

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

Implementation during the period **2003** and **2005**

Contracting Party: **Switzerland**

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1. Overview of Action Plan implementation

1.1. Summary of progress to date

A comprehensive analysis of the Conservation Guidelines with reference to Swiss legislation on the protection of nature, species, habitats and designated sites has been conducted¹. The analysis revealed that AEWA provisions relevant for Switzerland are included into Switzerland's legal framework to a large degree.

On the international Wetland Day 2005 three new Ramsar sites were designated, i.e. the glacier forelands of the Rhone-glacier and the Vadret da Roseg as well as the marsh Laubersmad-Salwidill².

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

The planned activities include the further implementation of the AEWA according to gaps identified by the study mentioned above. These gaps predominantly concern the implementation of specific activities in the field, based on national legislation.

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

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?

The conservation of species covered by the Agreement and their habitats is embedded into a comprehensive legal framework targeting a sustainable development and including provisions regarding the protection of the environment, nature, landscape, and forests as well as provisions related to fishery, water pollution control, land-use planning, environmental impact assessment and others. Switzerland's first national report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) gives an overview on relevant legislation related to biodiversity³.

Regarding the conservation of species covered by the AEWA the following legislation is of particular importance:

- The **Federal Law on the Protection of Nature and the Landscape** (NHG) aims to preserve indigenous animal and plant species, biotopes and landscapes. Further, the

¹ SAEFL, Analysis of the AEWA Conservation Guidelines with reference to Swiss legislation on the protection of nature, species, habitats and designated sites (SAEFL working paper – no binding force). Analysis available through the AEWA focal point.

² SAEFL, Journée mondiale des zones humides 2005, Trois nouvelles zones humides suisses d'importance internationale, www.environment-switzerland.ch, status August 2005.

³ CBD, Clearinghouse Mechanism, National Reports, www.biodiv.org, status July 2005.

law stipulates that the protection of species shall be achieved through the conservation of their habitats (Art. 18.1, NHG). The law attributes a special conservation status to lake- and riverside vegetation, reeds and marshes (Art. 18.1^{bis}, NHG).

- The **Federal Law on Hunting and Protection of Free-living Mammals and Birds** (JSG) aims to conserve the diversity of species and habitats of free-living birds and mammals in general (art. 1(a), JSG) and of waterbirds and migrants through the establishment of reserves of international and national importance in particular (art. 11, JSG). Cantons may establish additional reserves of local importance (art. 11.4, JSG). The law identifies protected and quarry waterbird species (art. 5.1, JSG).
- The **Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Free-living Mammals and Birds** (JSV) protects the Ferruginous Duck (art 3^{bis}.1, JSV).
- The **Ordinance on Waterbirds and Migrants** (WZVV) specifies the establishment and management of reserves of international and national importance for waterbirds and migrants. The ordinance lists measures for the conservation of species and their habitats (sect. 2, WZVV), contains provisions regarding damages caused by mammals and quarry waterbirds and further defines the responsibilities of the rangers.

b. Which organisations are responsible for implementation?

The Federal Council is responsible for the establishment of reserves for waterbirds and migrants of international importance and, in collaboration with the cantons, of reserves of national importance (art. 11, JSG).

The Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (SAEFL) is in charge of specifying measures for the implementation of the legal provisions regarding waterbirds and migrants on national level, whereas the cantonal authorities implement legal provisions on local levels.

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

Swiss Landscape Concept:⁴

The Swiss Landscape Concept (SLC), a federal concept approved by the Federal Council on 19 December 1997, seeks to achieve sustainable landscape development, promotes a dialogue between landscape users and conservationists, and stipulates binding objectives that are to be pursued by government departments in any of their activities which have implications for land use.

The following objectives of the SLC are relevant for the implementation of the AEWA in Switzerland:

Sectoral objective 2: Energy

F: To protect the avifauna from threats arising from power lines.

Sectoral objective 7: Protection of nature

A: Human influence on nature and landscape is to be organized in such a way, that no additional species must be added to the 'red lists'. The numbers of widely spread species must not be reduced through anthropogenic influence.

⁴ SAEFL, Swiss Landscape Concept, www.landschaftskonzept.ch, status July 2005.

B: Endangered species and their habitats should be conserved to the extent that no species must be given a worse classification in the scale of endangered species, and that the number of species on the 'red lists' can be reduced by 1% annually.

C: The mosaic of habitats of national importance (inventories) is to be completed within 10 years and interconnected with regional and local habitats to form a network.

The National Ecological Network (REN):⁵

The national ecological network, which targets to interlink habitats, is under development. Inland water ecosystem are important components of the network. The REN is the Swiss contribution to the Pan-European Ecological Network.

Emerald network:⁶

The aim of the Emerald Programme is to designate a network of areas of special significance for the conservation of habitats threatened within Europe and of the species whose habitats require special protection (Areas of Special Conservation Interest/ASCI). ASCI are fully integrated into the REN.

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)?*

Taking of birds:

Legislation: On federal level, principles for the regulation of hunting are established in the Federal Law on Hunting and the Protection of Free-Living Mammals and Birds and in the Ordinance related to Hunting and the Protection of Free-Living Mammals and Birds. Responsibility for the planning and regulation of hunting rests with the cantonal authorities.

Protected species: According to federal legislation following waterbird species are quarry (art. 5.10, JSG): Great Crested Grebe, Common Coot, Great Cormorant and wild ducks. Regarding wild ducks, the following species are protected: wild geese, shelduck species (Common Shelduck and Ruddy Shelduck), mergansers and swans, as well as the Marbled Teal, Steller's Eider, Harlequin Duck, White-headed Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye, Red-crested Pochard (art. 5.2, JSG) and the Ferruginous Duck (art. 3^{bis}.1, JSV). All non-quarry waterbirds are protected (art. 7.1, JSG).

Close season: At the federal level, the maximum length of the waterbird hunting season is limited by the close season, which extends from 1 February to 31 August (Art. 5.1(o), JSG). Since the regulation and planning of hunting is a cantonal responsibility, the cantonal authorities may pass additional regulations concerning the hunting season.

Trade in birds:

⁵ BERTHOUD G., LEBEAU R. P., RIGHETTI A. 2004 : Réseau écologique national REN. Rapport final. Cahier de l'environnement no 373. SAEFL, Berne. 132 p., ordering number: SRU-373-F, download: www.environment-switzerland.ch, status July 2005.

⁶ DELARZE, R.; CAPT, S.; GONSETH, Y. & GUISAN, A. 2003 : Le réseau Emeraude en Suisse . rapport préliminaire. Cahier de l'environnement no 347. SAEFL, Berne. 52 p., ordering number: SRU-347-F, download: www.environment-switzerland.ch, status July 2005.

Domestic trade: In Switzerland, domestic trade in indigenous wild waterbirds is tightly restricted by national legislation and by the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention). Thus, the capturing of animals living in the wild for commercial purposes is subject to approval by the competent cantonal authority (art. 19, NHG,). “It is prohibited to offer for sale or sell live animals of protected species” (Art. 7.1, JSV). Cantonal approval is also required by anyone wishing to keep protected animals (JSG, art. 10, JSV). However, domestic trade in waterbirds is not of any major significance in Switzerland.

International trade: Switzerland ratified the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. The implementation of CITES is regulated primarily by the Ordinance of 19 August 1981 on Species Protection (ASchV). This Ordinance designates the enforcement agencies (Swiss Federal Veterinary Office/ SFVO, Federal Office for Agriculture/BLW) and the border inspection bodies responsible (Border Veterinary Service, Phytosanitary Service, customs authorities). According to the ASchV, permits are required not only for species listed in CITES Appendices I-III but also for species of birds and live mammals protected under the Hunting Law (JSG), and also for imports of all live vertebrates of non-domesticated species.

b. Methods of taking?

Prohibited hunting aids are listed in Art. 1 and 2 of the Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Free-living Mammals and Birds. As required by the AEWA, the use of poisoned baits and of lead shot in shallow waters are prohibited⁷, as are other aids incompatible with a sustainable approach to hunting – e.g. explosives, snares, nooses, lime-twigs, tape recorders etc.

c. Setting of taking limits and monitoring these limits?

Switzerland’s policy regarding a sustainable approach to the hunting of waterbirds is the establishment of protected areas sufficiently large thus permitting waterbirds to be hunt outside these areas without setting taking limits, which are difficult to control. The taking of waterbirds is monitored through the federal hunting statistic.⁸

The success of this policy is confirmed by the waterbird census conducted by the Swiss Ornithological Institute.⁹

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

All the species concerned are protected by virtue of the Federal Law and the Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Free-living Mammals and Birds.

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

The Federal Law on Hunting and Protection of Free-living Mammals and Birds defines exemptions regarding species causing damage (art 12, JSV) and for the purpose of scientific

⁷ The ban of lead shot entered into force on 1. April 1998.

⁸ SAEFL, Statistique fédéral de la chasse, www.environment-switzerland.ch, status July 2005.

⁹ Swiss Ornithological Institute, Research Activities, Population Monitoring, www.vogelwarte.ch, status August 2005.

research (art. 14.3, JSG). These exemptions are in line with the provisions of paragraph 2.1.3 of the AEWA Action Plan.

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:

General Comment: For 19 species listed in the Swiss Avifauna, a national and in some cases also an international SSAP would need to be developed (see appendix). However, most of these species have only been sighted in exceptional, isolated cases, or the number of individuals is so low that the development of SSAP would be disproportionate. In Switzerland three species only qualify for SSAPs, i.e. the White Stork (national SSAP) the Greylag Goose, and the Red-crested Pochard (national and international SSAP).

Greylag Goose: This species is protected by virtue of the Federal Law on Hunting and Protection of Birds and Mammals (art. 5.2 JSG). Today, the natural habitats of the goose are within reserves established through the Ordinance on Waterbirds and Migrants, as are the breeding sites. Some of the breeding population is of feral origin. The legal provisions are adequate to secure an effective conservation of the species as requested by SSAP.

White Stork and Red-crested Pochard: The Swiss Ornithological Institute in collaboration with SVS/BirdLife Switzerland and the SAEFL have initiated the Swiss Species Recovery Programme for Birds. Both species are part of the programme. Information on elements of the programme and references to additional literature regarding the species are available from SVS/BirdLife Switzerland¹⁰ or from the Swiss Ornithological Institute¹¹.

a. Proposed?

No national action plan proposed.

The European Union (EU) has developed a SSAP for the Red-crested Pochard. An adaptation of this SSAP for the whole Agreement area should be considered, as there are a number of countries important for the species outside the EU (e.g. Switzerland for the Southwest/central European population).

b. In preparation?

White Stork: A national SSAP is prepared within the framework of the Swiss Species Recovery Programme for Birds.

c. Being implemented?

Greylag Goose: Conservation measures equivalent to a SSAP are successfully implemented.

¹⁰ BirdLife Switzerland, ARTEN: Arten- und Vogelschutzprogramme in der Schweiz, www.birdlife.ch, status August 2005.

¹¹ Swiss Ornithological Institute, www.vogelwarte.ch, status August 2005.

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

Emergency measures

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

So far no co-operative action undertaken. However, comprehensive measures are in place to respond to emergency situations. Even though the measures are not waterbird specific, they significantly contribute to the implementation the AEWA Conservation Guidelines.

Switzerland is party to several multilateral and international Agreements in which measures to prevent the pollution of wetlands are agreed upon:

- Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Entry into force for Switzerland on 6-10-1996).
- Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Entry into force for Switzerland on 21-5-1999).
- Convention for the Protection of the Rhine against Chemical Pollution (Entry into force for Switzerland on 1-2-1979).
- Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Entry into force for Switzerland on 14-4-1998).

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.

Legal basis for the re-establishment of species: The SAEFL may allow, with the consent of the cantons concerned, the reestablishment of species. However, the existence of sufficiently large habitats must be proven. (Art. 8.3, JSV).

The re-establishment of the White Stork: In the first phase of the project, which started in the 1940s, measures to re-establish the White Stork included the continuous release of birds raised in captivity and the feeding of wild storks. Further, to increase the survival of young storks raised in the wild, their wings were clipped in order to suppress their first migration.

Today, population size is similar to that at the beginning of the 1920s. Ongoing activities concentrate on improving the natural habitats for White Storks. The breeding success of free-living individuals is monitored annually.

The project "S.O.S. Storch" contributed to the identification of threats encountered during migration using satellite telemetry¹².

At present, a SSAP is developed within the project "Swiss Species Recovery Programme for Birds". Information on elements of the Programme and references to additional literature

¹² Project "S.O.S. Storch", www.sosstorch.ch, (german only), status August 2005.

regarding the White Stork are available from SVS/BirdLife Switzerland¹³ and from the Society Stork Switzerland¹⁴.

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).

Legal framework: The introduction of alien bird species is prohibited by virtue of the Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Free-living Mammals and Birds (art. 8.1, JSV). The responsibility to take measures to avoid the spread of unintentionally introduced species lays within cantonal authorities. Nevertheless, considerable unintentional introductions take place through birds escaped from captivity.

Survey: The Swiss Ornithological Institute has conducted a survey on alien bird species in Western Europe and Switzerland in particular. The results of the study will be published in autumn 2005 in the journal "Ornithologischer Beobachter" (KESTENHOLZ et al. 2005)¹⁵.

SVS/Birdlife Switzerland has published a position paper regarding invasive alien bird species in Switzerland (in German only)¹⁶.

Measures: The SAEFL and cantonal authorities have decided, in agreement with SVS/BirdLife Switzerland and the Swiss Ornithological Institute, to take action against two alien invasive bird species.

Ruddy Shelduck:

Switzerland's responsibility: Within Europe, Switzerland has a particular responsibility regarding this alien species, as it harbours a growing population of Ruddy Shelducks derived from escaped individuals and appears to be at the centre of spread of the species in central/western Europe.

Threats: The Ruddy Shelduck is a competitor for nesting boxes provided for Common Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) and Tawny Owls (*Strix aluco*). Further, the Ruddy Shelduck behaves very aggressively within its territory and pushes away native species. Cross-breeding with the Southafrican Shelduck (*Tadorna cana*) was observed.

Measures: Switzerland considers taking the lead regarding the management of the Ruddy Shelduck and to collaborate with European countries concerned. Cantons are instructed to eliminate this species wherever possible. Further, measures to prohibit keeping in captivity of Ruddy Shelducks will be explored. All measures will be accompanied by a public awareness

¹³ BirdLife Switzerland, ARTEN: Arten- und Vogelschutzprogramme in der Schweiz, www.birdlife.ch, status August 2005.

¹⁴ Society Stork Switzerland, www.storch-schweiz.ch, status August 2005.

¹⁵ Kestenholz M., L. Heer, V. Keller, 2005: Etablierte Neozoen in der europäischen Vogelwelt – eine Übersicht, Der Ornithologische Beobachter 102: 153–180 (2005); Ala, Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Vogelkunde und Vogelschutz, Zeitschrift, www.ala-schweiz.ch, status August 2005.

¹⁶ Birdlife Switzerland, ARTEN: Arten- und Vogelschutzprogramme in der Schweiz, Eingeführte Arten (Neozoen), www.birdlife.ch, status August 2005.

raising campaign. So far, SVS/BirdLife Switzerland and the Swiss Ornithological Institute have published a background paper¹⁷ and a leaflet¹⁸.

Ruddy Duck:

Switzerland's responsibility: The SAEFL, the Swiss Ornithological Institute and Birdlife Switzerland have elaborated a strategy for the eradication of the Ruddy Duck in Switzerland¹⁹, thus contributing to the implementation of the SSAP for the White-headed Duck endorsed by the Council of Europe.

Threats: Until 2004 40 individuals have been recorded but so far no breeding was observed²⁰.

Measures: Cantons are instructed to eliminate this species wherever possible. This measure is accompanied by a campaign to raise public awareness. To this issue BirdLife Switzerland and the Swiss Ornithological Institute have published a leaflet²¹.

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.

In Switzerland, inventories of waterbird sites have already been prepared in the 1980s and 1990s (MARTI & SCHIFFERLI 1987a, b; SCHIFFERLI & KESTENHOLZ 1995)²².

Based on these inventories, 18 sites of national and 10 of international importance were put under protection by virtue of the Ordinance concerning Reserves for Waterbirds and Migrants of International and National Importance (WZVV). Additional reserves were set up by cantonal authorities.

¹⁷ BirdLife Switzerland, Grundlagenpapier zur Situation der Rostgans, www.birdlife.ch, status August 2005.

¹⁸ BirdLife Switzerland, Merkblatt «Rostgans: Entflogener Gehegevogel als Problem für Wildvogelarten», www.birdlife.ch, status August 2005.

¹⁹ Kestenholz, M. & S. Stucki (2004): Umgang mit Schwarzkopfruderenten in der Schweiz – Umsetzung der Empfehlung des Europarates zum Schutz der stark gefährdeten Weisskopfruderente. Schweizerische Vogelwarte, Sempach, und Schweizer Vogelschutz SVS/BirdLife Schweiz, Zürich.

²⁰ Kestenholz M., L. Heer, V. Keller, 2005: Etablierte Neozoen in der europäischen Vogelwelt – eine Übersicht, *Der Ornithologische Beobachter* 102: 153–180 (2005).

²¹ BirdLife Switzerland, Merkblatt «Schwarzkopfruderente: Bedrohung für die europäische Weisskopf-ruderente», www.birdlife.ch, status August 2005.

²² Marti Ch., Schifferli L., 1987a: Inventar der Schweizer Wasservogelgebiete von internationaler Bedeutung – Erste Revision 1986. *Ornith. Beob.* 84: 11-47.

Marti Ch., Schifferli L., 1987b: Inventar der Schweizer Wasservogelgebiete von internationaler Bedeutung, kommentierte Gebietskarten zur 1. Revision des Inventars 197. Swiss Ornithological Institute.

Schifferli L., Kestenholz M., 1995: Inventar der Schweizer Wasservogelgebiete von nationaler Bedeutung als Brut-, Rast- und Überwinterungsgebiete: Revision 1995. *Ornith. Beob.* 92: 413-433.

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 destruction of natural habitats and the fragmentation of the territory are the main threat to Switzerland's biodiversity. To address these threats, the project REN (Réseau Ecologique National) was launched, which proposes a vision for a habitat interconnectedness on a national scale. The results are presented on maps (scale 1:100'000 and 1:500'000)²³.

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.)*

The Ordinance on Waterbirds and Migrants contains provisions for the establishment and management of waterbird reserves of international and national importance. Based on a federal inventory of sites of waterbirds and migrants, reserves of international and national importance are identified and listed in annex 1 to the ordinance, thus gaining protection.

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 ordinance on waterbirds and migrants reserves includes provisions regarding the conservation of species and specifies the responsibility of reserve wardens. The implementation of these provisions through management plans or other instruments rest with the cantonal authorities.

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

The elaboration of formal management plans rest with the cantonal authorities.

a. *Proposed?*

b. *In preparation?*

c. *Being implemented?*

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.*

Switzerland's legal framework addressing biodiversity, its conservation and the sustainable use of its components:

²³ SAEFL, BERTHOUD G., LEBEAU R. P., RIGHETTI A. 2004 : *Réseau écologique national REN. Rapport final.* Cahier de l'environnement no 373. SAEFL, Berne. 132 p., ordering number: SRU-373-F, download: www.environment-switzerland.ch, status July 2005.

- The concept of a sustainable development is anchored in the Federal Constitution (art. 73, BV).
- The Federal Law on the Protection of Nature and the Landscape (NHG) aims to preserve indigenous animal and plant species, biotopes and landscapes. The law guarantees the right of appeal to NGOs concerned with the protection of nature.
- The Federal Law relating to the Protection of the Environment (USG) aims to protect biological diversity in the broad sense. This law imposes an Environmental Impact Assessment. It also regulates the import, and use of genetically modified material. This law is under revision.
- The Federal Law on Agriculture (LWG) contributes to conserving the diversity of ecosystems and the quality of the environment. The law allows financial support to be granted for conservation and to create areas of ecological compensation. It supports integrated production and organic culture. In general, the law aims to maintain agricultural diversity by supporting research, training and advisory services.
- The Federal Law on Hunting and on the Protection of Mammals and Wild Birds (JSG) aim to conserve species and their habitats.
- The Federal Law on Water Pollution Control (GSchG) aims, among others, to re-establish rivers and streams as natural habitats for flora and fauna and as part of the landscape. These provisions are completed by the Ordinance on Water Pollution Control (GSchV).
- The Federal Law on Land-Use Planning (RPG) sets provisions regarding the for land-use plans, which must consider the conservation of nature and the landscape. The law anticipated the definition of protected areas, in particular watercourses, landscapes of special beauty or ecological or cultural importance, natural and historic monuments and biotopes worth protecting.
- The Federal Law on Fishery (BGF) aims to preserve the diversity of Switzerland's native fishes and crustacean as well as their habitats and to protect threatened species. Further, the law makes prescription targeting a sustainable use of the species addressed.

All these Laws are augmented through Ordinances or Federal Decrees.

A comprehensive overview on the Swiss legislation related to the environment has been published (fr/ge) by the Swiss Agency for the Environment. Forests and Landscape (SAEFL)²⁴.

Inventories of biotopes of national importance:²⁵

National inventories of natural environments to be preserved were drawn up with the assistance of the cantons and sites were put under protection. Protected areas for the fauna were created.

- Federal Inventory of Reserves for Waterbirds and Migrants of International and National Importance;
- Federal Inventory of Alluvial Zones of National Importance;
- Federal Inventory of Raised Bogs and Transitional Mires of National Importance;
- Federal Inventory of Fenlands of National Importance;

²⁴ Rausch H. 2005: Panorama du droit de l'environnement. Cahier de l'environnement n° 226. 4^{ème} édition. SAEFL, Berne. 103 p., ordering number SRU-226-F; download: www.environment-switzerland.ch, status July 2005.

²⁵ SAEFL, List of inventories, www.environment-switzerland.ch, status July 2005.

- Federal Inventory of Amphibian Spawning Areas of National Importance;
- Federal Inventory of Mire Landscapes of Particular Beauty and National Importance.

Strategies and projects contributing to the sustainable use of wetlands

- Switzerland's **Sustainable Development Strategy 2002**.²⁶ It is based on the provisions of the Federal Constitution and aims to integrate the principles of sustainable development into as many policy areas as possible. It also lays down the content and procedural framework for the Federal Council's sustainable development policy over the coming years. In addition to conceptual guidelines, the strategy also contains a total of 22 action programmes in ten fields, including an incentive strategy for nature and countryside.
- The **Swiss Landscape Concept (SLC)**:²⁷ adopted by the federal Council in 1997, it is the principal tool to integrate the interests of the nature conservancy in the sectoral policies like agriculture, tourism or transport.
- The **"Landscape 2020" Project**:²⁸ In the context of L2020, the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (SAEFL) takes the view that the following questions need to be addressed:
 - o If the constitutional requirement for sustainable development is to be met, how should Switzerland's landscape look in 2020?
 - o How can SAEFL use its authority and the instruments at its disposal to actively promote appropriate forms of development?

In undertaking the "Landscape 2020" project, SAEFL is fulfilling a task assigned to it by the Federal Council (Federal Spatial Planning Policy Measures, Implementation Programme for 2000-2003).

- A **strategy for the sustainable management of rivers** (Leitbild Fliessgewässer) was elaborated by the Swiss Agency on the Environment, Forests and Landscape (SAEFL), the Federal Office for Water and Geology (FOWG), the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture (SFOA), and the Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE). The strategy aims to achieve sustainable river management through, among others, securing adequate areas for rivers and targeting a sufficient water-quality²⁹.
- The **National Ecological Network (REN)**:³⁰, which targets to interlink habitats, is under development. The REN is a major element of the "Landscape 2020 Project" of the SAEFL and is integrated into the "Swiss Landscape Concept". The REN is the Swiss contribution to the Pan-European Ecological Network.

²⁶ ARE, Sustainable Development Strategy 2002, www.are.admin.ch, status July 2005.

²⁷ SAEFL, Swiss Landscape Concept, www.swisslandscapeconcept.ch, status July 2005.

²⁸ SAEFL, Landscape 2020 project, www.environment-switzerland.ch, status July 2005.

²⁹ SAEFL, Gewässerschutz, Leitbild Fliessgewässer, www.environment-switzerland.ch, status August 2005.

³⁰ BERTHOUD G., LEBEAU R. P., RIGHETTI A. 2004 : *Réseau écologique national REN. Rapport final*. Cahier de l'environnement no 373. SAEFL, Berne. 132 p., ordering number: SRU-373-F, download: www.environment-switzerland.ch, status August 2005.

- The **Emerald Programme**³¹ aims to designate a network of areas of special significance for the conservation of habitats threatened within Europe and of the species whose habitats require special protection (Areas of Special Conservation Interest/ASCI).
- The objective of the **National Programme for the Long-term Analytical Investigation of Swiss Rivers** (NADUF)³², which started in 1972, is to provide continuous, complete records of the concentrations and loads of different substances.

Monitoring of species and populations

- **Biodiversity Monitoring Switzerland** (BDM)³³: This program of evaluation and long-term monitoring was initiated by the SAEFL in 1998 and collects the data necessary for an adequate management of the natural environments and its species.

The Swiss Ornithological Institute runs several monitoring projects with financial support of the SAEFL, e.g:

- *Census of wintering waterbirds*

Since 1967, the Swiss Ornithological Institute has been organising waterbird counts each winter (> 30 species, total winter population some 500'000 waterbirds) to quantify changes in numbers and distribution throughout Switzerland and to identify sites of international and national importance. Mid-winter counts are part of the International Waterbird Census coordinated throughout Europe by Wetlands International.

- *Population trends of common and widespread breeding birds*

Trends of common and widespread species have been monitored since 1984 by compiling quantitative statements from a large number of sites on changes in population size from year to year (equal, smaller or larger than previous year). Detailed annual surveys in some 20 plots (territory mapping) serve as reference.

- *Monitoring of selected species*

Several species are monitored by special projects adapted to the specific situation of the particular species. These include annual surveys of colonies or a sample of breeding sites for e.g. the Great crested grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*).

In addition, special projects are organised for particular species. Recent or ongoing projects are carried out for:

- o Goosander (*Mergus merganser*): Survey of the Swiss breeding population;
- o Red-crested pochard (*Netta rufina*): Analysis of the changes in size and distribution of the southwest European population.

³¹ DELARZE, R.; CAPT, S.; GONSETH, Y. & GUISAN, A. 2003 : Le réseau Emeraude en Suisse . rapport préliminaire. Cahier de l'environnement no 347. SAEFL, Berne. 52 p., ordering number: SRU-347-F, download: www.environment-switzerland.ch, status July 2005.

³² SAEFL, NADUF – Messresultate 1977 – 1998, SAEFL, Berne, 241 pp.; ordering number SRU-319; download: www.environment-switzerland.ch, status August 2005.

³³ SAEFL, Biodiversity Monitoring Switzerland, www.biodiversitymonitoring.ch, status July 2005.

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.

Switzerland's policy regarding the rehabilitation of streams³⁴ is based on the multiple functions of those, i.e.:

- Three habitats in one: terrestrial, aquatic and amphibian;
- "Backbone" of the ecological network;
- Biological purification;
- Enrichment of the landscape, and
- Floodwater retention.

The main impediments to policy implementation are:

- The total land requirement for rehabilitation may be excessive if the measures affect a single land owner;
- Rehabilitation measures may hamper agriculture;
- The costs are often high; and
- Oppositions from land-owners.

Solutions were found using modern structural improvement, e.g.:

- Adaptation of the lay-out of plots and service paths, which can facilitate the integration of the stream in cultivated areas;
- Facilitated acquisition of the land;
- Transfer of the stream to a new owner (organisation or body);
- Subsidizing of costs (ecological payments);
- Distribution of total land requirement among all owners.

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 responsibility for the planning and regulation of hunting rests with the cantonal authorities (art. 3.1 JSG). Specific provisions on the conservation of waterbirds and migrants are included in the Ordinance concerning Reserves for Waterbirds and Migrants of International and National Importance (section 2, WZVV). Additional provisions for the protection and conservation of rare and threatened wild mammals and birds and their habitats are contained in the Ordinance concerning Federal Game Reserves (section 2,

³⁴ SAEFL, Land use, Structural improvement, www.environment-switzerland.ch, status August 2005.

VEJ). As the aim of the JSG is to enable game populations to be used appropriately, while preserving biodiversity and the habitats of native and migratory mammals and birds, it is pursuing the same goal as the AEWA, namely to ensure the sustainability of hunting practices. Accordingly, the requirements of the AEWA concerning hunting frameworks are already well established in federal legislation. In order to ensure sustainable use of waterbird populations in Switzerland, reserves for waterbirds and migrants are designated where hunting is prohibited. As a result, a considerable proportion of the winter population (currently almost half) is legally protected against hunting. The implementation of this policy requires significantly fewer resources than quota systems, as proposed in the Guidelines, which are difficult to monitor.

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

“Each year, by 30 June, the cantonal authorities shall report to the Federal Agency the populations of the main quarry and protected animal species, together with the numbers of animals harvested and perished” (art. 16.1, JSV).

The hunting of waterbirds is becoming less significant in Switzerland. While in 1983 a total of 24,160 wild ducks, wild geese and coots were shot, the number harvested in 2003 had decreased by approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ (8300 wild ducks, wild geese and coots). Over the same period, the number of waterbirds wintering in Switzerland increased.

The hunting statistics cover the following waterbirds: Great Crested Grebe, Common Coot, Great Cormorant, Mallard, Tufted Duck, Common Pochard, Common Goldeneye, Gadwall, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Common Teal, Garganey, Eurasian Wigeon, other ducks and hybrid ducks³⁵.

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.

Hunting licence: In Switzerland, “Anyone wishing to hunt requires a cantonal hunting licence (art. 4.1, JSG). “A hunting licence shall be granted to applicants who demonstrate in a test specified by the cantonal authorities that they have the requisite knowledge” (art. 4.2, JSG). The test comprises a practical course and a theory examination. Identification skills are also tested.

Licensing system: Two different systems are operated in Switzerland: “Revierjagd” (preserves system) and “Patentjagd” (certification system). The number of hunters is recorded centrally and bag figures are published annually in the Federal Hunting Statistics³⁶.

Training: The cantonal authorities are responsible for the training of hunters (art. 14.2, JSG). There is no general requirement to attend courses or participate in training events. No special requirements for visiting hunters exist at the federal level. “The cantonal authorities may grant persons preparing for a hunting test or visiting hunters a licence restricted to specific days” (art. 4.3, JSG).

³⁵ SAEFL, Statistique fédérale de la chasse, www.umwelt-schweiz.ch, status July 2005

³⁶ SAEFL, Statistique fédérale de la chasse, www.umwelt-schweiz.ch, status July 2005

Good habitat management: Hunters are engaged in habitat management through conservation efforts. Broadly speaking, conservation involves the preservation of an appropriate population of game, giving due consideration to the concerns of agriculture, forestry and nature protection. Conservation efforts are regulated at the cantonal level.

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.

Eco-tourism in waterbird sites is of little economic interest in Switzerland. Nevertheless, there are visitor centres run by NGOs, which through activities such as exhibitions, guided tours and others significantly contribute to sensitize a broad public for the conservation of wetland ecosystems:

- Neeracherried (SVS/BirdLife Switzerland)³⁷;
- La Sauge (Cudrefin, SVS/BirdLife Switzerland)³⁸;
- Champ-Pittet (Grande Cariçaie, Pro Natura)³⁹;
- Fondation des Grangettes (SBN, Ligue vaudoise pour la protection de la nature, Cercle de sciences naturelles Vevey-Montreux)⁴⁰.

La Sauge, Champ-Pittet and Les Grangettes form part of waterbird reserves of international importance under the WZVV.

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

In Switzerland social and economic benefits from the conservation of waterbird sites are insignificant.

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.

Switzerland's provisions regarding Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) are based on art. 9 of the Federal Law relating to the Protection of the Environment (USG).

The EIA significantly contributes to the implementation of the precautionary principle. The fact that the organizations involved in the field of environmental protection have the right to object against decisions related to projects subjected to EIA (art. 55, USG) reinforces the effectiveness of the EIA.

In the appendix to the Ordinance related to Environment Impact Assessment (UVPV) a total of 70 types of installations subjected to the EIA are listed and classified according to

³⁷ ASPO, Centre-Nature ASPO de Neerach, www.birdlife.ch, status July 2005.

³⁸ ASPO, Centre-Nature ASPO de la Sauge, www.birdlife.ch, status July 2005.

³⁹ Pro Natura, Champs Pittet, www.pronatura.ch, status July 2005.

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following fields: hydraulic transport, energy, constructions, waste disposal, national defence, sport, tourism and leisure, industry, and other installations.

A Handbook on EIA (1990) was published by SAEFL. Further the SAEFL publishes since 1989 a series "Information concerning the EIA" which contributes to spread information about EIAs and therefore to implement the legal provisions.

Switzerland has ratified and is implementing the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo, 1991). The Espoo (EIA) Convention sets out the obligations of Parties to assess the environmental impact of certain activities at an early stage of planning. It also lays down the general obligation of States to notify and consult each other on all major projects under consideration that are likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact across borders.

Discussions take place to ratify the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Kiev, 2003) – the 'SEA Protocol'. The Kiev (SEA) Protocol, once in force, will require its Parties to evaluate the environmental consequences of their official draft plans and programmes. SEA is undertaken much earlier in the decision-making process than EIA – it is therefore seen as a key tool for sustainable development. The Protocol also provides for extensive public participation in government decision-making in numerous development sectors.

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.

Measures regarding spatial development support the protection natural bases of life, such as the soil, air, water forest and the landscape (art. 1.2, Federal Law on Land-Use Planning, RPG). Lakesides and river banks shall be kept free (art. 3.2, RPG). A purpose of the land-use planning process is to identify areas of particular importance as natural bases of life (art. 6.2, RPG). The Federal Law on Land-Use Planning stipulates that protected areas are to be established, in particular on lakesides and riverbanks (art 17.1, RPG).

General land-use conflicts are addressed through modern structural improvement as described under question 3.7.

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.

The "Swiss Master Plan for Environmental Research 2004-2007"⁴¹ sets out four topic areas:

⁴¹ SAEFL, Master Plan for Environmental Research, www.environment-switzerland.ch, status July 2005.

- Dangers to people and their environment from pollutants, physical impacts and artificially modified organisms;
- Loss of natural resources, as well as of biological and landscape diversity;
- Climate changes and their effects on nature and society;
- How society copes with risks.

Biological diversity and natural resources are therefore one of the priorities of SAEFL's research promotion, encouragement and cooperation. However, research in waterbirds is not addressed specifically on federal level.

The private Swiss Ornithological Institute is Switzerland's competence centre regarding ornithological research. A list of ongoing projects, some of them in collaboration with the SAEFL, is available from the institute's homepage⁴². For the period of this report two projects are particularly relevant to AEWA:

- A report has been prepared on the evolution of waterbird populations in waterbird reserves of international importance (KELLER 2005)⁴³:
- The large number of ringing recoveries of Tufted Ducks in Switzerland has been analysed (HOFER et al. 2005)⁴⁴.

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

Population monitoring: The Swiss Ornithological Institute has a coordinated national monitoring scheme for birds, to which regional schemes, such as the one run by the Société romande pour l'étude et la protection des oiseaux «Nos Oiseaux», contribute. The aim of this programme is to monitor changes in the size and distribution of bird populations in Switzerland in order to provide the basis for conservation and for detailed causal analysis. The monitoring programmes rely to a great extent on the collaboration of around 1000 volunteers. Databases hold long-term data for the whole of Switzerland⁴⁵.

Further, they carry out the *IWC* and national waterbird censuses, whose results are published in annual reports available on the Internet site of the Swiss Ornithological Institute⁴⁶ and, for part of Switzerland, in "Nos Oiseaux". In the waterbird reserves of international importance, monthly censuses are carried out from October to March. For the large transboundary sites censuses are coordinated with organisations in adjacent countries.

⁴² Swiss Ornithological Institute, Research Activities, www.vogelwarte.ch, status August 2005.

⁴³ Keller V., 2005: Entwicklung der Wasservogelbestände in den Wasservogelreservaten von internationaler Bedeutung 1992/93-2002/03: Eine Bilanz / Evolution des effectifs d'oiseaux d'eau d'importance internationale: un bilan. Schweiz. Vogelwarte / Station ornithologique suisse, Sempach.

⁴⁴ HOFER, J., F. KORNER-NIEVERGELT, P. KORNER-NIEVERGELT, M. KESTENHOLZ & L. JENNI, 2005: Herkunft und Zugverhalten von in der Schweiz überwinternden Reiherenten *Aythya fuligula*: Eine Ringfundanalyse. Ornitol. Beob. 102: 181-204

⁴⁵ Swiss Ornithological Institute, Research activities, www.vogelwarte.ch, status August 2005.

⁴⁶ Swiss Ornithological Institute, Wasservogelzählung, www.vogelwarte.ch, status August 2005..

Biodiversity Monitoring Switzerland (BDM)⁴⁷: This program of evaluation and long-term monitoring was initiated by the SAEFL in 1998 and collects the data necessary for an adequate management of the natural environments and its species including breeding birds in Switzerland.

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.*

Switzerland has no training and development programme specifically designed to support the implementation of the AEWA Action Plan.

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

There are no current projects in this field.

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)?*

On federal level there is no public awareness raising activity specifically dedicated to the AEWA Action Plan. Waterbirds are addressed within the more general framework of biodiversity. To this issue the SAEFL is collaborating with various media so as to regularly inform the broad public about issues, activities and achievements regarding biodiversity conservation, e.g. on the international wetland day. Further, the SAEFL publishes quarterly its magazine "Environment"⁴⁸, which is free of charge and can be subscribed and downloaded from the net.

Campaigns specific to waterbirds and wetlands are regularly conducted by NGO's and private institutions.

7 Final comments

7.1 *General comments on the implementation of the AEWA Action Plan*

A comprehensive analysis of the Conservation Guidelines with reference to Swiss legislation on the protection of nature, species, habitats and designated sites has been conducted⁴⁹.

⁴⁷ SAEFL, Biodiversity Monitoring Switzerland, www.biodiversitymonitoring.ch, status July 2005.

⁴⁸ SAEFL, Magazin Umwelt, www.environment-switzerland.ch, status July 2005.

⁴⁹ SAEFL, Analysis of the AEWA Conservation Guidelines with reference to Swiss legislation on the protection of nature, species, habitats and designated sites (SAEFL working paper – no binding force). Analysis available through the AEWA focal point).

The analysis revealed that provisions of the AEWA Action Plan relevant for Switzerland are addressed through Switzerland's legal framework.

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

a. The Agreement Secretariat

Switzerland congratulates the Secretariat for the strongly improved Homepage.

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.

Resolution 2.2: Lead shot has been phased out in Switzerland (revision of the ordinance to the hunting law, entered into force on 1-4-1998).

Resolution 2.3: A comprehensive analysis of the Conservation Guidelines with reference to Swiss legislation on the protection of nature, species, habitats and designated sites has been conducted⁵⁰.

Resolution 2.5: A technical Expert has been nominated: Dr. Olivier Biber

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*

⁵⁰ SAEFL, Analysis of the AEWA Conservation Guidelines with reference to Swiss legislation on the protection of nature, species, habitats and designated sites (SAEFL working paper – no binding force). Analysis available through the AEWA focal point).

List of abbreviations and acronyms used in the report

AEWA	Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds
SFVO	Swiss federal veterinary office
ARE	Federal Office for Spatial Development
ASCI	Areas of Special Conservation Interest
BDM	Biodiversity Monitoring Switzerland
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
Espoo Convention	Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context
EU	European Union
FOWG	Federal Office for Water and Geology
IWC	International Waterbird Census
L2020	Landscape 2020 project
NADUF	National Programme for the Long-term Analytical Investigation of Swiss Rivers
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
Ramsar	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat
REN	National Ecological Network
SAEFL	Swiss Agency on the Environment, Forests and Landscape
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SFOA	Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture
SLC	Swiss landscape Concept
SSAP	Single Species Action Plan

Federal Laws and Ordinances cited

Texts of the laws can be downloaded (in French, German and Italian) from the Homepage of the Federal Authorities of the Swiss Confederation (www.admin.ch/ch/f/rs/rs.html). The direct link for texts in English, if available, is given in the footnotes.

Abreviation	Title	Systematic compilation
NHG	Federal Law on the Protection of Nature and Landscape of 1 July 1966	451
JSG	Federal Law on Hunting and Protection of Free-living Mammals and Birds of 20 June 1986	922.0
JSV	Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Free-living Mammals and Birds, of 29. February 1988	922.01
WZVV	Ordinance on Waterbirds and Migrants of 21 January 1991	922.32
ASchV	Endangered Species Ordinance, of 19 August 1981	453
BV	Federal Constitution of 18 April 1999	101
USG	Federal Law on the Protection of the Environment of 7 October 1983; 51	814.01
LWG	Federal Law on Investment Aid in Mountainous Areas of 21 March 1997	910.1
GSchG	Federal Law on Water Pollution Control of 24 January 1991	814.20
GSchV	Ordinance on Water Pollution Control of 28 October 1998	814.201
RPG	Federal Law on Land-Use Planning of 22 June 1979	700
BGF	Federal Law on Fishery of 21 June 1991	923.0
VEJ	Ordinance related to Federal Game Reserves	922.31
UVPV	Ordinance related to the impact on the environment of 19 October 1988	814.011

⁵¹ SR 814.01, not legally binding English translation, www.environment-switzerland.ch/imperia/md/content/stobobio/biotech/divers/2.pdf, status July 2005.

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Status of Single Species Action Plans

Species	Distribution in Switzerland	Action plan status
Lesser White-fronted Goose <i>Anser erythropus</i>	No sightings in 20th century	An Action Plan would involve disproportionate efforts.
Ferruginous Duck <i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Regular winter visitor, sporadic breeding bird, altogether 2 breeding records, population in mid-January 5-30 individuals	An Action Plan would involve disproportionate efforts.
Marbled Teal <i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	No confirmed sightings of wild birds, 6 sightings of escapes from captivity between 1991 and 1998	An Action Plan would involve disproportionate efforts.
Slender-billed Curlew <i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>	1 sighting in 1973	An Action Plan would involve disproportionate efforts.
White-headed Duck <i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	8 sightings in 20th century	Switzerland is implementing provisions of the Action Plan endorsed by the European Council (i.e. measures to eradicate <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>).
Black Stork <i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Sporadic migrant, on average 52 sightings per year (1990-1999), upward trend, overflies Switzerland, rarely stops over for longer than 1 day/night	An Action Plan would involve disproportionate efforts.
Common Loon <i>Gavia immer</i>	Rare winter visitor, average number seen in mid-January 114 individuals (1985-1996), isolated individuals or pairs seen on Lake Geneva and Lake Constanc	An Action Plan would involve disproportionate efforts.
Horned Grebe <i>Podiceps auritus</i>	Rare winter visitor, 6-18 sightings per winter season (1985-1995), average number seen in mid-January 1-7 individuals (1967-1996), numbers constant since 1967	An Action Plan would involve disproportionate efforts.
Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i>	Regular winter visitor, sporadic breeding bird, has wintered regularly in the Central Plateau since 1960/61, numbers increasing, isolated individuals have nested on the Flachsee since 1983 and on Lake Sempach since 1994.	Protection measures by law equivalent to a SSAP.

	Breeding population partly derived from escapes from captivity (SCHMID et al. 2001 ⁵²)	
Red-crested Pochard <i>Netta rufina</i>	Regular winter visitor on lakes north of the Alps, average number seen in mid- January 10,743 individuals (1991–2000, max. 21,079 individuals; Schmid et al. 2001), sharp rise since 1990 due to deterioration of wintering grounds in SW Europe (period of drought) and improved food resources in Switzerland.	The European Union (EU) has developed a SSAP for the Red-crested Pochard. An adaptation of this SSAP for the whole Agreement area could be considered.
Eurasian Spoonbill <i>Platalea leucocordia</i>	45 sightings between 1900 and 1996	An Action Plan would involve disproportionate efforts.
Baillon's Crake <i>Porzana pusilla</i>	Sporadic summer visitor, 0–3 sightings per year, broods observed at irregular intervals, last seen in 1981	An Action Plan would involve disproportionate efforts.
Whooper Swan <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Regular winter visitor, in small numbers on Lake Constance [Eriskirch (D), Rhine Delta (A)] and the Untersee (western part of Lake Constance, Ermatinger Becken), and since 1981/82 in small numbers on the Klingnau reservoir, seen irregularly in the Central Plateau	An Action Plan would involve disproportionate efforts.
Yellow-billed Loon <i>Gavia adamsii</i>	4 sightings between 1973 and 1996	An Action Plan would involve disproportionate efforts.
Pygmy Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>	No sightings in 20th century	An Action Plan would involve disproportionate efforts.
Smew <i>Mergellus albellus</i>	Regular winter visitor in small numbers, average number seen in mid-January 27 individuals (1986–1996, max. 49 individuals), marked annual fluctuations, isolated individuals or small groups seen in low-lying areas	An Action Plan would involve disproportionate efforts.
Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Regular winter visitor in small numbers, 4–40 sightings per winter season, most frequently at Fanel (Canton Berne) and on the southern shore of Lake Neuchâtel	An Action Plan would involve disproportionate efforts.
White Stork <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	Re-established species, regular summer visitor, breeding bird and migrant, numbers increasing in Switzerland, 176 breeding pairs in 1997 (Central Plateau, Basel region)	An Action Plan in preparation.

⁵² SCHMID H., M. BURKHARDT, V. KELLER, P. KNAUS, B. VOLLET & N. ZBINDEN, 2001: Die Entwicklung der Vogelwelt in der Schweiz / L'évolution de l'avifaune en Suisse. Avifauna Report Sempach 1, Annex, 444pp.

Appendix 2: List of sites of international importance

Reserves of international importance according to the Ordinance on Waterbirds and Migrants (WZVV)

Nr.	Site	Establishment	Revision
1	Ermatingerbecken	1991	
2	Stein am Rhein	1991	2001
3	Klingnauerstausee	1991	
4	Fanel–Chablais de Cudrefin, Pointe de Marin	1991	2001
5	Chevroux bis Portalban	1991	2001
6	Yvonand bis Cheyres	1991	2001
7	Grandson bis Champ-Pittet	1991	2001
8	Les Grangettes	1991	2001
9	Rhône bis Verbois	1991	2001
11	Versoix bis Genf	2001	

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

Appendix 4: List of research and monitoring programmes and projects

Informations available at the Swiss Ornithological Institute (CH-6204 Sempach)

«www.vogelwarte.ch»

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

Ornithological organisations in Switzerland:

- Ala - Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Vogelkunde und Vogelschutz
<http://www.ala-schweiz.ch/>

- **Ficedula - Società pro avifauna della Svizzera italiana**
<http://www.ficedula.ch>
- **Nos Oiseaux - Société romande pour l'étude et la protection des oiseaux**
<http://www.nosoiseaux.ch/>
- **Ornithologische Gesellschaft Basel**
<http://www.ogbasel.ch/>
- **Die Vögel der Region Basel**
<http://www.voegel-der-region-basel.ch>
- **Schweizer Vogelschutz SVS - BirdLife Schweiz**
<http://www.birdlife.ch>
- **Storch Schweiz**
<http://www.storch-schweiz.ch>
- **Schweizerische Avifaunistische Kommission**
[SAK](#)

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