

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, 1979

African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement and Action Plan

Implementation during the period 2002 and 2004

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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 (MoP3) covers the implementation period 2002 – 2004. It complements and continues the National Report for the period 1999 – 2002.

In this period 2002 – 2004, it is appropriate to underline the following relevant issues:

- The approval of the Royal Decree 435/2004, of 12 of March, which regulates the National Inventory of Wetlands.
- The 16 of December of 2004, the National Commission on Nature Conservation adopted a National Strategy for the Conservation of White-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*).
- Two important works have just been published: “The atlas of breeding birds in Spain” and “The Red Book of birds in Spain”:
 - MARTÍ, R. & DEL MORAL J.C. (Eds.) 2003. *Atlas de las aves reproductoras de España*. Dirección General de Conservación de la Naturaleza – Sociedad Española de Ornitología (SEO / BirdLife), Madrid.
 - MADROÑO, A., GONZÁLEZ, C & ATIENZA, J.C. (Eds.) 2004. *Libro Rojo de las Aves de España*. Dirección General para la Biodiversidad – Sociedad Española de Ornitología (SEO / BirdLife), Madrid.

1.2 Outline of priorities for national implementation over the next three years

Completion of the Natura 2000 network for wetland and waterbirds.

- Development of National Action Plan for threatened waterbirds: Marbled Teal (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*), Crested Coot (*Fulica cristata*),

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

A co-operation project with Morocco to eliminate Ruddy ducks (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) has been started.

In October 2003, a workshop on Ruddy ducks eradication was held in Rabat (Morocco).

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?

Spain meets its obligations for the protection of migratory waterbird species (listed in Table 1 of the Agreement) through the following framework:

- Council Directive 79/409/CEE on the conservation of wild birds.
- National Law 4/1989, of 27 of March, on conservation of natural areas and wild fauna and flora
- Royal Decree 439/1990 of 30 of March, regarding the National Catalogue of Threatened Species.
- Council Directive 92/43/CEE on the conservation of natural habitats and wild flora and fauna
- Royal Decree 1997/1995 of 7 December, which establish measures to safeguard biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and wild flora and fauna
- Royal Decree 581/2001 of 1 of June, on the prohibition of the use of lead shot for hunting in some wetland
- Royal Decree 435/2004, of 12 of March, which regulates the National Inventory of Wetlands.

Besides, each region (Comunidad Autónoma) has its own regional wildlife legislation.

b. Which organisations are responsible for implementation?

19 regions (Comunidades Autónomas y Ciudades Autónomas) are responsible for the implementation of wildlife legislation.

The General Directorate for Biodiversity (Ministry of Environment) is coordinate with the regional Administrations through the National Commission on Nature Conservation (Royal Decree 2488/1994) and the different Committees under it. There are two Committees where this subjects related to wetland are discussed: the Committee on Wild Fauna and Flora and the Committee on Wetland.

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

As a response to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Spain has developed a *National Strategy for the Conservation and the Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity*, which was adopted on December 1998 by the National Commission on Nature Protection. A new revised strategy is being prepared, at the moment.

On October 1999, the National Commission on Nature Protection adopted a *National Action Plan for the conservation and the Rational Use of Wetland*.

- 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 utilisation or trade contravenes the provisions set out in paragraphs 2.1.1 (a) and 2.1.2 of the Action Plan)?

The taking of, and trade in of fauna is regulated under the National Law 4/1989 of 27 of March 1989 on conservation of natural areas and wild fauna and flora. The article 26 of this Law says:

1. *Public administration should adopt necessary measures to guarantee the conservation of wild species of flora and fauna of the Spanish territory, with a special attention to endemic species.*
2. *A preference will be done to the preservation of its habitats and a regime of special protection will be establish for those species, communities or populations with an special situation that needs to be included in the national catalogue of threatened species.*
3.
4. *The killing, injuring or deliberate troubling of wild animals, and specially those include in the Catalogue is prohibited, including taking of wild animals and the taking of their eggs and young. To hold and to trade with life or dead animals or its remains, is also forbidden.*

The National Catalogue of Threatened Species (Royal Decree 439/1990 of 30 of March) includes the following species listed in Column A and B of Table 1 for Spain:

Species / Category of threaten in National Catalogue	Table 1		
	Column	Category	Population
In danger of extinction:			
<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	A	1 c	West Europe
<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	A	1 a	West Mediterranean
<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	A	1 b	West Mediterranean
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	A	3 c	Europe (wintering)
Of Special Interest:			
<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	A	3 b	West Europe (breeding)
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	B	1	West Europe
<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	A	1 c	West Mediterranean
<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	A	2	West Mediterranean
<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	A	2*	Mediterranean (wintering)

Those species included in Table 1 of the Agreement, which can be shot and whose populations are deemed to be able to withstand hunting are the ones also listed in Annex II/1 (can be shot in all EU countries) or in Annex II/2 (specifically in some EU countries) of Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/CEE). The species and the period of hunting is established every year by each region (Comunidad Autónoma). Those species are the following for Spain:

Bird Directive	Table 1		
	Column	Category	Population
Annex II / 1:			
<i>Anser anser</i>	C	1	West Mediterranean
<i>Anas penelope</i>	B	2 c	Mediterranean (wintering)
<i>Anas strepera</i>	B	1	Mediterranean (wintering)
<i>Anas crecca</i>	C	1	Mediterranean (wintering)
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	B	2 c	Mediterranean (wintering)
<i>Anas acuta</i>	B	2 c	Mediterranean (wintering)
<i>Anas querquedula</i>	B	2 c	Mediterranean (wintering)
<i>Anas clypeata</i>	C	2 a	West Mediterranean (wintering)
<i>Aythya ferina</i>	B	2 c	Mediterranean (wintering)
<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	C	1	Mediterranean (wintering)
Annex II / 2:			
<i>Netta rufina</i>	A	2 *	South West Europe

b. [Methods of taking?](#)

Certain modes of killing and taking of wild animals are controlled under the National Law 4/1989 of 27 of March 1989 on conservation of natural areas and wild fauna. Legal restrictions on the modes of taking are aimed primarily at avoiding indiscriminate and non-selective kills. The use of traps, nets, bird lime, baits, gas, electricity, poisons and other stupefying substances, mechanically – propelled vehicles for immediate pursuit, artificial light, bows and crossbows, certain clubs and hammers is prohibited. Automatic and semi-automatic weapons, shotguns, night-vision devices, chemical wetting agents and sound recordings are also prohibited.

c. [Setting of taking limits and monitoring these limits?](#)

The responsibility for implementing and monitoring the hunting of waterbirds falls on the Regional Administrations. These establish yearly the hunting quotas.

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

The following Spanish species are listed in Category 2 (and marked by an asterisk) in Column A:

- *Bucephala clangula* (not huntable)
- *Netta rufina*

e. [Exemptions to the provisions set out in paragraphs 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.1.3?](#)

Exemptions to the prohibitions laid down in paragraphs 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.1.3 are granted through specific licenses issued by the regional governments (Comunidades Autónomas).

Licenses may be granted giving exemption from the statutory protection for a variety of purposes, including protecting public health, preventing serious damage to agriculture, scientific and educational work (including ringing), conservation purposes, keeping bird collections, public exhibition or competition.

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?

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

- Up to now, the following species listed in Column A of Table 1 of the Agreement have a regional Action Plan:

SPECIES	REGION	ACTION PLAN	YEAR
<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Castilla y León	Recovery Plan	1995
<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Castilla – La Mancha	Recovery Plan	2003
<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	Castilla – La Mancha	Recovery Plan	1995
<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	Comunidad Valenciana	Recovery Plan	2005

- The National Commission on Nature Conservation adopted on December 2004 a *National Strategy for the Conservation of White-headed duck (Oxyura leucocephala)*. This Strategy has been drawn up by the *Working Group on White-headed Duck* dependent on the Committee of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- *Oxyura leucocephala* counts on an International Action Plan (Green, A. J. & Huges, B., 1996. In B. Heredia, L. Rose & M. Painter (Eds.) *Globally threatened birds in Europe*. Council of Europe Publishing. Strasbourg).
- *Marmaronetta angustirostris* has also an International Action Plan adopted (Green, 1999. In B. Heredia, L. Rose & M. Painter (Eds.) *Globally threatened birds in Europe*. Council of Europe Publishing. Strasbourg).
- Comunidad Valenciana (Navarro et al, 1992), Andalucía (Raya, 1999) and Murcia (Green et al, 2001) have drawn up a Recovery Plan for the species, but they have not been adopted for the moment. Since 1995, there is a *Working Group on Marbled Teal* dependent on the Committee of Wild Fauna and Flora, where regions and General Directorate on Biodiversity coordinate measures adopted.

- Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*) has also an International Action Plan adopted (Callaghan, 2001. In N. Schäffer & U. Gallo-Orsi (Eds.) *European Union action plans for eight priority bird species*. BirdLife International. European Commission. Luxembourg).

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.

Emergency measures have been taken to prevent the expansion of Ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) in Spain. Since 1984, there is a field patrol locating and eliminating Ruddy ducks and hybrids (more than 160).

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.

Re-establishment programmes exist for White-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) in France and Italy; Purple gallinule in Portugal and Crested coot (*Fulica cristata*) in Valencia.

In Marismas del Odiel, there was a re-establishment programme of Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) between 1997 and 2000, to avoid the massive loss of eggs due to flooding.

Introductions

- 2.6 Has your country developed and implemented legal measures to prohibit the introduction of non-native 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 of non-native animal species is prohibited by article 27.b) of the National Law 4/1989 of 27 of March 1989 on conservation of natural areas and wild fauna and flora.

The EU CITES Regulation and the Habitats Directive also provide a statutory framework to prevent invasive alien species.

At present, a National Action Plan on Invasive Alien Species is being developed.

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.

Two basic Spanish laws foresee the elaboration of a National Inventory of Wetlands: the Law of Waters and the Law on Conservation of natural areas and wild fauna and flora.

According to the Law of Waters, the General Directorate of Hydraulic Works of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport made in 1991 the first Inventory of Wetlands in Spain. This inventory was reviewed in 1996.

At the same time, several regions (Comunidades Autónomas de Andalucía, Asturias, Aragón, Baleares, Cataluña, Galicia or Murcia) have implemented its own inventory or data basis.

According to the article 25 of the Law 4/1989 on conservation of natural areas and wild fauna and flora and to the *National Action Plan for the Conservation and the Rational Use of Wetlands*, the Committee on Wetlands, dependent of the National Commission on Nature Conservation, started in 1997 to compile all the information available to develop a national inventory of wetland.

This National Inventory was legally adopted through the Royal Decree 435/2004, of 12 of March, which regulates the National Inventory of Wetlands.

At the moment, the preliminary results of this inventory show a list of 2.559 wetland, of which 17% are legally protected.

- 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.

The Spanish Special Protection Areas (SPAs) network has been identified to meet Spain international obligation under Directive 79/409/CEE on the conservation of wild birds.

In December 2004, the Spanish SPA network includes 480 SPA which cover an area of 8.379.733 ha. This represents the 16,59 % of the national territory.

This 2004 SPA network increases in 135 new sites and in almost 1.500.000 ha the extension of the SPA network of 2001, which represents 3 % more of the national territory.

The Spanish SPA network is distributed as follows in December 2004:

COMUNIDADES	Nº SPA	SPA SURFACE (Ha)	% SPA / CCAA
ANDALUCÍA	62	1.572.369	18,02
ARAGÓN	45	840.182	17,63
ASTURIAS	12	237.322	22,46
BALEARES	50	121.147	24,16
CANARIAS	28	211.598	28,41
CANTABRIA	8	78.810	14,90
CASTILLA Y LEÓN	70	1.998.353	21,22
CASTILLA LA MANCHA	26	969.282	12,23
CATALUÑA	18	237.065	7,42
CEUTA	2	635	32,22
EXTREMADURA	69	1.089.936	26,20
GALICIA	13	70.966	2,41
MADRID	7	185.332	23,18
MELILLA	1	50	3,6
MURCIA	22	205.029	18,12
NAVARRA	17	77.267	7,41
PAIS VASCO	6	39.287	5,41
RIOJA	5	165.950	32,97
VALENCIA	18	277.239	11,90
ASTURIAS / GALICIA	1	1.915	
TOTAL NATIONAL	480	8.379.733	16,59

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.)

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance:

At the moment, there are 49 Spanish Ramsar wetland, which cover an area of more than 170.000 hectares, included in the List of Wetland of International Importance of the Convention.

In Spain, each request to include a site in the List Ramsar, must be studied by the Committee of Wetlands who checks the observance of the International Importance criteria laid down by the Convention.

In the period covered by this report, 11 new Spanish wetland have been included in the List of Wetland of International Importance of the Ramsar Convention. A site "Lagunas de Laguardia" has increased the surface protected under the Ramsar Convention.

SITE	REGION	FIGURE OF PROTECTION	SURFACE (has)	DATE OF DESIGNATION
Bahía de Cádiz	Andalucía	Parque Natural	10.000	20.11.02
Saladar de Jandía o Playa del Matorral	Canarias	Sitio Interés Científico	127	20.11.02
Laguna de El Hito	Castilla – La Mancha	Reserva Natural	573	16.01.03
Lagunas de Puebla de Beleña	Castilla – La Mancha	Reserva Natural	191	16.01.03
Laguna de la Nava de Fuentes	Castilla y León	Catálogo Zonas Húmedas	307,28	20.11.02
Lago de Banyoles	Cataluña	PEIN	1.032,86	16.01.03
Complejo lagunar La Albuera	Extremadura		1.878,31	16.01.03
Lagunas de La Guardia (Carralagroño, Carralvaseca, Prao de la Paul y Musco)	País Vasco	Biotopo Protegido	45,20	20.11.02
Txingudi	País Vasco	Parque Ecológico	127,60	20.11.02
Salburúa	País Vasco		173,50	20.11.02
Colas del Embalse de Ullibarri	País Vasco	Reserva de Caza	397	20.11.02
Lago de Caicedo – Yuso y Salinas de Añana	País Vasco	Refugio de Caza	25,80	20.11.02

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.

Article 4 of the National Law 4/1989 of 27 of March 1989 on conservation of natural areas and wild fauna and flora creates the “Management Plans of Natural Resources”, which must be elaborated before the protection of a site by the regional administration. Their preparation involves cross-sectoral co-operation and public participation.

Once a site is protected, the conservation authority of the site is responsible for preparing a “Plan of use and management” specific for this site. Those plans are an important mechanism to achieve the favourable condition of designated sites. Those plans are designated to set out objectives for each site for discussion and agreement with owners and occupiers and others with a direct interest in the designated land. They are reviewed regularly.

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?

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

The *National Action Plan for the Conservation and the Rational Use of Wetlands* includes guidelines and instructions for the wise use of wetland and to prevent habitat degradation.

Rehabilitation and restoration

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

The General Directorate for Biodiversity of the Ministry of Environment has signed agreements with regional and local administrations for the rehabilitation and restoration of wetland. Those projects are first studied by the Committee of Wetlands who assign a priority:

- Salburúa (Alava)
- Ullibarri – Gamboa (Alava)
- El Hondo (Alicante)
- Saladar de Jandía (Fuerteventura)
- La Nava (Palencia)
- Boada (Palencia)

In other side, several LIFE Nature projects, co-financed by the European Commission, have been target on wetland restoration or rehabilitation and/or waterbirds conservation:

PROJECT	BENEFICIARY	UE FINANCEMENT (€)	% TOTAL COST	PERIOD
Marjal de Pego Oliva	Generalitat Valenciana	4.164.800	75	1992 – 1997
Conservation of priority species in mediterranean wetland	Generalitat Cataluña	980.830	50	1996 – 2000
Laguna de Valdovillo	Ayuntamiento Valdovillo	64.488	21	1998 – 2001
Tablas de Daimiel	OA Parques Nacionales	1.182.774	60	1999 – 2002
Cuenca del Ansón	Fundación Naturaleza y Hombre	616.953	50	1999 – 2002
Humedales de Villacañas	Fundación 2001	384.753	75	1999 – 2002
Riberas de Castronuño	Junta Castilla y León	325.301	50	1999 – 2002
Baix Ter	Ayuntamiento Torroella	317.785	50	1999 – 2002
<i>Fulica cristata</i>	Generalitat Valenciana	192.324	50	1999 – 2002
Laguna de Gallocanta	AGLA	276.211	60	1999 – 2002
Cabo de Gata - Nijar	Junta de Andalucía	3.012.160	70	2001 – 2005
<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	Generalitat Valenciana	424.194	75	2001 – 2005
SPA La Albuera	Junta Extremadura	415.312	75	2003 – 2007
Wetland in Andalucía	Junta Andalucía	1.456.763	50	2003 – 2007
Lago Banyoles	Ayuntamiento Banyoles	432.272	50	2003 - 2007

4. Management of human activities

Hunting

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

The National Act 581/2001 to control the use of lead in wetland has been approved in 2001.

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

This responsibility falls upon the regional Administration. There is a National Forum on Hunting to discuss their policies.

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

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 Ministry of Environment has signed an agreement with the University of Valence, which represents the headquarters for the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative: SEHUMED. One of the result of this agreement are two publication about “*Tools for a sustainable tourism in wetland*” and “*Wetland cultural heritage*”

- “*Herramientas para la gestión del turismo sostenible en humedales*”, Serie Cuadernillos Técnicos. Organismo Autónomo de Parques Nacionales. Ministerio de Medio Ambiente. 2002
- “*El patrimonio cultural de los humedales*” Dirección General para la Biodiversidad. Ministerio de Medio Ambiente. 2002.

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

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 national Law 6/2001, of 8th of May, on Environmental Impact Assessment, includes the list of projects which needs to carry out an EIA according to the Council Directive on EIA (97/11/CEE).

In Annex II (G.9. Other projects) it is included: *projects which may affect special protection areas designated under Council Directives 79/409/CEE and 92/43/CEE or wetlands included in the List of Wetlands of International Importance of the Ramsar Convention.*

Those public or private projects listed in Annex II (G.9) should carry out EIA only when the environmental authority decides it according with the criteria of Annex III.

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

Cormorants are a problem for some fish-farms in the north of Spain, but the scale of the problem is much smaller than in countries in central Europe.

In fact, the cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) was deleted in 2004 from the National Catalogue of Endangered Species, following an agreement of all the regions where this species occurs (Order MAM/2784/2004, de 28 de may, by which some species change of category in the National Catalogue of Threatened Species). Thus, the cormorant is now covered by the general regime of Law 4/89 and remains non huntable.

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 is undertaken by the Ministry of Environment and regional Administrations in co-operation with Universities and research agencies.

As mentioned above, the Ministry of Environment has signed an agreement with the University of Valence, which represents the headquarters for the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative: SEHUMED. One of the result of this agreement is the national initiative CECOP (Communication, Training and Awareness) which is mainly addressed to wetlands' managers.

Others results of this agreement with SEHUMED is a publication about "Recommendation for sampling water, biota and bottom sediments in Ramsar Wetlands:

- *Recomendaciones para la toma de muestras de agua, biota y sedimentos en Humedales Ramsar*. Dirección General para la Biodiversidad. Ministerio de Medio Ambiente. 2003.

Finally, the co-operation program of the General Directorate for Biodiversity of the Ministry of Environment is target in helping to perform the obligation of International Convention on nature conservation. Two international co-operation projects are going on:

- ARAUCARIA PROJECT (for Latin America). In 1998 the Ministries of Environment, Foreign Affairs and Science and Technologies have signed an agreement for this international initiative which have three goals: biodiversity conservation, human development of local population and administrative organisation. The General Directorate for Biodiversity of the Ministry of Environment is in charge to organize training programmes.

Those two programmes have frequently contacts with the National Committee for Wetlands.

- 5.2 What monitoring activities does your country undertake, including any bilateral or multilateral co-operative 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

The General Directorate for Biodiversity of the Ministry of Environment and the Spanish Society of Ornithology (SEO – BirdLife) have published annually the census of waterbirds since 1977. Recently, it has been published a summary of wintering census of waterbirds between 1980 and 2001:

- MARTÍ, R. & DEL MORAL J.C. (Eds.) *La invernada de aves acuáticas en España*. Dirección General para la Biodiversidad– Sociedad Española de Ornitología (SEO / BirdLife), Madrid.

Besides, two important works have just been published: “The atlas of breeding birds in Spain” and “The Red Book of birds in Spain”:

- MARTÍ, R. & DEL MORAL J.C. (Eds.) 2003. *Atlas de las aves reproductoras de España*. Dirección General de Conservación de la Naturaleza – Sociedad Española de Ornitología (SEO / BirdLife), Madrid.
- MADROÑO, A., GONZÁLEZ, C & ATIENZA, J.C. (Eds.) 2004. *Libro Rojo de las Aves de España*. Dirección General para la Biodiversidad – Sociedad Española de Ornitología (SEO / BirdLife), Madrid.

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.

Bird Ringing:

Bird ringing in Spain is supported by the “Migratory Species Bureau” in the General Directorate for Biodiversity of the Ministry of Environment in Partnership with the Spanish Society of Ornithology (SEO – BirdLife). As it is important that the ringing techniques are as safe as possible, there are accordingly very strict training standards which have to be followed. All potential ringers have to undergo a detailed period of training before they are able to operate by themselves.

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

Included in the ARAUCARIA programme developed by the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with the Spanish Agency for International Co-operation (AECI) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Science and Technologies, two training programmes have been developed:

- *Workshop of Participant management of wetlands*, from 6 to 10 of May 2002, in Antigua, Guatemala.
- *Workshop of Latin America co - operation for Wetland Conservation*, in November 2002, in Toledo, Spain.

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)?

As mentioned above, the Ministry of Environment has signed an agreement with the University of Valence, which represents the headquarters for the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative: SEHUMED. One of the result of this agreement is the national initiative CECOP (Communication, Training and Awareness) which is mainly addressed to wetlands’ managers.

A number of campaigns are being undertaken in preparation for Ramsar’s Eight Conference of the Parties which took place in Valence in November 2002.

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.

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

References

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

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