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National report 2011 from Sweden on The Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)

Dear Sirs,

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) regrets the late submission of the report and is grateful that You gave us the opportunity to report late.

SEPA will here below make some corrections to the report and also add information to some sections which was not covered at the time for the submission. SEPA will also suggest some improvements to the reporting form which hopefully will be valuable for the next reporting occasion.

Corrections

Section Species Status, references

Throughout the questionnaire we refer to Ottoson et al 2012, *Fåglarna i Sverige - antal och utbredning i lan och landskap, Sveriges ornitologiska forening* (in swedish).

It should be noted that the referred to product is expected to be published during 2012.

Section Species Status, “Legal Status (measures as per paragraph 2.1.2...)”

Throughout the questionnaire we have erroneously selected “no”. The correct answer would be “yes”

Section Species Status, “National Red List Status”

An answer for each species categorized as being of Least Concern (LC) has erroneously been omitted from the questionnaire due to misinterpretation of the question. Note that each species with blank brackets should have been submitted as LC. In the field for additional information we have instead written "Not listed".

Section Implementation

Due to a misunderstanding SEPA did not fill in the form in this section properly and will therefore inform you that this section should have been filled in as follows:

Question 37

"No"

Question 38

"No"

Question 39

"No"

Question 40

"No"

Section Avian Influenza

Question 42

Firstmost we must point out that no coordinated and regular active surveillance of avian influenza in migratory waterbirds is administered by any governmental body today. The Swedish Board of Agriculture is the responsible authority for the monitoring of avian influenza, together with The National Veterinary Institute.

A problem might be the lack of relevant monitoring data from wintering populations, as well as the lack of data on where the sampled birds originate from.

The fact that there is no coordinating body for the monitoring of avian influenza might pose a problem. Today the responsibility is divided between different authorities.

Comments

It may be problematic to assess non-native/not breeding species that only occurs irregularly/yearly in the country, such as the Great egret (*Ardea alba*) which has been observed in Sweden during the past triennium. The same reasoning applies

to species such as Sooty shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*) or similar species that are blown in during storms in The North Sea. We would like to raise the question whether it is important to report this kind of occurrence?

Not possible to select “invasive” on relevant species. Egyptian goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*) may fall within this category, at least for Sweden.

“Is a National Red List of threatened species maintained in your country?” and “Does the red-list have legal status?”

It would be appropriate to move these questions to any of the more general sections in the questionnaire. The question applies to all species in Table 1, wherefore it is not necessary to answer it for each species respectively.

“Passage”

When selecting “native”, the box “passage” should be automatically omitted as native species per definition are not “passing by” at any stage. The term “passage” implies birds that are neither native nor breeding but **passing** during migration and may therefore be difficult to interpret.