



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

AND SPATIAL PLANNING

**Report by the Republic of Slovenia on the implementation of the
Agreement during the period 2003 and 2004**

June 2005

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

Implementation during the period 2003 and 2004

Contracting Party: Slovenia

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1. Overview of Action Plan implementation

1.1 *Summary of progress to date*

This report for the third Meeting of the Parties (MoP) covers only the implementation period 2003-2004, because Slovenia has ratified the Agreement in the year 2003. 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 information drawn from a wide range of organisations including: government administrations, statutory agencies responsible for nature conservation and hunting (Institute of RS for Nature Conservation, Slovenian Forestry Service) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). 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 non-native species; and
- An appendix (appendix 2) that 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, recently 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 Biodiversity Action Plan and Programme of Management of the Natura 2000 network, foreseen for governmental approval at the end of 2005.

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 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 Strategy

In 2001 the Republic of Slovenia adopted a national Biodiversity 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 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 killing, injuring or taking of any wild bird, the taking or destroying of their nests whilst in use or being built and the destruction of wild birds' eggs. Ministry of environment and spatial planning 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?

Slovenia as a part of the European Union is involved in the preparation of international single species action plans for waterbird species that regularly occur in the country (Corncrake, Ferruginous Duck) and White Headed Duck threatened by an invasive species (Ruddy Duck) – see App. 1. These plans are being prepared by Wetlands Int., WWT and BirdLife Int., steered by the AEWA and the European Commission. The part of the plan lists measures also for Slovenia. Slovenia will implement these measures, when the plans are endorsed by the relevant EU Committee (ORNIS of the EU Wild Birds Directive).

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

International action plans (to be) implemented in Slovenia:

Species	Geographical scope	A
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	- Eastern Europe/E Mediterranean & Sahelian Africa	1a 3c
<i>Crex crex</i>	- Europe & Western Asia/Sub-Saharan Africa	1b
<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	- East Mediterranean, Turkey & South-west Asia	1a 1b 1c

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.

There were no emergency measures until now. There are emergency measures being developed to prevent possible expansion of Ruddy duck in 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-establishments has not been developed in Slovenia, due to high share of conserved habitat and a much more developed policy of habitat conservation.

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 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 already.

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 has recently undertaken a review of important sites for migratory waterbird species as a 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 in Appendix 2.

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

At the moment the only site of international importance for waterbird species designated also under the Ramsar Convention is Sečoveljske soline. In the designation process is Cerknjiško jezero.

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.

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-environment 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 measure "Special Grassland Habitats", stimulation for late mowing of meadows, is restricted to lowland EcoIA.

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 Program of managing the Natura 2000 network. Draft management plans for parks are prepared by park authorities, draft Program by the MoESP, both documents have to be approved by the Government

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?*

Formal management plans are being prepared for 4 protected sites and for all sites designated as SPAs (see Appendix 3).

3.6 What measures does your country have in place to ensure the wise use of wetland

¹ http://www.gov.si/mop/podrocja/uradzaokolje_sektorvarstvonarave/projekti/natura2000/obmocja.htm

<http://kremen.arso.gov.si/NVatlas/users/login.asp?refurl=/NVatlas/ewmap.asp>

² <http://kremen.arso.gov.si/NVatlas/users/login.asp?refurl=/NVatlas/ewmap.asp>

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 observe 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 and at the moment there is a large scale project being implemented for adoption of standards, involving over 25.000 farmers.

Water Framework Directive

On the 22 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.

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 national 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. The most notable are examples on the coast. They aim to restore partly degraded brackish bay (Škocjanski zatok <http://www.skocjanski-zatok.org/>, http://www.skocjanski-zatok.org/Projekt%20LIFE00NAT_SLO_7226/eng/Povzetek.html) and partly abandoned salinas (Sečoveljske soline <http://kpss.soline.si/slo/8.php>, http://kpss.soline.si/life_programe/index.php?lang=slo&l1=1).

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 taking 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 covered by this report such permit has been issued only 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 punished by cancellation of his hunting licence.

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.

The eco tourism programmes in Slovenia are increasing. It is difficult to estimate this increase as wetlands are just a part of the “product” sold by eco-tourism enterprises, and a number of enterprises come from abroad. However, 30% of foreign visitors come to Slovenia because of natural beauties, and visit to wetland protected areas is increasing.

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 for a number of sites 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, and there is economic benefit from good protection of drinking water and protection against floods. The economic benefit accruing from the conservation of important waterbird sites is related to the former ones, even if it is difficult to estimate its' share.

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 this plans are likely to have a significant effect on conservation objectives of a 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 this 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 check 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 an opinion of the IRSCN. In the process of the approval of a plan or a project MoESP in accordance with the principles of the Aarhus Convention assures public participation.

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).

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 are being supported on Corncrake as a part of a LIFE project. Activities on research and studies are undertaken on a voluntary basis mainly by protected area authorities in cooperation with NGOs (DOPPS BirdLife Slovenia and Ixobrychus) and Universities. Published results of these studies can be searched at a library web page:

<http://cobiss2.izum.si/scripts/cobiss?ukaz=BASE&bno=99999&id=1132382845093846>

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 two monitoring schemes for waterbirds running:

- wintering birds,
- breeding birds - qualifying species for Natura 2000 sites.

International Waterfowl Census

Slovenia contributes to Wetlands International's IWC from 1985 on. IWC is conducted since then by DOPPS – BirdLife Slovenia, during the last few years methodology has been improved and the monitoring scheme is partly supported by MoESP.

Natura 2000 breeding birds monitoring

This scheme includes monitoring of waterbird species on Natura 2000 sites. Monitoring methods and protocols have been developed in the reporting period, and since 2004 the scheme is partly supported by MoESP.

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.

Training in communication skills has been carried out as a part of the Natura 2000 project in 2003 and 2004 (working with people, Effective communication – personal management capabilities). Target audience was professionals in nature conservation.

Training in interpretation skills has been carried out in 2004 (Basic interpretive principles, Interpretive planning model, Planning & design of interpretive exhibits). Target audience was professionals in nature conservation and selected NGO's (including DOPPS-BirdLife Slovenia).

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

Training has been carried out with support from experts from Netherlands, UK and USA. Results of the Natura 2000 communication project have been presented at the IUCN CEC workshop in Valsain, Spain in June 2004.

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)?

Activities to raise public awareness were carried out as a part of Natura 2000 project in 2003 and 2004. Several brochures for Natura 2000 sites were printed and presented on the website (see also www.gov.si/mop/podrocja/uradzaokolje_sektorvarstvonarave/projekti/natura2000/publikacije_drugo.htm)

DOPPS-BirdLife Slovenia published a CD presenting Natura 2000 (2003) and carried out several lectures (2004).

The Ministry co-financed several NGO public awareness activities in the field of Natura 2000.

Activities have been organised on the WWD 2003 and 2004 by the Ramsar CEPA Focal Points. A documentary has been presented at the national TV on conservation and wise use of wetlands in 2003 and a leaflet has been issued in 2004

(http://www.gov.si/mop/publikacije/drugo/zlozenka_mokrisca.pdf), more information has been published on CEPA activities in 2005 in a publication on The Ramsar Convention and Slovenian Wetlands (http://www.gov.si/mop/publikacije/drugo/mokrisca_ramsar.pdf).

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.

Republic of Slovenia ratified the Agreement after the second Meeting of the Parties, therefore the report in the previous chapters includes also progress to implement decisions of previous Meetings of the Parties.

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

EcoIA	Ecologically Important Areas
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
HA	Game and Hunting Act (OJ RS, 16/04)
IRSCN	Institute of RS for Conservation of Nature
IWC	International Waterbird Census
LIFE	L'Instrument Financier pour l'Environnement (Financial Instrument for the Environment)
LP	Landscape Park
MoAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
MoESP	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
NCA	Nature Conservation Act (OJ RS, 96/04)
NGO	Non -Governmental Organisation
NR	Nature Reserve
NVZ	Nitrate Vulnerable Zones
RP	Regional Park
SPA	Special Protection Area (Natura 2000)

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Status of Single Species Action Plans

Appendix 2: List of sites of international importance

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

Appendix 4: List of research and monitoring programmes and projects

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

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

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Appendix 1: Status of Single Species Action Plans

International single species action plans (to be) implemented in Slovenia:

Species	Endorsement of a relevant EU committee
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	-
<i>Crex crex</i>	-
<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	-

Appendix 2: List of sites of international importance

Listed are sites of international importance designated as SPAs for species covered by the agreement. In the first part of the table there are priority sites (according to Art. 7.1 of the AEWA Action Plan) designated for species listed in the Column A of the Table 1 of the Action plan. In the second part of the table there are sites designated for species listed in the Columns B and C of the Table 1 of the AEWA Action plan.

SITE NAME	CRITERIA³	Species covered by the agreement
Cerkniško jezero	A1, C6	<i>Crex crex</i> , <i>Aythya nyroca</i>
Dolina Reke	A1	<i>Crex crex</i>
Kobariški stol - Planja	A1	<i>Crex crex</i>
Kozjansko - Dobrava - Jovsi	A1	<i>Crex crex</i>
Ljubljansko barje	A1	<i>Crex crex</i>
Planinsko polje	A1	<i>Crex crex</i>
Porečje Nanoščice	A1	<i>Crex crex</i>
Reka Drava	A4, C6	Over 20.000 wintering waterbirds, esp. <i>Bucephala clangula</i> & <i>Mergus merganser</i>
Sečoveljske soline	A4, C2 (B1), C6	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus</i> , <i>Sterna albifrons albifrons</i> , migrating waterbirds, esp. <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> (over 1% of its population)
Škocjanski zatok	C6	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus</i>
Snežnik - Pivka	C6	<i>Crex crex</i>
SITE NAME	CRITERIA	Species covered by the agreement
Reka Mura	C6	<i>Ixobrychus minutus minutus</i>

³ Criteria from Heath & Evans (2000). Important Birds In Europe; Priority sites for conservation. BirdLife Int.

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

SITE NAME	Protected	Mgt plan	Designated as SPA	Program of Mgt
Cerkniško jezero	RP	In prep.	X	In prep.
Dolina Reke	-		X	In prep.
Kobariški stol - Planja	-		X	In prep.
Kozjansko - Dobrava - Jovsi	RP (partly)	In prep.	X	In prep.
Ljubljansko barje	-		X	In prep.
Planinsko polje	-		X	In prep.
Porečje Nanošćice	-		X	In prep.
Reka Drava	-		X	In prep.
Sečoveljske soline	LP, Ramsar	In prep.	X	In prep.
Škocjanski zatok	NR	In prep.	X	In prep.
Snežnik - Pivka	-		X	In prep.

SITE NAME	Protected	Mgt plan	Designated as SPA	Program of Mgt
Reka Mura	-		X	In prep.

Appendix 4: List of research and monitoring programmes and projects

Monitoring programmes:

International Waterbird Census

Monitoring of selected bird populations

This monitoring includes monitoring of breeding populations of *Porzana porzana*, *Porzana parva*, *Crex crex*, *Charadrius alexandrinus* and *Sterna hirundo*.

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

Government departments, agencies and institutes:

Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
Dunajska 48
SI-1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
Dunajska 58
SI-1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia

Institute of RS for Nature Conservation
Dunajska 22
SI-1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia

Slovenian Forest Service (Zavod za gozdove)
Večna pot 2
SI-1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia

Site management authority (state or local institution or concession):
Kozjanski Park
Podsreda 45
SI - 3257 Podsreda
Slovenia

Landscape Park Sečoveljske Soline
Seča 115
SI - 6320 Portorož
Slovenia

Notranjski Park
Tabor 42
SI - 1380 Cerknica
Slovenia

Nature Reserve Škocjanski zatok
DOPPS – BirdLife Slovenia
Staničev trg 16
SI-6000 Koper
Slovenia

Non-governmental organisations:

DOPPS – BirdLife Slovenia
Tržaška 2
SI-1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia

Hunting Association of Slovenia
Župančičeva 9
SI-1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia

Ixobrychus
Gasilska 8
SI-6000 Koper
Slovenia

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

Government departments, agencies and institutes:

Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning	http://www.gov.si/mop/
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food	http://www.gov.si/mkgp/slo/index.php
Institute of RS for Nature Conservation	http://www.zrsvn.si/slo/
Slovenian Forest Service	http://www.sigov.si/zgs/

Site management authority (state or local institution or concession)

Kozjanski Park (manages a part of Kozjansko Dobrava Jovsi)	http://www.gov.si/kp/life_slo/stran_slo.htm
Landscape Park Sečoveljske Soline	http://kpss.soline.si/slo/8.php
Notranjski Park (manages Cerkniško jezero)	http://www.notranjski-park.si/index.html
Nature Reserve Škocjanski zatok	http://www.skocjanski-zatok.org/

Non-governmental organisations

DOPPS – BirdLife Slovenia	http://www.ptice.org/
Hunting Association of Slovenia	http://www.lovska-zveza.si/
Ixobrychus	http://www.ixobrychus-drustvo.si/portal/html/index.php

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

LIFE Nature projects:

Restoring and conserving habitats and birds in Škocjanski Zatok Nature Reserve

<http://www.skocjanski-zatok.org/>

http://www.skocjanski-zatok.org/Projekt%20LIFE00NAT_SLO_7226/eng/Povzetek.html)

Conservation of endangered species and habitats in the Sečovlje salt-pans Park

<http://kpss.soline.si/slo/8.php>

http://kpss.soline.si/life_programe/index.php?lang=slo&l1=1)

Establishing long-term protection of *Crex crex* in Slovenia

<http://www.life-kosec.org/>