



FORMAT FOR REPORTS

OF THE PARTIES

**AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY
WATERBIRDS (The Hague, 1995)**

Implementation during the period 2005 and 2007

Contracting Party: Slovak Republic

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1. Overview of Action Plan implementation

Summary of progress to date

This report for the 4th Meeting of the Parties (MoP) covers the implementation period 2005-2007. It provides information about Slovak initiatives in relation to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their wetland habitats. The report is based on information drawn from governmental and non-governmental organizations.

The Slovak Republic has supported the development of the African - Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) as a country with a long history of international cooperation to conserve waterfowl since it holds important waterbird breeding and wintering areas and it is located on important migration route.

Slovakia is a member state of all relevant international environmental conventions (Convention on Biodiversity - CBD, Bern Convention, CMS, Ramsar Convention, CITES, Carpathian Convention ...). Management plans for some protected areas were prepared and other ones are under preparation. In 2004 Slovakia became the European Union member state and EU directives came into force in the Slovak Republic. Implementation of the Bird Directive and Habitat Directive started in 2004. Special Protection Areas (SPAs) were designated by the Government and the proposed Sites of Conservation Interest were submitted to the European Commission. The List of SPAs which belong to the Pannonian biogeographical region was approved by the European Commission in November 2007 and those ones of the Alpine biogeographical region in January 2008.

The National List of SPAs comprises 38 areas with total area of 1,154,111 ha. It represents 25,2 % of the whole territory of the Slovak Republic. Until the end of 2007, 5 SPAs were declared by the decree of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic. The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic prepares the management plans for SPAs.

The National List of SCIs contains 382 sites with area of 573,690 ha (which represents 11,7 % of the whole territory of Slovakia). The Slovak Republic will include additional sites to the National List of SCIs in accordance with the conclusions of biogeographical seminars.

Water Framework Directive is another important point in relation to the EU legislation. In the process of implementation of this directive the Catalogue of protected areas related to water was prepared. This catalogue contains 14 wetland sites of international importance, 72 wetlands of national importance, 467 wetlands of regional importance and 1050 wetlands of local importance.

Two new Ramsar sites were designated in the period 2005 – 2007 with the total area over 2,000 ha. Ipel Valley Ramsar site was declared as bilateral transboundary Ramsar site (Slovakia – Hungary).

Outline of planned actions for national implementation over the next three years

The most important tasks for national implementation over the next 3 years are:

Species conservation

- Update of the Slovak legislation regarding to the conservation of waterbirds
- Management plans for threatened waterbird species developed
- Procedures for responding to emergency situations in place
- A review of non-native species control
- Implementation of the regulation on leadshot hunting

Habitats conservation

- Update of the Slovak legislation regarding conservation of habitats important for waterbirds
- Management and action plans for threatened habitats and most important sites
- Review of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds

Management of human activities

- Extend of eco-tourism in the Slovak Republic and relevance to waterbird conservation

Monitoring and research

- Review of the main research and monitoring projects concerning the protection of waterbirds in Slovakia

Education and Information

- Review of the main training, education and public awareness projects which are linked to waterbird conservation

1.3 Outline of priorities for international co-operation over the next three years

The Slovak Republic will take all measures in order to fulfil the international obligations of the international conventions in accordance with national strategic materials such as National Biodiversity Strategy in Slovakia and Updated Action plan for implementation of the National Strategy for 2003 – 2010 (resolution of the Slovak Government no. 1209/2002), the Slovak Wetland Management Programme (National Wetland Policy) valid for the period 2008 – 2014, the Action Plan (2008 – 2011) for conservation, restoration and wise-use of wetlands and National Strategy on Alien Invasive Species.

2. Species conservation

Legal measures

2.1 Has a national policy/strategy or legislation to protect and conserve species covered by the Agreement (Table 1: column A; column B) and their supporting important areas been developed? If so:

a. What are the main features of the policy/legislation?

Slovakia has a wide range of strategies, policies and plans alongside a comprehensive legislative framework which afford statutory protection to wild birds. The key legislative tools are:

- Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection as amended by later acts
- Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 454/2007 Coll. which amends the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection
- Order of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 24/2003 Coll. by which is executed the Act No. 543/2002 Coll.
- Order of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 492/2006 Coll. which amends Order of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 24/2003 Coll.
- Order of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 638/2007 which amends Order of Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 24/2003 Coll.
- Act No. 23/1962 Coll. on hunting as amended by later acts
- Order of the Ministry of Agriculture and Nutrition No. 59/1967 Coll. by which implementation regulations are issued to the Act on Hunting as amended by later regulations.
- Order of the Ministry of Agriculture No. 407/2002 Coll. which amends the Order of the Ministry of Agriculture and Nutrition No. 59/1967 Coll. by which implementation regulations are issued to the Act on Hunting as amended by later regulations.
- Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 15/2005 Coll. on protection of wild species of animals and plants by regulation of trade in them and on change and amendment of some legal acts
- Order of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 110/2005 Coll. by which are executed some regulations of the Act on protection of wild species of animals and plants by regulation of trade in them and on change and amendment of some legal acts.
- Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 364/2004 Coll. on water and on the amendments to the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 372/1990 Coll. on transgressions as amended by later regulations.
- Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 199/1995 Coll. which amends Act no. 50/1976 Coll. on Territorial Planning and Building Order as amended by

later regulations and amends the Act no.138/1973 Coll. on water as amended by later regulations

- Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No.238/1993 Coll. which amends the Act No. 138/1973 Coll. on water and Act No. 135/1974 Coll. on state administration in water management as amended by later regulations
- Order of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 221/2005 Coll. by which are set details on inventory of occurrence and on evaluation of the state of surface water and ground water, on their monitoring, record keeping on waters and on water balance.
- Order of the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 100/2005 Coll. concerning the details how to deal with dangerous matters.
- Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 261/2002 Coll. on prevention of weighty industrial accidents.

According to the above mentioned Acts, the Slovak Republic adopted the Strategy of nature conservation, where are included main and key issues concerning protected areas and protected species.

The Slovak legal obligations under AEWA closely relate to existing obligation under the EC Directive of the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC).

New forms of support for the users and owners of agricultural and forest land in protected areas were included into the Rural Development Programme for the period of 2007 – 2013 (Payments in Areas of European Interest, Sylvi – environmental payments). A new measure (Protection of some bird species habitats) was included into Agri-environment scheme. It represents a new category for biodiversity conservation in Rural Development Programme.

b. Which organizations are responsible for implementation?

Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic is the competent authority for nature conservation and landscape protection in Slovakia. It is in charge of AEWA implementation.

Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic is the competent authority for hunting.

The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNC SR) is a governmental organization established by the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic for implementation of wide range of activities in species and habitats conservation and management.

c. How does it relate to other national initiatives (e.g. national Biodiversity Action Plans)?

The list of national strategies, programmes and action plans concerning waterfowl conservation see below:

- National Biodiversity Strategy in Slovakia and Updated Action plan for implementation of the National Strategy for 2003 – 2010 (resolution of the Slovak Government No. 1209/2002)
- The Slovak Wetland Management Programme (National Wetland Policy) valid for the period 2005 – 2007
- The Action Plan (2003 – 2007) for conservation, restoration and wise-use of wetlands.
- National Water Management Policy of the Slovak Republic till 2015 was elaborated by the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic and approved by the Slovak Government in 2006 and wetland issues are incorporated.
- National Strategy for sustainable development, 2001
- Action Plan for sustainable development was adopted for 2005-2010
- Strategy, principles and priorities of the State Environmental Policy, 2004
- National Environmental Action Plan II., 2004

2.2 What legal measures or practices has your country developed to prohibit or regulate for the following (refer also to section 4 on hunting):

a. Taking of, and trade in birds listed in Column A and B of Table 1 (where utilization or trade contravenes the provisions set out in paragraphs 2.1.1 (a) and 2.1.2 of the Action Plan)?

The taking of, and trade in birds listed in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan is regulated by the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 543/2002 on Nature and Landscape Protection (§ 35) and its Regulation (Order) of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 24/2003.

According to this Act and its Regulation, it is prohibited to:

- a) capture, wound or kill protected animals in their natural environment,
- b) disturb protected animals in their natural development, especially to disturb them in a period of their breeding, rearing, hibernation, migration,
- c) disturb and damage habitats of protected animals, especially their dwellings, nests or sites for breeding, acquiring food, resting, moulting or wintering,
- d) destroy development stages of protected animals in wild including empty eggs,
- e) collect development stages of protected animals in wild including empty eggs,
- f) possess protected animals including possession of empty eggs from wild,
- g) breed protected animals in captivity,
- h) sell, buy or exchange and offer protected animals for sale or exchange,
- i) move or transport protected animals,
- j) carry out interspecies hybridisation of protected animals,
- k) export protected animals.

According to the above mentioned Act, all bird species, occurring in Slovakia are protected. Some of the birds which are listed as game birds with the open hunting season can be exploited in accordance with the Hunting Law.

b. Methods of taking?

Prohibited methods and means of capture and killing of protected animals are stated in § 9 of the Regulation of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 24/2003 (amended by later legislation) as follows:

1. snares, hooks and jaw traps,
2. capture of birds on lime and into traps,
3. using blind or otherwise mutilated animals as live bait,
4. tape recorders or other sound devices,
5. electric or electronic devices capable of killing or stunning,
6. artificial light sources, mirrors and other dazzling devices and devices for lighting targets,
7. sighting devices for night shooting with electronic image magnifier or image inversion and similar devices enabling night shooting,
8. explosives and chemicals,
9. bows, muzzle-loaders, air and gas weapons, and crossbows,
10. capture of birds into nets and other devices with the intention of their subsequent killing,
11. capture of mammals into nets and traps, which are operating on the basis of unselective catching or which could be caught unselectively in some cases,
12. poisons or poisoned or anaesthetic bait,
13. gassing or smoking out;
14. automatic weapons shooting by individual shots or bursts with magazine capable of holding more than two rounds of ammunition,
15. capture and killing of protected animals from airplanes, moving motor vehicles, motor three-wheels, four-wheels, snow scooters and boats and other moving vessels, including water scooters,
16. using of lead ammunition during hunt of water fowl in wetlands,

c. Setting of taking limits and monitoring these limits?

The Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 543/2002 on Nature and Landscape Protection and its Regulation of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 24/2003 state also conditions which have to be fulfilled to get permission (exception) for killing protected species (including birds). For details of exceptions see point e).

An exception from the Act is allowed by the Ministry of Environment of Slovak Republic, which gives also conditions on fulfillment of the exceptions. The Ministry also keeps the record of such exceptions in national scale, thus monitors fulfillment of exception with the help of controlling authority – Slovak Inspection of the Environment.

d. Sustainable hunting of species listed in Categories 2 and 3 (and marked by an asterisk) in Column A only?

Only two species listed in Category 2 and 3 in Column A are included in sustainable way of hunting in Slovakia.

Bird species	Open hunting season	Column / Category of Action plan
White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons</i>)	16.10. - 15.1.	A / 3c*
Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>)	16.10. - 15.1.	A / 2*

e. Exemptions to the provisions set out in paragraphs 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.1.3?

Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic could allow the exception from the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 543/2002 on Nature and Landscape Protection.

The exception may be allowed only:

- a) to protect affected species or natural habitats,
- b) to prevent serious damage, mainly of harvest, livestock, forests, fish farming, game keeping, water management,
- c) to protect health and safety of inhabitants, safety of the state or other important public interests prevailing nature and landscape protection including social and economic reasons with favorable impact on the environment,
- d) for research and educational purposes, repatriation of species into their habitats and for possessing, growing or breeding in captivity of affected species that are necessary for these purposes.

Single Species Action Plans

2.3 Of the species covered by the Agreement (species listed in Table 1: column A), which spend part or all of their life history in your country, which have formal international (Category 1, species marked with an asterisk) or national (column A) Single Species Action Plans:

- a. Proposed?*
- b. In preparation?*
- c. Being implemented?*

Under the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 543/2002 on Nature and Landscape Protection it is possible to prepare Rescue Plan for single species, content of which is identical with the SAP content. The Rescue Plan for species should be prepared by expert organization the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and approved by the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic.

Recently, no species listed in Table 1 Column A has species action plan prepared or in preparation.

Please append a list of species and their action plan status. (For international plans indicate which other countries are involved in plan development/implementation.)

Emergency measures

2.4 Describe any bilateral or multilateral co-operative action that your country has undertaken to develop and implement emergency measures to conserve species in response to unfavorable or endangering conditions occurring in the Agreement area.

Each year there is organized winter census of migrating birds, including AEWA species under coordination of BirdLife International.

There is wild geese wintering site on a border with Austria, which is protected and monitored. Monitoring joint venture census program for nesting birds and migrating birds in

northern Slovakia and part of southern Poland is realized. Also habitat and species protection is assigned through bilateral Ramsar sites - Ipeľ Valley Ramsar Site (Slovakia – Hungary), Morava floodplains Ramsar site (Slovakia – Austria – Czech Republic), the Tisa River Ramsar site (Slovakia – Hungary – Ukraine), Biosphere reserves (MaB).

In SPAs in border areas, which are designated according to Bird Directive, bilateral monitoring and data exchange is in charge.

Re-establishments

2.5 Has a policy on species re-establishments been developed in your country? If yes, please outline the main features of the policy and give details of any re-establishment programmes for species covered by the Agreement.

No special policy has been developed in Slovakia. According to the law all species re-establishment, restitution and reintroduction must be realized with awareness of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic and its expert organization. All such activities are realized according to IUCN Guidelines for re-introductions.

Introductions

2.6 Has your country developed and implemented legal measures to prohibit the introduction of nonnative species? Please provide details, particularly describing measures to control the release or introduction of non-native species (please indicate which species and their status).

According to the Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection it is allowed to spread invasive species behind the border of urban areas only with the approval of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic.

Order of the Ministry of Environment No. 110/2005 Coll. prohibits possession of alien birds of prey (Falconiformes) and owls (Strigiformes), and Red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*).

National legislation is carried out in cooperation with the focal points of other conventions. Following policies, strategies and action plans concerning the Invasive Alien Species were developed, agreed and implemented for the implementation of the international conventions:

- National Biodiversity Strategy in Slovakia and Updated Action plan for implementation of the National Strategy for 2003 – 2010 (resolution of the Slovak Government no. 1209/2002) which deals with Invasive species in Chapter 1, Strategic goal 2.
- Proposal of the National Strategy on Invasive Alien Species which implements Recommendation No. 99(2003) on the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention).
- The Slovak Wetland Management Programme (National Wetland Policy) and Action plan (2003 - 2007) to this Programme which implements Resolution 8.18 on Invasive Species and Wetlands of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

In 2004 the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species (hereinafter as European Strategy) was translated into the Slovak language. Ministry of Environment sent both versions (English and Slovak) to the relevant stakeholders (all ministries and other selected relevant organizations with the recommendation to take the European Strategy into account while organizing activities within their responsibilities. Ministry of Environment also informed the relevant stakeholders about its intention to work out a National Strategy on Invasive Alien Species (hereinafter as National Strategy) as a comprehensive (cross-sectoral) document and asked them to prepare their proposals for key actions which should be included into the National Strategy.

The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic as the expert organization to the Ministry of Environment in the issues of nature and landscape protection prepared a draft of the National Strategy from the point of view of nature and landscape protection. The draft was presented at the 5th international conference Invasions and Invasive Organisms organized by the Slovak Agricultural University in Nitra in October 2004. Later, in 2005 Ministry of Environment sent the draft of the National Strategy to the relevant stakeholders not only for comments but also for their proposals of key actions. The positive fact was that the 12 ministries sent their comments and some suggestions for key actions. However, some of the comments required additional negotiations, but in 2006 the work on drawing up the National Strategy was postponed and the issue was opened at the beginning of 2007. Due to lacking personal and financial resources the issue remained open (national strategy has not been officially approved).

Nevertheless, quite a lot of key activities proposed in the European Strategy/National Strategy (the draft) are being implemented. Following information gives some examples of what was implemented in Slovakia in the period 2005 – 2007.

1. Building awareness and support

As the work with the Slovak media (TV, radio broadcasting; national, regional and local newspaper and magazines) plays an important role in building awareness and support, contributions on invasive alien species (hereinafter as IAS) issues appear in the media. The contributions are prepared by various institutions, e.g. the State Nature Conservancy of the SR, Slovak Agricultural University in Nitra, East Slovakian Museum in Košice etc. The State Nature Conservancy published series of leaflets Invasive Alien Plant Species in Slovakia.

2. Collecting, managing and sharing information

The national lists of alien species of non-vascular plants and fishes are prepared for publishing. Quite intensive research has been focused on the distribution and impacts of Red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) on biodiversity of wetland habitats and on populations of protected species *Emys orbicularis*. Some of the Slovak research institutions participate in European projects dealing with IAS, e.g. Institute of Landscape Ecology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences is one of the partners in the ALTERnet project (Threat to biodiversity through invasive non-native species – a long-term monitoring network). The State Nature Conservancy participates in the project SEBI 2010 (Streamlining European 2010 biodiversity indicators).

3. Strengthening national policy, legal and institutional frameworks

4. Regional cooperation and responsibility

Traditionally, there is quite a good cooperation between neighbouring countries: the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, and Austria. Good example is the project 'Development of the net of biological monitoring for the support of effective management of protected sites' between Hungary (National Park Aggtelek) and Slovakia (East Slovakian Museum in Košice with the cooperation of National Park Slovenský kras) within INTERREG III. Programme.

5. Mitigation of impacts

Most of the management activities (eradication, containment, control of IAS) are still coordinated by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and they are concentrated in protected areas. Areas, where no special protection is provided but invasive alien species have been recorded there, are also subject to management measures.

6. Restoration of native biodiversity

Some management activities for mitigation of impacts of IAS and/or for restoration of native biodiversity have been applied e.g. in Morava Floodplain Ramsar Site.

Amendment of the Act No. 543/2002 on Nature and Landscape Protection is in preparation, where new articles about eradication of invasive animal species will be included. Till now, no list of invasive animal species was prepared. In the proposed list one bird species is listed – *Oxyura jamaicensis*.

3. Habitat conservation

Habitat inventories

3.1 Has your country developed and published inventories of important habitats for species covered by the Agreement? If yes, please provide details, including any provisions to maintain or update these inventories.

Important habitats especially in Special Protection Areas are subject of regular inventories and updates and a special project for next 3 years has been developed by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic.

3.2 Has your country undertaken a strategic review of sites to develop a national network of important sites or areas for species covered by the Agreement? Please append a list of identified sites of international importance.

Ramsar sites designation in Slovakia has focused on designating internationally important localities for waterbirds. In the table no. 1 below are listed those Ramsar sites in Slovakia which are important because they support animal species at a critical stage in their life cycle, provide refuge during adverse conditions or support 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird.

Review of the Slovak Ramsar sites

Table 1

Name of Ramsar site	Area (ha)	Habitat types
Paríž marshes	184.0	M, Tp, U, W,6
Šúr	1,136.6	M, N, Tp, Ts, U, W, Xf, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9
Danube floodplain	14,488.0	L, M, O, P, Tp, Ts, W, Xf, 1, 4, 6, 7, 9
Morava River floodplain	5,380.0	M, O, P, Tp, Ts, W, Xf, 4, 7, 9
Rudava River valley	560.0	M, Tp, Ts, U, W, Xf
Turiec wetlands	466.9	M, Tp, Ts, U, W, Xf Y, 4
Ipel Valley	410.9	M, Tp, Ts, Xf, 3, 4, 7, 9
Wetlands of Orava Basin	9,264.0	M, Tp, Ts, U, W, Xf, Xp, 4, 6
Orava River	865.0	M, Tp, Ts, W, Xf
Tisa River alluvium	1,130.0	M, O, P, Tp, Ts, W, Xf
Senne fishponds	426.6	Ts, W, 1,2, 3, 4, 6
Latorica	4,404.7	M, O, P, Tp, Ts, W, Xf, 4, 7, 9

The list of SPAs is enclosed in Appendix 2. of this Report.

Conservation of areas

3.3 Describe the legal frameworks and other measures through which sites (including transfrontier sites) including of international importance gain practical protection. (Please

append a list of internationally important protected sites.)

National protected areas

- Protected sites of national importance are designated according to Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection. The Act recognizes 5 levels of protection, and each category of protected site has special level of protection. Protected sites are designated not only for birds, but also for other animals and plant species and biotopes. Categories of protected areas in Slovakia and their surface area see in table 2.

Table 2

Category of protected area	Number	Area of protected area (in ha)	Area of buffer zone (in ha)
National parks	9	317,890	270,128
Protected landscape areas	14	522,582	-
Nature reserves	382	12,803	244
National nature reserves	219	84,156	2,401
Nature monuments	227	1,606	205
National nature monuments	11	59	27
Protected sites	170	5,247	2,420
Private nature reserves	2	52	-
Protected landscape element	1	3	-
Total	1,035	944,397	275,425
Sum (protected areas + buffer zones)			1,219,822

According to this Act and its Regulation, it is also prohibited to disturb and damage habitats of protected animals, especially their dwellings, nests or sites for breeding, acquiring food, resting, wintering.

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance

- Each Ramsar site in Slovakia has a protection provisions in the national law and Ramsar sites managers (employee of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic) has been established. The Ramsar site manager is in charge of practical management of the site.

EC Directives

- Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC), Bird Directive. Article 4 requires Member States to establish Special Protection Areas and to use appropriate means of conserving Annex I and /or migratory bird species. Member States shall take similar measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I, bearing in mind their need for protection as regards their breeding and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The information on National List of SPA see in 1.1.
- Council Directive on Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC), Habitats Directive, requires Member States to establish Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for the conservation of habitats, plants and animals designated in Annex I and II of the Directive.

Agri-environmental schemes

Agri-environmental schemes are the main mechanisms available to the Government to encourage the positive management of habitats and species of national and international importance in the wider countryside. The following list includes the main schemes:

- **Basic schemes** - the so-called “preliminary package without entitlement to compensation payments”, measures promoting Good Agricultural Practice, as currently required by the laws regulating the conservation of nature, landscape, water and soil.
- **General Agri-Environmental Schemes** – compensation payments for prescribed land management, the basic scheme (above) is connected to General Agro-Environmental Schemes for the conservation of nature and landscape. It is differentiated according to the type of land use with different packages for the arable land, permanent grassland, and for permanent cultures.
- **Specific Agri-Environmental Schemes** – compensation payments for the conservation of significantly important ecosystems, e. g. a scheme for arable land with biotopes of non-forest woody vegetation, scheme for marshy and wet meadows, and a scheme for semi-dry and dry soil cover using grass.
- **Complementary Schemes** – compensation payments for environmental/landscape-sensitive farming, this support is available for certified production which is governed by special regulations – e. g. integrated production, organic production, or for income forgone due to obeying certain limits in low-input systems (limited nitrogen input or stocking/grazing density limits to stabilize grassland biodiversity and/or prevent soil erosion).

New forms of support for the users and owners of agricultural and forest land in the protected areas were included into the Rural Development Programme for the period of 2007 – 2013 (Payments in Areas of European Interest, Sylvi – environmental payments). New measure (Protection of some bird species habitats) was included into Agri-environmental schemes. It represents a new category for biodiversity conservation in Rural Development Programme.

3.4 Has your country developed a management planning process for protected sites? If yes, please outline the types of management plans and organizations responsible for development and implementation.

The measures required to maintain the ecological character of protected wetland sites have been defined and will be incorporated into prepared management plans. For some Ramsar sites these measures are part of decrees on Special Protection Areas (when overlapped with Natura 2000 sites according to EU Birds Directive) and their draft management plans.

The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNC) is developing the Methodology guidelines for the elaboration of management plans for the large scale protected areas including the sites of international importance. Up to now management plans for 3 Ramsar sites have been developed but not implemented by SNC and management plans for 11 Ramsar sites are in preparation (drafts).

Intra- and inter-ministerial dialogues have been established by the means of the Slovak Ramsar Committee for the purpose to enhanced integration of relevant policies related to the conservation of water resources, wetlands and biodiversity. All protected areas administrations established their own Consultation Committees for improved implementation

of obligations and cooperation with stakeholders.

3.5 How many protected sites have formal management plans (please append a list of sites and their management planning status):

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>a. Proposed?</i> | 14 SPAs |
| <i>b. In preparation?</i> | 14 Ramsar sites |
| <i>c. Being implemented?</i> | |

3.6 What measures does your country have in place to ensure the wise use of wetland habitats and to prevent habitat degradation e.g. pollution control and managing water resources? Please provide examples of best practice initiatives particularly involving cross-sectoral co-operation or public participation.

The Slovak Wetland Management Programme (National Wetland Policy) valid for the period 2005 - 2007 had 8 strategic goals, including: To halt increasing destroying and degradation of wetlands and their biodiversity; Create sufficient database about Slovak wetlands and its up-grading; Develop analyses of economical instruments (sources) and prepare financial proposal for each measure of the Action Plan; Capacity building of institutions responsible for wetland conservation and wise-use; Develop trans-boundary and international co-operation for wetland conservation and restoration;

For the implementation of this Programme the Action Plan (2003 – 2007) for conservation, restoration and wise-use of wetlands was elaborated. This Action Plan was developed and approved by the Slovak Government in February 2003 (resolution no. 200/2003).

The Slovak Wetland Management Programme as well as its Action Plan were assessed in 2007 and updated. The Slovak Wetland Management Programme for 2008 – 2014 and its Action plan 2008 - 2011 were developed. The Slovak Government approved it by its resolution no. 848/2007 in October 2007. The new Slovak Wetland Management Programme has 4 strategic goals: Wise use of wetlands; Conservation and management of wetlands of international importance; International co-operation; Capacity building of institutions responsible for implementation of the Ramsar Convention.

A concept of National Water Management Policy of the Slovak Republic till 2015 was elaborated by the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic and approved by the Slovak Government in 2006 and wetland issues are incorporated.

Rehabilitation and restoration

3.7 Does your country have a policy for the identification, rehabilitation and restoration of wetlands important for species covered by the Agreement? Please provide examples of rehabilitation and restoration projects and initiatives undertaken.

The Slovak Wetland Management Programme (National Wetland Policy) for 2005 – 2007 included also restoration of riverine, marsh and lake systems and development of trans-boundary and international cooperation for wetland conservation and restoration. The National Programme on Wetland Restoration is in the process of preparation. Strong emphasis to restoration activities is given also in the new National Wetland policy and the Action Plan for 2008 – 2011.

Several projects which were focused on wetland restoration and rehabilitation were carried out.

- In 2005 the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNC) implemented a project with support of the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment of the Netherlands and in cooperation with several Dutch institutions focused on training, management and restoration of wetlands and river basins, with special emphasis on some Ramsar sites (Turiec Wetlands, Senne Fishponds) and background information for national wetland restoration strategy.
- Several SNC staff members participated also in training workshop in the Czech Republic on restoration and water management in March 2006.
- Regional Environmental Association TINCA realised the 2nd stage of the project 'Management of National Nature Reserve Čičovské rameno' – which is a part of the Danube Floodplains Ramsar Site.
- In 2005, the Slovak Ornithological Society – BirdLife Slovakia realised the project 'Restoration and nitrogen reduction in the Žitava River basin'.
- SNC in co-operation with NGO Eva Zuberová, Kolárovo carried out the project 'Restoration of the Listové Jazero Nature Reserve'.
- The Bratislava Regional Conservation Association (BROZ) NGO in close cooperation with the SNC led the EU LIFE Nature project 'Conservation and management of the Danube floodplain forests' (2003 - 2007). The project objective was to preserve the last remaining natural forests in the Slovak part of the Danube floodplain and to introduce sound, sustainable forest management in the area.
- In 2005 started another LIFE Nature project 'Restoration of Wetlands of Zahorie Lowland'. The main project objective is to restore the original water conditions and to reach the favourable conservation status of the forest and wetland habitats at 8 project localities - proposed Sites of Community Importance. The duration of the project is four years (2005 - 2008). During this period specific restoration and management measures are being implemented at individual project sites, including the restoration of water regime, improvement of the habitat conditions for most threatened plant and animal species, construction of fish by-pass at Rudava River near Veľké Leváre community to restore this important fish migration route, and restoration of species-rich lowland meadows along the rivers' floodplain.
- In 2005 SNC - Administration of Muranska planina NP in cooperation with other partners and with the support of SBB Germany realized restoration of riverine habitats in the catchment of the Muranka River.
- In 2004, the SOSNA NGO has started a project 'Restoration of the Budov kút oxbow lake'. The objective of the project was to joint this oxbow lake with the Hornád River and to increase water level in surrounded areas. The SOSNA NGO also realised activities in the Hornád micro-region focused on restoration and management measures on small rivers.

The DAPHNE - Institute of Applied Ecology carried out the following projects concerning wetland restoration (in cooperation with the SNC units):

- 'Conservation, Restoration and Wise Use of Rich Fens in the Slovak Republic' (UNDP/GEF, 2005/2009)
- 'Integrated land use and management of wetlands - pilot project in the village Olšavica (Levoča county)' (Danube Regional Pproject (UNDP/GEF), 2005/2006)
- 'Conservation by Restoration: Strategy and Management for a River-Floodplain on the Lower Morava River' (Water Research Institute - Science and Technology Assistance Agency, 2003/2005)
- 'The conservation and restoration of valuable habitats in National Park Pieniny as a model example for large scale protected areas in Slovakia' (German Fund for the Environment (Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt - DBU 2007/2008).
- Crossborder INTERREG III. A project "The clean Vlara River from mouth to source" was implemented in 2006-2007 by municipalities of Horne Srnie (SK) and Brumov-Bylnice (CZ) in cooperation with NGO Pre Prirodu Trencin (planting of trees, elimination of alien invasive species, illegal dumping sites and water quality monitoring).

4. Management of human activities

Hunting

4.1 Outline the main features of legislation or legal measures in your country to control hunting of the species covered by the Agreement (e.g. use of lead shot and poisoned baits, and to eliminate illegal taking).

The main feature of the legislation is to control the hunting of species covered by the Agreement and it is included in the Act No. 543/2002 on Nature and Landscape Protection and its Regulation of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 24/2003 and in the Act No. 23/1962 Coll. on hunting and its regulations.

By the Act No. 543/2002, all bird species, occurring in Slovakia are protected and also some methods of hunting of all protected species (including birds) are prohibited (see point 2.2.b). Regulation of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 24/2003 determines bird species which could be caught, injured, killed, kept in captivity, but in correspondence with the Act No. 23/1962 on hunting. Also the Act No. 23/1962 Coll. on hunting and its regulations mention some prohibited methods.

The bird species which could be hunted and their hunting season see in the table below.

Bird species	Open hunting season	Column / Category of Action plan
Common Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)	16.9.-15.1.	B / 2c
White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons</i>)	16.10. - 15.1.	A / 3c*
Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>)	16.10. - 15.1.	A / 2*
Bean Goose (<i>Anser fabalis</i>)	16.10. - 15.1.	B / 1
Common Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>)	1.10.-16.1.	C / 1
Eurasian Woodcock (<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>)	16.3.-30.4.	

4.2 Does your country monitor hunting levels? If so, how is this information collated and reported?

There are more than 55000 hunters in Slovakia. They are associated in different organizations. The Slovak Hunting Association is the biggest association of hunters, which is also used as an expert organization for the Ministry of Agriculture. Each hunting organization or its part is responsible for managing hunting unit. Each hunting unit has obligation to register all individuals of game species they shot. This register is then passed to the National Forestry Centre, an expert organization under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic, which is administrating the register on national level. Game species are annually counted (on 31st March) by hunting associations.

4.3 Describe action undertaken by hunting clubs and organisations to manage hunting activity e.g. cooperative action, issuing of licences and proficiency testing of individual members.

According to the Act No. 23/1962 Coll. on hunting, hunters are obliged to manage their activities in accordance with nature protection, respecting Act No. 543/2002 on Nature and Landscape Protection. Many of hunting units cooperate with environmental organizations. Responsible authorities to register and control hunting at regional level are Regional Forest Authorities, dependant under the Ministry of Agriculture.

Eco-tourism

4.4 What is the status of eco-tourism programmes or initiatives in your country? Please provide examples of projects with an indication of the significant outcomes.

The Strategy of Tourism Development till 2013 was prepared by the Slovak Tourist Board and approved by the Slovak Government. This document comprises the State Environmental Policy until 2013.

Many Eco-tourism programmes and activities were carried out by both governmental and non-governmental organizations. The eco-tourism projects were performed e.g. by the Pomoravie Forum. They have focused on the recreation zone establishment in the Perunská luka site and the educational trail in the oxbow lake of Perun (the Morava River). Another project was realized in the Batov kanal channel. The Vydra non-governmental organization has carried out some eco-tourism projects in Vydrova dolina valley in Slovenské rudohorie Mountains. The Slovak Ornithological Society / BirdLife Slovakia organized in 2007 two monitoring camps in Senné Special Protection Area.

4.5 What social and economic benefits accrue to the local communities from the conservation of important waterbird sites?

The communities and owners of land in the important waterbird sites can obtain financial contribution according to the Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection as amended by later acts.

The financial contribution from the state budget is intended to maintain or reach a favorable status of a part of the landscape, which is not possible to reach with common cultivation of the land. The financial contribution is provided by the nature protection body based on a written agreement signed between the nature protection body or a nature protection organization authorized by it and the owner (administrator, lessee) of the affected land. The owner (administrator, lessee) of the land may be provided with a financial contribution with respect to management of the land:

- in a protected site, nature reserve, nature monument, national nature reserve, national nature monument and protected bird area,
- in the site of European interest,
- in areas of international importance,
- with protected species of animals and plants.

Compensation of Restriction of Common Cultivation is awarded to the owner of land in the important bird area. The owner of land is obliged to tolerate restrictions and measures resulting from prohibitions and other conditions of nature and landscape protection set forth by or based on this Act. If this restricts a common cultivation of the land, the owner is entitled to compensation at the amount corresponding to the restriction of the common cultivation; this does not apply to the owner of a private protected area.

Other human activities

4.6 Does your country carry out Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of activities potentially affecting protected sites or areas important for species covered by the Agreement? If yes, briefly describe the main features of your EIA policy and procedures.

Slovak Republic as a member of EU carries out Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of activities potentially affecting protected sites or areas important for species covered by the Agreement according to the Act no. 24/2006 on the environmental impact assessment, which implements relevant Directives of EU. Under this act all activities which could cause substantial changes in biological diversity of ecosystems must be assessed. It means that all projects, developments or changes which may have impact on wetlands have to be assessed under this act. There are listed all activities which must be assessed in Annex 8 of the mentioned act. All basic information about present status of environment (including protected areas, protective zones, protected species of animals and plants and their habitats, territorial system of ecological stability: local, regional, supra-regional, etc.) at the affected site need to be included in the documentation during EIA process, also with expected impacts of proposed activity on area of interest from nature conservation point of view.

Highest responsible authority of EIA process is the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, which is officially communicating with all relevant organizations, including the State Nature Conservancy, which is responsible for protected species and habitats and areas management.

4.7 Please describe the main features of your planning policy and provide examples of practical implementation (e.g. activities to minimising disturbance of species populations or limit the impact of species populations on crops or fisheries). Please summarize any land-

use conflicts especially emphasizing successful solutions to problems encountered in promoting the wise-use of waterbirds and their habitats.

The Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection and its Regulation of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 24/2003 allow to owners of the fish farms to apply for compensation for damage caused by some protected species of water birds (*Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Ardea cinerea*) on fish stock when prevention measures are made.

The principle of using the property wisely and to take appropriate measures is included in the Act on Nature and Landscape Protection. Maintaining of or achieving the favourable conservation status of habitats and sites of international importance is an obligation of the land owner and land user, who can be compensated or can be supported with financial contribution. Some management activities are implemented with agreements with land owners or land users or are ordered in private companies.

5. Research and monitoring

Status of research and monitoring programmes for species

5.1 How are priorities for research identified in your country? Please briefly describe your country's research programmes, including any bilateral or multilateral co-operative action, for wetland habitats and for species covered by the Agreement (e.g. studies into species population, ecology and migratory patterns). Please append a list of research activities initiated, ongoing or completed in the last three years.

Priorities of Slovakia concerning monitoring and research are aimed at the species, which are listed in Annexes of Bird Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds). There are 81 bird species which are regularly migrating via Slovakia and which are listed in Annex 1 of the Bird Directive. The monitoring of these species is realised by state bodies, as well as by NGOs, and all possible data are sent to the EC during the reporting period. Moreover, project for intensive monitoring of birds is under preparation. The aim is also to monitor the favourable conservation status of species and to reach or maintain it.

5.2 What monitoring activities does your country undertake, including any bilateral or multilateral cooperative action, of wetland areas and species covered by the Agreement (e.g. national monitoring schemes, International Waterfowl Census)? Please append a list of monitoring activities or programmes initiated, ongoing or completed in the last three years.

Presently Biota Partial Monitoring System is carried out in Slovakia. It is a part of a complex monitoring of environment which is coordinated by the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic. It includes selected species of fauna and flora (37 plants, 6 animals and 2 groups of animals). This monitoring started in 2001. The monitoring of *Ciconia ciconia* is organized in more than 400 nests and monitoring of birds of prey in more than 70 sites. Recently it is transformed to the system of monitoring of NATURA 2000 species and habitats. Monitoring will be oriented to the surveillance of the Favourable Conservation Status according to the Habitats Directive. The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic started to organize meetings with national experts for the purpose to establish complex monitoring system for the birds.

6. Education and information

Training and development programmes

6.1 Describe the status of training and development programmes which support waterbird conservation and implement the AEWA Action Plan.

Project on information workshops for employees of river basin administrations, state water authorities, State Nature Conservancy branches and municipalities under the title 'Role of Wetlands in Integrated River Basin Management' was organized by the DAPHNE - Institute of Applied Ecology in 2006 as a part of activities of the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project in the Slovak Republic.

The Ministry of Environment organized in 2007 the seminar 'Legislative frameworks in protection of habitats and species of Community interest with special attention to wetlands'.

The Water Research Institute in Bratislava, the Slovak Water Management Enterprise in Banska Stiavnica and the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute organized courses for water managers and activities for public during the World Water Day and Open-door days. Specialized books of the Water Research Institute were published, among others on water management in Slovakia, Towards Integrated River Basin Management, Basin-wide Water Balance in the Danube River Basin, magazines and journals etc.

In a framework of the project funded by the Dutch Government in 2005 'Capacity building of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic' with the support of Rijkswaterstaat RIZA were organized activities for capacity building, including the national symposium on river basin and wetland restoration.

The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNC) organized training for employees, who work with environmental crime issues, on the new Crime Law (300/2005) and its new information. Also each year at least twice there are meetings of zoologists from SNC on actual situation on monitoring, protection and problems of protected animals including AEWA species.

The Ministry of Environment annually organizes trainings for new employees in different level of authorities on actual legislation.

6.2 What bilateral or multilateral co-operative action is your country undertaking to develop training programmes and share examples of good practice?

The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNC) developed a project on capacity building, which was supported by the Dutch Government, implemented in 2005 and it included participation of SNC staff members in international interactive training course on restoration of river basins (RWS-RIZA, Lelystad, the Netherlands). In 2007 employees of protected areas administrations participated in international training course on Ecohydrological Approaches to Wise Use, Restoration, Management and Conservation of Wetlands, organized by the Czech National Committee for UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme in cooperation with other organizations and the Czech Ministry of Environment in Trebon, Czech Republic (June 2007).

Several study tours were organized to neighbouring countries (Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland).

The Danube Environmental Forum, a platform of non-governmental organizations in 13 countries situated in the Danube River Basin, organized Danube Regional project (UNDP/GEF – 2003 – 2007). Within the project, such activities as restoration projects, the

Danube Day organization, educational leaflets, publication, organization of national and international trainings were performed.

During the last triennium new initiatives and networks have been developed – the Carpathian Wetland Initiative, the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas and the Danube River Network of Protected Areas with intention to share experience and examples of good practice, including training programmes.

Raising public awareness

6.3 Describe activities to raise public awareness of the objectives of the AEWA Action Plan. Please outline any particular successes generating public interest in, and securing support for, waterbird and wetland conservation (e.g. campaigns, information notes or other initiatives)?

Within the UNDP/GEF project 'Conservation, restoration and wise use of rich fens in the Slovak Republic' seminars and workshops were organized for local stakeholders especially in 3 pilot sites.

Similar activities and production of brochures and leaflets for general public were executed in a framework of the Twinning PHARE Project 'Implementation of Habitats Directive and Birds Directive in Slovakia'. Community awareness activities were important part of all other projects mentioned above. Exhibitions prepared in cooperation with museums and NGOs on wetlands and their importance were placed in different sites. Community awareness activities are a part of every day work of 25 units of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and of the Slovak Environmental Agency.

Specialized educational centres have been established in Muranska planina National Park, Mala Fatra National Park, Velka Fatra National Park and one is under construction in Wetlands of Orava Basin Ramsar Site. NATURA 2000 Information Centres are established in other administrations of protected areas. Activities of the educational centres of the Slovak Environmental Agency include also wetland and water issues.

The Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia organized 10 camps, 70 excursions for the public. They carried out several campaigns on bird protection e.g. "European Bird Day", "Bird Marathon", published awareness materials etc..

7. Final comments

7.1 General comments on the implementation of the AEWA Action Plan

7.2 Observations concerning the functions and services of the various AEWA bodies

a. The Agreement Secretariat

b. International organisations

c. AEWA NGO partners

7.3 How might the Action Plan be further developed as a practical aid for national and international conservation of migratory waterbirds?

8. Progress to implement Resolutions and Recommendations of the Meeting of the Parties

Please summarize progress to implement decisions of previous Meetings of the Parties.

Examples of projects for wetlands and species conservation and restoration during the triennium:

- EU LIFE - 2005-2007 - Conservation and Management of the Danube Floodplain Forests;
- EU LIFE - 2005 - Resoration of Water Regime of Sur National Nature Reserve;
- EU LIFE - 2005–2007 - Wetlands Resoration of Zahorska nizina Lowland;
- EU LIFE - 2005-2007 - Conservation of Senne and Medzibodrozie SPA;
- UNDP/GEF - 2005–2007 - Conservation, Restoration and Wise Use of Rich Fens in the Slovak Republic;
- UNDP/GEF (Danube Regional Project) - 2005-2006 - Integrated Land Use and Management of Wetlands - pilot project in the village Olšavica (Levoča county);
- EU Structural Funds - 2006–2007 - Optimization of Communication and Communication and Information on Protected Areas of NATURA 2000 Network;
- Swiss Revolving Fund – 2005 - Management Plan for Morava River Floodplain Ramsar Site;
- Phare Twinning – 2005 - Implementation of the Habitats and Birds Directives;
- German Government – 2005 - Evaluation of the status of habitats and species of the Annexes of the Habitats and Birds Directives and complementary collection of data for development of management plans in 10 NATURA 2000 sites;
- SBB Germany - 2006 - Restoration of rivers in Revuca District;

9. OPTIONAL SECTION – Planned and future actions

Contracting Parties are invited to outline below any further information regarding the aims of the Agreement, for example, planned actions or other informative examples.

1. Species conservation
2. Habitat conservation
3. Management of human activities
4. Research and monitoring
5. Education and information

The Carpathian Wetland Initiative was initiated by Slovakia as a signatory of the Carpathian Convention and Contracting Party to the Ramsar Convention. In the first stage it was supported by the Slovak-Norwegian project on a 'Network of Carpathian protected areas and Ramsar sites' (2004-2005). The framework for cooperation between secretariats of the Carpathian and Ramsar Convention provides the Memorandum of Cooperation signed in December 2006.

The mission, objectives, partners, implementing bodies of CWI and its guiding principles are agreed in the Terms of Reference for the CWI, adopted by the Implementation Committee of the Carpathian Convention in October 2007. The background and tool for implementation of the mission and goals of CWI through the Carpathian Convention is also the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Biodiversity Protocol), which was approved by the Carpathian Convention COP2 in June 2008 and which include migratory species and wetlands conservation. The proposal for endorsement of the CWI as the regional initiative of the Ramsar Convention was submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat on 31 March 2008.

Key points of the CWI work plan include:

- Information on wetland ecosystems
- Designation of additional Wetlands of International Importance
- Integrating wetlands into river basin management
- Wetland restoration
- Transboundary wetland ecosystems
- Species and habitat monitoring
- Capacity building and public awareness

List of abbreviations and acronyms used in the report

CBD – Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES – Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS – Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
EC – European Commission
EIA – Environment Impact Assessment
EU – European Union
GEF – Global Environmental Facility
IAS – Invasive Alien Species
IUCN – World Conservation Union
MoP - Meeting of the Parties
NGO – non-governmental organization
SAC – Special Area of Conservation
SCI - Site of Community Importance
SNC - State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic
SPA - Special Protection Areas
UNDP – United Nations Development Programme

References

- DANKO, Š., DAROLOVÁ, A. & KRIŠTÍN, A. 2002 eds.: Rozšírenie vtákov na Slovensku. VEDA, Bratislava, 688 pp.
- National Report on the Implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, May 2008.
- National Report on the Implementation of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, August 2008.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Status of Single Species Action Plans

Appendix 2: List of sites of international importance

Special Protection Areas of Slovakia (SPAs)

Code of SPA	Name	Area (ha)
SKCHVU001	Boheľovské rybníky	81.5
SKCHVU002	Bukovské vrchy	40 932.4
SKCHVU003	Cerová vrchovina – Porimavie	30 187.7
SKCHVU006	Dubnické štrkovisko	41.4
SKCHVU007	Dunajské luhy	16 511.6
SKCHVU008	Horná Orava	58 738.0
SKCHVU009	Košická kotlina	17 354.3
SKCHVU011	Laborecká vrchovina	102 813.9
SKCHVU013	Malá Fatra	66 228.1
SKCHVU014	Malé Karpaty	50 633.6
SKCHVU015	Medzibodrožie	33 753.7
SKCHVU017	Muránska planina – Stolica	25 796.5
SKCHVU018	Nízke Tatry	98 168.5
SKCHVU037	Ondavská rovina	15 906.6
SKCHVU020	Parížske močiare	376.6
SKCHVU021	Poiplie	8 062.9
SKCHVU024	Senné	2 703.1
SKCHVU025	Slanské vrchy	60 247.4
SKCHVU026	Sĺňava	509.3
SKCHVU027	Slovenský kras	43 921.3
SKCHVU028	Strážovské vrchy	58 673.1
SKCHVU029	Sysľovské polia	1 772.9
SKCHVU030	Tatry	54 611.3
SKCHVU032	Trnavské rybníky	156.3
SKCHVU023	Uľanská mokraď	18 460.4
SKCHVU033	Veľká Fatra	47 445.0
SKCHVU034	Veľkoblahovské rybníky	91.3
SKCHVU035	Vihorlatské vrchy	47 999.9
SKCHVU036	Volovské vrchy	121 420.7
SKCHVU016	Záhorské Pomoravie	31 072.9
SKCHVU038	Žitavský luh	155.4

Sites with prevailing wetland character are in bold.

Appendix 3: Status of management plans for sites of international importance

Appendix 4: List of research and monitoring programmes and projects

Conservation of habitat diversity in Slovenský raj National park
Conservation of SPA Senné and Medzibodrožie in Slovakia
Restoration of Wetlands at Zahorie Lowland
Conservation and management of Danube floodplain forests
Revitalisation Programme for the Muráň River
Setting up of the Carpathian Protected Areas and Ramsar sites network
Conservation, Restoration and Wise Use of Rich Fens in the Slovak Republic

Appendix 5: List of national institutions involved in migratory waterbird conservation

Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic
State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic
Slovak Academy of Sciences

Appendix 6: List of relevant World Wide Web addresses for national institutions involved in migratory waterbird conservation

www.enviro.gov.sk
www.sopsr.sk
www.sovs.sk
www.daphne.sk
www.uke.sav.sk/bioplatform/domace.htm

Appendix 7: List of relevant migratory waterbird and habitat conservation projects initiated, ongoing or completed in the last three years

Conservation of habitat diversity in Slovenský raj National park
Conservation of SPA Senné and Medzibodrožie in Slovakia
Restoration of Wetlands at Zahorie Lowland
Conservation and management of Danube floodplain forests
Revitalisation Programme for the Muráň River
Setting up of the Carpathian Protected Areas and Ramsar sites net
Conservation, Restoration and Wise Use of Rich Fens in the Slovak Republic