



**Report of the Republic of Slovenia on the implementation
of the Agreement in the period 2005-2007**

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

Implementation during the period 2005-2007

Contracting Party: Slovenia

Designated AEWA Administrative Authority:

Full name of the institution: Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning

Name and title of the head of the institution: Janez Podobnik, Minister

**Mailing address: Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Dunajska c. 48,
PO Box 653, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia**

Telephone: (+386) 1 47 87 400

Fax: (+386) 1 47 87 422

Email: andrej.bibic@gov.si

**Name and title (if different) of the designated contact officer
for AEWA matters: Andrej Bibič**

**Mailing address (if different) for the designated contact
officer:**

Telephone: (+386) 1 47 87 400

Fax: (+386) 1 47 87 422

Email: andrej.bibic@gov.si

Table of Contents

1. Overview of Action Plan implementation	5
2. Species conservation	6
Legal measures	6
Single Species Action Plans	7
Emergency measures	9
Re-establishments	9
Introductions	9
3. Habitat conservation	10
Habitat inventories	10
Conservation of areas	11
Rehabilitation and restoration	14
4. Management of human activities	15
Hunting	15
Eco-tourism	16
Other human activities	16
5. Research and monitoring	18
Status of research and monitoring programmes for species	18
6. Education and information	19
Training and development programmes	19
Raising public awareness	19
7. Final comments	20
8. Progress to implement Resolutions and Recommendations of the Meeting of the Parties	24
9. OPTIONAL SECTION – Planned and future actions	26
List of abbreviations and acronyms used in the report	27
References	28
Appendices	30
Appendix 1: Status of Single Species Action Plans	30
Appendix 2: List of sites of international importance	31
Appendix 3: Status of management plans for sites of international importance	32
Appendix 4: List of research and monitoring programmes and projects	33
Appendix 5: List of national institutions involved in migratory waterbird conservation	34

Appendix 6:	List of relevant World Wide Web addresses for national institutions involved in migratory waterbird conservation	35
Appendix 7:	List of relevant migratory waterbird and habitat conservation projects initiated, ongoing or completed in the last three years	36

1. Overview of Action Plan implementation

1.1 Summary of progress to date

This report for the fourth Meeting of the Parties (MoP) covers the implementation period 2005-2007. It provides information about Slovenian initiatives and best practice in relation to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their wetland habitats, in the context of the AEWA Action Plan.

The report is based on proposal prepared by statutory agency responsible for nature conservation (Institute of the RS for Nature Conservation – IRSNC) and information drawn from a wide range of organisations including: government administrations, statutory agencies responsible for protected areas (Sečoveljske soline and Škocjanski zatok Protected Area administrations) and hunting (Institute of the RS for Nature Conservation - IRSNC, Slovenian Forestry Service) and non-governmental organisations (DOPPS - BirdLife Slovenia and Hunting Association of Slovenia). Slovenia has a comprehensive legal framework that provides for the conservation of species and habitats, and is closely linked to implementation of relevant EU legislation. Legal frameworks as well as other activities are described in the following sections of this report.

Species conservation

- An account of legislation of the Republic of Slovenia regarding the conservation of waterbird populations listed in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan;
- The status of implementation of international single-species action plans;
- Development of procedures for responding to emergency situations in place;
- An account of procedures to control introductions of non-native species; and
- An appendix (appendix 2) with key information on sites designated for AEWA species (and populations) regularly occurring in Slovenia.

Habitats conservation

- An account of legislation of the Republic of Slovenia regarding the conservation of habitats important for waterbird populations listed in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan, especially for internationally important sites;
- An account of the assessment of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in Slovenia, designated under Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds; and
- The status of management plans for important sites and rehabilitation/restoration projects which aim to improve the conservation status of waterbirds.

Management of human activities

- The phasing out of the use of lead gun-shot in Slovenian wetlands; and
- The extent of human activities which are of relevance to waterbird conservation.

Monitoring and research

- A review of the main research and monitoring projects on waterbirds in Slovenia.

Education and Information

- A review of the training, education and public awareness projects which are specifically linked to waterbird conservation.

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

A framework for the national implementation of the Agreement over the next three years is provided within the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy of Slovenia. The next important document outlining the actions especially for site conservation is Operational programme - Natura 2000 management programme that was approved by the Government in October 2007.

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

Outline for the international cooperation is especially related to neighbouring countries.

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?*
- b. Which organisations are responsible for implementation?*
- c. How does it relate to other national initiatives (e.g. national Biodiversity Action Plans)?*

Species protection

The legal obligations of the Republic of Slovenia under AEWA closely relate to existing obligations under the EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC). The protection of endangered migratory waterbird species (listed in Table 1, column A; column B of the AEWA Action Plan and occurring naturally in Slovenia) is ensured through a comprehensive legal framework. This prohibits for all species concerned, in accordance with provisions of Art. 5 of the EU Wild Birds Directive, deliberate killing or capture by any method, destruction of, or damage to, their nests and eggs or removal of their nests, and taking their eggs in the wild and keeping these eggs. The Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning (MoESP) can issue a permit to derogate from these provisions in accordance with provisions of Art. 9 of the EU Wild Birds Directive.

Areas

Legislative mechanisms, as described above for the conservation of species, also provide for the conservation of designated Special Protection Areas (see section 3.3 below for more details of site designations).

National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy

In 2001 the Republic of Slovenia adopted a national Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological resources. The Strategy also contributes to the conservation of waterbird species and important wetlands through appropriate mechanisms.

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)?*
- b. Methods of taking?*
- c. Setting of taking limits and monitoring these limits?*
- d. Sustainable hunting of species listed in Categories 2 and 3 (and marked by an asterisk) in Column A only?*
- e. Exemptions to the provisions set out in paragraphs 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.1.3?*

The Decree on the protection of wild animal species (OJ RS, 46/04), for all species concerned, prohibits and in connection with the Nature Conservation Act (OJ RS, 96/04) imposes penalties for deliberate killing, injuring or capture by any method, destruction of, or damage to their nests and eggs or removal of their nests, and taking their eggs in the wild and keeping these eggs. MoESP can issue a permit for exemptions to the provisions set out in paragraph 2.1.1, in accordance with provisions of the Art.9 of the EC Wild Birds Directive.

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?*

Among a number of International Single Species Action Plans (ISSAP) which were adopted for populations listed under Category 1 of Column A of Table 1 only four are relevant for Slovenia:

- International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Great Snipe *Gallinago media* (AEWA, 2004),
- International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Corn crake *Crex crex* (AEWA, 2006),
- International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyorca* (AEWA, 2006) and,
- International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* (AEWA, 2006).

Great Snipe *Gallinago media*

Great snipe is a rare vagrant in Slovenia. Four individuals were observed on three occasions (in 1975, 1990 and 1996), all observations are from SPA Ljubljansko barje during migration period.

ISSAP includes Slovenia among migration countries (Southern Europe). Slovenia did not prepare a National single species action plan (NSSAP) because all planned national management activities from the ISSAP (cessation of exploitation, maintenance of the current status of habitats, protection status of sites, distribution and population size) are sufficiently covered by the implementation in national legislation through the Nature Conservation Act (ZON-UPB, OJ RS 96/04), Decree on special conservation areas (OJ RS, 49/04) and Decree on the protection of wild animal species (OJ RS, 46/04).

Corncrake (*Crex crex*)

A draft of NSSAP for Corncrake was prepared in December 2005 as a result of Life project by DOPPS-BirdLife International (LIFE03NAT/SLO/000077, <http://www.life-kosec.org/>). Vast majority of its actions as well as actions from the ISSAP related to SPAs are included in Operational programme – Natura 2000 management programme (prepared by MoESP) that was approved by the Government in October 2007. Operational Programme determines conservation measures for corncrake on each SPA separately.

The following activities from the ISSAP for the Conservation of the Corncrake *Crex crex* were performed in Slovenia:

- Species' requirements were incorporated into Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 part of which are agri-environmental payments (several measures are appropriate for Corncrake protection – please see Section 3.3 for further details).
- Species' requirements were incorporated into Operational programme – management programme for Natura 2000.
- The most important sites for Corncrake were designated as SPAs (all together there are 8 of them).
- National legislation requires Environmental Impact Assessments preceding activities that might damage breeding habitat on SPAs designated (also) for Corncrake.
- Habitat compensation measures are implemented where needed.
- As part of Life projects (LIFE03NAT/SLO/000077, LIFE04NAT/SI/000240) farmers on some areas were provided with information on Corncrake-friendly mowing and habitat management techniques.
- Incentive schemes are provided to encourage farmers to delay mowing date until 1st August (Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 measure “Conservation of habitats of endangered wet meadow bird species in Natura 2000 areas” - mowing after 1.8., no grazing allowed, in case meadow is larger than 1 ha, mowing should be done from the center of meadow to its edges).
- It is forbidden to hunt Corncrake (regulated by Nature Conservation Act (OJ RS, 96/04) and Game and Hunting Act (OJ RS, 16/04)).

Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*)

Until recently, there have only been a few wintering records for Ferruginous Duck and one known breeding site (Lake Cerknica, 1-5 pairs occasionally breeding and up to 57 occurring on Spring migration) in Slovenia. Lake Cerknica is designated as SPA, Ramsar wetland and is part of Notranjska Regional Park. The management of this site was included in the Operational programme – management programme for Natura 2000. The site is also

managed by Notranjska Regional Park. Therefore there was no need yet to develop NSSAP.

Recently, new field data confirmed two new nesting locations (water reservoir Medvedce: 2-5 pairs, and lagoons for sewage waters of Sugar factory in Ormož: 2-5 breeding pairs). Up to 20 individuals occur on water reservoir Medvedce during Fall migration. Water reservoir Medvedce is currently only a pSCI. On the basis of unpublished data, gathered by DOPPS-BirdLife Slovenia the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation (IRSNC) formed a proposal to designate Medvedce as SPA in October 2007. Lagoons for sewage water in Ormož are part of SPA River Drava. Because of the cessation of sugar production in Sugar Factory, the future of lagoons is uncertain and the danger of overgrowing with shrubs very high.

Considering new breeding data and uncertainties regarding the conservation of this species' habitat the provisions of existing legislation and the Operational programme – management programme for Natura 2000 will most likely not be sufficient to allow expanding of this species in Slovenia.

White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala*

We have no data on the occurrence of this species in Slovenia. White-headed duck is threatened by the invasive species Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) of which there are two observations in Slovenia in the last 10 years:

20.-24.10.1999, 1 individual, water reservoir Medvedce

2.2.2002, 1 individual, Lake Ptuj

Because White-headed Duck is not present in Slovenia there is no need to develop NSSAP. We regularly monitor the presence of Ruddy Duck in all key sites during the International Waterbird Census in winter. As it is a rarely seen species it is very likely that every occurrence during the rest of the year will be reported in ornithological publications or electronic media. In case Ruddy Duck occurs eradication is foreseen.

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 unfavourable or endangering conditions occurring in the Agreement area.

We have a system for tackling emergency situations in relation to possible outbreaks of avian influenza, coordinated by Veterinary Authority of the Republic of Slovenia.

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.

A policy of re-establishment has not been developed in Slovenia, due to relatively well-preserved nature.

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).

The introduction, repopulation and animal breeding of non-native species in Slovenia are regulated by the Nature Conservation Act (OJ RS 96/2004). Introduction of plants or animals of non-native species is in general prohibited, but the competent Ministry (MoESP) may permit the introduction of plants or animals of non-native species for introduction in the wild, repopulation or animal breeding. Permit is given only when it has been determined through an assessment of risk to nature that introduction of a non-native species shall not threaten the natural balance or biodiversity components. The assessment of risk to nature is carried out by a qualified legal or natural person, authorised for this purpose by the minister. The conditions and manner of carrying out the assessment of risk to nature and the conditions for and manner of obtaining the authorisation are laid down in the *Regulation on assessment of risk to nature and obtaining the authorization*.

The permit for introduction of animals of non-native species that may be hunted, and plants that are used in agriculture and forestry activities is issued by the Ministry of agriculture, food and forestry (MoAFF), with the prior consent of the MoESP.

The permit for breeding animals of non-native species can be obtained only if the risk assessment to nature is positive also in respect to meeting the conditions to isolate an area intended for animal breeding from the adjacent ecosystem and if an area intended for animal breeding is connected to the adjacent ecosystem by devices mitigating negative impacts.

When repopulating plants or animals of non-native species a natural or legal person shall notify the Ministry of this intention and enclose with the application the findings of the assessment of risk to nature. The Ministry may consent with the repopulation or shall issue a decision prohibiting repopulation on the basis of the assessment of risk to nature. For repopulating plants and animals that are used in agriculture and forestry the notification is not needed. The repopulation shall be monitored and controlled.

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.

There have been several surveys of wetland habitats in Slovenia, but none particularly for waterbird species. Surveys of wetland habitats with results of limited use for waterbirds are general land cover survey (regularly conducted by the MoAFF), habitat mapping (not yet systematically updated and maintained) and inventories of ecologically important areas. Sites of importance for waterbird species are being surveyed systematically, sites of occurrence (not only of importance) of wintering waterbirds as well in yearly intervals by

DOPPS - BirdLife Slovenia.

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.

Slovenia undertook a review of important sites for migratory waterbird species in 2004 as part of designation of the Special Protection Areas under the EC Wild Birds Directive. Identified sites of international importance, designated for species covered by the Agreement are presented in Appendix 2.

Currently, we have two sites of international importance for waterbird species designated also under the Ramsar Convention: Sečovlje salt pans and Lake Cerknica.

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.)

International Designations

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance

Currently, we have two sites of international importance for waterbird species designated under the Ramsar Convention: Sečovlje salt pans (declared in 1993) and Lake Cerknica (declared in 2006). Slovenia ratified the Paris Protocol and Regina Amendments of this Convention in 2004 (OJ RS MP, 6/04).

EC Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)

Article 4 of this directive requires Member States to establish Special Protection Areas where these are an appropriate means of conserving Annex I and/or migratory bird species. This is implemented in the Republic of Slovenia through the Nature Conservation Act (ZON – UPB2, OJ RS 96/04) and governmental Decree on special conservation areas (OJ RS, 49/04). An up to date list of SPAs is available from the MoESP and this information is regularly updated on MoESP's web-site¹.

National designations

The following national designations are important for waterbird conservation as they offer opportunities for protection where necessary:

Protected areas

Different levels of protection are given to the above mentioned SPAs, depending on needs for protection. They are designated as nature reserves, regional parks or landscape parks.

¹ <http://www.natura2000.gov.si/>

http://gis.arso.gov.si/atlasokolja/profile.aspx?id=Atlas_Okolja_AXL@Arso

Ecologically important areas

Basis for proactive conservation measures (e.g. agri-environmental schemes) are Ecologically Important Areas (EcoIA). An up to date list of EcoIA is available from the MoESP and this information is regularly updated on MoESP's web-site².

Agri-environment measures

Agri-environmental schemes are the main mechanism available to the Government to encourage the positive management of habitats of national and international importance. A number of measures are significant for waterbird conservation and apply all over Slovenia: the main ones are "Special Grassland Habitats" (grazing or mowing after 15.7. – after the fledging of young of endangered bird species), "Conservation of hay meadows" (grazing or mowing after 25.8.) and "Conservation of habitats of endangered wet meadow bird species in Natura 2000 areas" (mowing after 1.8., no grazing allowed, in case meadow is larger than 1 ha, mowing should be done from the centre of meadow to its edges).

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

The Nature Conservation Act (ZON – UPB2, OJ RS, 96/04) gives a framework for drafting management plans of parks (national, regional, landscape). It gives also a framework for the Natura 2000 management programme. Draft management plans for parks are prepared by park authorities (see section 3.5). Operational programme - Natura 2000 management programme was prepared by MoESP.

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

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

Operational programme - Natura 2000 management programme determines measures and actions aimed at ensuring favourable conservation status of the majority of qualifying species for each SPA.

Additional management plans (MP) were prepared or are in preparation for some protected areas:

1. Landscape Park Sečovelje salt pans: MP was prepared as part of Life project LIFE03NAT/SLO/000076, <http://www.kpss.si/life/271>
2. SPA and Nature Reserve Škocjanski zatok: MP was prepared as part of Life project LIFE00NAT/SLO/7226 and approved by the Government on 30.8.2007, <http://www.uradni-list.si/1/ulonline.jsp?urlid=200783&dhid=91507>
3. SPA Lake Cerknica: MP in preparation as part of Life project LIFE06NAT/SLO/000069, <http://life.notranjski-park.si/eng/links.shtml>
4. SPA River Drava: MP was prepared as part of Phare project "Sustainable management of the Drava River area", <http://www.mra.si/vsebinska2.php?ID=1096>
5. Kozjansko Regional Park: MP in preparation (<http://www.kozjanski-park.si/>)
6. Triglav National Park: MP in preparation (<http://www.tnp.si/>)

² http://gis.arso.gov.si/atlasokolja/profile.aspx?id=Atlas_Okolja_AXL@Arso

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.

Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

Pollution of aquatic ecosystems by nitrates can have implications also for waterbirds. Council Directive 91/676/EC of 12 December 1991 concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources (commonly known as the 'Nitrates Directive') requires Member States to designate Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs). Within these zones, farmers must follow an action programme of measures restricting the timing and application of fertilisers and manures and must keep accurate records. The whole territory of the Republic of Slovenia is designated as NVZ. NVZ guidelines are also incorporated in the Rural Development Programme of the Republic of Slovenia for 2007-2013 that was approved by the Government in December 2006. This Programme contains several agri-environmental measures that are aimed at reducing the amount of pesticide residues in soil and water (for e.g. greening of arable land, preservation of crop rotation, integrated crop production, integrated fruit production, integrated wine production, integrated horticulture, organic farming, permanent green cover in water protection areas).

Water Framework Directive

On the 22th of December 2000 the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) was adopted. The purpose of the Directive is to prevent deterioration and protect, enhance and restore the status of aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly depending on the aquatic ecosystem. The Directive has been transposed into Slovenian legislation by the Water Law (OJ RS 67/2002). The implementation on the Directive will prove beneficial for all wetlands and their associated migratory species.

Operational programme - Natura 2000 management programme

Operational programme - Natura 2000 management programme (http://www.natura2000.gov.si/uploads/tx_library/NATURA_2000-ANG-01.pdf) determines measures and actions aimed at ensuring favourable conservation status of the majority of qualifying species for each SPA.

Agri-environment schemes

Agri-environment schemes are the main mechanism available to the Government to encourage the positive management of habitats of national and international importance. Agri-environment payments are part of Rural Development Programme of the Republic of Slovenia for 2007-2013 that was approved by the Government in December 2006 (<http://www.mkqp.gov.si/fileadmin/mkqp.gov.si/pageuploads/Breda/PRP/RDP2007-2013.pdf>, http://www.mkqp.gov.si/si/program_razvoja_podezelja_2007_2013/vsebina_programa_razvoja_podezelja/program_razvoja_podezelja_prp_2007_2013rural_development_programme_rdp_2007_2013/).

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.

There is an overall policy in the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy of Slovenia to restore degraded coastal and marine habitat types, where possible and to restore the ecological characteristics of the degraded inland waters, bogs and fens, and marshes, where feasible. There are several examples of rehabilitation and restoration projects referring to important sites of species covered by this Agreement. Two of them were done at the coast and aimed to restore partly degraded brackish bay of Škocjanski zatok and partly abandoned salt pans in Sečovelje. Life project in Škocjanski zatok (LIFE00NAT/SLO/007226, <http://www.skocjanski-zatok.org/index.php?idv=28>) included the removal of 200.000 m³ of sediment from the lagoon, restoration of brackish habitat types, cleaning of freshwater and marine inflows to the lagoon and the creation of freshwater wetland as substitute habitat. Part of Life project in Sečovelje salt pans (LIFE03NAT/SLO/000076, <http://www.kpss.si/life/271>) was the setting up of artificial breeding rafts for Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) and Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) in 2006 and 2007.

Life project “Establishing long term protection of *Crex crex* in Slovenia” was done by DOPPS-BirdLife International on Ljubljansko barje, Lake Cerknica and Nanoščica basin (LIFE03NAT/SLO/000077, <http://www.life-kosec.org/>). Its aim was to ensure long-term protection of Corncrake in Slovenia through appropriate grassland management and to partly restore its habitat on some locations. As part of this project, Nature reserve Iški morost (65 ha) was established on Ljubljansko barje. 8 ha of shrubs in Nature reserve were converted (mulched) to meadows. On Lake Cerknica Notranjska regional park purchased 133.3 ha of prime wet meadows for Corncrake. In Nanoščica basin a contract was signed for the years 2005 and 2006 concerning management for protection of 25.0 ha of highest quality wet meadows.

As part of Life project carried out by the IRSNC (LIFE04NAT/SI/000240, http://www.zrsvn.si/life/sl/informacija.asp?id_meta_type=43&id_informacija=269) 100 ha of meadows on SPA Jovsi were cut late (after 15.7.) and 50 ha of abandoned meadows were converted to meadows for the long-term protection of Corncrake.

As part of Phare project “Ecological and touristic enrichment of fishpond Vrbje” the restoration of ecologically important habitats was carried out (http://www.ribnik-vrbje.si/o_projektu).

An artificial island for breeding Common Terns and Black-headed Gulls (*Larus ridibundus*) was created on Lake Ptuj (SPA River Drava) in winter 2005. It was designed by DOPPS-BirdLife Slovenia and made by Dravske elektrarne Maribor (<http://www.dem.si/slo/novinarskosredisce/sporocilazamedije/108>).

Two projects started in 2006: “Conservation of biodiversity of the Mura river in Slovenia – Biomura” (LIFE06NAT/SI/000066, <http://www.biomura.si/slo/default.aspx>) and “Intermittent Lake Cerknica” (LIFE06NAT/SLO/000069, <http://life.notranjski-park.si/eng/links.shtml>). Goal of Biomura project is protection of habitat types and species from Habitat and Bird Directive. Among other activities, several actions will be undertaken on 15.2 km² of floodland area and on 8.3 km of river Mura watercourse to restore and maintain different types of wetland habitat which will also benefit five waterbird species (*Ciconia ciconia*, *C. nigra*, *Ixobrychus*

minutus, *Porzana porzana*, *P. parva*). The main goals of Intermittent Lake Cerknica project is the restoration of two watercourses, cleaning of shrubs and small trees on Dujice (transition mire and quaking bog – EU habitat type 7140) and purchase of 250 ha of land which will then be managed in a nature-friendly way.

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).

All wild birds in the Republic of Slovenia are protected by law. Legal framework for hunting wild bird species covered by the Agreement is given by the Nature Conservation Act (OJ RS, 96/04) and Game and Hunting Act (OJ RS, 16/04). Both Acts and corresponding governmental decrees determine just one huntable waterbird species – Mallard. For Mallard there is a relevant closed season. Taking of other waterbird species is possible only by obtaining a permit in accordance with the Art. 9 of the EU Wild Birds Directive, and in the recent period covered by this report such permit has only been issued for Cormorant. Methods for taking waterbirds either by hunting or according to Art. 9 are regulated by provisions of the Game and Hunting Act, prohibiting the use of non-selective methods, including poisoned baits. Due to a very low number of huntable waterbird species the problem of the lead shots is very limited in Slovenia. The relevant legislation does not yet address it.

The provisions of the above mentioned legislation are controlled by hunting inspectors and penalised. A hunter who acts against the law can be penalized according to the law.

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

Sustainable hunting of waterbird species in Slovenia is assured also by statutory management plans, prepared by the Slovenian Forest Service and approved by the MoAFF. Reporting on implementation of these plans, including on hunting levels, to Slovenian Forest Service is a statutory requirement. Reports from Hunting Clubs are collected yearly by the Hunting Association of Slovenia (all Clubs are members of the Association) and special hunting reserves (managed by the Slovenian Forest Service).

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.

The Game and Hunting Act prohibits hunting without a hunting licence. To obtain a licence a candidate has to pass a test in front of the commission appointed by the MoAFF. Organisation of courses for test is done by the Hunting Association and includes also determination of waterbirds. Foreign hunters can hunt only under auspices and responsibility of a local licensed hunter.

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.

Wetlands are just one part of the offer by eco-tourism enterprises but visit to wetland protected areas is increasing.

In the past few years several guidelines for ecotourism development have been prepared, usually as part of international projects. These include:

- SPA and pSCI River Drava: part of Phare project "Sustainable management of the Drava River Area" - an information centre and information tables were set up and leaflets were published
- SPA Škocjanski zatok: part of PPS Interreg Slovenia-Italy 2000-2006 project no. 4012-97/2004 and project no. 4012-193/2005 (Natura Primorske) - setting up an educational trail and information centre (both also for disabled persons)
- SPA Kozjansko - Dobrava – Jovsi: part of Life project (LIFE04NAT/SI/000240) – an information centre was set up, a bird-watching tower erected and Corncrake Trail arranged
- SPA Ljubljansko barje: as part of Life project "Establishing long-term protection of *Crex crex* in Slovenia" nature reserve "Iški morost" was created which includes an observatory of natural materials that is built at the end of "Corncrake Nature Trail" (http://www.life-kosec.org/slike/prenovaKosec_jul2007/Crex_LaymansReport.pdf?PHPSESSID=5ec75763e74cf877973c7dd0a7d83f8c). Workshops for future guides in nature reserve will be carried out in March 2008.

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

Conservation of important waterbird sites is in many cases linked to protection of groundwater (esp. resources for drinking water) and protection against floods by retention. Since drinking water and damages as a consequence of floods have an economic value, there is economic benefit from good protection of drinking water and protection against floods. Local communities also benefit from the development of ecotourism (guidance on protected sites, sleeping facilities and restaurants) (for e.g. Jovsi, Cerknica Lake, Sečovelje salt pans, Škocjanski zatok).

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.

The Republic of Slovenia carries out impact assessments in accordance with relevant EU legislation (Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC, Habitats Directive 92/43/EC and Wild Birds Directive 79/409/EEC). In the Republic of Slovenia the SEA is carried out for plans (or their amendments) in the field of spatial planning (different levels of development plans), water management, forest management, extraction of minerals (incl. mining), fisheries, hunting and some other fields less relevant for this agreement. Where these plans are likely to have a significant effect on conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites (all areas important for species covered by the Agreement

are Natura 2000 sites, App. 2), the impact has to be assessed for waterbirds and their habitat and stated in an environmental report. EIA is carried out for certain types of projects in accordance with the EU legislation. Where these projects are likely to have a significant effect on conservation objectives of a Natura 2000 sites the same procedure as for SEA applies.

The MoESP first checks all drafts of the above mentioned plans or projects, and assesses possible effect on a Natura 2000 site, taking in account an opinion of the IRSCN. If a plan or a project could have significant effect on the conservation objectives of a Natura 2000 sites, then environmental report and its revision are obligatory. In the second phase the MoESP checks the environmental report and its revision, taking in account the opinion of the IRSCN. In the process of the approval of a plan or a project MoESP assures public participation in accordance with the principles of the Aarhus Convention.

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

The Slovenian Government undertakes land-use planning through the spatial planning system. *Act on Spatial Planning* sets out how nature conservation is to be reflected in land use planning. Designated sites must be taken into account by local and national planning authorities in the preparation of their spatial development plans. Site specific guidance for respecting nature conservation objectives is issued by the IRSCN (in this context a statutory conservation agency).

All decisions on land use must be considered in the first instance against this site specific guidance unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Nature conservation issues can be a material consideration in any planning application or appeal.

Most common land use conflict occurs between rapid economic development and sustainable use of wetlands. In the past such conflict was present between urban development of city of Koper and conservation of a brackish wetland in the adjacent bay Škocjanski zatok. The area was protected and a programme for its restoration put in place, building also on proper management with wastewaters, with the local community taking part in it. The area is now being developed for education, recreation and tourism purposes (www.skocjanski-zatok.org).

Boating on Lake Ptuj was one of the major problems on SPA River Drava due to disturbance of breeding and wintering waterbirds. The Decision on boating regime on River Drava and Lake Ptuj (OJ RS 109/06) was accepted by the City Council of Ptuj and Municipality Council of Markovci and its aim is to minimize such disturbance.

An independent analysis of fish - Cormorant conflict was made in October 2007 by Centre for cartography of Fauna and Flora. The report also delivers a solution proposal to this conflict which needs to be implemented.

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.

Research programmes in Slovenia very scarcely involve studies into waterbird species population, ecology, migratory patterns and their habitat requirements. Applicative studies were supported on Corncrake as part of LIFE project (LIFE03NAT/SLO/000077). Activities on research and studies are undertaken on a voluntary basis mainly by protected area authorities in cooperation with NGOs (DOPPS-BirdLife Slovenia), Universities and the National Institute of Biology. Several studies have been carried out concerning White Stork (habitat selection, productivity, resource-dependent weather effect on the reproduction, density-dependent breeding success; Denac 2006a, 2006c) and Common Tern (feeding dynamics, efficiency of conservation measures, participation in a German project concerning the genetics of this species; Denac 2006b). Published results of most studies can be searched at a library web page:

<http://splet02.izum.si/cobiss/BibPersonal.jsp?init=t&sid=C06307A26D69308C81126B75EFD0084B> (results of some studies have not been published yet).

Kentish plovers are being ringed with colour rings in Sečovlje salt pans as part of monitoring since 2006. Data gathered in this way will also provide information on mating system (monogamous or polygynous), breeding site fidelity and survival.

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

In Slovenia there are three monitoring schemes for waterbirds running (<http://www.natura2000.gov.si/index.php?id=211>):

- wintering birds (IWC),
- monitoring of breeding birds - qualifying species for Natura 2000 sites
- monitoring of avifauna by managers of protected areas (Sečovlje salt pans, Škocjanski zatok, Lake Cerknica)

International Waterbird Census

Slovenia contributes to Wetlands International's IWC from 1985 on. IWC is conducted by DOPPS – BirdLife Slovenia. During the last few years methodology has been improved and more territory covered. Cormorants are counted on their roosting sites. The monitoring scheme is partly supported by MoESP.

Natura 2000 breeding birds monitoring

This scheme includes monitoring of some waterbird species on Natura 2000 sites. Monitoring methods and protocols have been developed in 2004, and since then the scheme is partly supported by MoESP. The following waterbird species were monitored in individual years:

2005: *Charadrius alexandrinus*, *Ciconia ciconia*, *Crex crex*, *Porzana porzana*, *Porzana parva*, *Sterna hirundo*

2006: *Charadrius alexandrinus*, *Ciconia ciconia*, *Crex crex*, *Sterna hirundo*
2007: *Charadrius alexandrinus*, *Ciconia ciconia*, *Crex crex*, *Sterna hirundo*

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.

There is constant communication of Natura 2000 areas with local people (farmers, farming advisors, foresters, schools, people from municipalities) on the behalf of MoESP and IRSNC. Several training programmes were prepared as part of LIFE and Interreg projects mentioned in Section 3.7.

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

As part of Interreg project »Natura Primorske« a workshop on education for employees of Nature Reserve Škočjanski zatok was carried out between 14th and 19th of May 2006. It was led by an educational expert from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Mr. Barrie Cooper. The aim of the workshop was to gain knowledge about the preparation of educational programme for visitors.

Also as part of Interreg project »Natura Primorske« the Adriawet meeting was organized on 24.11.2006. The main topic of the meeting was »Education in protected areas, especially in wetlands«.

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)?

Education activities were performed in all of the projects mentioned in section 3.7. They targeted different groups of people: children in kindergartens, school children, farmers, local communities, land owners and farming advisors. Numerous articles about the projects were published in national and local newspapers, several contributions were made for the national TV and local radio stations, many field trips and lectures were organized and leaflets published. A short film was made and distributed about Jovsi (part of SPA Kozjansko-Dobrava-Jovsi). Information and education activities were also carried out in Phare project "Sustainable management of the Drava River Area" (<http://www.mra.si/index2.htm>), Phare project "Managing fishponds Podvinci and Velovlek" (http://www.natura2000.gov.si/index.php?id=89&tx_ttnews%5BpS%5D=1200979550&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=63&tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=48&cHash=1dfcfc1e63) and Phare project "Ecological and touristic enrichment of fishpond Vrbje" (http://www.ribnik-vrbje.si/o_projektu).

Two projects started in 2006 (Biomura and Intermittent Lake Cerknica) and their educational/information activities are still running.

Activities to raise public awareness are also part of Natura 2000 state project since 2004 which includes government administration (MoESP, MoAFF, Environmental Agency of the Rep. of Slovenia), IRSNC and Slovenia Forest Service. Several communications with different stakeholders were performed and brochures about Natura 2000 published for sites which are important for migratory waterbirds (see website:

<http://www.natura2000.gov.si/index.php?id=97>,
<http://www.natura2000.gov.si/index.php?id=96>).

DOPPS-BirdLife Slovenia published a booklet “Life between Sky and Earth – our birds on 25 SPAs” (Božič *et al.* 2006) and participated in BirdLife’s “World Birdwatch Day” and “European Birdwatch Day”.

7. Final comments

7.1 General comments on the implementation of the AEWA Action Plan

Species Conservation

Legal measures

The legal obligations of the Republic of Slovenia under AEWA closely relate to existing obligations under the EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC). The protection of endangered migratory waterbird species is ensured through a comprehensive legal framework. This prohibits for all species concerned, in accordance with provisions of Art. 5 of the EU Wild Birds Directive, deliberate killing or capture by any method, destruction of, or damage to, their nests and eggs or removal of their nests, and taking their eggs in the wild and keeping these eggs. The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MoESP) can issue a permit to derogate from these provisions in accordance with provisions of Art. 9 of the EU Wild Birds Directive.

Single Species Action Plan

Out of four species listed in Column A of Table 1 and occurring on its territory, the Republic of Slovenia has incorporated vast majority of actions from ISSAP and draft NSSAP for Corncrake related to SPAs in Operational programme – Natura 2000 management programme. Draft action plan for Corncrake was prepared in December 2005 by DOPPS-BirdLife International as part of LIFE project. For the other three species there was no need yet to develop NSSAP. Slovenian experts have participated in the preparation of some International Single Species Action Plans (e.g. for Corncrake and Ferruginous Duck).

Emergency measures

A system for tackling emergency situations in relation to possible outbreaks of avian influenza has been developed and is coordinated by Veterinary Authority of the Republic of Slovenia.

Re-establishment

A policy of re-establishment has not been developed in Slovenia, due to relatively well-preserved nature.

Introductions

The introduction, repopulation and animal breeding of non-native species in Slovenia are regulated by the Nature Conservation Act (OJ RS 96/2004). Introduction of plants or animals of non-native species is in general prohibited, but the competent Ministry (MoESP) may permit the introduction of plants or animals of non-native species for introduction in the wild, repopulation or animal breeding. Permit is given only when it has been determined through an assessment of risk to nature that introduction of a non-native species shall not threaten the natural balance or biodiversity components. The assessment of risk to nature is carried out by a qualified legal or natural person, authorised for this purpose by the minister. The conditions and manner of carrying out the assessment of risk to nature and the conditions for and manner of obtaining the authorisation are laid down in the *Regulation on assessment of risk to nature and obtaining the authorization*.

Habitat conservation

Habitat inventories

Surveys of wetland habitats with results of limited use for waterbirds are general land cover survey (regularly conducted by the MoAFF), habitat mapping (not yet systematically updated and maintained) and inventories of ecologically important areas. Sites of importance for waterbird species are being surveyed systematically, sites of occurrence (not only of importance) of wintering waterbirds as well in yearly intervals by DOPPS - BirdLife Slovenia. Slovenia undertook a review of important sites for migratory waterbird species in 2004 as part of designation of the Special Protection Areas under the EC Wild Birds Directive. Identified sites of international importance, designated for species covered by the Agreement are presented in Appendix 2.

Conservation of areas (see Section 3.3)

International Designations

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance

Currently, we have two sites of international importance for waterbird species designated under the Ramsar Convention: Sečovlje salt pans (declared in 1993) and Lake Cerknica (declared in 2006).

EC Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)

Slovenia established Special Protection Areas in accordance with Article 4 of this Directive (Decree on special conservation areas (OJ RS, 49/04)). A list of relevant SPAs for waterbirds is in Appendix 2.

National designations

The following national designations are important for waterbird conservation as they offer opportunities for protection where necessary:

Protected areas

Different levels of protection are given to the above mentioned SPAs, depending on needs for protection. They are designated as nature reserves, regional parks or landscape parks.

Ecologically important areas

Basis for proactive conservation measures (e.g. agri-environmental schemes) are Ecologically Important Areas (EcoIA). Agri-environmental schemes are the main mechanism available to the Government to encourage the positive management of habitats of national and international importance. A number of measures are significant for waterbird conservation and apply all over Slovenia

Rehabilitation and restoration (see Section 3.7)

There are several examples of rehabilitation and restoration projects referring to important sites of species covered by this Agreement. Two of them were done at the coast and aimed to restore partly degraded brackish bay of Škocjanski zatok and partly abandoned salt pans in Sečovlje.

The aim of LIFE project “Establishing long term protection of *Crex crex* in Slovenia” was to ensure long-term protection of Corncrake in Slovenia through appropriate grassland management and to partly restore its habitat on some locations. LIFE project by IRSNC restored 50 ha of wet meadows for grassland birds, especially Corncrake. As part of Phare project “Ecological and touristic enrichment of fishpond Vrbje” the restoration of ecologically important habitats was carried out.

An artificial island for breeding Common Terns and Black-headed Gulls (*Larus ridibundus*) was created on Lake Ptuj (SPA River Drava) in winter 2005 by DOPPS-BirdLife Slovenia and Dravske elektrarne Maribor.

Two projects started in 2006: “Conservation of biodiversity of the Mura river in Slovenia – Biomura” and “Intermittent Lake Cerknica”. Goal of Biomura project is protection of habitat types and species from Habitat and Bird Directive occurring in that area. The main goals of Intermittent Lake Cerknica project are the restoration of two watercourses, prevention of overgrowing by shrubs on a transition mire and quaking bog and purchase of 250 ha of grassland for nature-friendly management.

Management of human activities (see Section 4)

Hunting

All wild birds in the Republic of Slovenia are protected by law. Legal framework for hunting wild bird species covered by the Agreement is given by the Nature Conservation Act (OJ RS, 96/04) and Game and Hunting Act (OJ RS, 16/04). Both Acts and corresponding governmental decrees determine just one huntable waterbird species – Mallard. For Mallard there is a relevant closed season. Taking of other waterbird species is possible only by obtaining a permit in accordance with the Art. 9 of the EU Wild Birds Directive, and in the recent period covered by this report such permit has only been issued for Cormorant. Methods for taking waterbirds either by hunting or according to Art. 9 are regulated by provisions of the Game and Hunting Act, prohibiting the use of non-selective methods, including poisoned baits. Lead shots are still used to shoot waterbirds. The relevant legislation does not yet address it.

The Game and Hunting Act prohibits hunting without a hunting licence. To obtain a licence a candidate has to pass a test in front of the commission appointed by the MoAFF. Organisation of courses for test is done by the Hunting Association and includes also determination of waterbirds. Foreign hunters can hunt only under auspices and responsibility of a local licensed hunter.

Eco-tourism

Wetlands are just one part of the offer by eco-tourism enterprises but visit to wetland protected areas is increasing. In the past few years several guidelines for ecotourism development have been prepared, usually as part of international projects (e.g. for SPA and pSCI River Drava, SPA Škocjanski zatok, SPA Kozjansko - Dobrava – Jovsi, Nature Reserve Ižanski morost which is part of SPA Ljubljansko barje)

Other human activities

The Republic of Slovenia carries out environmental impact assessments (EIA) in accordance with relevant EU legislation (Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC, Habitats Directive 92/43/EC and Wild Birds Directive 79/409/EEC). SEA is carried out for plans (or their amendments) in the field of spatial planning, water management, forest management and extraction of minerals (incl. mining), fisheries, hunting and some other fields less relevant for this agreement. Where these plans are likely to have a significant effect on conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites, the impact has to be assessed for waterbirds and their habitat and stated in an environmental report. EIA is carried out for certain types of projects in accordance with the EU legislation. Where these projects are likely to have a significant effect on conservation objectives of a Natura 2000 sites the same procedure as for SEA applies.

The Slovenian Government undertakes land use planning through the spatial planning system. *Act on Spatial Planning* sets out how nature conservation is to be reflected in land use planning. Designated sites must be taken into account by local and national planning authorities in the preparation of their spatial development plans. Site specific guidance for respecting nature conservation objectives is issued by the IRSCN.

Research and monitoring

Some of the waterbird species from Table 1 are regularly monitored each year (see Sections 5.1. and 5.2) but there is lack of research about the ecology and population dynamics of them.

Education and Information

Several public awareness campaigns were carried out for the conservation of populations from Table 1. They were either part of Natura 2000 state project which included government administration (MoESP, MoAFF, Environmental Agency of the Rep. of Slovenia), IRSNC and Slovenian Forest Service or part of different projects (LIFE, Interreg, Phare) (see Section 6).

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

- a. The Agreement Secretariat*
- b. International organisations*
- c. AEWA NGO partners*

Republic of Slovenia is grateful to the Agreement Secretariat for very devoted work to implement the Action Plan. We encourage the Secretariat to continue working with such enthusiasm also in the future.

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.

Resolution 3.6: Developing an international partnership for support of waterbird population assessments

MoESP partly finances IWC scheme in Slovenia.

Resolution 3.7: Implementing the conclusions of the “Waterbirds around the world” conference

Some resolutions of this conference were implemented in Slovenia in the reporting period, e.g. local communities were involved in conservation of some wetlands (Jovsi, Ljubljansko barje, Nanoščica – basin, Cerknjsko jezero), a new Ramsar location was designated (Cerknjsko jezero in 2006), data from IWC 2005-2007 was used to propose the enlargement of SPA Drava. Monitoring data of DOPPS BirdLife Slovenia (unpublished) was used to form a proposal for a new SPA (Medvedce in NE Slovenia). Education and awareness activities about wetland birds and their habitats were carried out mainly as part of international projects (LIFE, Phare, Interreg).

Resolution 3.9: Development of strategic plan for the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)

Resolution 3.10: Communication Strategy for the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)

Parts of the Communication Strategy related to increasing communication among stakeholders were implemented at national or local level, within the Natura communication activities and other activities listed under *Raising public awareness*.

Resolution 3.11: AEWA international implementation priorities for 2006 - 2008

Slovenia did not implement existing International Single Species Action Plan (ISSAP) and did not participate in the development of new ISSAP. Sites of international importance for AEWA species were mainly identified in 2004 as part of Natura 2000 project but several new locations were identified in 2005-2007 (Cerknjsko jezero became a Ramsar location in 2006, extension of SPA Drava and the designation of new SPA Medvedce were proposed in 2007 by IRSNC to MoESP). Statistics on waterbird harvest are regularly gathered by Slovenian Forest Service. Slovenia is participating in IWC since 1985 and breeding populations of several waterbird species are being monitored since 2004 by DOPPS BirdLife Slovenia mainly with the help of volunteers. We did not prepare conservation guidelines on national actions to be undertaken for colonial waterbirds but yearly monitoring of known colonies is being carried out for the Common Tern.

Resolution 3.12: Adoption and implementation of International Single Species Action Plans

Slovenia did not implement any of the existing International Single Species Action Plans.

Resolution 3.17: Climate change and migratory waterbirds

Slovenia did not address climate change and its possible effects on migratory waterbirds.

Resolution 3.18: Avian influenza

Slovenia developed a system for tackling emergency situations in relation to possible outbreaks of avian influenza, coordinated by Veterinary Authority of the Republic of Slovenia.

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

List of abbreviations and acronyms used in the report

DOPPS	Bird Watching and Bird Study Association of Slovenia (BirdLife partner in Slovenia)
EcoIA	Ecologically Important Areas
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
IRSCN	Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation
ISSAP	International Single Species Action Plan
IWC	International Waterbird Census
LIFE	Financial Instrument for the Environment
MoAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
MoESP	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
MP	Management Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NR	Nature Reserve
NSSAP	National Single Species Action Plan
NVZ	Nitrate Vulnerable Zones
pSCI	potential Site of Community Interest
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SPA	Special Protection Area (part of Natura 2000 area)

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Status of Single Species Action Plans

Status of National Single Species Action Plans in Slovenia

Species	Status
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	There was no need yet to develop NSSAP as the management of the only known breeding site was included in the Operational programme – management programme for Natura 2000
<i>Crex crex</i>	Draft from December 2005, prepared by DOPPS-BirdLife Slovenia, and majority of its actions as well as actions from the ISSAP related to SPAs are included in Operational programme – Natura 2000 management programme
<i>Gallinago media</i>	all planned national management activities from the ISSAP are sufficiently covered by the implementation in national legislation
<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	There was no need to develop a NSSAP.

Appendix 2: List of sites of international importance

List of Slovenian sites of international importance (Special Protection Areas, SPAs which are part of Natura 2000 areas) that were designated also for waterbirds covered by the Agreement

SPA Code	SPA Name
SI5000020	Breginjski Stol in Planja (Breginjski Stol and Planja)
SI5000015	Cerkniško jezero (Cerknica Lake)
SI5000011	Drava (River Drava)
SI5000005	Dravinjska dolina (Dravinja valley)
SI5000009	Goričko
SI5000022	Kozjansko – Dobrava – Jovski
SI5000012	Krakovski gozd – Šentjernejsko polje (Krakovski Forest – Šentjernejsko polje)
SI5000014	Ljubljansko barje
SI5000010	Mura (River Mura)
SI5000017	Nanoščica – porečje (Nanoščica – basin)
SI5000016	Planinsko polje
SI5000003	Reka – dolina (Reka valley)
SI5000018	Sečoveljske soline (Sečovlje salt pans)
SI5000004	Slovenske Gorice – doli (Slovenske Gorice – valleys)
SI5000002	Snežnik – Pivka
SI5000008	Škocjanski zatok

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

Operational programme - Natura 2000 management programme determines measures and actions aimed at ensuring favourable conservation status of the majority of qualifying species for each SPA.

Management plans (MP) were prepared or are in preparation for some protected areas:

1. Landscape Park Sečovelje salt pans: MP was prepared as part of Life project LIFE03NAT/SLO/000076, <http://www.kpss.si/life/271>
2. SPA and Nature Reserve Škocjanski zatok: MP was prepared as part of Life project LIFE00NAT/SLO/7226 and approved by the Government on 30.8.2007, <http://www.uradni-list.si/1/ulonline.jsp?urlid=200783&dhid=91507>
3. SPA Lake Cerknica: MP in preparation as part of Life project LIFE06NAT/SLO/000069, <http://life.notranjski-park.si/eng/links.shtml>
4. SPA River Drava: MP was prepared as part of Phare project "Sustainable management of the Drava River area", <http://www.mra.si/vsebina2.php?ID=1096>
5. Kozjansko Regional Park: MP in preparation (<http://www.kozjanski-park.si/>)
6. Triglav National Park: MP in preparation (<http://www.tnp.si/>)

Appendix 4: List of research and monitoring programmes and projects

In Slovenia there are three monitoring schemes for waterbirds running (see Section 5.2):

- wintering birds (IWC),
- monitoring of breeding birds - qualifying species for Natura 2000 sites
- monitoring of avifauna by managers of protected areas (Sečovlje salt pans, Škocjanski zatok, Lake Cerknica)

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

Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning (MoESP)
Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia (EARS)
Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation (IRSNC)
Kozjansko Regional Park
Notranjska Regional Park
Landscape Park Sečovlje salt pans
Nature Reserve Škocjanski zatok

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

MoESP: <http://www.mop.gov.si/>

EARS: <http://www.arso.gov.si/>

IRSNC: <http://www.zrsvn.si/sl/>

Kozjansko Regional Park: <http://www.kozjanski-park.si/>

Notranjska Regional Park: <http://www.notranjski-park.si/>

Landscape Park Sečovlje salt pans: <http://www.kpss.si/intro>

Nature Reserve Škocjanski zatok: <http://www.skocjanski-zatok.org/>

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

LIFE

Restoring and conserving habitats and birds in Škocjanski Zatok NR
(LIFE00NAT/SLO/007226)

Conservation of endangered species and habitats in the Secovlje salt-pans Park
(LIFE03NAT/SLO/000076)

Establishing long-term protection of *Crex crex* in Slovenia (LIFE03NAT/SLO/000077)

NATURA 2000 in Slovenia - management models and information system
(LIFE04NAT/SI/000240)

Conservation of biodiversity of the Mura river in Slovenia – Biomura
(LIFE06NAT/SI/000066)

Intermittent Lake Cerknica (LIFE06NAT/SLO/000069)

Phare Cross-border Cooperation Programme Slovenia/Austria 2003

Eco-tourism Enrichment of the Vrbje pond

Managing Podvinci and Velovlek Ponds

Sustainable Management of the Drava River Area

Interreg Slovenia – Italy 2000-2006

Natura 2000 for a better quality of life (Natura Primorske)

Škocjanski zatok – nature's classroom for anyone