



COUNTRY REPORT FOR THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

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

Implementation during the period and

Contracting Party:

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1. Overview of Action Plan implementation

Summary of progress to date

- Annual waterfowl counts
- 11 designated wetland Ramsar sites
- 39 management plans involving wetlands
- 32 IBA sites identified and mapped
- Wildlife research and monitoring in National Parks, Games Reserves and Central Forest Reserves
- Increased awareness programs
- Bio-rights programs through community ecotourism and benefit sharing
- Increased collaboration with the private sector

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

Foremost, there is no national plan of action to cover AEWA. However, most of the planned activities derive from the various national institutions and civil society organizations that are directly involved in ecosystem management programs. These institutions have sector specific policies, plans and programs aimed at habitat management, species conservation and community involvement. Their actions and activities are supported by legal frameworks based on the national constitution. For example;

- a) The Wetlands Management Department is lead agency spearheading wetland management activities in Uganda. Uganda has a National Wetland Policy and a Wetland Sector Strategic Plan (2001-2010) to promote wise use and sustainable management of wetland resources (see section 3.6). Through this a number of activities are being undertaken to assess habitat conditions, species and to promote wise use of wetlands through community participation.
- b) The Uganda Wildlife Authority is responsible for the management of all wildlife resources in Uganda. Some of the protected area systems under UWA are migratory stopovers for waterfowls. UWA is guided by the Wildlife Act and a strategic plan (2007-2012) which outlines key conservation actions, activities and desired outcomes in the various protected areas. Specifically, it has a specialized monitoring and research unit, which is responsible for setting research and monitoring priorities, ranger based data collection, analysis, storage and coordinating activities of independent researchers.
- c) National Forestry Authority is responsible for managing all central forest reserves. It is guided by the National Forestry Policy and the Forest and Tree Planting Act. NFA promotes community participation, eco-tourism as well as biodiversity conservation programs and this includes migratory waterbirds.
- d) Nature Uganda on the other hand is a Civil Society Organization which

undertakes research, monitoring and advocacy. It has published a list of Important Bird Areas (32 sites) of Uganda, some of which were designated as Ramsar sites (10 IBA) and it is continuing to identify others. With support of the Wetlands Department and NFA, Nature Uganda has been instrumental in the development of the National IBA Strategy for Uganda. Nature Uganda is also implementing a wide range of projects such as single species monitoring, waterfowl counts and Wings over Wetlands program. It is guided by a strategic plan.

- e) The Wildlife Conservation Society through the Albertine Rift Program is also undertaking research and monitoring activities. WCS has also been very instrumental in capacity building for technical officers for the various agencies involved in wildlife and ecosystem management.

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

Some may also apply under 1.2

- a) **Undertake more surveys and research on species to identify more IBA and Ramsar sites.**
- b) **Mobilize resources for effective research, monitoring and capacity building.**
- c) **Document, publish and disseminate findings.**

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 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (1995), which provides that all natural resources are held in trust by government on behalf of the citizens.**
- ✓ **The National Environment Act (Cap 153, 1995), which is the framework law on environment. It clarifies on regulated activities in wetlands, wise use and also emphasizes the need to protect the environment and natural resources.**
- ✓ **The Uganda Wildlife Policy (1999) provides for sustainable wildlife utilization.**
- ✓ **Uganda Wildlife Act (Cap. 200) provides for Wildlife Use Rights (Classes A,B,C,D,E and F)**
- ✓ **The Control of Agricultural Chemicals (Act Cap 28), which regulate the nature, importation, use and discharge of agrochemicals into sensitive area and the environment at large.**
- ✓ **The National Forestry and Tree Planting Act which provides for sustainable management of forestry resources, biodiversity conservation and community participation.**
- ✓ **The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations No. 13 of 1998, which specifies the nature, level of EIA and conditions of approval.**
- ✓ **The National Environment (Wetlands, RiverBanks and Lake Shore Management) Regulations No. 3 of 2000 which puts special emphasis on protection of wetland resources, allied biodiversity and empowers local communities.**
- ✓ **The National Environment (Access to Genetic Resource and Benefit Sharing) Regulations No. 30 of 2005 which specifies the criteria and conditions for accessing and transfers of genetic materials within and outside the country.**
- ✓

b. Which organizations are responsible for implementation?

The Uganda Wildlife Authority, Wetlands Management Department, National Forestry Authority, National Environment Management Authority, Nature Uganda, Wildlife Conservation Society, Community Based Organizations, Local Governments, Wildlife Department.

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

- **Uganda has a National Biodiversity Technical Committee, which meets regularly to discuss technical issues. The National Environment Management Authority is also coordinating the implementation of Program of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).**

- The Institute of Environment and Natural resources, Makerere University also has a National Biodiversity Data bank, a GIS database with researched information on species and habitats including water birds.
- The local and technical authorities around Lakes Victoria, George and Kyoga have formed working groups such as Lake Victoria Local Authorities Association LVLAC, Lake George Basin Integrated Management Organization (LAGBIMO), Lake Kyoga Integrated Lake Management Organization (LAKIMO) to protect catchment areas as well as promote sustainable fishing.
- The Uganda National Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) recognizes the unique contribution of wetlands and environmental resources to poverty reduction and builds on integrated approaches to sustainable livelihoods while protecting the environment.
- The Uganda National Council of Science and Technology set up standards and guidelines for research, permitting and material transfer.
- Uganda also has a CITES contact office in the Ministry of Wildlife, Trade and Antiquities to oversee implementation of the obligations.
-

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)?

- See section 2.1 (a)
- The Wildlife User Rights Regulations is being developed, although the Wildlife Act and Policy are currently in use to regulate off-take
- International frameworks such as CITES and IUCN quotas are strictly adhered to. A legal framework to implement CITES is being developed.

b. Methods of taking?

Cages

c. Setting of taking limits and monitoring these limits?

- UWA annually sets quotas and sends to the CITES desk in the Ministry of Wildlife, Trade and Antiquities.
- Uganda is also in the process of developing National Wildlife Trade Policy to guide in species trade, quota and permitting process.
- The process of taking birds involves screening, stakeholder consultations, species identification, and provision of captive

permits, verification of datasheets and processing of export permits.

- **The District environment officer must endorse on the captive datasheet at the site of capture.**
- **These datasheets are the ones used to process the export permit and form a basis for verification and monitoring.**

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

Traditional hunting is practiced in some parts of the country. However, the impacts have not been documented.

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

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:

The single species action plans are in place, but mainly covering intra-African migrants. In addition, general surveys such as annual waterfowl counts and wetland inventories are undertaken. Single species research and monitoring is on-going especially for the crested cranes and blue swallows. Community capacity to monitor birds is being developed at Musamba islands Ramsar site by Nature Uganda.

a. Proposed?

- **For the Flamingos**

b. In preparation?

- **For the Shoebill Stork**
- **For the Grey Crown Cranes**
- **For the Madagascar Pond Heron**
- **For the Blue swallows**

c. Being implemented?

- **For Lapet faced vultures**

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.

- **No emergency measures**

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.

- **None**

Introductions

2.6 Has your country developed and implemented legal measures to prohibit the introduction of nonnative species? Please provide details, particularly describing measures to control the release or introduction of non-native species (please indicate which species and their status).

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.

Yes inventories have been done and published. Actually, most of the important refuges for waterfowls are wetland ecosystems as well as open grassland forest. The Wetlands Management Department conducted a detailed national inventory of most wetlands in Uganda (except in the then war zones of the north) between 1996 and 2001. The data collected has been integrated into the National Wetland Information System Database. It has led to more detailed studies on some wetland sites harboring endangered species, including migratory pelarctic birds. A process to update the inventory data is being considered due to administrative changes in the Districts where they occur as well as changes in ecological conditions caused by human pressure.

The Uganda Wildlife Authority through its Ranger Based Data Collection process undertakes routine data collection on species numbers, habitat conditions and resource use. These data are fed into the Management Information System Database (at park levels) for analysis. UWA also has a research and monitoring plan, which guides its research activities and collaboration with independent researchers.

Nature Uganda, a non-governmental organization, has been instrumental in spearheading waterfowl counts as well as coordinating research activities on waterbirds. Consequently, a list of Important Bird Areas of Uganda has been published. Most of these sites are currently also listed as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.

The Wildlife Conservation Society is actively involved in research activities in the Albertine Rift Graben lying in western Uganda. The Albertine Rift is listed as an Endemic Bird Area. Within this zone, very important ecosystems types exist, including some of the destinations for migratory waterfowls. A number of reports have been published on the status of species.

The Uganda Forestry Department (predecessor to the National Forestry Authority) also undertook a National Biodiversity survey of all Natural Forest in Uganda in the 90's. The reports formed a basis for setting management priorities, including protection of swamp forest ecosystems. Active research activities have been on-going in most of these forest reserves for both academic and managerial requirements.

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.

Most of the sites are currently protected or covered by both national and international law and conventions. Uganda has 32 Important Bird Areas. It also has 11 wetlands designated as Ramsar sites. 10 of these Ramsar sites are IBA. Currently one Ramsar site (Nabajjuzi) is also proposed as an IBA. The country also has 506 natural forests which are protected and managed as central forest reserves. In addition, there are 10 National Parks, 12 games reserves and 5 controlled hunting areas. In all these areas there are measures in place to protect biodiversity and promote wise use.

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 legal frameworks derive their mandate from the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. A number of statutory instruments are also in force to protect important cultural and biological sites. For example, the National Environment Act (1995) Cap 153 is the framework law on environment in Uganda. Lead agencies such as UWA, NEMA, and WMD derive most of their mandate from this law and other statutory instruments.

Uganda has also ratified to a number of international agreements and treaties to protect biological diversity and the environment such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Agreement on Eurasian-African Migratory Water Birds, the Convention on Trade on Endangered Species (CITES), Bonn Convention on Migratory Species, Party to World Heritage Convention,

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.

Yes. The type of management plans are sector specific and depends on set priorities. They range from General Management Plans (GMP), to community based management plans (CBMP), annual operational management plans (AOP) and business plans (BP).

The organizations implementing them are; the Wetlands Management Department (CBMP), Uganda Wildlife Authority (GMP/CBMP/OP/BP), National Forestry Authority (GMP, CBMP/OP/BP), Fisheries (CBMP) and local governments (CBMP).

All National Parks and major games reserves under UWA have GMP's. At protected area levels, AOP are developed to operationalize the GMP. CBMP are developed as a tool to regulate resource use in the co-management zones and fits within AOP planning cycle. Meanwhile, BP is developed at a strategic level as part of bilateral agreements with funding agencies.

The WMD is currently implementing the CBMP. This is because apart from wetlands falling within National parks or Forest reserves, the rest have no marked legal boundaries; hence the need to involve communities directly through resource use management plans.

WMD is also developing Framework Wetland System Management Plans targeting the four regional wetland catchment systems in Uganda. They are; Okole-Arocha Wetland System (northern region), Sezibwa Wetland System (central region), Doho-Namatala Wetland System (eastern region) and Rwizi-Rufuuha System (western region). This framework plan is currently covering 22 districts throughout the country. As opposed to CBMP, which is site specific, the framework plans are meant to address the broader trans-boundary wetland issues and involves setting up inter-district wetland committee who guide, monitor and supervise the implementation of activities within the system. Within a system many CBMP will be developed to address site specific issues.

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

a. Proposed?

**Wetlands Department: 3 wetland sites.
National Forestry Authority:
Uganda Wildlife Authority: 5 Game reserves**

b. In preparation?

Four Wetland Systems Framework Management Plans have been developed, waiting launching.

c. Being implemented?

**Wetlands Department: 39 CBMP plans developed (7 in Ramsar sites), 10 being implemented.
Uganda Wildlife Authority: 10 GMP for all national parks, BP and CBMP in resource use zones**

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.

The Ugandan government has a wetland policy in place to guide wetland resource users. A 10 year (2001-2010) Wetland Sector Strategic Plan (WSSP) is being implemented to operationalise the Wetland policy. The WSSP has seven strategic objectives, each having a list of activities and priorities for implementation. A number of key actions have been undertaken under each

strategic objective. For example;

Strategy 1: knowledge and understanding of ecological processes and socio-economic values of wetlands enhanced. **Here, wetland inventories and research were undertaken. In addition a national Wetland Information System database is in place and used for management Decision Support.**

Strategy 2: public and stakeholder awareness of wetlands and their beneficial products and services enhanced. **Here, a number of awareness programs are being implemented to target communities, schools, developers, the civil society organizations, churches on wetland values and importance. Public participation in wetland management has been enhanced and conflicts reduced as a result.**

Strategy 3: institutional framework for wetland management further developed and maintained. **The Wetlands Department has been formed to oversee policy issues, train district staff and supervise wetland management through out the country. A wetland advisory group is in place to guide on policy issues. The Districts have integrated wetland issues in their planning, budgeting and reporting frameworks. They also have Wetland Management Committees up to the lowest administrative levels.**

Strategy 4: appropriate wetland policy in place and enforced. **A deliberate enforcement program is undertaken to stop wetland abuse through surveillance, court actions and training law enforcers at various levels. Compliance promotions through Environmental Impact Studies, meetings, audits is being undertaken to regulate developments and use of wetlands. Dissemination of wetland laws and guidelines for resource use is also undertaken.**

Strategy 5: planning and management of wetland systems improved. **Guidelines for wetland resource use such as vegetable gardening, fish farming, and paddy rice are in place to guide wetland users. In addition, guidelines for budgeting and planning are also in place to guide District officials. A participatory management planning process is undertaken. Currently, a framework approach involving wetland systems is being used. And 39 management plans are in place for implementation.**

Strategy 6: vital wetlands protected and their characteristics and functions conserved. **Four critical wetlands in Kampala are currently in line for gazettement as wetland reserves. The boundaries of two wetlands have been surveyed already. A number of other vital wetlands have been protected through management plans, restoration and enforcement. 11 wetlands are currently protected as Ramsar sites and it is planned to have all of them fully gazetted as wetland reserves.**

Strategy 7: community based regulation and administration of wetlands resource use established and strengthened. **Process of wetland bye law formulation has been completed in two districts and others are being encouraged. Training for wetland resource users and community based planning undertaken.**

Some of the best practices include;

- Bio-rights programs through community ecotourism projects in Lutembe, Nabajjuzi, Mabamba and Nabugabo wetland Ramsar sites.
- Revenue sharing schemes around National Parks where 30 % of monthly park entry fees go to support community projects.
- Formation of school wetland drama groups and children's art competition
- Encouraging private sector participation in awareness programs; for example Uganda Breweries Ltd, supported production of wetland awareness materials.
- Encouraging public involvement. For example, EIA and audits around Lutembe bay Ramsar sites, waterbird monitoring in Mabamba Ramsar site.

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.

Restoration of degraded / encroached wetlands is a key priority now. This is because human pressure on wetlands has tremendously increased. The law in Uganda clearly prohibits draining wetlands as well as construction in them. The restoration programs in Uganda involve removal of all alien species, demolition of structures and blockage of man-made channels to permit reticulation. Normally, original wetland plant species are re-introduced to permit the ecological cycle to progress.

Prior to the exercise, the technical officers undertake surveillance, draft technical papers on the state of the wetland, then identify the stakeholders and involve them. The affected communities are thoroughly sensitized and advised on options. Wetland boundary delineation and marking is then undertaken as well as registration of the affected people. Blockage of drainage channels / reticulation is done and the wetland is then left to recover.

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) together with the Wetlands Management Department is currently engaged in the restoration of Kinawataka and Nakivubo wetland systems in Kampala. These wetlands buffer Lake Victoria which is an important stop over as well as breeding area for some of the migratory waterbirds. However, degradation and encroachment of the riparian wetland has immensely affected the quality of water in the lake as well as aquatic life. These may have affected the pattern of waterfowl

migration, as the numbers of birds that arrive in the Lutembe bay and other peninsular have gradually reduced. Consequently, management together with some local community members has joined hands to restore these wetlands. The process is extremely challenging due to a complex socio-cultural and political setting. Nonetheless, the government is fully committed to protect the inner Murchison bay from pollution. This requires full restoration of the surrounding wetlands.

Another restoration program was undertaken in Nakayiba wetland in central Uganda in 2005. This wetland is critical for the municipal water supplies and is also a refuge for migratory waterbirds as well as the highly endangered Shoe bill stork. The restoration was very successful and communities are now benefiting from ecotourism programs, especially bird watching.

Kyetinda wetlands, which buffers Lake Victoria, was also partially restored. The first stage involved eviction of army veterans who had forcefully occupied the wetland with the aim of constructing a market. Although, Kyetinda is not a popular stop over for the migratory waterbirds, it is crucial for protecting Lake Victoria from upstream pollutants. A more elaborate restoration plan has been developed for implementation.

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).

See section 2.1

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

Yes. By licensing, permits and verification.

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.

Currently, there is a ban on hunting of birds in Uganda until a policy is in place. At one point, there was captive breeding of local birds by a private farmer (Hasina Investments) in Entebbe, but this was suspended due to the bird flu epidemic.

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.

Statistics show that the number of foreign tourist visiting Uganda is increasing. A number of community based associations are profiting from eco-tourism initiatives. For example, the Lutembe bay Wetland Users Association is gaining from guiding bird watchers as well as selling crafts. In Mabamba and Nabajjuzi wetlands, communities are equally benefiting from the wetland. Equally, Uganda Wildlife Authority is benefiting a lot from park payments from visitors who visit Queen Elizabeth National Park as well as the Nile Delta in Murchison falls National Park to view waterbirds.

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

Uganda Wildlife Authority has a benefit sharing scheme where 20 % of monthly park entrance fees goes into community accounts to support local projects. Consequently, most people around Murchison Falls and Queen Elisabeth National parks have benefited directly from boreholes, school classroom blocks and improved roads in their society.

Communities also benefit directly by making and selling handcraft items to tourist. In addition, they benefit from employment opportunities as tour guides and ushers. A national network of bird guides was formed to help promote avi-tourism and develop capacity among communities.

Advocacy and participation is enhanced. In Uganda, seven Ramsar sites have community based wetland management plans and the people have been instrumental in advocating against potential abusers.

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.

Yes in Uganda EIA is a full requirement for projects likely to have impacts on wetlands, forests and other sensitive ecosystems. The National Environment Act Cap 153 (1995) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (1998) requires any developer who intends to undertake a project with potential impacts on the environment to undertake an impact study and submit a report to the Executive Director National Environment Management Authority for review and approval.

The EIA may be strategic (policy level) or operational (project based). The EIA process involves screening, scoping and decision making as its main steps. The level and number of stages the assessment will pass through depends on the extent and gravity of the project.

1. Small scale projects whose potential adverse impacts can easily be identified and mitigated would normally be approved on the basis of the mitigation measures identified without the need for detailed field investigations.

2. However, for projects for which there is some level of uncertainty on the nature and levels of impacts, a more detailed environmental impact review / study is conducted. If during the review adequate mitigation measures can be identified and incorporated in the project design, the need for detailed EIA would be eliminated and the environmental aspects of the project may be approved. The review would identify various options to enable the decision maker decide on the most appropriate in terms of severity of impacts on the environment.

3. Alternatively, projects which are deemed to have significant impacts and whose mitigation measures cannot be readily prescribed have to undertake a detailed Environmental Impact Study (EIS). These will determine impacts, mitigation measures and alternatives (which may have minimal impacts). It entails a greater public participation and stakeholder involvement.

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.

Recently, the government launched the national land use policy. This policy outlines strategies for management and use of land for production; sustainable livelihoods while protecting the environment. It synchronizes with other sectoral polices like the water policy, the wetlands policy and the wildlife policy in many aspects.

Of course, the biggest challenge to conservationist is that a large proportion of threatened / endangered species and their habitats fall outside gazetted areas. Specifically, the wetlands of Uganda have no marked boundaries yet they hold very important species of birds and other biodiversity. Consequently, the policies sometimes find themselves in conflict. Quite a number of resource use conflicts are often reported in the local media and most of them arise due to lack of awareness among people / practitioners and conflicting policies.

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 Uganda National Council for Science and Technology is the lead agency for research in the country. However, other organizations and agencies of government conduct management oriented research to fit into key / priority sectoral policy issues, plans and programs. All this fit into the main paradigm of government through sector investment plans and ministerial policy statements.

To be specific, research on waterbirds and their habitats have been widely conducted by academic institutions, notably Makerere University, National Agricultural Research Organization (Forestry, Fisheries, and Agronomy), Nature Uganda (single species research on the Crowned Cranes, Blue Swallows), Wildlife Conservation Society, Uganda Wildlife Authority.

For foreign researchers, they have to be licensed by the National Council for Science and Technology.

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

Annual waterfowl counts are conducted in selected sites. Nature Uganda spearheads the exercise with support from the Wetlands Management Department and District officials.

6. Education and information

Training and development programmes

6.1 Describe the status of training and development programmes which support waterbird conservation and implement the AEWA Action Plan.

Training programs may either be academic or management oriented for specific skill development. Academic courses are conducted by major public institutions of learning. While skill development courses are sector based, depending on human resources needs and capacity development plans. In some cases, non-governmental organizations (like wildlife conservation society, Nature Uganda) arrange training programs for government personnel to equip them with specific skills needed for waterbird monitoring like bird census techniques, GIS etc.

Uganda has benefited from many short courses on wetland management. Wetlands International, through the Poverty and Reduction Project has so far organized four training workshops (held at Entebbe, Uganda) on wetlands and poverty reduction for the Anglophone countries. Many wetland and environment officers from Uganda have also attended the African Wetland Management Course at the KWS training center in Naivasha, Kenya.

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

Well Uganda is often represented at scientific conferences, meetings and workshops by technocrats who present position papers, research findings and share experience. Most research information is also widely published locally and in international journals. Many government institutions and parastatals have websites with updated information.

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)? The Important Bird Area atlas, posters, brochures and newsletters are routinely published by the lead agencies and circulated widely to the public. Wetland groups have been formed and are active in many wetland sites and schools. Community wetland management plans have been developed in seven Ramsar sites in a participatory manner, encouraging local level support. Guidelines for wise use of wetlands have been developed for public use. Training of local government and NGO personnel on wetland importance, the law and wise use are routine undertaken.

7. Final comments

7.1 General comments on the implementation of the AEWA Action Plan

- **Although Uganda has no national AEWA Plan, the various sectors have strategic plans and work plans aimed at protecting waterbird habitats, species and promote wise use.**
- **Uganda is also a signatory to various multi-lateral agreements and treaties aimed at protection of waterbirds and their habitats**
- **There is need to designate on institution of government and a desk officer to take lead in the implementation of the AEWA action plan. This will help streamline and synchronize efforts as well as strengthen collaboration between government and its partners.**
- **It may also be necessary to tailor some aspects of the AEWA action plan to fit into local situations and conditions.**
- **Financial resources are greatly needed for capacity development (including community level) and field operations**

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

a. The Agreement Secretariat

b. International organisations

c. AEWA NGO partners

Good relationship exists with Wetlands International, which has been conducting a series of training for wetland practitioners on wetlands and poverty reduction.

Nature Uganda is also participating in the Wings Over Wetlands Program with other range members.

7.3 How might the Action Plan be further developed as a practical aid for national and international conservation of migratory waterbirds?

- **It must be tailored to local situations.**

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

- **Species action plans will be developed to target more species**
- **Coordinated research will be strengthened on status of single species**

2. Habitat conservation

- **Most wetlands, including all Ramsar sites will be gazetted as wetland reserves**
- **Bye laws and ordinances will be formulated at the local levels to regulate wetland use**

3. Management of human activities

- **More management plans will be developed for wetlands, game reserves and forest**

4. Research and monitoring

- **A national research strategy will be developed by stakeholders**
- **Regular monitoring and documentation will be done**
- **AEWA coordinating unit will be set**

5. Education and information

- **Awareness materials will be developed and circulated widely**
- **Technical information will be packaged and provided for policy makers at all levels**

NB: AEWA NATIONAL COMMITTEE WILL BE SET UP FOR COORDINATION, PLANNING AND ADVOCACY.

List of abbreviations and acronyms used in the report

GMP: General Management Plan

AOP: Annual Operation Plan

CBMP: Community based management plan

BP: Business Plan

CBD: Convention on Biological Diversity

UWA: Uganda Wildlife Authority

NFA: National Forestry Authority

NEMA: National Environment Management Authority

WCS: Wildlife Conservation Society

WMD: Wetlands Management Department

IBA: Important Bird Area

KWS: Kenya Wildlife Service

WSSP: Wetland Sector Strategic Plan

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Status of Single Species Action Plans

Appendix 2: List of sites of international importance

Site name	Status	Remarks
Mgahinga Gorilla National Park	National Park / IBA	
Echuya Forest	Forest Reserve / IBA	
Nyamuriro swamp	Wetland / IBA	
Bwindi Impenetrable National Park	National Park / IBA	
Rwenzori Mountains National Park	National Park / IBA	
Kibale National Park	National Park / IBA	
Queen Elisabeth National Park and Lake George	National Park / IBA / Ramsar site	
Kyambura Wildlife Reserve	National Park / IBA	
Semliki National Park	National Park / IBA	
Semliki reserve	Game reserve / IBA	
Lake Mbura	National Park / IBA / Ramsar site	
Mabira Forest	Forest Reserve / IBA	
Sango Bay area	Forest Reserve / IBA / Ramsar site	
Musambwa Islands	Wetland / IBA / Ramsar site	
Lutoboka point	Island / IBA	
Nabugabo wetland	Wetland / IBA / Ramsar site	
Mabamba Bay	Wetland / IBA / Ramsar site	
Lutembe Bay	Wetland / IBA / Ramsar site	
Budongo Forest	Forest Reserve / IBA	
Murchison falls	National Park / IBA / Ramsar site (at the Nile Delta)	
Ajai Wildlife Area	Game Reserve / IBA	
Mount Kei	Forest Reserve / IBA	
Mount Otzi	Forest Reserve / IBA	

Doho Rice Fields	Wetland / IBA	
Lake Nukuwa	Wetland / IBA / Ramsar site	
Lake Bisina	Wetland / IBA / Ramsar site	
Lake Opeta	Wetland / IBA / Ramsar site	
Mount Elgon	National Park / IBA	
Mount Moroto	Forest reserve / IBA	
Kidepo Valley	National Park / IBA	
Nabajuzzi wetlands	Wetland / Ramsar site	Proposed as IBA site

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

Site name	Type of plan	Lead institution
Nyamuriro swamp	CBMP	Wetlands Dept / Kisoro District Local Government
Queen Elisabeth National Park and Lake George	GMP, CBMP in resource use zones	UWA
Semliki National Park	GMP, CBMP in resource use zones	UWA
Semliki reserve	GMP, CBMP in resource use zones	UWA
Lake Mbura	GMP, CBMP in resource use zones	UWA
Sango Bay area	GMP, CBMP in resource use zones	NFA
Musambwa Islands	CBMP	Wetlands Dept, (District , Nature Uganda)
Nabugabo wetland	CBMP	Wetlands Dept, (District , Nature Uganda)
Mabamba Bay	CBMP	Wetlands Dept, (District , Nature Uganda)
Lutembe Bay	CBMP	Wetlands Dept, (District , Nature Uganda)
Murchison falls	GMP, CBMP in resource use zones	UWA
Doho Rice Fields	CBMP (in preparation)	Wetlands Dept (District)

Lake Nukuwa	CBMP	Wetlands (District , Nature Uganda)	Dept, Nature
Lake Bisina	CBMP	Wetlands (District , Nature Uganda)	Dept, Nature
Lake Opeta	CBMP	Wetlands (District , Nature Uganda)	Dept, Nature
Kidepo Valley	GMP	UWA	
Nabajuzzi wetlands	CBMP	Wetlands (District , Nature Uganda)	Dept, Nature

Appendix 4: List of research and monitoring programmes and projects

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

Institution	Type	Mandate	Location
Wetlands management Department	Government institution	Promote conservation and wise use of wetland resources in Uganda	Ministry of Water and Environment, Kampala
Wildlife Department	Government institution	Policy for formulation and coordination	Ministry of Wildlife, Trade and Antiquities, Kampala
Uganda Wildlife Authority	Government parastatal	Promote conservation and wise use of wildlife resources	Kampala under Ministry of Wildlife, Trade and Antiquities
National Forestry Authority	Government parastatal	Promote sustainable forestry practices and management	Kampala under the Ministry of Water and Environment
National Environment Management Authority	Government parastatal	Regulate developments and environmental	Kampala under the Ministry of Water and Environment

		management	
Nature Uganda	Civil society	Research, monitoring and advocacy	Kampala
Wildlife Conservation Society	Civil society	Research, monitoring and advocacy	Kampala
Makerere University and its various field research stations	Government University	Research, training and advocacy	Kampala

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

Wetlands Department: www.wetlands.go.ug

Uganda Wildlife Authority: www.uwa@uwa.org

Nature Uganda: www.natureuganda.org

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