

Minimum

> 3

Maximum

> 12

Population data quality

Good

Source of information

> Swiss Ornithological Institute: Birds of Switzerland: Ruddy Shelduck | *Tadorna ferruginea* | <http://www.vogelwarte.ch/ruddy-shelduck.html>

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

Seltene und bemerkenswerte Brut- und Gastvögel und andere ornithologische Ereignisse 2013 in der Schweiz - Müller, C. & B. Volet (2014): Rare and unusual records of breeding, migrating and wintering bird species in Switzerland, 2013. Ornithol. Beob. 111: 293-312.

Previous population estimate

Year

> see above

Minimum

> see above

Maximum

> see above

Source of information

> See above

Species Status - Non-breeding/wintering

Latest population estimate

Year

> 2005-2014

Population unit

Individuals

Minimum

> 343

Maximum

> 507

Population data quality

Good

Source of information

> Average winter population of the last 10 years in whole Switzerland (including the foreign parts of Lake Geneva and Lake Constance)

Swiss Ornithological Institute - Birds of Switzerland: Ruddy Shelduck | *Tadorna ferruginea* | <http://www.vogelwarte.ch/ruddy-shelduck.html>

Previous population estimate

Year

> see above

Minimum

> see above

Maximum

> see above

Source of information

> Swiss Ornithological Institute - Birds of Switzerland: Ruddy Shelduck | *Tadorna ferruginea* | <http://www.vogelwarte.ch/ruddy-shelduck.html>

Population trend

Population trend

Increasing

Trend data quality

Good

Source of information

> Swiss Ornithological Institute - Birds of Switzerland: Ruddy Shelduck | *Tadorna ferruginea* | <http://www.vogelwarte.ch/ruddy-shelduck.html>

Species Status - Field for additional information (optional)

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

> Genetic data suggest, that bird other than escaped individuals contribute to the genetic pool of the population in Switzerland, e.g. birds from Asia.

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

Which species are excluded or are subject of aggressive behavior?

> various

Is aggression and exclusion a regularly observed behavior?

Yes

Please provide details and references, where available

> Especially during breeding period

Alien Species - *Oxyura jamaicensis* / Ruddy Duck

English Common name(s):

Ruddy Duck

French Common name(s):

Érismature rousse, Érismature rousse, Érismature roux



Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

Native or non-native species

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

Non-native

Species Status

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

Both options can be selected

Non-breeding/wintering

Species Status - Non-breeding/wintering

Latest population estimate

Year

> 2012

Population unit

Individuals

Minimum

> 0

Maximum

> 4

Occasional records

Both options can be selected

Occasionally recorded, most likely natural vagrants

Population data quality

Good

Source of information

> Swiss Ornithological Institute: Birds of Switzerland Ruddy Duck | *Oxyura jamaicensis* |

<http://www.vogelwarte.ch/ruddy-duck.html>

Kestenholz, M., L. Heer & V. Keller (2005). Etablierte Neozoen in der europäischen Vogelwelt - eine Übersicht. Ornithol. Beob. 102: 153-180

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Kestenholz et al 2005 Ornithol Beob Neozoen.pdf](#) - Kestenholz, M., L. Heer & V. Keller (2005). Non-indigenous bird species established in Europe - a review

Previous population estimate

Year

> 2002

Population unit

Individuals

Minimum

> 0

Maximum

> 8

Source of information

> Swiss Ornithological Institute: Birds of Switzerland Ruddy Duck | *Oxyura jamaicensis* |

<http://www.vogelwarte.ch/ruddy-duck.html>

Kestenholz, M., L. Heer & V. Keller (2005) Etablierte Neozoen in der europäischen Vogelwelt - eine Übersicht. *Ornithol. Beob.* 102: 153-180.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Kestenholz et al 2005 Ornithol Beob Neozoen.pdf](#) - Kestenholz, M., L. Heer & V. Keller (2005). Non-indigenous bird species established in Europe - a review

Population trend

Population trend

Fluctuating

Trend data quality

Good

Source of information

> Swiss Ornithological Institute: Birds of Switzerland Ruddy Duck | *Oxyura jamaicensis* |

<http://www.vogelwarte.ch/ruddy-duck.html>

Kestenholz, M., L. Heer & V. Keller (2005) Etablierte Neozoen in der europäischen Vogelwelt - eine Übersicht. *Ornithol. Beob.* 102: 153-180. (pdf-download: see above).

Species Status - Field for additional information (optional)

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

> regular, rare migrant, local summer and winter visitor

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

Hybridisation with native species

Which species does it hybridise with?

> *Oxyura leucocephala*

Please provide details and references, where available

> Regular, rare migrant, local summer and winter visitor; No breeding in Switzerland.

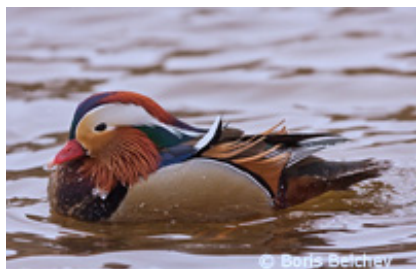
Alien Species - *Aix galericulata* / Mandarin Duck

English Common name(s):

Mandarin, Mandarin Duck

French Common name(s):

Canard mandarin



Confirmation of species occurrence

Please confirm the occurrence of the species in the country

The species occurs in the country

Native or non-native species

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

Non-native

Species Status

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

Both options can be selected

Breeding

Non-breeding/wintering

Species Status - Breeding

Latest population estimate

Year

> 2009-2013

Population unit

Pairs

Minimum

> 3

Maximum

> 16

Population data quality

Good

Source of information

> -

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

[Birds of Switzerland Mandarin Duck | *Aix galericulata* |](#) - Swiss Ornithological Institute; Database including information on: portrait, names, species & data, population, migration, situation, additional information

[Seltene und bemerkenswerte Brut- und Gastvögel und andere ornithologische Ereignisse 2013 in der Schweiz](#) - Müller, C. & B. Volet (2014): Rare and unusual records of breeding, migrating and wintering bird species in Switzerland, 2013. Ornithol. Beob. 111: 293-312.

Previous population estimate

Year

> -

Minimum

> -

Maximum

> -

Source of information

> -

Population trend

Population trend

Unknown

Species Status - Non-breeding/wintering

Latest population estimate

Year

> 2005-2014

Population unit

Individuals

Minimum

> 100

Maximum

> 134

Population data quality

Good

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

[Birds of Switzerland Mandarin Duck | Aix galericulata |](#) - Swiss Ornithological Institute; Database including information on: portrait, names, species & data, population, migration, situation, additional information

Source of information

> Average winter numbers for the last 10 years for whole Switzerland.

Previous population estimate

Year

> -

Minimum

> -

Maximum

> -

Source of information

> -

Population trend

Population trend

Increasing

Trend data quality

Good

Source of information

> -

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

[Birds of Switzerland Mandarin Duck | Aix galericulata |](#) - Swiss Ornithological Institute; Database including information on: portrait, names, species & data, population, migration, situation, additional information

Species Status - Field for additional information (optional)

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

> -

Legal Status

Does the species have any legal status?

Yes

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

Is aggression and exclusion a regularly observed behavior?

Yes

Please provide details and references, where available

> Competition for nesting cave / nest box

Pressures and Responses

4. Species Conservation

4.1 Legal Measures

1. Please indicate which modes of taking are prohibited in your country (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.2(b))

Please select from the list below.

- Snares
- Limes
- Hooks
- Live birds which are blind or mutilated used as decoys
- Tape recorders and other electronic devices
- Electrocuting devices
- Artificial light sources
- Mirrors and other dazzling devices
- Devices for illuminating targets
- Sighting devices for night shooting comprising an electronic image magnifier or image converter
- Explosives
- Nets
- Traps
- Poison
- Poisoned or anesthetic baits
- Semi-automatic or automatic weapons with a magazine capable of holding more than two rounds of ammunition
- Hunting from aircraft, motor vehicles, or boats driven at a speed exceeding 5 km p/h (18 km p/h on the open sea)

Please provide further details, including the relevant legislation

> The modes of taking are prohibited according to the Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds, article 2, paragraph 1 (1986, SR 922.01, last revised in 2014)

2. Has your country granted exemptions from any of the above prohibitions in order to accommodate livelihoods uses? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.2(b))

- No

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

- No

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

> The federal hunting law prohibits the taking of birds listed in Column A of Table 1.

Seven bird species listed in Column B of Table 1 are hunted in Switzerland (i.e. Anas penelope, A. acuta, A. clypeata, A. querquedula, A. strepera, Melanitta fusca and M. nigra). However, the taking of these bird species is regulated according to paragraph 2.1.2 of the Action Plan by the Swiss hunting legislation.

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 Switzerland

National Single Species Action Plan for *Crex crex*

(Corncrake)

- NSSAP in place and being implemented

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

[Programme de conservation des oiseaux en Suisse](#) - Description of the Swiss recovery programme for birds

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

> Crex crex is addressed within the "Swiss species recovery programme for birds". A National Single Species Action Plan is being implemented by SVS/BirdLife Switzerland:
HEER, L., L. MAUMARY, J. LAESSER & W. MÜLLER (2000): Artenschutzprogramm Wachtelkönig in der Schweiz: Bestand, Ökologie, Lagebeurteilung und Schutzmassnahmen. Schweizer Vogelschutz SVS/BirdLife Schweiz, Zürich.

It is currently being revised by SVS/BirdLife Switzerland for a formal adaptation to national single species action plans.

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

Programme de conservation du rôle des genêts - The Corncrake *Crex crex* used to be a widespread breeding bird in Switzerland. However, at the end of the 19th century and in particular in the first half of the 20th century the population declined markedly. In the 1980s and the early 1990s the species was still recorded in Switzerland but was no longer breeding regularly. In 1996, SVS/BirdLife Switzerland started a species recovery project which monitors the population and aims at improving the conditions for successful breeding. Since 1996, breeding has been confirmed in almost every year, with a total of 50 breeding records over the 18 years until 2013. Population size, measured as the number of calling males, fluctuated between 12 and 87. Corncrakes occurred sporadically across the whole country but most stationary birds and confirmed broods were found in the canton of Grisons. In earlier times Corncrakes were mostly breeding in the lowland areas of the Swiss Plateau, whereas today most breeding records come from mountainous regions. Breeding phenology has changed as well with many birds arriving in Switzerland only in June. Earlier records indicate that Corncrakes used to arrive at the end of April or in May, as is still common in other countries with larger populations. The changes in temporal and spatial occurrence reflect the changes in agricultural land use. In lowland areas meadows are too dense and are mowed far too early to offer a suitable habitat for Corncrakes when they arrive from their winter quarters in Africa. At higher altitude meadows reach an optimal height only later in the season. Corncrakes arriving in June or July are likely to arrive from other regions after having lost their broods due to mowing or after having successfully completed their first brood. Without the contracts offered as part of the BirdLife project to allow compensating farmers for late mowing Corncrakes would not have the possibility to breed successfully in Switzerland. A continuation of the species recovery project is essential to prevent extinction of this critically endangered species. Abstract extracted from: Auswirkungen eines langfristigen Artenförderungsprogramms auf Verbreitung und Bestand des Wachtelkönigs *Crex crex* in der Schweiz. Der Ornithologische Beobachter / Band 112 / Heft 1 / März 2015

Field for additional information (optional)

> Elements for a National Single Species Action Plan have been identified.

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

Rôle des genêts. Eléments pour les programmes de conservation des oiseaux en Suisse - Elements for a National Single Species Action Plan for *Crex crex*

National Single Species Action Plan for *Gallinago media*

(Great Snipe)

No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> Only few individuals are observed during the migration. *Gallinago media* is not a priority bird species for Switzerland.

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

Birds of Switzerland Great Snipe | *Gallinago media* | - Swiss Ornithological Institute; Database including information on: portrait, names, species & data, population, migration, situation, additional information

National Single Species Action Plan for *Aythya nyroca*

(Ferruginous Duck)

No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> Status in CH: Regular, rare migrant and winter visitor, extremely rare breeder. *Aythya nyroca* is not a priority bird species for Switzerland.

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

Birds of Switzerland Ferruginous Duck | *Aythya nyroca* | - Swiss Ornithological Institute; Database including information on: portrait, names, species & data, population, migration, situation, additional information

National Single Species Action Plan for *Oxyura leucocephala*

(White-headed Duck)

No NSSAP

Please explain the reasons

> Status in CH: vagrantis

Oxyura leucocephala not a priority bird species for Switzerland.

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

[Birds of Switzerland White-headed Duck | *Oxyura leucocephala* |](#) - Swiss Ornithological Institute; Database including information on: portrait, names, species & data, population, migration, situation, additional information

5. Does your country have in place or is your country developing a National Single Species Action Plan for any species/population for which an AEWA ISSAP has not been developed? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.2.2)

Yes

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

National Single Species Action Plan for *Ciconia ciconia* / White Stork

For *Ciconia ciconia* / White Stork

NSSAP in place and being implemented

Please provide details

> The Swiss Action Plan for the White Stork describes the framework (aims, strategies, measures, protagonists a their roles, etc.) for the protection and conservation of this species in Switzerland. This means preserving and restoring appropriate habitats, creating and connecting new ones, so that the Swiss population can reach 300 breeding pairs (estimated potential) by 2024.

Future conservation efforts in favour of the White Stork must aim at improving breeding success and reducing losses during migration and in the winter quarters. In Switzerland, it will be crucial to create and secure enough open and near natural grasslands. This can be achieved with the support of the land owners and the local and cantonal

authorities. On the breeding grounds as well as along the migratory routes, accidents with electric power lines are the most common avoidable cause of mortality. Here, it is technical measures which can bring efficient remedy; they must be implemented in cooperation with power companies.

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

[Plan d'action Cigogne blanche Suisse](#) - Le Plan d'action Cigogne blanche Suisse décrit les conditions-cadre (objectifs, stratégies, mesures, rôle des intervenants, etc.) de la conservation de cet oiseau en Suisse. Il s'agit de maintenir ou de mettre en valeur les habitats existants et d'en créer d'autres, puis de les mettre en réseau, de manière à ce que les effectifs suisses de Cigognes blanches croissent jusqu'à 300 couples nicheurs (potentiel estimé) en 2024.

6. Has your country used the AEWA Guidelines for the preparation of National Single Species Action Plans for migratory waterbirds?

Yes

Please provide details

> The AEWA Guidelines are one of several sources used for the preparation of national Single Species Action Plans.

4.3 Emergency Measures

7. Please report on any emergency situation that has occurred in your country over the past triennium and has threatened waterbirds. (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.3)

Please indicate whether an emergency situation threatening waterbirds, such as botulism, chemical pollution, earthquake, extreme weather, fire, harmful algal bloom, infectious disease, introduction of alien species, lead poisoning, nuclear accident, oil spill, predation, volcanic activity, war or other emergency (please specify), has occurred in the country over the past triennium.

No emergency situation has occurred

8. Are there any other emergency measures, different from the ones reported above, but were developed and are in place in your country?

No

9. Has your country used the AEWA Guidelines on identifying and tackling emergency situations for migratory waterbirds?

No

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

> The Ordinance on Protection against Major Accidents entered into force for Switzerland prior to the AEWA Guidelines (on 27-02-1991). Complementarily, Switzerland is party to several multilateral and international Agreements in which measures to prevent the pollution of wetlands are agreed upon: e.g. Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Entry into force for Switzerland on 6-10-1996) / Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Entry into force for Switzerland on 21-5-1999) / Convention for the Protection of the Rhine against Chemical Pollution (Entry into force for Switzerland on 1-2-1979) / Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Entry into force for Switzerland on 14-4-1998).

4.4 Re-establishments

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> No re-establishment project for waterbird is occurring or planned in Switzerland.

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

Yes

Please provide details

> The procedure for re-establishments of species is regulated in the Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds (1988, SR 922.01, Art. 8). Any re-establishment requires approval by federal authorities.

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

No

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

No

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

> No translocation project for waterbird is occurring or is planned in Switzerland.

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

> A general duty of care is specified by the Federal Act on the Protection of the Environment (1983, RS 814.01; USG Art. 1 and 29a) and also by the Release Ordinance (2008, RS 814.911 FrSV Art. 1).

Releases of alien animal and plant species are regulated by the Nature and Cultural Heritage Protection Act (1966, RS 451). Article 23 states: "The establishment of animals and plants of species, subspecies and breeds not native to the country or site is subject to approval by the Federal Council."

The management of - among others - non-native bird species is regulated by the Hunting Ordinance (1988, SR 922.01 JSV). Art. 8bis of the ordinance prohibits the release of non-native bird species. It further regulates the import and keeping of the following waterbird species (subject to permit): *Alopochen aegyptiaca*, *Branta canadensis*, *Cygnus atratus* and *Tadorna ferruginea*. The import and keeping of *Oxyura jamaicensis* is prohibited.

15. Does your country impose legislative requirements on zoos, private collections, etc. in order to avoid the accidental escape of captive animals belonging to non-native species which may be detrimental to migratory waterbirds? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.5.2)

Yes, and being enforced

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

institution that enforces it

> A general duty of care is specified by the Federal Act on the Protection of the Environment (1983, RS 814.01; USG Art. 1 and 29a) and also by the Release Ordinance (2008, RS 814.911 FrSV Art. 1). National legislation is adopted by the parliament (laws) or the Swiss Federal Council (ordinances) and enforced by cantonal authorities.

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

Being developed

Please provide starting date and expected finalisation date of the process

> Invasive Species are addressed within the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy (adopted in 2012). Strategic goal number 3 of the strategy specifies: By 2020, the conservation status of the populations of national priority species is improved and their extinction prevented insofar as possible. The spread of invasive alien species with the potential to cause damage is contained.

A National Action Plan for Invasive Species (NAPIS) is currently being prepared.

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

[National Biodiversity Strategy](#) - Description of the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy

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 Tadorna ferruginea / Ruddy Shelduck

For Tadorna ferruginea / Ruddy Shelduck

Control or eradication programme developed, but not being implemented properly or at all

Please explain the reasons

> Because the species has the potential to threaten the native biodiversity, it has to be "controlled, contained or whenever possible eradicated" (Art. 8bis1paragraph 5. Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Wild mammals and Birds; 1986, SR 922.01).

A recent report to the genetics of the Ruddy Shelduck suggests that the population in Switzerland is contrary to previous assumptions not solely based on escaped breeding birds.

These new findings may lead to a review of the status of the species with an associated change in the previously completed measures to control it. See Chapter 3: Non-native Waterbird Species Status - Tadorna ferruginea / Ruddy Shelduck.

*Segelbacher 2013: Genetische Analysen von Rostgansfedern. Kurzbericht

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Segelbacher 2013 Rostgansgenetik.pdf](#) - The study analyses the genetic diversity of Ruddy Shelducks populations in Switzerland and the Lake Constance region. A high genetic diversity is observed, comparable with the one of wild bird populations in Asia and Russia. In conclusion, the study cannot exclude, that the Swiss/Constance region Ruddy Shelducks population consists to a certain degree of wild birds.

Field for additional information (optional)

> -

Field for additional information (optional)

> -

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

> Release Ordinance (2008, RS 814.911 FrSV): Planch St John / Nuttall's waterweed (*Elodea nuttallii*) and Floating marshpennywort / Water pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*) are listed in Annex 2 of the ordinance as "Prohibited Invasive Alien Organisms". Invasive alien organisms in accordance with Annex 2 may

not be handled directly in the environment, other than in the case of measures to control them.

Please provide further information for each relevant programme

> Invasive Species are addressed within the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy (adopted in 2012).

A National Action Plan for Invasive Species (NAPIS) is currently being prepared (see also question 16).

19. Has your country used the AEWA Guidelines on avoidance of introductions of non-native waterbird species?

Yes

Please provide details

> The AEWA Guidelines were one of those sources used to establish a national framework.

Releases of alien animal and plant species are regulated by the Nature and Cultural Heritage Protection Act (1966, RS 451, last revised in 2006). Article 23 states: "The establishment of animals and plants of species, subspecies and breeds not native to the country or site is subject to approval by the Federal Council." The management of - among others - non-native bird species is regulated by the Hunting Ordinance (1988, SR 922.01, last revised in 2008).

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)

Partially

Please describe the progress

> The Swiss Ornithological Institute has established an inventory of all sites of international and national importance for the migratory waterbird species/populations listed on Table 1. These sites are in partly protected by virtue of the Ordinance on Waterbirds and Migratory Birds of International and National Importance.

21. If your country has identified or is currently identifying the networks of sites of international and national importance, have you used the AEWA Guidelines on the preparation of site inventories for migratory waterbirds?

No

Please explain the reasons. What has been used instead as a basis for the inventory?

> The inventory mentioned in question 20 was published prior to the elaboration of the AEWA guidelines.

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).

> Changes in temperature and precipitation have an effect on the distribution of animal and plant species and on natural habitats. Therefore, the strategy "Adaptation to climate change in Switzerland Goals, challenges and fields of action" stipulates that:

Barriers to the migration of animal and plant species need to be removed if the latter are to be able to adapt their habitats to climate change. In particular, there is a need to establish a clearly defined geographical system of conservation areas and habitat corridors in cooperation with the principal land users and with international affiliation. The possibility of resettlement must also be investigated for selected climate-sensitive species. In forestry, woodland needs to be continually regenerated with trees which are able to adapt to changes in their environment. In this way, the level of ecosystem services can be maintained, even though habitats may change.

The action plan 2014-2019 of the strategy includes the following measure:

Biodiversity conservation requirements will evolve under the effect of climate change, e.g. regarding protected areas. It is therefore important to identify those protected areas that can be enhanced through conservation measures and identify where new protected areas could be created to serve as habitat under conditions altered by climate change.

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

[Adaptation to climate change in Switzerland Goals, challenges and fields of action. First part of the Federal Council's strategy. Adopted on 2 March 2012](#) - Climatic changes have an impact on Switzerland's environment, economy and society. Adapting to these impacts is vital already today, and will become even more important in future. To this end, the Federal Council has adopted the first part of its adaptation strategy on 2 March 2012. It describes the goals, challenges and fields of action in adapting to climate change on Federal level.

[Adaptation aux changements climatiques en Suisse Plan d'action 2014-2019. Deuxième volet de la stratégie du Conseil fédéral du 9 avril 2014](#) - En Suisse aussi, les changements climatiques ont des répercussions sur l'environnement, l'économie et la société. A l'heure actuelle, des mesures permettant de s'adapter à ces changements sont déjà nécessaires; elles prendront encore plus d'importance à l'avenir. Le 9 avril 2014, le Conseil fédéral a approuvé le second volet de sa stratégie d'adaptation aux changements climatiques, soit un plan d'action pour la période allant de 2014 à 2019; y sont résumées 63 mesures des offices fédéraux qui doivent permettre de saisir les opportunités liées aux changements climatiques, de minimiser les risques et d'augmenter la capacité d'adaptation de la société, de l'économie et de l'environnement.

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).

> See question 22 (above)

23. Which sites that were identified as important, either internationally or nationally, for Table 1 migratory waterbird species/populations have been designated as protected areas under the national legislation and have management plans that are being implemented, including with the aim to increase resilience to the effects of climate change? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 3.2.1, AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 1, Target 1.2)

Please report separately on internationally important sites, nationally important sites and buffer zones.

Reporting on designation and management of internationally important sites

Reporting on designation and management of nationally important sites

Reporting on establishing buffer zones around waterbird sites (as an approach for maintaining or increasing resilience of ecological networks, including resilience to climate change)

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

Ordinance on Waterbirds and Migratory Birds of International and National Importance (1991, SR 922.32) - Annex 1: List of protected areas of international and national importance for waterbirds and migrants.

All sites of international importance

Total number

> 10

Total area (ha)

> 12347

Out of the above total: number of protected sites

> 10

Out of the above total: protected area (ha)

> 12347

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

> 2

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

> 7497

All sites of national importance

Total number

> 26

Total area (ha)

> 9806

Out of the above total: number protected sites

> 26

Out of the above total: protected area (ha)

> 9806

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

> 0

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

> 0

Has your country identified around which nationally or internationally important sites the establishment of buffer zones is needed to maintain or increase resilience?

No

Please explain the reasons

> The establishment of buffer zones has been identified as a concern. The identification of sites around which the establishment of buffer zones is needed has not yet been implemented.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> Designation and management of internationally and nationally important sites is addressed on the national biodiversity strategy. The Strategy defines 10 objectives to be achieved until 2020, including the "implementation of an ecological infrastructure comprised of protected areas and protected area networks". Currently, an "Action Plan on the Implementation of the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy" is being prepared which specifies, among others, actions for establishing an ecological infrastructure.

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

[Swiss InformationSystem Biodiversity \(SIB\) - National Biodiversity Strategy / Action Plan on the Implementation of the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy](#)

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)

Being developed

Please provide starting date and expected date of finalisation

> Swiss Biodiversity Strategy:

On 1 July 2009, the Federal Council defined the following objective for the Strategy:

"Biodiversity is rich and has the capacity to react to change. Biodiversity and its ecosystem services are conserved in the long term"

To that end, the Strategy defines 10 objectives to be achieved until 2020, including the "implementation of an ecological infrastructure comprised of protected areas and protected area networks".

Currently, an "Action Plan on the Implementation of the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy" is being prepared which specifies, among others, actions for establishing an ecological infrastructure.

Further information: see also question 22

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

[Swiss InformationSystem Biodiversity \(SIB\): National Biodiversity Strategy - Introduction to the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy and its Action Plan on the Implementation of the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy](#)

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

Not applicable

Please explain

> In general, the management of the sites is depicted on the Ordinance on Waterbirds and Migratory Birds of International and National Importance (1991, SR 922.32). The elaboration of management plans is a task of the cantonal authorities.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> Information at the national level is much better than that in the CSN tool. The CSN tool has methodological limitations that lead to misinterpretation. For instance, not all sites fulfilling criteria for international importance are shown.

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

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

[Statistique fédérale de la chasse](#) - La statistique fédérale de la chasse contient des données sur la chasse, les effectifs ou le gibier péri des différentes espèces pouvant être chassées en Suisse. Cette base de données indique aussi le nombre de personnes autorisées à chasser ou les dégâts causés par le gibier. Les données, qui ont été saisies par les cantons, remontent parfois à 1933.

Does it cover the following? (tick where applicable and provide details)

All AEWA species occurring in your country

> The federal hunting statistics covers all species harvested.

The whole territory of your country

> The federal hunting statistics covers the whole territory.

All harvesting activities

> The federal hunting statistics covers all harvesting activities.

Field for additional information (optional)

> Hunting is being monitored nation-wide. Harvest data for all species allowed for hunting can be found in the federal hunting statistics, which are published each year.

The taking of waterbirds is strongly restricted due to the protection of the most important waterbird areas and through the limited hunting period. Numbers of birds shot by hunters where hunting is allowed are in general relatively low.

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

Partially

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

> In 2012 lead shot use has been banned for the hunting of waterfowl according to the Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds (Art. 2.1(I)). The ban is enforced by cantonal authorities. The country's territory is completely (100%) covered by the ban.

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

Yes

Please provide details

> After the entry into force of the ban (2012), cantonal authorities have a five year transition period to comply with it.

Has assessment of compliance with the legislation been undertaken?

No

Please explain the reasons for not doing this

> The assessment will be undertaken after expiry of the transition period (see above).

Has measurement of impact of the legislation been undertaken i.e. where there was a problem of lead poisoning in waterbirds, has this been reduced?

No

Please explain the reasons for not doing this

> The assessment will be undertaken after expiry of the transition period (see above).

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

> Hunters undergo a formal education and examination.

In general illegal taking is not a major problem in Switzerland.

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

Yes

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

Yes

What do these cover?

Proficiency test for hunters (including bird identification)

Other (please specify)

> Hunting requires a cantonal hunting permission. The training for hunters and the corresponding examinations are organised by the cantons.

Optionally [Please upload links or examples]

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

CSF Conférence des services de la faune, de la Chasse et de la Pêche - The national Administrator Conference on hunting and fishing (CSF Conférence des services de la faune, de la Chasse et de la Pêche) is maintaining a website on the subject of hunting in Switzerland. Information on hunting, including the training for hunters and the corresponding examinations are given on the website.

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?

> Sustainable hunting in general is legally regulated by the Hunting Ordinance (1988, SR 922.01, last revised in 2008). The federal hunting statistics are compiled annually by the federal government. Thus, the development of wildlife populations, shootings, mortalities, and the spread of non-native species (neozoa) in Switzerland are monitored.

The Hunting Ordinance as well as the federal hunting statistics have been adopted / elaborated prior to the elaboration of the AEWA guidelines.

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

Statistique fédérale de la chasse - Federal Hunting Statistics

6.2. Other human activities

33. Have restrictions on use of lead fishing weights been introduced in your country? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.3.12)

No

34. Does your country have legislation in place, which provides for Strategic Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA/EIA) of activities potentially negatively affecting natural habitats or wildlife? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.3.1)

Yes and being implemented

Do the SEA/EIA processes consider waterbirds and habitats on which they depend?

Yes

Please provide details

> The Ordinance on the Environmental Impact Assessment (1988, SR 814.011) includes a list of 70 installations subject to environmental impact assessment.

The principal characteristics of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) are the obligation for the applicant to collaborate actively by providing the necessary data, the participation of the specialised service of the protection of environment in the decision-making process, and a procedure open to the public.

The EIA contributes in a significant way to the implementation of the principle of precaution. The fact that

environment protection organisations have the right to make an objection against the decisions relating to projects subjected to EIA reinforces the efficacy of EIA.

Do the SEA/EIA processes include public participation?

Yes

Please provide details

> The procedure is open to the public. The Federal Act on Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (1966, RS 451) guarantees Non Government Organisations (NGOs) the right of appeal concerning the protection of nature.

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

> There have been no outstanding cases specifically for waterbirds during the reporting period.

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

> The general planning permission for an electrical line nearby a wetland of international importance and crossing protected landscapes was withdrawn by the Federal court. The Court requested the Swiss Federal Office of Energy SFOE to test additional variants and the technical feasibility of an underground line.

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?

> Existing guidelines are of a comprehensive nature, not specifically addressing waterbirds.

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

> No formal monitoring was established in Switzerland. However, many activities take place involving various stakeholders, e.g. the Federal office for the Environment FOEN, the Association of Swiss Electricity Companies VSE, the Swiss federal Railways SFR, cantonal authorities, the Swiss Ornithological Institute, SVS/BirdLife Switzerland, Nos Oiseaux and others. Activities are coordinated by different institutions, depending on project priorities.

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

> Some procedures are prescribed by EIA.

Baseline: Monitoring data provided by the Swiss Ornithological Institute.

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

> Legislation for the construction of new power lines include:

The Federal Act on the Protection of the Environment (1983, SR 814.01) stipulates that the environmental impact of new facilities - or the expansion of existing ones - must be assessed before approval (Article 10a, Environmental Impact Assessment). The Ordinance on the Environmental Impact Assessment (1988, SR 814.011) includes a list of installations subject to environmental impact assessment EIA and stipulates the decision-making process. New construction and modifications to existing electric power infrastructure and power lines require in most cases an EIA (increasing the voltage, large changing the alignment, significant increase of mast, etc., construction and expansion of railway lines, etc.)

Construction of new higher voltage lines are subject to strict EIA procedures and they may include compensatory measures for habitats and species, in particular if it concerns protected areas and species of red data lists, this also concerns the route (RS 814.011 Ordonnance relative à l'étude de l'impact sur l'environnement). There are Guidelines on Electricity Grids and Landscape Protection (see question 5) and the Swiss Landscape Concept stipulates that "transmission lines may not affect avifauna" (further information & download).

The ordinance on power lines (RS 734.31 Ordonnance du 30 mars 1994 sur les lignes électriques (OLEI)) regulates the construction of new power lines (Art. 2, sentence 1) and for existing powerlines, if they pose threat to man or to the environment (sentence 2c). Art. 30 stipulates "if local needs require, measures shall be taken such, that birds on cross-arms cannot cause shorts to ground or phase-to-phase short circuits."

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

> In 2009, the Association of Swiss Electricity VSE, the Federal Office for Environment FOE, the Federal Office of Transport FOT, the Federal Inspectorate for Heavy Current Installations ESTI, the Swiss Federal Railways SFR published in cooperation with the Swiss Ornithological Institute, the Conservation Biology division of the University of Bern and BirdLife Switzerland the second revised edition of the "Recommendations for the construction of overhead lines and their high current carrying poles":

Protection des oiseaux sur les lignes aériennes à courant fort. Association des entreprises électriques suisses (AES), Office fédéral de l'environnement (OFEV), Office fédéral des transports (OFT), Office fédéral de l'énergie (OFEN), Inspection fédérale des installations à courant fort (ESTI), Domaine de l'énergie CFF, gestion des installations de réseaux (Eds.). pdf. 20p.

The state of implementation of the guidelines was so far not assessed.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[UD-1002-F_ProtectionOiseauxLignesAeriennes_03.pdf](#) - Protection des oiseaux sur les lignes aériennes à courant fort de tension nominale supérieure à 1 kV

37.5. Have those sections of existing power lines that are causing relatively high levels of waterbird injury and/or mortality due to electrocution and/or collision been identified and modified as a matter of priority?

No

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

> Information on the impact of power lines on birds are, to a limited extent, derived from the Swiss ringing scheme. The Swiss Ornithological Institute in Sempach runs the national ringing scheme on behalf of and with financial aid from the Swiss government. The ringing scheme supervises and supports the ringers, assesses projects and submits applications to the Federal Office for the Environment for permits, administrates the ringing activities, manages the recovery database and delegates a representative for EURING (European Union for Bird Ringing). However, the Swiss ringing scheme does not provide a national overview on the impact of power lines on birds. Waterbirds are mostly not at the core of the discussions.

37.6. Is there in your country regular monitoring and evaluation of the impact of power lines on waterbird populations at the national scale, as well as of the effectiveness of mitigation measures put in place to minimise the impact of power lines on waterbird populations?

No

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

> See question 37.5

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 Swiss Biodiversity Strategy addresses migration in a general way. An Action Plan for the implementation is currently being prepared.

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

No

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

> The AEWA Guidelines on how to avoid or mitigate impact of electricity power grids on migratory birds have been used as one of the sources to establish the national guidelines on bird protection by powerlines mentioned above (37.4.).

39. Please report on the implementation of Resolution 5.16 on Renewable Energy and Migratory Waterbirds.

39.1. Has a national sensitivity and zoning mapping to avoid overlap of renewable energy developments with areas of importance for migratory waterbirds been developed in your country?

Yes

Please provide details

> The Swiss wind energy concept specifies the conditions governing the planning and construction of wind parks and is based on the principle of strictly limiting the installation of wind power plants to the most suitable sites. The criteria for identifying suitable sites include availability of wind, degree of development, distance from residential areas and compatibility with nature and landscape. The concept is intended to provide the cantons and municipalities with a helpful planning framework.

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

[Swiss Federal Office of Energy SFOE: Wind energy](#) - Wind energy: general information, links to relevant documents and further information

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.

> - Convention of the UNECE on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo-Convention)

- Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

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

No

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

> There is no general requirement for a post-construction monitoring. However, it is addressed on a "case-by-case"-basis within the statutory EIA.

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

Yes

Please provide details

> The Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHA, SR 451) stipulates that if, after due consideration of the interests of all parties, damage by technical interventions to habitats deserving of protection is unavoidable, the party responsible must take measures to ensure the best possible protection, restoration, or, failing that, the provision of appropriate compensation (art 18 NCHA).

39.5. Please indicate whether any of the following measures have been put in place to reduce the potential negative impact of terrestrial and marine windfarms on migratory waterbirds:

- focusing research efforts on alleviating the negative effects on waterbirds from wind farms, such as the mapping of the main migration corridors and migration crossings for waterbirds also allowing the optimising of wind farm layouts
 Other - Please specify

> Measured in terms of new installed capacity, wind energy now ranks among the most important technologies for generating electricity. Also in Switzerland the use of wind energy is defined as part of the new Energy Strategy 2050 which strives to extend the 30 at present installed large wind turbines to around 800. To achieve this goal, there are still some significant challenges to overcome: first, in Switzerland only limited experience exists regarding the impact of wind turbines in particular on animals and humans (landscape, noise, etc.). On the other hand the mountainous locations in the Alps demand special technological challenges (high intensity of turbulence, icing and challenging conditions for transport and construction). A major problem is also the lack of experience with approval processes which results in lack of predictability, lengthy planning, and huge financial project risks (Source: Energy research database: <http://www.bfe.admin.ch/dokumentation/energieforschung/index.html?lang=en>)

39.6. Have any specific measures been put in place to assess, identify and reduce potential negative impacts of biofuel production on migratory waterbirds and their habitats?

- Yes

Please provide details

> The principle of sustainable development is also reflected in the Biomass Strategy that was elaborated by the Swiss Federal Office of Energy SFOE, Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG, Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE and the Federal Office for the Environment FOEN. The Biomass Strategy recognises the importance of biomass as a fundamental resource sustaining livelihoods in terms of food, feed, raw material and energy. Amongst others, the strategy stipulates that domestic biomass production contributes to securing a high degree of supply, that the surfaces of arable land necessary for biomass production - especially in terms of food and feed - shall not diminish, and that the production of biomass should contribute to the long-term conservation of biodiversity.

Principles for the use of biomass for energy was further detailed in the Strategy for use of biomass for energy in Switzerland:

- I. The full energy potential of biomass shall be used sustainably;
- II. A positive ecological balance shall be achieved without additional safety hazards;
- III. Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;
- IV. Maximal substitution of non-renewable energy sources;
- V. Provision of high quality energy;
- VI. Use of synergies;
- VII. Corporate social responsibility;
- VIII. Prevention of loss of arable land;
- IX. Adaptation of legal framework;
- X. Development of technologies.

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

- Yes

Please provide details

> The Swiss Biodiversity Strategy addresses migration and biodiversity knowledge in a general way. An action plan specifying the measures necessary for the achievement of the objectives set out in the strategy is currently being prepared.

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

- No

Please provide details

> By-catch of waterbirds is no threads. Because Switzerland is no coastal country, commercial fishing only covers a very small industry. With a yearly fishing yield of around 1,670 t / year, fishing practice corresponds to a sustainability-oriented use of the lakes.

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

> Bird monitoring is well established. The Swiss Ornithological Institute is monitoring the distribution and populations of wild birds in Switzerland:

Monitoring common breeding birds (Swiss Ornithological Institute)

Since 1999, the populations of about 150 breeding bird species are surveyed in 267 1-km squares laid out as a representative grid across all of Switzerland. Annual population trend estimates are produced for about 70 of the more common and widespread species.

Monitoring breeding birds in wetlands (Swiss Ornithological Institute)

The wetland breeding bird monitoring complements other monitoring projects and produces estimates of population trends for species not surveyed in a satisfactory manner in these general-purpose schemes. By doing so, wetland breeding bird monitoring makes an important step towards closing the gap of the objective to assess the conservation status and trends of all birds breeding Switzerland.

For this monitoring, the Swiss Ornithological Institute is using the territory mapping method, which, can be very demanding when used in wetlands, since many wetland species are difficult to detect.

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

[Swiss Ornithological Institute - Monitoring common breeding birds](#) - Description of the common breeding bird survey

[Swiss Ornithological Institute - Monitoring breeding birds in wetlands](#) - General description of the monitoring of breeding birds in wetlands

Covering the passage/migration period

Fully

Please provide details

> In addition to the monitorings of common breeding birds / of breeding birds in wetlands / of wintering waterbirds, the Swiss Ornithological Institute runs the

"Information service - Monitoring rare breeding and visiting birds":

Since about 1960, the Information service has been collecting chance observations of birds from currently several hundred skilled volunteer birdwatchers.

The Information service receives about 400,000 chance observations every year from volunteer birdwatchers all over Switzerland. For many species this provides reliable information on their spatial and temporal patterns of occurrence as well as on population trends.

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

[Swiss Ornithological Institute - Information service - Monitoring rare breeding and visiting birds](#) - Description of the monitoring of rare breeding and visiting birds

Covering the non-breeding/wintering period

Fully

Please provide details

> Monitoring wintering waterbirds (Swiss Ornithological Institute)

Since 1967 waterbirds are counted throughout Europe and in adjacent regions. This international waterbird census is coordinated by Wetlands International. Volunteer collaborators of the Swiss Ornithological Institute count all waterbirds every year in mid-November and mid-January. All the major waterbodies and a number of smaller lakes and rivers in Switzerland are covered. In the waterbird reserves of international importance monthly counts are carried out in collaboration with regional organisations. Data are stored in a national database and forwarded to Wetlands International for incorporation in the database of the International Waterbird Census. Results are published in annual reports. Based on the waterbird counts, the Swiss Ornithological Institute has compiled inventories of waterbird sites of international and national importance. These inventories served as the basis for the waterbird reserves established by the federal authorities.

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

[Swiss Ornithological Institute - Monitoring wintering waterbirds](#) - Description of the Monitoring of wintering waterbirds

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?

> E.g. African countries

Please provide details

> E.g. support of the African Initiative - Advancing the Implementation of AEWA in Africa - for Migratory Waterbirds and People

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

No

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

> The national waterbird monitoring protocol was established prior to the AEWA Guidelines for a waterbird monitoring protocol. It is based on the guidelines of the International Waterbird Census IWC.

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

Yes

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

> Swiss List of National Priority Species

The Swiss List of National Priority Species comprises 3606 species from 21 different groups of organisms, including vertebrates, invertebrates, plants, fungi and lichens. Priorities for conservation have been determined by experts, based on the degree to which the species is threatened and the responsibility Switzerland has at the international level for the particular species.

National strategy for the conservation of native species

The federal office for the environment has defined a national strategy for the conservation of native species (i.e. species conservation plan in Switzerland). The strategy contains objectives, principles, and twenty measures. It is the basis for the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan.

Swiss Ornithological Institute

The primary tasks of the Swiss Ornithological Institute, a private foundation, include monitoring of the distribution, abundance and status of bird species occurring in Switzerland throughout the year, conducting scientific studies on the ecology and migration of species and improving living conditions for threatened species. Research programmes focus on monitoring, population trends, status assessments, ecological research, population dynamics, stress and disturbances, bird migration, priority species, habitats and bird-human conflicts.

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)

> See link

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

Swiss Ornithological Institute: Projects - Research projects (not necessarily specific to waterbirds)

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

> Support to the Swiss Ornithological Institute

Internationally

Yes

Please provide details

> Support to Wetlands International

**49. Has the impact of lead fishing weights on waterbirds been investigated in your country?
(AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.3.12)**

No

Are there plans to investigate the impact of lead fishing weights on waterbirds in your country?

No

Please provide reason(s)

> This is not consisted as a priority in Switzerland.

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)

Other

Please explain

> There are no training or development programmes specific to the AEWA. Training and awareness programmes in general nature conservation is taken care of by the Federal office for the environment (FOEN, training of rangers) and NGOs. NGOs regularly campaign for the conservation of wetlands and the protection of waterbirds.

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?

Government

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

> There are no training or development programmes specific to the AEWA. Training and awareness programmes in general nature conservation is taken care of by the Federal office for the environment (FOEN, training of rangers) and NGOs. NGOs regularly campaign for the conservation of wetlands and the protection of waterbirds.

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

They are the same person

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> "Education and Information" is addressed within a broader framework, not specifically for waterbirds. E.g. in the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy which defines 10 objectives to be achieved until 2020, including „generating and disseminating knowledge".

Currently, an "Action Plan on the Implementation of the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy" is being prepared which specifies, among others, actions to this issue.

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

Yes

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

> In 2014, the NGO Nos Oiseaux supported a benefit concert for the WMBD in Bonn (Germany) and made a contribution to the conservation of the African White-winged Flufftail.

54. Has your country provided funding and/or other support, as appropriate (e.g. expertise, network, skills and resources) towards the implementation of the AEWA Communication Strategy? Please consider both national and international funding and different types of support provided. (Strategic Plan 2009- 2017, Objective 4, Target 4.1 and Resolution 3.10, Resolution 5.5)

No

Please explain the reasons

> Switzerland has not provided funding and/or other support towards the implementation of the AEWA Communication Strategy.

55. In Resolution 3.10 the Meeting of the Parties encouraged Contracting Parties to host AEWA Exchange Centres for their respective regions. Has your country considered/shown interest in hosting a Regional AEWA Exchange Centre? (Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 3, Target 2 and Resolution 3.10)

Not considered yet

Please provide details on the answer given above

> Switzerland has not considered yet to host AEWA Exchange Centres.

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

> Not applicable. No Training of Trainers programme has taken place in the region.

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

> Russian Federation

Field for additional information (optional)

> Switzerland supported the International Workshop on the Russian Federation Joining to Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)
Moscow, August 21 2013

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

> support to the:

- AEWA African Initiative
- Grey Crowned Crane African Initiative
- Sustainable Hunting of Waterbirds in CA
- International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Shoebill *Balaeniceps rex*

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

> Switzerland supported the International Workshop on the Russian Federation Joining to Agreement and international co-operation projects for the implementation of the Agreement. (see above: 58).

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

No

Please explain the reasons

> Switzerland supported the International Workshop on the Russian Federation Joining to Agreement and international co-operation projects for the implementation of the Agreement. (see above: 58).

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

> Consultations among focal points on a regular basis; collaboration with the Swiss Ornithological Institute

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

Yes

Please provide details on each twinning arrangement

> Opportunities provided by site twinning was briefly explored at the second meeting of the Swiss Ramsar Network

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

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

> The Species, Ecosystems, Landscapes Division of the Federal office for the environment is in charge of implementing the AEWA as well as the coordination of national processes to implement the CBD Strategic Plan 2011-2020.

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?

> Identification of common reporting needs, improved reporting formats

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

> Swiss Ornithological Institute - ClimBird project:

Climate and land use are the main factors determining the distribution and abundance of birds. How will the distribution of Swiss birds change in the future according to the forecasted changes in climate and human activities? This is the question addressed in the ClimBird project.

Swiss Ornithological Institute - Contributions to the analysis of the waterbird census in relation to climate change (see attached links Lehtikoinen et al. 2014, Pavon-Jordan et al. 2015).

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

Swiss Ornithological Institute: Impacts of climate change - Climate and land use are the main factors determining the distribution and abundance of birds. How will the distribution of Swiss birds change in the future according to the forecasted changes in climate and human activities? This is the question addressed in the ClimBird project.

Rapid climate driven shifts in wintering distributions of three common waterbird species. - Lehtikoinen et al. (2014) Global Change Biology 19: 2071-2081: Climate change is predicted to cause changes in species distributions and several studies report margin range shifts in some species. However, the reported changes rarely concern a species' entire distribution and are not always linked to climate change. Here, we demonstrate strong north-eastwards shifts in the centres of gravity of the entire wintering range of three common waterbird species along the North-West Europe flyway during the past three decades. These shifts correlate with an increase of 3.8 °C in early winter temperature in the north-eastern part of the wintering areas, where bird abundance increased exponentially, corresponding with decreases in abundance at the south-western margin of the wintering ranges. This confirms the need to re-evaluate conservation site safeguard networks and associated biodiversity monitoring along the flyway, as new important wintering areas are established further north and east, and highlights the general urgency of conservation planning in a changing world. Range shifts in wintering waterbirds may also affect hunting pressure, which may alter bag sizes and lead to population-level consequences.

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

> Under the project «Climate Change and Hydrology in Switzerland» (CCHydro) run by the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), the effects of climate change on the water balance in Switzerland by the year 2100 were studied. The water resources will only change slightly by then. However, as a result of the rise in the snow line associated with increasing air temperature, the volumes of snow and ice stored in the Alps will be greatly reduced. This will combine with a seasonal redistribution of the precipitation (drier in summer, wetter in winter) to cause a seasonal flow redistribution. High and (particularly) low water flow events will probably occur more frequently - mainly in sensitive regions such as the Swiss Plateau, Valais and Ticino.

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

Effects of climate change on water resources and watercourses - Synthesis report on the "Climate Change and Hydrology in Switzerland" (CCHydro) project - Under the project "Climate Change and Hydrology in Switzerland" (CCHydro) run by the FOEN, the effects of climate change on the water balance in Switzerland by the year 2100 were studied.

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

No relevant activities

Please explain the reasons

> No relevant activities specific to waterbirds are conducted in Switzerland.

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

> Switzerland has adopted an overarching strategy on "Adaptation to climate change in Switzerland". The adaptation strategy is divided into two parts. The first part describes the goals, challenges and fields of action in adapting to climate change. The adaptation strategy should enable Switzerland to take advantage of the opportunities provided by climate change, minimise the risks and increase the adaptive capacity of its natural and socio-economic systems. The most important challenges arising directly from the effects of climate change in Switzerland and to which the country must adapt are:

- greater heat stress in agglomerations and cities,
- increasing levels of summer drought,
- greater risk of flooding,
- decreasing slope stability and more frequent mass wasting,
- rising snowline,
- impaired water, soil and air quality,
- change in habitats, species composition and landscapes,
- spread of harmful organisms, disease and alien species.

The second part of the strategy includes an action plan including 63 climate adaptation measures to be implemented by 2019, e.g. the conservation and promotion of valuable habitats.

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

[Adaptation to climate change in Switzerland - Goals, challenges and fields of action. First part of the Federal Council's strategy. Adopted on 2 March 2012](#) - The Federal Council's strategy "Adaptation to climate change in Switzerland - Goals, challenges and fields of action. First part of the Federal Council's strategy.

[Adaptation aux changements climatiques en Suisse- Plan d'action 2014-2019. Deuxième volet de la stratégie du Conseil fédéral du 9 avril 2014](#) - Adaptation to climate change in Switzerland - Action Plan 2014-2019. Second part of the Federal Council's strategy. Adopted on 9 April 2014

e. National Action Plan for helping waterbirds adapt to climate change (as a separate implementation process or as part of a larger national framework for biodiversity adaptation to climate change. Please note that Question 23 in Section 5, sub-section 5.2 investigates national measures for increasing resilience of the ecological network for waterbirds to climate change).

Planned

Please provide details

> There will be no action plan elaborated specifically for waterbirds. It is part of a larger national framework for biodiversity adaptation to climate change. E.g. in the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy and the "Action Plan on the Implementation of the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy" which is currently being prepared.

The issue is also addressed in the National strategy "Adaptation to climate change in Switzerland - Goals, challenges and fields of action" and its action plan 2014-2019 (enhancement of protected areas through conservation measures and identification of the need to create new protected areas to serve as habitat under conditions altered by climate change). See above.

f. Other undertaken or planned relevant activities.

No

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

Yes

Please provide details

> The AEWA Guidelines are one of several sources used for the implementation of the National strategy "Adaptation to climate change in Switzerland - Goals, challenges and fields of action" and its action plan 2014-2019 (enhancement of protected areas through conservation measures and identification of the need to create new protected areas to serve as habitat under conditions altered by climate change). See above.

Pressures and Responses

11. Avian Influenza

67. What issues have proved challenging in responding nationally to the spread of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in the last triennium and what further guidance or information would be useful in this respect?

67.1 List challenges

> No cases of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in the last triennium.

67.2 List required further guidance or information

> No further guidance needed

67.3 Field for additional information (optional)

> Wild birds and farms are constantly monitored to prevent the spread of avian influenza virus in Switzerland. Technical rules define measures to be implemented when a case is detected.

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

Office fédéral de la sécurité alimentaire et des affaires vétérinaires: Surveillance de la grippe aviaire - Information provided by the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO

Swiss Ornithological Institute: Avian flu - Wild birds, especially waterfowl, are suspected to be vectors of the highly pathogenic avian flu subtype H5N1. The Swiss Ornithological Institute participates in the monitoring of migratory birds and thereby studies their role in the spread of this virus.

12. Confirmation

Confirmation of information verification and approval for submission

Please confirm:

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

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

Date of submission

> 20.05.2015