



Report on the status of waterbird populations in the AEWA area for the period 2013-2018

Through Resolution 7.1, the 7th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP7) to AEWA adopted, amongst other things, the format for national reports on the implementation of AEWA for the period 2018-2020 as presented in document AEWA/MOP 7.17.

Document AEWA/MOP 7.17 envisages a module on the status of native and non-native waterbird species, but it was agreed that this module will be developed by the Technical Committee and approved by the Standing Committee in early 2019. The format for reporting on Article 12 of the European Union's Birds Directive (EU BD) for the period 2013-2018 was agreed as the basis for this module, while focusing only on some fields of the EU reporting template, notably those in Annex B, chapters 1-5.

The alignment of the AEWA population status reporting module with the EU BD Article 12 template for 2013-2018 will, on the one hand, allow reporting of all necessary information by the AEWA Contracting Parties needed for the assessment of the status of AEWA populations, and, on the other hand, will require the EU members states that are Contracting Parties to AEWA to report only once their national data for the native species listed in Annex 2 of AEWA, providing that access to the EU BD Article 12 national reports will be granted to the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat. If any EU Member State with overseas territories within the AEWA area has not reported on the AEWA-listed species in those territories, data should be submitted through the AEWA reporting process.

Unlike the EU BD Article 12 template, the AEWA population status reporting module should request similar type of information for non-native waterbird species as for native species. The EU members states will therefore, like all other AEWA Contracting Parties, need to fill out the AEWA population status reporting module with respect to the status of the non-native waterbird species occurring in their territories, including overseas territories within the AEWA area.

In order to be able to use the national data reported by the AEWA Contracting Parties for the 8th edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report, this reporting module has been set up separately in the CMS Family Online Reporting System and the deadline for submission of the national population status reports has been set by MOP7 at 30 June 2020.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of reporting Contracting Party

>>> Ascension Island (Overseas Territory of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Date of entry into force of AEWA in the Contracting Party

>>> 01/11/1999

2. INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

Please indicate the Designated National Respondent (DNR) and the other contributors to the Report on the population size and trend of AEWA-listed (native) and non-native waterbird species in the Agreement area for the period 2013-2018.

Name and title of the DNR

>>> Danny Heptinstall

Affiliation (institution, department, organisation)

>>> Joint Nature Conservation Committee

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Other contributors to this report

Please list the names and affiliations (institution, organisation) of the other contributors to this report

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>>> Diane Baum (Ascension Island Government)

Johanna Hawker (JNCC)

3. AEWA-LISTED (NATIVE) WATERBIRD SPECIES

Please report on each species in the drop-down menu. This list contains all AEWA waterbird species that occur in your country. Should you identify any omissions, please contact the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat.

United Kingdom

Red-billed Tropicbird / *Phaethon aethereus*

Population Size

Breeding numbers

Please indicate whether estimate of the breeding numbers is available

Breeding numbers estimate is available

Latest breeding numbers estimate

Year or period [Year or period when numbers were last determined]

>>> 2019-2020

Population unit

Pairs

Numbers [Raw, i.e. not rounded). Provide either interval (minimum - maximum) and/or best single value. In cases when only best single value is available, ideally provide lower and upper confidence limits in the data fields for minimum and maximum and indicate them as such.]

Minimum	150
Maximum	200
Best single value	

Type of estimate

Best estimate

Method used for breeding numbers estimate

Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data

Previous breeding numbers estimate

Please indicate whether a previous estimate of the breeding numbers is available

No previous breeding numbers estimate is available

Additional information (optional)

Please provide any additional or complementary information to the data provided above in this section, if available

>>> Feral cats once roamed mainland Ascension. A feral cat eradication in 2004 successfully removed all feral cats. Since then the population of all seabirds is expanding as they re-colonise from offshore stacks. More nesting habitat= more nesting attempts. insufficient/no data on increase is available.

Passage and staging numbers

Does the species migrate through the country?

No

Non-breeding/wintering numbers

[Non-breeding/wintering distribution is the terminal destination of migration as opposed to other areas where birds pass through or stop-over at during non-breeding season movements]

Please indicate whether estimate of the non-breeding/wintering numbers is available

No non-breeding/wintering numbers estimate is available

Population trend

Breeding numbers

Please indicate whether:

Short-term and/or long-term breeding numbers trend estimate is available

Please indicate whether estimate of the breeding numbers short-term (last 12 years) and/or long-term (since ca. 1980) trend is available

Breeding numbers trend estimate is available for:

Short-term trend

Short-term breeding numbers trend estimate

Trend period [2007-2018 (12-year rolling time window) or a period as close as possible to that]

>>> 2004-2018

Short-term trend direction

Increasing

Short-term trend magnitude [Percentage change over the period indicated above. Provide either interval (minimum - maximum) and/or best single value. In cases when only best single value is available, ideally provide lower and upper confidence limits in the data fields for minimum and maximum and indicate them as such.]

Minimum	
Maximum	
Best single value	

Method used for short-term breeding numbers trend estimate

Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data

Long-term breeding numbers trend estimate

Additional information (optional)

Please provide any additional or complementary information to the data provided above in this section, if available

>>> Until 2004, this species was strictly limited to offshore stacks including Boatswainbird Island and remote unaccessible locations. Since the feral cat eradication, this species now nests on the main island in good numbers.

Passage and staging numbers

Please indicate whether estimate of the short-term (last 12 years) and/or long-term (since ca. 1980) trend of passage and/or staging numbers is available

[Passage numbers trends are expected to be reported for a small number of species where it is feasible to determine the numbers of individuals passing through the country by applying targeted migration census in areas of relatively narrow migration corridors. This would include species such as storks, pelicans and cranes]

[Staging numbers trends refer to the number of individuals that stopover in the country during migration]

Does the species migrate through the country?

No

Non-breeding/wintering numbers

[Non-breeding/wintering distribution is the terminal destination of migration as opposed to other areas where birds pass through or stop-over at during non-breeding season movements]

Does the species occur in the country during the non-breeding/wintering season?

Yes

Is short-term and/or long-term non-breeding/wintering numbers trend estimate available?

No

Breeding range size and trend

Does the species occur in the country during the breeding season?

Yes

Is range size and/or short-term and/or long-term range trend estimate available?

No

5. CONFIRMATION

Confirmation of information verification and approval for submission.

***Please confirm:**

In addition a scanned copy of an official letter from the relevant state institution, approving the report for submission, can be attached.

I declare that the information provided in the Report on the population size and trend of AEWA-listed (native) and non-native waterbird species in the Agreement area for the period 2013-2018 has been verified and the report has been approved for submission by the appropriate state institution in the country.

***Date of submission**

>>> 17/07/2020