



15th MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
11 – 13 December 2019, Bristol, United Kingdom

**REPORT ON ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AEWA FOR
THE EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA REGION**

This report provides an update of the activities undertaken in the Europe and Central Asia region of the AEWA.

The number of Contracting Parties in the Region / Number of Range States in the Region.

There are 37 Contracting parties (including the European Union) out of 54 Range States (including Canada) in the Europe - Central Asia Region of the AEWA: 36/50 in Europe and 1/4 in Central Asia.

These Contracting parties are: Albania, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, European Union, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Northern Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan.

13 countries have submitted a report.

Belgium

Which developments regarding the implementation of AEWA have taken place in your country since the last Meeting of the Parties?

Nothing to report. AEWA is well implemented already in Belgium.

Overview of special activities and/or meetings related to AEWA

- The process for the development of a species protection plan for wet grassland breeding birds has been initiated in the beginning of 2019. The plan will focus on the breeding populations of the Eurasian curlew and Black-tailed Godwit in Flanders (northern part of Belgium). It is linked with the EU International Multi-Species action plan for breeding waders in wet grassland habitats in Europe (Eurosap), the ISSAP Black-tailed Godwit (AEWA) and the ISSAP Eurasian Curlew (AEWA). The species protection plan is foreseen to be approved by the end of 2020 and will run from that time on for 5 years.
- Belgium is participating in the AEWA European Goose Management Platform. Financial support is foreseen to be provided to the AEWA EGMP datacentre for the year 2019 (but has been delayed to the end of the year due to administrative issues).
- Belgium participated to the 4th meeting of the EGMP international working group in Perth (Scotland) in June 2019. In advance a regional stakeholder meeting was held to discuss the proceedings of the AEWA EGMP activities and to conclude the point of view to be taken to the EGMP IWG meeting in Perth by the National Focal Point.
- Works to enlarge and improve the important coastal intertidal wetland 'ZWIN' at the Dutch-Belgian border have finished early 2019. The wetland has been expanded with 120 hectares since early

February 2019 to reach ca. 333ha today. Besides the enlargement of the intertidal area, it also intends to address the problem of the silting up of the existent intertidal salt marshes. This site is of international importance as a stopover site during migration and as a hibernation site for waterbirds. For breeding waterbirds like Terns, Avocets and other waders, special breeding islands were designed in the existing wetland and in the expanded area.

- The species management plan for breeding European herring gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull in Flanders is approaching its finalization. This process took 2 years of intensive stakeholder participation. The aim is to reduce the nuisance of breeding birds on rooftops in urban and industrial areas by combining scaring measures and providing alternative nesting opportunities. As the Belgian coast is heavily urbanized, the search for alternative nesting opportunities with no or limited nuisance was quite a challenge.
- The population model for the resident barnacle goose population in Flanders is completed. Besides insight in population dynamics and suggestions for potential population management, the study also showed that the Flemish breeding population of barnacle geese does hardly mingle in time and space with the migrating birds that come during the winter.
- As to meet Recommendation n° 149 (2010) of the Bern Convention, and the obligation of the European Regulation n° 1143/2014, the control program on ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) has been continued in 2019. The aim is to have the species eradicated by 2020. At present, sightings of ruddy duck have become very scarce. Probably no more than a handful of birds remain.

Overview of special issues that might be of interest to the StC

- Belgium participates in the AEWA Eurasian Curlew international working group. Due to administrative issues we could not attend the meeting on September 18th in Paris where the proposal of the development of an Adaptive Harvest Management Process was discussed. We intend to follow up this process/working group in more detail in 2020.

Any other relevant information

- N/A

Norway

Which developments regarding the implementation of AEWA have taken place in your country since the last Meeting of the Parties?

- The environment authorities in Norway has been instructed to produce a new seabird action plan by 2020. Other ongoing activities related to seabirds will of course continue, such as SEAPOP and SEATRACK.

Overview of special activities and/or meetings related to AEWA

- Norway continues to be a strong financial supporter of the AEWA activities related to geese management. A contract for renewal of a full time officer on i.e. geese issues at AEWA for another three years will be in place within the end of the year.
- Norway has also offered to join as a cosponsor for a potential new EU Life program from 2020 on the Lesser White-fronted Geese, but awaits any decision by the EU. Inside Norway new local management plans for geese are established and research on mitigation continues for species like Pfg, BG and GLG. This also includes training and coordination of hunters and hunting practices to reduce crippling and increase offtake. Norway also continues to support financially the IWC by WI.

- Norway has forwarded to the Bern Convention Standing Committee (3.-6. Dec. 2019) a proposal to down list the Barnacle Goose from Appendix II to Appendix III, which reflects and celebrate that this species is now the most numerous goose species in Europe.

Overview of special issues that might be of interest to the StC

- N/A

Any other relevant information

- N/A

Republic of Croatia

In the period since last AEWA MOP held in Durban, South Africa (4th-8th December 2018) several relevant activities took place:

- Under the Interreg V-A Slovenia –Croatia project “Preserving the Tern Populations in the Sava and Drava Basin -ČIGRA" (2017-2020) monitoring and habitat management of Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* breeding colonies in Natura 2000 sites were undertaken. The preparation of Bilateral Action plan for the protection of inland Common Tern population is carried out. The Workshop with stakeholders was held in June 2019. The plan should be finished until early 2020.
- World Migratory Bird Day was celebrated in Croatia: events reported by Croatian Society for Bird and Nature Protection, ZOO Zagreb, ZOO Osijek, as well as several public institutions responsible for management of protected areas and Natura 2000.
- Croatian representative is the coordinator of the AEWA-Eurasian Spoonbill International Expert Group. In 2019 the ESIEG submitted the proposal to change delineations of the Eurasian Spoonbill and published Proceedings of the IX Workshop of the AEWA Eurasian Spoonbill International Expert Group.
- In October 2019 Republic of Croatia introduced the permanent hunting ban (from 1st of January until the 31th of December) for the Common Pochard *Aythya farina*. The permanent hunting ban was proclaimed with the new Ordinance on hunting ban (OG 94/2019) that entered into force on the 10th of October 2019 (link to pages of the OG: https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2019_10_94_1848.html).

Romania

Which developments regarding the implementation of AEWA have taken place in your country since the last Meeting of the Parties?

The international LIFE16/NAT/BG00847 Project - **Conservation of the Red-breasted Goose along the Global Flyway (Life for Safe Flight)** has been implementing together with the Romanian partners (Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, Romanian Ornithological Society, the Administration of the Small Wetland of Brăila Natural Park, the General Association of Hunters and Anglers) and the international partners: Bulgaria, Ukraine, Russia and Kazakhstan.

Overview of special activities and/or meetings related to AEWA

The Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests organized in Bucharest together with the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) Secretariat and the Bulgarian Society

for the Protection of Birds, the 4th Meeting of the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group during the period 11-15 November 2019 and the 2nd AEWA Red-breasted Goose International Working Group, during the period 13-15 November 2019.

Ornithologists from: Norway, Turkey, Bulgaria, China, Japan, Turkmenistan, Poland, Greece, Estonia, Iran, Finland, Lithuania, Sweden, Hungary, Russia, Ukraine, Wetlands International, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Science, Institute of Biology Bucharest, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Danube Delta National Institute, Ecological Society Aquaterra, FACE, Romanian Ornithological Society/BirdLife Romania participated to the working groups.

The AEWA Working Groups were an opportunity for technical exchanges among government officials, scientists, professionals and non-governmental organizations from different countries, to present their research findings on topics related to the migratory water birds, especially for the conservation of wetlands, the Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*) and the Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*).

The experts also analyzed the results of implementation of AEWA Red-breasted Goose International Single Species Action Plans and discussed about the capacity-building efforts, awareness campaigns, highlighting the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their natural habitats.

A new updated and revised draft of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) was elaborated and it will be approved through the Government Decision.

The Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests will organize in the period 17-20 December 2019, working groups for public information and consultations for elaborating the National Action Plan for the Conservation of the Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*).

Sweden

Which developments regarding the implementation of AEWA have taken place in your country since the last Meeting of the Parties?

- Sweden is participating in the AEWA European Goose Management Platform. Financial support has been provided to the AEWA EGMP for 2019.
- Yearly national monitoring program for wintering sea birds (IWC) that also includes subspecies and demographic separation of Taiga and Tundra Bean Goose.
- Study to identify the presence of the two subspecies *fabalis* and *rossicus* among shot Bean Geese.
- Sweden is currently developing a national management plan for large grazing birds.
- Sweden is currently planning for aerial monitoring of the open sea this winter. This is a coordinated action between several HELCOM countries and is intended to be carried out approximately every six years. The purpose of this action is to get a better knowledge of the species which are not satisfactorily covered by the regular monitoring schemes (i.e. loons/divers, auks, grebes, Velvet Scoter, Common Scoter, Common Eider and Long-tailed Duck).
- Ongoing efforts related to the successful national SSAP for the Lesser White-fronted Goose. The Action Plan is currently being reviewed.
- As a part of the work with invasive alien species in Sweden five Egyptian Geese have been eradicated. The raccoon dog is almost completely eradicated through effective control measurements. Through control measurements and a disease, the muskrat only occurs in a limited area. The American mink is widely spread, and eradication takes place at a local level.

Overview of special activities and/or meetings related to AEWA

- Sweden have attended the meetings of the European Goose Management Platform and participated in its task forces.

- Sweden attended the meeting in Paris, France on 18 September 2019 to discuss the establishment of an adaptive harvest management process for the Eurasian Curlew.
- Sweden participates in the initiated revision process of ISSAP for the Lesser White-fronted Goose.
- During 27-29 May 2019, an international workshop on the conservation of the Swedish Lesser White-fronted Goose was held in Ammarnäs, Sweden. Participants consisted of governmental representatives from Sweden, Germany and the Netherlands, national experts and scientists and representatives from the county administrative boards of Västerbotten and Norrbotten in Sweden. Main aim of the meeting was to provide an update on the current status of the Swedish population, improve cooperation between the countries and discuss conservation issues ahead, both regarding (local) management measures and preparations for the revision of the AEWA International Single Species Action Plan as well as the Swedish National Action Plan. Moreover, gaps in knowledge were identified, and research priorities listed.

Overview of special issues that might be of interest to the StC

- N/A

Any other relevant information

- N/A

France

Which developments regarding the implementation of AEWA have taken place in your country since the last Meeting of the Parties?

- France carried on providing funding to the Technical Support Unit (TSU), which includes ONCFS and Tour du Valat.
- Since the report prepared for the MOP7, the TSU permanently implemented activities both in North and Sub-Saharan Africa.

In North Africa, the TSU:

- Organized the yearly workshop of the Mediterranean Waterbirds Network during the workshop which followed the 21st EBCC (European Birds Census Council) conference held in Évora, Portugal, 8-13 April 2019. This enabled the North African partners to attend this international event and to discuss with other national coordinators present at this conference.
- Carried on the technical support for IWC in North Africa continued through the organization of a second 10 day-training session on bird census in January 2019 in Tunisia. This training allowed two people, chosen by the national coordinators of each North African country, to train in identification and census of waterbirds. This training delivered by an expert ornithologist of the Tour du Valat and two Tunisian ornithologists thus strengthened the capacity of 10 people who will join the census network in their country. In addition to these 10 people, other Tunisian attendees were also trained to develop and / or improve skills in counting waterbirds.
- Prepared in collaboration with partners of the 5 North African Network countries, a scientific paper on trends in waterfowl numbers in North Africa which will value their historical data. The results of the analysis of the dataset realized with the support of the ONCFS and a PhD student at the Ecole Polytechnique de Paris were presented and discussed with the partners of Morocco and Tunisia in October 2018, during a 2-day-workshop, which allowed to point out the analyses to be completed.
- Presented recent results on analyses of trends populations at AEWA MOP 7 and other scientific international events, in collaboration with North African partners.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, the TSU:

- Organized, thanks to the co-financing of the François Sommer Foundation and the RESSOURCE Project (see below), the first training of trainers' workshop for the 3 African wildlife schools [Garoua Wildlife School (EFG), Cameroon, Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute (KWSTI) and College of African Wildlife Management (CAWM), Mweka, Tanzania] at CAWM, from 19 to 30 September 2018. This training is based on the WOW project Flyway training kit (FTK) and the ONCFS CD toolkit (see: <http://www.oncfs.gouv.fr/Oiseaux-ru225/Identification-et-comptage-des-oiseaux-deau-en-Afrique-ar1425>), which provide future African wildlife managers with theoretical and practical training on the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats. Optical equipment was delivered on this occasion. (See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSIymC4B42s>).
- Organized, in December 2018, with the support of the president of the Association "Les Amis des Oiseaux", the BirdLife partner in Tunisia, Hichem Azafzaf, a 4-day training workshop in Arabic for 24 Arabic-speaking teachers in Khartoum (Sudan). This workshop, which also benefited from the co-financing of the François Sommer Foundation and the RESSOURCE project, followed a first introductory workshop conducted in February 2018. Thanks to classroom and field sessions, these two workshops enabled lecturers/trainers from different Sudanese universities, conservation NGO and training/research institutes to take ownership of the teaching modules and materials (field manual and training CD) in order to deliver their content to their students.
- Carried out several of the activities of the RESSOURCE project in partnership with CIRAD, OMPO, BirdLife and Wetlands International, in particular in Chad, Egypt and Sudan. This project of an amount of 5 M€ on 4 years aims at enhancing the management of waterbirds in the Sahel and Nile Valley. Coordinated by FAO which also cofunds the project along with FFEM and UE, the project which began in November 2016, includes five components:
 - a) Monitoring of the resource
 - b) Conservation of the resource and integrated management of wetlands;
 - (iii) Knowledge and sustainable use of the resource
 - c) Capacity strengthening and (v) Improvement of legislative and institutional frameworks for the resource
- Thanks to this project, waterbird numbers and harvest are being surveyed in Senegal, Egypt, Chad and Sudan since 2016. In 2018 & 2019, the TSU was able collaborate with local partners to carry out the IWCs in Egypt, Sudan and Chad. The enumeration data were formatted and validated by the partners before being sent to Wetlands International for integration into the international database. (See the last issue of the RESSOURCE project Newsletter on: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca4996en/ca4996en.pdf>). In addition, the project continuously helps improve the local capacities in waterbird monitoring (see the movie on the Chad experience on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ja1z5p3S7o4&feature=youtu.be>)
- Presented RESSOURCE results and developments of the project at the MOP7 of the AEWA and made a second gift of optical equipment to the 3 African wildlife schools [Garoua Wildlife School (EFG), Cameroon, Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute (KWSTI) and College of African Wildlife Management (CAWM), Mweka, Tanzania] in plenary. In addition, TSU convinced the Belgian company KITE OPTICS to sponsor the 3 wildlife schools with one optical equipment at the forthcoming AEWA MOPs.

Technical cooperation with Russia, Belarus, Lithuania and Latvia:

- Through a financial support to the NGO, OMPO, France carried on the implementation of the project initiated in 2012 aiming at improving knowledge on the conservation status of 5 species of Turdidae (4 thrushes and the Blackbird) in Russia and Belarus and 6 species of Anatidae in Russia, Belarus, Latvia and Lithuania, with a focus on the Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*.

Eradication of invasive alien species of Birds

- The order of February 14, 2018 prohibits the introduction into the natural environment of several animal species, including the Canada goose. A more restrictive level (Level 2) also prohibits the possession, sale, exchange or transport of the IASs listed in the European regulation, with derogation for zoos (under conditions) and transitional measures for the current legal holders (no reproduction, no escape). The Egyptian Goose, the Ruddy Duck and the Sacred Ibis are regarded by Level 2, the objective being to avoid new introductions.
- For Canada goose, the control plan applied since 2012 has been evaluated. Populations continue to grow especially in urban areas where hunting is not allowed.
- For Egyptian Goose, not huntable in France, the destruction is allowed by prefectural orders.
- For Ruddy duck, the National strategy (2015-2025 National Plan to combat Ruddy Duck) is designed in accordance with the Berne Convention: only sworn officers can kill them (destruction shots). 177 Ruddy ducks including 49 females were thus culled in 2018, nearly 40% of them on Lake Grand-Lieu. This same year, the number of bird contacts was lower than in previous years. To complete the eradication, ONCFS is leading a 5 year-LIFE project for (01/10/18 - 30/09/2023) entitled "Oxyura against Oxyura" of € 1.68 million (out of which € 1.21 million from the EU).
- For Sacred Ibis, the destruction is implemented by ONCFS. The remaining population is estimated at c.a 200 birds in France.

Overview of special activities and/or meetings related to the AEWA

- 1st meeting of the AEWA Eurasian Curlew International Working Group (ECIWG) in Aberlady, Scotland, on 4-6 September 2018;
- 2nd Joint meeting of the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds and the UN-Environment/CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT3), Rome, Italy, 8-10 May 2019;
- 4th meeting of the AEWA European Goose Management International Working Group (EGMP-IWG), held in Perth, Scotland, 18-20th June 2019.
- France (MTES) organised with AEWA Secretariat, ONCFS and OMPO, a meeting of a sub-group of the AEWA Eurasian Curlew International Working Group (ECIWG) for the establishment of an adaptive harvest management process for the Eurasian Curlew, in Paris, France, 18th September 2019.

Overview of special issues that might be of interest to the StC.

Adaptive management

- Law No. 2019-773 of July 24, 2019 "Creating the French Office of Biodiversity, modifying the missions of federations of hunters and strengthening the environment police" has introduced the establishment of adaptive management for some species in particular migratory. The adaptive management there envisaged consists of adjusting more precisely the authorized harvest to the state of conservation of certain species, which are defined by decree. Hunters are closely associated in this process; they must report their hunting bags immediately through a smartphone application (Chassadapt). The practical arrangements for adaptive management are defined after consulting a dedicated Committee of experts and in relation to the action or management plans defined at supranational level (AEWA, European Union, e.g.). This expert committee (CEGA), officially created by the French Ministry for Ecological and Inclusive transition (MTES) on March 5, 2019, has already provided advice on the adaptive management of 3 migratory species: the Black-Tailed Godwit, the Eurasian Curlew and the Turtle Dove.

Hunting moratoria.

- The moratorium on the hunting of the Black-Tailed Godwit was renewed for one year on July 31 2019. The hunting of the curlew was reopened by the decree of 31 July 2019, as of 3rd August on the public maritime domain and 15th September on the rest of the national territory for a maximum harvest of 6,000 individuals. This reopening was intended to test, in field conditions, the adaptive management of the Curlew at the national level pending the AEWA-coordinated international adaptive management plan. However, the curlew hunting was banned on the whole metropolitan territory by the Council of State on 26th August.

Any other relevant information

- N/A

Republic of Croatia

Which developments regarding the implementation of AEWA have taken place in your country since the last Meeting of the Parties?

- N/A

Overview of special activities and/or meetings related to the AEWA

- Under the Interreg V-A Slovenia –Croatia project “Preserving the Tern Populations in the Sava and Drava Basin -ČIGRA" (2017-2020) monitoring and habitat management of Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* breeding colonies in Natura 2000 sites were undertaken. The preparation of Bilateral Action plan for the protection of inland Common Tern population is carried out. The Workshop with stakeholders was held in June 2019. The plan should be finished until early 2020.
- World Migratory Bird Day was celebrated in Croatia: events reported by Croatian Society for Bird and Nature Protection, ZOO Zagreb, ZOO Osijek, as well as several public institutions responsible for management of protected areas and Natura 2000.
- Croatian representative is the coordinator of the AEWA-Eurasian Spoonbill International Expert Group. In 2019 the ESIEG submitted the proposal to change delineations of the Eurasian Spoonbill and published Proceedings of the IX Workshop of the AEWA Eurasian Spoonbill International Expert Group.
- In October 2019 Republic of Croatia introduced the permanent hunting ban (from 1st of January until the 31th of December) for the Common Pochard *Aythya farina*. The permanent hunting ban was proclaimed with the new Ordinance on hunting ban (OG 94/2019) that entered into force on the 10th of October 2019 (link to pages of the OG: https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2019_10_94_1848.html).

Overview of special issues that might be of interest to the StC

- N/A

Any other relevant information

- N/A

Czech Republic

Which developments regarding the implementation of AEWA have taken place in your country since the last Meeting of the Parties?

- N/A

Overview of special activities and/or meetings related to the AEWA

- As a NFP I led the intersessional working group that prepared the National strategy to prevent poisoning and illegal killing of wild animals in the Czech Republic for period 2020 - 2030. We use the guidelines of CMS and draft of strategy focused on five important sources that affected a wide range of animals species: poison-baits, pesticides (especially insecticides and rodenticides), veterinary pharmaceuticals used to treat livestock, lead ammunition and fishing weights and other ways of illegal killing.
- The chapter concerning lead ammunition and fishing weights has been very important for water birds. I am afraid minister of the Environment decided at the last minute (2 days before approval of the document by government of the CR) to exclude chapter concerning lead ammunition and fishing weights from the Strategy due to interventions of gun keepers associations.
- The international training course on Sustainable Agriculture in Wetlands was held from 22 till 27 September 2019 in the Czech Republic in support of the implementation of the Resolution XIII.19 – Sustainable Agriculture in Wetlands, adopted by the COP13 of the Ramsar Convention and Resolution 6.4 Conservation and Sustainable Use of Migratory Waterbirds. Adopted by MOP 9 of the UNEP/AEWA. During excursion we visited also ornithological park Josefovské meadows – a restored floodplain meadow managed by the Czech Ornithological Society with the aim to combine waterfowl conservation and sustainable agricultural management.

Overview of special issues that might be of interest to the StC

- N/A

Any other relevant information

- N/A

- **United Kingdom**

Which developments regarding the implementation of AEWA have taken place in your country since the last Meeting of the Parties?

- The Governments of England and Wales took measures to begin the process of amending their respective hunting legislation to ban the hunting of Greenland White-fronted Goose to ensure compliance with AEWA.
- The UK significantly increased its engagement with the AEWA European Goose Management Platform in light of the adoption of the Barnacle Goose ISSMP at AEWA MOP7. The Greenland and Svalbard Barnacle Goose populations are of key interest to UK and the UK has begun discussions with relevant Range States to develop Adaptive Flyway Management Plans for the populations.
- The UK continues to control its invasive ruddy duck population. Less than 30 birds remain in the UK and efforts continue to eradicate them all.
- Many Governmental and Non-Governmental organisations across the UK have increased their efforts to conserve the UK's Eurasian Curlew breeding population. This includes a summit at the UK

Prime Minister's Residence (10 Downing Street) to explore what actions are required for this species. Further coordinated efforts are planned.

- The UK Government is exploring the possibility of developing a specific UK AEWAs Implementation Plan for the first time.
- The UK completed its report to the European Commission on the implementation of the Birds Directive (Article 12 Report) and this will form the basis for the upcoming UK AEWAs National Report.

Overview of special activities and/or meetings related to the AEWAs

- The UK made available £90,000 in voluntary contributions to the AEWAs Secretariat from the UK's Overseas Development Aid funds.
- The UK hosted an expert working group relating to the CMS African Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP) in March 2019. Given the overlap with AEWAs in the actions required under AEMLAP, the AEWAs Secretariat were invited to attend and the UK was very happy they were able to attend and contribute significantly to the discussions.
- The UK attended a joint CMS-Bern Convention meeting on the development of an Illegal Killing of Birds Action Plan, to which many Range States and the AEWAs Secretariat attended.
- The UK became Chair of the AEWAs Standing Committee and will host the 15th meeting of the AEWAs Standing Committee in December 2019. <https://www.unep-aewa.org/en/meeting/15th-meeting-aewa-standing-committee>
- The UK hosted and Chaired the 1st Meeting of the AEWAs Eurasian Curlew International Working Group in September 2018 <https://www.unep-aewa.org/en/meeting/1st-meeting-aewa-eurasian-curlew-international-working-group-na-arquata-breeding-range>
- The UK hosted the 4th Meeting of the AEWAs European Goose Management Platform International Working Group in June 2019 as well as the concurrent meetings of the AEWAs European Goose Management Platform Pink-footed Goose, Taiga Bean Goose, and Agriculture Task Forces <https://egmp.aewa.info/meetings/iwg/detail/4th-meeting-aewa-european-goose-management-international-working-group-egm-iwg-4>
- The UK attended an AEWAs meeting to discuss the potential of an adaptive harvest management plan for the Eurasian Curlew in Paris, France in September 2019 <https://www.unep-aewa.org/en/meeting/aewa-eurasian-curlew-meeting>
- The UK attended an AEWAs European Goose Management Platform meeting to discuss the creation of an Adaptive Flyway Management Plan for the Greenland and Svalbard barnacle goose populations in Reykjavik, Iceland in October 2019 <https://egmp.aewa.info/EGMP/BG/AFMP/Process>
- The UK attended AEWAs MOP7 in Durban, South Africa in December 2018.
- The UK attended AEWAs Technical Committee 15 in Bonn, Germany in April 2019.

Overview of special issues that might be of interest to the StC

- The UK waterbirds monitoring scheme 'The Wetland Bird Survey (WEBS)' published the latest 'WEBS Alerts' in October 2019 <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/wetland-bird-survey/publications/webs-alerts> with the previous 'Alerts' having been published in 2013. These 'Alerts' provide site-specific information on the trends of waterbird species at key protected sites, providing essential information on whether there has been significant changes in the populations of waterbird species on these protected sites. This allows conservation organisations to identify sites that may no longer be able to support the waterbird populations they once did and target their interventions appropriately and effectively.

Any other relevant information

- N/A

Republic of Serbia, Belgrade

Which developments regarding the implementation of AEWA have taken place in your country since the last Meeting of the Parties?

- Concerning the accession, the Republic of Serbia adopted the Law on ratification of Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) in October 2018. And became the party of AEWA with effect as of 1 March 2019.
- Since the Illegal killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds has been identified as main problem (law and institutional aspects) and in order to find ways of acting and cooperating between authorities and organizations in combating illegal activities related to birds, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted on 18 July 2019 the Conclusion (Decision) on the adoption of Recommendation no. 164 (2013) of the Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, adopted on 6. December 2013, concerning the implementation of the Tunis Action Plan for the period 2013 to 2020 for the eradication of illegal killing, capture and wildlife trade, which is an integral part of this Conclusion.

Overview of special activities and/or meetings related to the AEWA

- The realization of project “Atlas of Migratory Species of Birds and bats of Serbia” (realized by Natural History Museum, Belgrade and financed by the Ministry of Environmental Protection) has been finished and as a result of this, the Great Monography ATLAS OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF BIRDS AND BATS has been published by the Natural History Museum, Belgrade. The promotion of ATLAS has been held in the National Library of Serbia with a press and media publicity.
- In September 2019, the General Assembly of the Ring Centres has been organized by the Natural History museum - Centre for marking of animals (has been a member of EURING – European Union for Bird Ringing from 1997).
- The RED BOOK OF FAUNA OF SERBIA - BIRDS has also been published by the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia (with co-publishers Faculty of Sciences, University of Novi Sad and Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia - NGO)

Overview of special issues that might be of interest to the StC

- N/A

Any other relevant information

- N/A

Estonia

Which developments regarding the implementation of AEWA have taken place in your country since the last Meeting of the Parties?

- N/A

Overview of special activities and/or meetings related to the AEWA

- In 2019 the Red List status of all Estonian AEWA species (breeders, wintering birds and migrants) was assessed.
- (Red List of Estonian Species. Preliminary assessments for species 2017-2018. Estonian Nature Information System (EELIS). Environmental Agency (dd.mm.yy))
- HELCOM Workshop on the analysis of sufficiency of measures for waterbirds (HELCOM SOM-Birds WS 1-2019) was held in Estonia, Tartu, Estonia, 3-4 October 2019
- Estonia took part of the 4th Meeting of the European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG4) held on 18-20 June in Perth, Scotland
- In 2018 three management plans for AEWA species were updated: Management Plan for Back Stork, Management Plan for Tundra Swan and Management Plan for Dunlin for the next 10 years.

Overview of special issues that might be of interest to the StC

- N/A

Any other relevant information

- N/A

- **Ukraine**

Which developments regarding the implementation of AEWA have taken place in the region since the last Meeting of the Parties?

- in the framework of State Cadastre of Animal Kingdom up-to-date data of 32 waterbird species listed in the Red Book of Ukraine and AEWA have been compiled and analysed using unified format (https://menr.gov.ua/files/docs/Bioriznomanitya/%D0%9A%D0%B0%D0%B4%D0%B0%D1%81%D1%82%D1%80_%D1%82%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B8%202018%20.pdf);
- National Action Plan on Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*) has been elaborated and adopted by the Ministry of Ecology and National Resources of Ukraine (Ministerial Order No. 102 of 11.03.2019, available at https://menr.gov.ua/files/docs/nakazy/2019/nakaz_102.pdf);
- Encyclopaedia of Migratory Species of Wild Animals of Ukraine has been prepared and published ([https://menr.gov.ua/files/images/news_2019/31102019/%D0%95%D0%BD%D1%86%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%BF%D0%B5%D0%B4%D1%96%D1%8F%20\(2-%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%B0%D0%BF\)_30.09.2019.pdf](https://menr.gov.ua/files/images/news_2019/31102019/%D0%95%D0%BD%D1%86%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%BF%D0%B5%D0%B4%D1%96%D1%8F%20(2-%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%B0%D0%BF)_30.09.2019.pdf));
- World Migratory World Day has been celebrated in various regions of Ukraine.

Overview of special activities and/or meetings related to AEWA

In the framework of the project “Polesia - Wilderness without borders: Protecting one of Europe’s largest natural landscapes”, supported by the Frankfurt Zoological Society and the Endangered Landscape Programme, Ukrainian Society of the Protection of Birds (USPB) conducted a surveys on verification of:

- a) The breeding pairs of Eurasian Curlew / *Numenius arquata* on the territory of Syra Pogonya mire in Rivnensky Nature Reserve (Rivne region);

- b) Migration hotspots of the Black-tailed Godwit / *Limosa limosa* in the Prypyat River valley, Volyn and Rivne regions; also breeding points of the species were verified within Prypyat Polissya area (Volyn, Rivne, Zhytomyr and Kyiv regions);
 - c) The leks of the Great Snipe / *Gallinago media* within Volyn and Rivne regions;
 - d) The nests of the Black Stork / *Ciconia nigra* within Prypyat Polissya area (Volyn, Rivne, Zhytomyr and Kyiv regions).
- The database for 35 IBAs has been updated.
 - USPB is developing methodology for the field surveys for the impact assessment of the wind farms installation on bird communities.
 - The monitoring of the Aquatic Warbler / *Acrocephalus paludicola* in Ukraine was performed in 2019 by the USPB experts. 4 key breeding territories of the Desna-Dnipro population group were surveyed.
 - In 2019 the information regarding World Migratory Bird Day was posted on the USPB Facebook page.

Overview of special issues that might be of interest to the StC

- N/A

Any other relevant information

- In collaboration with the Coca-Cola Foundation USPB implements project: “Restoring of freshwater ponds on the South of Ukraine”. This year the restoration works on the lakes Dovge and Solone on the territory of the national nature park “Oleshkivski Pisky” (Kherson region) were performed. Park employees declare increase of water birds on the territory;
- USPB installed a bird-watching point on the lake Dovge in the national nature park “Oleshkivski Pisky” (Kherson region);
- In the framework of the project “Polesia - Wilderness without borders: Protecting one of Europe’s largest natural landscapes” USPB prepared and sent 9 nominations for the Emerald sites designation to the Ministry of Energy and Environmental Protection of Ukraine, part of them includes wetlands.
- In the framework of the project “Carpathian Primeval Forest Conservation”, supported by the Frankfurt Zoological Society, USPB ensured the expansion of three national nature parks in the Carpathians (Uzhansky, “Zacharovany Kraj” and “Synevyr”).

Switzerland

Which developments regarding the implementation of AEWA have taken place in your country since the last Meeting of the Parties?

The national hunting law is under revision. The parliamentary discussion is concluded. What is relevant for the AEWA is that:

- a) All ducks are to be protected except mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), common teal (*Anas crecca*) and tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula*);
- b) The waterfowl inventory of the Swiss Ornithological Institute (SOI), Sempach, dating from the 1990s is to be updated;
- c) On its basis further migratory bird reserves should be designated;
- d) The lead ball is foreseen to be completely banned and lead shot partially (more than only in wetlands);

- e) The recreational activity Standup paddling, which is very disruptive for waterfowl, should be restricted in the sensitive areas for waterfowl. The deadline for collecting signatures is mid-January 2020. If the signatures come together (most probably), the referendum (public vote by all) will take place in Spring/Summer 2020.

Overview of special activities and/or meetings related to AEWA

- N/A

Overview of special issues that might be of interest to the StC

- Switzerland is very active in the field of CBD Post2020 and the theme of “connectivity”

Any other relevant information

- The Swiss Ornithological Institute has published its 2013-2016 Switzerland Bird Atlas in November 2018. The entire atlas is available on <https://www.vogelwarte.ch/en/atlas/home-page/> in English (besides: German, French, and Italian: The thematic fact sheets ("Focus") e.g. No Limits to leisure activities are very informative. <https://www.vogelwarte.ch/en/atlas/focus/no-limits-to-leisure-activities>).

Reports not provided by:

- Albania
- Croatia
- Denmark
- Georgia
- Germany
- Hungary
- Luxembourg
- The Netherlands
- Slovakia
- Slovenia

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