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

Implementation during the period 2005 and 2007

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1. Overview of Action Plan implementation

This report for the fourth Meeting of the Parties (MoP) covers the implementation period 2005-2007. It provides information about Dutch initiatives and best practices in relation to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats, in the context of the AEWA Action Plan.

The Netherlands has a long history of international collaboration to conserve waterbirds since it holds important waterbird breeding areas, is a major wintering area, and is strategically located on important flyways. The Netherlands has strongly supported the development of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds Agreement (AEWA).

The Dutch Legislation on wildlife management and hunting fulfils the obligations of the AEWA Agreement and the Action Plan.

As presented in the following report the implementation of actions mentioned in the Action Plan has been undertaken since many years, e.g. establishing of nature reserves in a National Ecological Network including hunting and disturbance free zones, restoration and rehabilitation of wetlands, persecution of alien invasive species, campaign to reduce crippling, enhancing the local stakeholder dialogue regarding species management and hunting, etc.

1.1 Summary of progress to date

The EU Birds Directive provides a framework for the implementation of the provisions of AEWA in the Netherlands. With the aid of both the EU Birds and Habitats Directives sites Natura 2000 sites have been selected. These sites belong to the European Natura2000 network. The Natura 2000-network in the Netherlands is almost complete. The Netherlands must have designated all non- marine Natura 2000-sites by 2010. Since 1993, using lead shot for hunting waterbirds in and near wetlands has been restricted in the Netherlands. Since 2002 lead shot is totally prohibited in the Netherlands.

Most legal obligations under AEWA have already been met in the Flora and Fauna Act.

Monitoring of birds and sites has been an important activity for a long period in the Netherlands. The Dutch Network for Ecological Monitoring engages thousands of volunteer birdwatchers and provides statistically reliable data on status and trends of species and sites of national and international importance.

Several international projects on migratory birds and/or wetland conservation have been funded in the past triennium. A list, identical to the annex of the national report (2008) for the Ramsar convention, has been attached.

As regards the conservation of migratory birds and flyways the Russian federation and West-Africa are the regions that have the strongest ecological relation with the Netherlands. The conservation of migratory birds has been a major reason to start environmental cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Netherlands in the

early 1990s (Soviet Union 1991, confirmed RF 1993).

In September 2007 a seminar was held in Moscow to celebrate 15 years of cooperation on environmental protection between Russia and the Netherlands. During the seminar a detailed presentation on the ecological relations through migratory birds (and the role of AEWA) was given by Wetlands International.

For this seminar three publications were prepared:

- 1) Brochure '15 years of cooperation on environmental protection between Russia and the Netherlands'
(http://www.verkeerenwaterstaat.nl/kennisplein/3/6/362401/15_jaar_Rusland.pdf);
- 2) Russian-Dutch Cooperation on nature conservation 1991-2006
(<http://library.wur.nl/WebQuery/catalog/lang/1860957>);
- 3) Russian-Dutch Cooperation on water management 1991-2006
(<http://library.wur.nl/WebQuery/catalog/lang/1861164>).

These publications refer to a great number of activities and publications under the bilateral MoU between Russia and The Netherlands.

In January 2007 a new Framework Programme 2007-2008 under the MoU on environmental protection between Russia and the Netherlands was signed. It consists of two pillars, both partly linked to AEWA priorities and themes. The first pillar focuses on nature conservation. Specifically, it looks at the conservation of migratory birds (including flyway conservation) of the African Eurasian Flyway and the Central Asian Flyway, alongside ecological networks and the integration of biodiversity in forest management and tourism.

The second pillar looks at (integrated) water management. This umbrella theme also has relevance for migratory birds.

In addition, the cooperation in relation to key multilateral fora include Ramsar, CMS and AEWA. Therefore relevance for these fora are taken into account in the decision making process on applications for project support under the BBI-Matra programme (including KNIP). The Netherlands hopes that these activities will contribute to Russian membership of AEWA in the future.

In 2008 a new project on the Inner Niger Delta was started under the Partners for Water II programme, as a practical follow-up of the earlier project 'resulting in the publication 'The Niger a Lifeline'. It includes the development of a prototype decision support system to support the planning / operation of water resources developments in the upper Niger Basin.

In March 2007 a ceremony was held in Scheveningen in which the proceedings 'Waterbirds of the World' of the Edinburgh conference in 2004 were presented. The Dutch and British responsible ministers and leading personalities from AEWA, CMS, Ramsar and Wetlands International were present.

In the Netherlands major areas of interest regarding AEWA species are the breeding populations of waders and ducks in grasslands and wintering and passing water birds from northern and eastern countries.

Despite important efforts in the framework of the agri-environmental programme (SAN), the population of *Limosa limosa* is still declining. Although most of the problems occur in the breeding areas, research has been conducted (and is still going on) on the wintering sites in Africa and stop-over sites in Europe. In 2007 the report 'Wintering areas and spring migration of the Black-tailed godwit' was published by Altenburg & Wymenga (report 820) for Birdlife-Netherlands (Vogelbescherming Nederland) and the ministry of Agriculture, Nature & Food Quality.

Annually SOVON publishes the results of the midwinter count in the Netherlands. In January 2007 over 5 million water birds were counted. This was only the second time that more than 5 million were counted. For more information on monitoring see chapter 5.

Conclusions by species can only be made on a flyway basis, see 'Waterbird Population Estimates, fourth edition by Wetlands International (2007): <http://www.wetlands.org/publication.aspx?id=19fd14bc-f24e-4266-8abe-a155891b8790>.

Goose populations are thriving in the Netherlands. However, this often conflicts with agricultural interests. Current policies on the avoidance and compensation of goose and wigeon damage will be evaluated in the course of 2008.

In March 2008 a new (national and international) Policy Programme on Biodiversity 2008-2011 was adopted by the Dutch cabinet, after the policy programme for international biodiversity policies (BBI) had expired at the end of 2006. One of the five substantive themes is ecological networks, under which high priority is given to flyways and wetlands.

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

For the EU Birds and Habitats Directives the following actions are planned for the next years:

- Development of monitoring according the European legislation (EU Birds and Habitats Directives);
- Development of Natura2000 management plans specific for all Natura2000 sites, obligatory according the new Nature protection law (1-10-2005) in the Netherlands. This nature protection law is the juridical implementation of the EU Birds and Habitats in the Netherlands.
- The final designation of the non marine Natura 2000 sites must be completed by 2010. All Ramsar sites in the Netherlands are also Natura 2000 sites (under the EU Birds and/or Habitats Directives).
- Especially on grasslands important concentrations of water birds occur outside the Natura 2000 network. As for breeding waders and ducks the major conservation tool is the agri-environmental programme (Subsidieregeling Agrarisch Natuurbeheer-SAN), alongside the management of grassland reserves of the National Forest Service and site managing NGO's. For wintering geese and wigeons the 'Beleidskader Faunabeheer' (Policy framework on fauna management) applies, which is being evaluated in 2008.
- Further development of the National Ecological Network (which includes Natura 2000 but which is larger) and related corridors is under way. Various nature restoration projects are also under way, including those under the umbrella of the 'Room for rivers' initiative, which combines water management for safety reasons and nature development.

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

Concerning the external cooperation and relations of AEWA, the Netherlands support cooperation and synergies among international conventions, directives and initiatives such as (CBD, CMS, AEWA, CITES, EU Birds and Habitats Directive, PEEN. Another priority is the harmonization of reporting systems in order to avoid duplications of work. From the Dutch point of view, Natura2000 is of particular importance for the conservation of species and habitats in an coherent system of protected areas, providing the necessary connectivity, and resilience for the long term survival of species and ecosystems at a European level. Another important initiatives at the European level is the Pan European Ecological Network also supported by the Dutch government.

The Netherlands has a formal trilateral cooperation with Germany and Denmark on the protection and the integrated management and reporting of the Wadden Sea. The Dutch-German-Danish Wadden Sea has been proposed (2008) as a World Heritage-Site under the UNESCO World Heritage Convention.

In the new Policy Programme on Biodiversity 2008-2011 flyways and wetlands are a high priority under the theme ecological networks. The implementation of this theme will be further elaborated in the course of 2008.

The BBI-Matra programme will expire at the end of 2008. During 12 years many projects on migratory birds and/or wetlands have been funded from this facility, including both bigger projects and small embassy projects (KNIP-Matra). However, from 2009 on biodiversity will be included in the broader Matra programme run by the ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The BBI-OS programme has expired in 2006, its small embassy component (KNIP-OS) in 2007. However, this was only a modest part of the project funding by the ministry of Foreign Affairs on biodiversity, which will continue to exist in developing countries.

MOU's and KNIP projects

Memoranda of Understanding (MoU's) are partnership agreements between the Netherlands Ministry of LNV and partner countries: Poland, Hungary, Russian Federation and Ukraine in the fields of nature conservation (and, water management in the case of Russia). Now that the Matra programme, from which many projects were funded, has expired in Poland and Hungary after their EU accession, the project focus is on the MoU's with Russia and Ukraine.

KNIP-projects are part of the Small grants for Nature Initiatives Program. (KNIP-OS) and the BBI-Matra-programme (KNIP-Matra; European and Mediterranean countries). These projects fall directly under the management of the decentralized LNV representatives worldwide (see f.i. www.nlembassy.pl) However, project funding outside the Matra countries is currently suspended and the future is still uncertain.

The current research programme on migratory birds of Alterra will be restructured in 2009. Inter alia the place of the International Waterbird Census (IWC) and research related to national biodiversity policies (goose management; meadow bird conservation) are being reconsidered.

2. Species conservation

2.1 National policy/strategy

All of the AEWA species are covered by the EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC). In the Netherlands both parts of the EU Birds Directive, the habitat protection part and the species protection part, are fully implemented in the Nature Conservation Law and the Flora and Fauna Act.

<http://wetten.overheid.nl/cgi-bin/deeplink/law1/title=Natuurbeschermingswet%201998>

<http://wetten.overheid.nl/cgi-bin/deeplink/law1/title=Flora-%20en%20Faunawet>

2.2 Legal measures

See under 4.

2.3 Single species action plans

Being implemented: *Crex crex* 2004 - 2009

Other single species action plans have been finished.

Instead of single species action plans a new approach is developed, the so called habitat approach, in order to reach international biodiversity goals. The habitat approach aims at groups of species in their habitats, instead of on individual species.

2.4 Emergency measures taken

None.

2.5 Re-establishments

No recent new re-establishments have taken place after the successful re-establishment of the White stork (*Ciconia ciconia*; 556 pairs in 2005). However, spontaneous establishments have taken place in the course of recent years (starting well before the last triennium), such as those of Great white egret (102 pairs in 2005), Little egret (94 pairs in 2005), Barnacle goose (6000 pairs in 2005), Greater white fronted goose (400 pairs in 2005), Crane (2 pairs in 2005). The Grey-lag goose, which has resettled after reintroductions from 1961 on, is still increasing very fast (from 8000-9000 pairs in 1998-2000 to 25,000 in 2005). Data come from Limosa 80.1 & 80.2 (2007) (including quoted SOVON data).

2.6 Introduction (and invasive species)

The introduction of non-native species and captive bred specimens of indigenous species is prohibited. For invasive alien species a policy document has been prepared and sent to Parliament in 2007. According to the gravity of the impact of the species, different approaches are taken. For example, the ruddy duck is actively being persecuted in cooperation with the UK. Shooting of Nile geese (an exotic species in the Netherlands, not in the African part of the AEWA area) can be allowed by the provincial authorities. Canada goose is not an official exotic species and is protected under the EU Birds directive.

3. Habitat conservation

3.1 Habitat inventories

Has your country developed and published inventories of important habitats for species covered by the Agreement? If yes, please provide details, including any provisions to maintain or update these inventories.

In the Netherlands 79 areas, mainly internationally important wetlands, have been selected as Special Protection Areas (SPA's) according to the EU Birds Directive. 41 of these are Ramsar Sites according to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; furthermore 1 Ramsar site is in the process of designation as Natura 2000 site in relation to EU Habitats Directive. The SPA's all are situated in the National Ecological Network, which connects all important nature areas in the Netherlands. See also appendix 2.

Furthermore the list of "Important Bird Areas", drawn up by Vogelbescherming Nederland (Birdlife partner in the Netherlands) includes the areas important for, inter alia, water birds. These do not cover most of the feeding areas for geese. These, however, are indicated by the report 'High Nature Value farmland areas in The Netherlands' by Alterra (2007), though at an aggregated level (maps).

In addition the map of 80,000 ha geese- and wigeon areas where tolerance of feeding birds, actively chased from other areas, is promoted financially, may lead to increasing concentration in these areas. This policy is being evaluated in 2008.

Information on sites has been published in documents and on the home page of the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality:

<http://www.synbiosys.alterra.nl/natura2000/>

http://www.minlnv.nl/portal/page?_pageid=116,1640949&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

3.2 Conservation of areas

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.

See 3.1 and appendix 2.

3.3 Legal frameworks

Describe the legal frameworks and other measures through which sites (including transfrontier sites) of international importance gain practical protection. (Please append a list of internationally important protected sites.)

Natura2000

Article 4 of the EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) requires Member States of the European Union to establish SPA's (see 3.1), where there are appropriate means of conserving Annex I and/or migratory bird species, including the species covered by the Agreement.

This is implemented in the Netherlands through the “Amended Nature Conservation Act 1998” and the “Flora and Fauna Act”.

The **Nature Conservation Act** is designed for the protection of areas including making of management plans and assessment of impacts of activities in or nearby the sites. This will ensure that future projects, which may affect the Natura2000 areas, will be evaluated most carefully. On 1 October 2005 it has come into force.

The **Flora and Fauna Act** regulates protection of plant and animal species living in the wild. It includes those aspects of the EU Habitats Directive and EU Birds Directive dealing with species protection, and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Activities, which may be damaging to protected species, are essentially prohibited. It also recognizes that animals, which do not directly serve an obvious human need, are also of irreplaceable value. It includes a duty of care, applying to all animals and plants.

Active species policy

Measures to protect those species whose survival is threatened are dealt with in the so called habitat approach. This approach includes measures for groups of species in stead of the former species protection plans. The Minister has drawn up Red Lists for plant and animal species under threat, a list of species that have disappeared from a specific area, and species that have sharply decreased or are rare in an area.

The measures under the ‘habitat approach’ are on top of the regular efforts for the implementation of the National Ecological Network and Natura 2000 and are not restricted to these areas (e.g. measures for arable land birds) and not excluded there either.

National Ecological Network

In addition to the statutory protection of a number of nature areas, the Netherlands is also working on the National Ecological Network, a coherent network of nature areas. In these areas measures that may damage the natural values are not allowed, unless there are major reasons and compensation takes place. The aim is to achieve 730,000 hectares of nature by 2020 by further extension of the current area of nature areas. In addition, the Network comprises more than 6 million hectares of water, including the Wadden Sea and the IJsselmeer. The National Ecological Network is intended to link up with nature areas in Germany and Belgium in the future, and to contribute to the Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN).

3.4 Management planning

Has your country developed a management planning process for protected sites? If yes, please outline the types of management plans and organizations responsible for development and implementation.

For almost all nature reserves there are management plans. This is done by different organizations: National Forest Service, Vereniging Natuurmonumenten, provincial NGO’s (regional trusts), but also by other public or non-public organizations. These plans may differ in detail depending on the size of the area, the values in the area and the organization.

In addition, a programme for the preparation of management plans for of Natura2000 sites has been set up, including basic inventories, setting conservation goals, guidelines for management plans and setting up a monitoring scheme. The management plan of a Natura2000 site must be ready 3 years after designation of the site (designation of non marine sites completed by 2009). Lead organizations for the management planning

under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives are the provincial authorities, the ministry of Agriculture, Nature & Food Quality (National Forest Service: for its own sites), the ministry of Transport, & Public Works & Water Management, and the ministry of Defense.

3.5 Protected sites with management plans

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

a. Proposed?

Almost all nature sites in the Netherlands have management plans. The plans are different depending on the site(s) involved and the goal of the plan. According to the new Nature Protection Act (2005) in the coming years specific 'Natura2000 management plans' will be developed for the Natura2000 sites.

b. In preparation?

Management plans for the Natura 2000 sites are under preparation.

c. Being implemented?

See 3.5.a.

3.6 Wise use of wetland habitats

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.

General remarks

Under the Ramsar convention wise use of all wetlands and the conservation of designated sites only partially overlap. As most larger wetlands in the Netherlands are part of the National Ecological Network and Natura 2000 (42 of them are also Ramsar sites) these conservation policies and the wise use principle largely apply to the same areas. Below some aspects of wise use related to existing legal frameworks will be illustrated.

Under the new Nature Conservation Act (October 2005) sustainable use of protected areas (including wetlands of international importance) is required.

Wetland policies as part of nature policies

In the Netherlands wetland policy is a prominent but integrated part of general nature and biodiversity policy. National Wetland Policy is the chapter "Water Programme" in

the second Nature Policy Document (Nature for People, People for nature, 2000). The Dutch National Ecological Network (EHS), which includes wetlands, is also an integral part of the Dutch Spatial Planning Strategy (the legal basis on Dutch spatial planning, approved by Parliament in 2007, under the new “Wet op de Ruimtelijke Ordening” (Spatial Planning Act, <http://international.vrom.nl/pagina.html?id=7351>) in 2008. The Third Policy document on the Wadden Sea - a key national spatial planning decision is operational since January 2007.

The Waddensea

The wise use principle and ecosystem-based approaches are part of the Trilateral Cooperation for the Protection of the Wadden Sea, which was established between Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands.

European Water Framework Directive (WFD)

On the 22 December 2000 the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) was adopted. The purpose of the Directive is to prevent deterioration and protect, enhance and restore the status of aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly depending on the aquatic ecosystem. The Netherlands is implementing the Framework in its national policies and is currently defining types of water bodies. Goals must be set in river basin management plans by 2009.

To develop effective measures to achieve a good ecological status in the sense of the WFD, it is important to understand the relationships between the hydro morphological state of water bodies and the ecological targets. The functional role of designated wetlands within larger water bodies or river basins is particularly relevant for WFD implementation. This applies not only to the WFD objectives on protection, development and restoration of water bodies, but also to the relations with groundwater.

Fourth National Policy Document on Water Management 1998-2006

The water policy of the Netherlands' Government for the period 1998-2006 was laid down in the "Fourth National Policy Document on Water Management". This policy sets out a strategy under the name of integrated water management and takes interests into account such as flood protection, agriculture, ecology, public water supplies, transport, recreation and fisheries.

The Water Vision

The Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management (V&W) has prepared a new governmental vision for water management “Watervisie, Nederland veroveren op de toekomst, Kabinetsvisie op het waterbeleid” (2007). It was adopted by the Cabinet in September 2007. It is the start of a process, leading to, inter alia, the first National Water Plan in 2009.

The “Water Vision” describes the direction water policy developments should take in the coming years in order to make and keep the Netherlands climate-proof in the long term (e.g. through measures on the river Rhine and its branches). Major themes are: making the Netherlands ‘climate proof’ and multiple use of water management infrastructure for a better economy.

For example, the Water Vision emphasizes the need to cooperate in order to adapt water policy to expected changes in climate. In addition, the government intends to make a greater contribution to knowledge sharing with developing countries, as well as to enhanced involvement of the general public in water management questions, for instance, by giving ‘water’ a more prominent place in education.

http://www.verkeerenwaterstaat.nl/english/topics/water/water_and_the_future/water_vision/

http://www.verkeerenwaterstaat.nl/english/Images/0418%2E1037%20Brochure%20Water%20visie%20ENG1_tcm249-212287.pdf

Partners for Water

The inter ministerial Dutch 'Partners for Water' programme is meant to strengthen Dutch international activities in the field of water management and supply by combining knowledge, expertise and financial resources. Keywords of this programme are Integrated Water Resources Management, sustainability and strengthening of the institutional and legal aspects of water-related issues and the making available of knowledge and experience for the international water sector. Projects with a special focus on Water for Food and Ecosystems are available on the website www.waterfoodecosystems.nl

Projects with a special focus on Water for Food and Ecosystems are available on the website www.waterfoodecosystems.nl. Some projects relate to AEWA-relevant areas such as the Pechora basin in Russia and Inner Niger Delta in Mali. Information about the projects can be found at www.proforis.nl

Preparations for Partners for Water III are underway. The conditions are still under development.

3.7 Rehabilitation and restoration

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.

Wetland restoration and rehabilitation programs have a high priority in the Netherlands. For many examples of projects in the Netherlands see <http://www.natuurherstel.nl>.

Wetland restoration is applied in many areas but with a special concentration in the river forelands and sometimes surroundings.

Several projects with the aim to restore fresh salt-water transitions are being elaborated. A number of good practices are available at www.zoetzout.nl and www.onderzoeksinformatie.nl (most information in Dutch only).

Room for rivers

The PKB (Key planning decision) 'Ruimte voor de Rivier' ('Room for Rivers') for the area covering the major rivers was established in 2006 (<http://www.ruimtevoorderivier.nl/files/Files/brochures/EMAB%20PBK%20Engels.pdf>). Measures for flood control and nature development are combined at a large scale.

The Scheldt Estuary

The Scheldt Estuary Development Project (ProSes), a joint initiative of Flemish and Dutch governments, will make a solid, broadly supported Development Plan to guarantee sustainable development in the Scheldt estuary. The Scheldt Estuary Development Plan 2010 focuses on three ambitions Safety against flooding, Accessibility of Flemish and Dutch Ports in the region and naturalness of the delta www.proses.nl

Salt –fresh transitions

Gradual transitions between fresh and salt water, wet and dry and sand and silt have become rare in the Dutch delta. Many projects aiming at restoring these gradients have been initiated, varying from salt water marshes to restoring dune valleys with occasional intrusion of salt water.

Several projects have been realized. For example: the Directorate IJsselmeer Area has changed its sluice management in the Barrier Dam to improve fish migration from the Wadden Sea into the IJsselmeer (<http://www.rijkswaterstaat.nl/ijg/>)

In the area of the formerly brackish Haringvliet tidal wetlands used to occur at a large scale but lost most of their tidal influence after 1970, while the water became fresh. To manage flood risks the Haringvliet sluices were built in 1970 as a part of the Delta works and the Zuiderdiep (a former part of the Haringvliet) became an important part of the fresh water supply for the polders. Recovery of tidal wetlands is an important topic in Dutch nature management and the possibilities of the restoration of tidal wetlands in the Zuiderdiep area are being explored. Partial reopening of the Haringvliet sluices was considered and would create opportunities for brackish tidal wetlands. In 2004 the government decided that this inlet of seawater will be realized in 2008, but delays are not excluded.

Information about wetland restoration and rehabilitation can be found at the websites of the major knowledge institutes in the Netherlands:

- the Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment in Lelystad (<http://www.rijkswaterstaat.nl/rws/riza/home/waterdienst/index.html>),
- the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education in Delft www.ihe.nl,
- the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC, Enschede) www.itc.nl, and
- Wageningen International (<http://www.wi.wur.nl/UK/>) and Wageningen University and Research Centre www.wur.nl.
- See also the Dutch website on nature restoration (information in Dutch only) www.natuurherstel.nl

4. Management of human activities

4.1 Hunting, main legislation features

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).

In the Netherlands the Flora and Fauna Act regulate hunting. This act has entered into force in 2002. The act replaces, among others, the former Game Act and Birds Act. The Flora and Fauna Act is framework legislation and is therefore complemented and put into concrete terms by ministerial decrees and regulations and ordinances by the provincial councils.

Among waterbirds the only game species is *Anas platyrhynchos*. The hunting season is open from the 15th of August until the 1st of February. In the Special Protected Areas assigned on the basis of the EU Birds Directive and the Wetlands Convention hunting is prohibited. With regard to other waterbirds it is prohibited to pursue, capture, injure, kill or remove them from the wild, to disturb them during mating and breeding season and to damage or destroy their nesting or breeding sites.

4.2 Monitoring hunting

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

The total number of all specimens of huntable species (including non water birds) shot is recorded by the Game Management Units Data Base on a yearly basis and published by the Royal Netherlands Shooting Association. On a provincial level the number of shot animals per license are recorded too.

The Netherlands is an important area for over wintering for geese and wigeons. Generally large numbers of wintering geese are present between October and May. However these birds can cause economic damage to agricultural crops/grass. Therefore in the Netherlands about 80.000 hectares of grassland have been identified as so called geese foraging areas. In those areas the geese and wigeons are protected. Farmers receive payments for tolerating foraging geese and/or wigeons. In addition a system of damage compensation both inside and outside these areas is applied. Outside these feeding areas it is partly allowed to disturb geese and wigeons accompanied by shooting of relatively limited numbers (around 50,000/year are shot). This policy will be evaluated in 2008. In 2002-2006 a midwinter average of 1,528,000 geese and 789,000 wigeons were counted (SOVON).

Wintering Goose populations in the Netherlands are of great international importance. For example, of three species over 75% of the flyway population occurs in the Netherlands for some time. The flyway population in the Netherlands of the Barnacle goose of Russia-Baltic-North Sea is about 20 times as high as some decades ago (420,000 according to Wetlands International, 2006; 400,000 in 2002-2006 according to SOVON).

A recent development involves the so-called summer geese. Each year the breeding population of Greylag Geese increases, with an increasing effect on agricultural crops/grass. In 2008 a diversity of population control efforts will be taken to establish the most effective way to control the population. Other breeding goose species which are increasing rapidly are Barnacle goose and Canadian goose.

4.3 Managing hunting activities

Describe action undertaken by hunting clubs and organizations to manage hunting activity e.g. cooperative action, issuing of licenses and proficiency testing of individual members.

For all hunting activities a hunting license is required. To obtain a hunting license one has to pass an exam, including shooting tests. The Royal Netherlands Shooting Association offers possibilities to practice shooting, including clay pigeon shooting, in order to prevent or minimize crippling of waterbirds hunted. The association also has developed ethical hunting rules (“weidelijkheidsregels”).

Use of lead ammunition is prohibited. The Police and the General Inspection Service of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality carry out on-site controls.

4.4 Eco-tourism

What is the status of eco-tourism programs or initiatives in your country? Please provide examples of projects with an indication of the significant outcomes.

There is no Dutch national label for eco-tourism. Most eco-tourism initiatives are referred to as sustainable tourism or agri-tourism. The tendency in the tourism sector has been one of decreasing government interference, which has led to a wide variety of initiatives and networks at various levels.

Two labels worth mentioning are: The sustainability label; this is the Dutch eco-label for companies in the leisure sector (www.recron.nl). It is a reward for enterprises that have put efforts into their environmental management and it's a means to communicate the environmental friendly image of the enterprise to others (guests and the authorities).

An example project with significant outcomes is 'the Foundation for a Sustainable Texel (<http://www.duurzaamtexel.nl>). This organization initiates and stimulates activities that enhance sustainable development on the island of Texel. The foundation is active with six themes: Renewable Energy, Sustainable Building, Sustainable Business, Transport, Information and Education and Multiple Land Use.

Ecotourism such as in remote areas, including special expeditions, hardly occurs in the Netherlands. However, bird watching and other ways of recreation in nature and rural areas is very popular as recreation, both inside and outside the holiday season. Wadden Sea tourism often contains ecotourism components. Goose meat, obtained in the framework of the above-mentioned goose-policy, may get a touristic value also.

4.5 Social and economic benefits

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

Recreation is a relatively new function of wetlands that has developed over the last decades. The beauty of wetland landscapes is an important reason for recreation. Many wetlands like the Waddensea and the Weerribben generate a substantial income for their regions.

4.6 Other human activities

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.

The Dutch EIA is part of the Environmental Law, which implements European directive 97/11. Activities requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment are listed in the law and involve activities, which are potentially hazardous to the environment (e.g. infrastructural projects, water operations and waste management). An EIA procedure is initiated with a startup document being published by the authorities. The document is produced by the initiator and contains the basic project data. After publishing there is a four-week period for the public to have a say. Within 13 weeks after the publication of the startup document, the responsible authorities indicate the alternatives and environmental effects that should be dealt with by the EIA produce guidelines. Once the EIA report is submitted, authorities have a six-week period for acceptance. After acceptance the EIA report is published for a for public consultation. A commission taking the results of the consultation process in consideration then drafts an advice. Responsible authorities then make a final decision on the project. An evaluation is always part of a EIA.

In addition, in the Natura 2000 network (areas designated/to become designated under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives) article 6 of the Habitats Directive applies. In art. 6 of this directive it is prohibited to start projects in SPA's which result in significant loss of their natural values. If such a project is the only alternative available and of important public interest, the loss of natural values has to be compensated. This is implemented in the Dutch Nature Protection Act, art. 10 – 22.

4.7 Planning policy, main features

Please describe the main features of your planning policy and provide examples of practical implementation (e.g. activities to minimizing disturbance of species populations or limit the impact of species populations on crops or fisheries). Please summarize any land-use conflicts especially emphasizing successful solutions to problems encountered in promoting the wise-use of waterbirds and their habitats.

Planning is regulated at a municipality level by zoning plans. In planning, authorities should take into account areas protected by Dutch law (Natuurbeschermingswet / Nature Protection Act, art 10 – 22 as mentioned above). This law protects as of the first

of October 2005, all Natura2000 areas in the Netherlands. Authorities should also take into account the areas protected under the National Ecological Network (EHS), which are protected under the spatial planning act (WRO).

For all Ramsar sites which are designated as a Natura 2000-area, a management plan has to be prepared according to the EU Bird and Habitat Directives. A management plan does not only deal with the question how to attain the approved ecological objectives for each area, but also with the possibilities for other activities such as recreation, water management, agricultures, fisheries and military activities. A management plan combines a diversity of activities, with the approved objectives as the leading principle.

From July 2008 a new act on spatial planning will come into force. The old act dated from 1965 and has been revised often. From 1999 – 2006 the new act has been elaborated. It has been published in 2006. It has shorter and quicker procedures.

5. Research and monitoring

Status of research and monitoring programs for species

5.1 Research priorities

How are priorities for research identified in your country? Please briefly describe your country's research programs, 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 Netherlands strongly supports the goals of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) (www.unep-wcmc.org/aewa) under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention). The Netherlands considers the Ramsar Convention as the main instrument to achieve the goals of the AEWA on habitat conservation in the whole geographical region of the AEWA. Through the International Policy Programme on biodiversity (2002-2006) (<http://netherlands.biodiv-chm.org>) the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) has given substantial support for wetland projects to a number of Central and East European countries and countries in West Africa.

Many projects on wetlands and/or migratory birds, partly with monitoring or research components, have been supported under the inter ministerial programmes Partners for Water, BBI- MATRA and other funds (ministry of Foreign Affairs; embassies) related to the International Policy Program on Biodiversity 2002-2006 (BBI). The new Policy Programme on Biodiversity (2008; BB) again attaches great importance to the conservation of flyways and wetlands, as part of the theme 'ecological networks'. No new funds have been created under the BB but some of the existing possibilities will go on, though partly under different conditions (e.g. nature projects will no longer be part of a separate BBI-Matra programme but part of the broader Matra programme).

More information about the specific Themes: Strengthening of Biodiversity: species and Ecosystems; Oceans, coastal areas and marine wetlands and Wetlands and fresh water ecosystems can be found at: <http://netherlands.biodiv-chm.org>. All projects are described at www.proforis.nl.

From 2006 – 2008 the ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality financed a research project on migratory water birds of Alterra (part of Wageningen University & Research). This project includes the following sub projects:

- Sub-project 1 focuses on the use of wintering areas in West Africa by black-tailed godwits (*Limosa limosa*) and the relationship with rice farming.
- Sub-project 2 examines how the use of staging and wintering sites affect population growth of white-fronted goose and brent goose and how infection by Avian Influenza (AI) affects site use and migration patterns.
- Sub-project 3, done with and for Wetlands International, deals with the maintenance and analysis of the invaluable IWC database. The International Waterbird Census (IWC) database is at the heart of the world-wide conservation

of waterbirds and the wetlands they use. The headquarters of Wetland International is based in Wageningen. The Dutch government finances the contribution of Alterra (Wageningen) to the maintenance of the IWC database, although the situation after 2008 is still uncertain.

The planning for 2009 and beyond is currently under discussion.

5.2 Monitoring

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 programs initiated, ongoing or completed in the last three years

The Netherlands have participated in the International Waterbird Census for decades. The Midwinter count is very comprehensive and coordinated by SOVON. Yearly reporting takes place in 'SOVON nieuws' (see also www.sovon.nl).

Moreover monthly national counts, coordinated by SOVON, take place from September up to and including April in all important wetlands. In addition geese and swans are counted on grasslands in the same period.

International cooperation also exists for waterbird counts in the Dutch, German and Danish Waddensea. These counts (at high tide) are coordinated by the Wadden secretariat (connected to the trilateral cooperation on the Wadden Sea) in Wilhelmshaven, Germany.

Counts of breeding birds take place- apart from national rounds when the breeding bird atlas is updated, in specific areas (e.g. by SOVON, for the National Forest Service in its reserves) and, country-wide, for colony-birds and rare birds (see e.g. Limosa 80 (2007): 49-67).

Last but not least a monitoring programme for both breeding and migrating birds is implemented in the Natura 2000 areas by SOVON.

A comprehensive monitoring and reporting programme for the Natura 2000 network (including the Ramsar sites, which are all Natura 2000 sites) is in the process of further development.

Furthermore, the following initiatives can be mentioned:

The 'Nature Counter' (Natuurloket) www.natuurloket.nl offers a free and direct insight into the occurrence of protected species. Interactive maps at the website show the occurrence of protected species in each square kilometer. You can also obtain information about the relevant laws concerning these animal and plant species, such as the "Flora- en Faunawet" (Act on flora and fauna) and the EU Birds and Habitats Directives. The 'Nature Counter' is an independent information broker improving the accessibility of data on protected species. These data are provided by specialized organizations, united in VOFF (Society for Research on Flora and Fauna). These activities are now coordinated by a so called 'Data Authority on Nature'. This body checks data quality and availability of nature data.

In the framework of the implementation of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature & Food Quality is developing a system for the assessment of the changes in the sustainable conservation status of the sites. A major project "*Legal Research Tasks*" (WOT Wettelijke Onderzoeks Taken) is in progress on the moment (started in 2004).

Results of the Dutch monitoring network for the EU Birds and Habitat Directives can be found at: www.cbs.nl (keyword NEM) and <http://nemweb.ipo-rivm.nl/>.

6. Education and information

Training and development programs

6.1 Status of programs

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

There are many programs and trainings from both government as well as from volunteers, none of them however is explicitly linked to the AEWA Action Plan, but many can be seen as such.

6.2 Co-operative action

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

The Netherlands supports capacity building in other countries, in particular through the Training of Trainers programme of Wageningen International (part of Wageningen University & Research). Dutch-based organizations (including Wetlands International) cooperate in WETCAP. The Netherlands (RIZA until 2008, now provisionally by Waterdienst and Deltares) also hosts the secretariat of the Advisory Board on Capacity Building for the Ramsar convention.

These activities are, in a way, a follow-up of the former RIZA-wetland courses for individual participants, which had a good reputation and of which much use has been made.

The International Course on African Wetland Management (ICAWM), formerly run by RIZA and known as the East African Wetland Management Course is an international training initiative for Wetland Managers and has now become an independent initiative. The ICAWM has been developed in conjunction with the former Wetland Advisory and Training Centre RIZA - Rijkswaterstaat (RIZA-WATC) of the Netherlands and the International The former Agricultural Centre (IAC; now Wageningen International) contributed to especially the multi-stakeholder programme of the course.

Vogelbescherming Nederland, Dutch Partner of BirdLife International, also supports several international initiatives. Vogelbescherming has actively cooperated and financially co-supported the Ukrainian Birdlife partner UTOP, and, earlier, the setting up of Birdlife partners in other CEE countries.

Some BBI-Matra projects, funded by the Dutch government, also contain capacity building aspects.

6.3 Raising public awareness

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)?

Public participation was organized during the preparation of designation of new Natura 2000 areas. For the Bird Directive areas (SPAs) this was done before the last triennium. There activities, however, were no awareness campaigns linked to AEWA.

For members of the public who have queries concerning the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, the first port of call is the website of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality: www.minlnv.nl. Also there is a telephone number for questions of people. For farmers or other people who want to apply for subsidies, there is a special office window: www.hetlnvloket.nl.

7. Final comments

7.1 General comments

General comments on the implementation of the AEWA Action Plan

- a. The Secretariat should consider harmonizing the format of the Report of the Parties with other reporting obligations as for example for RAMSAR and the EU Birds Directive.
- b. AEWA is relatively unknown in the Netherlands. Improved communication and raising public awareness could be considered, e.g. through the periodicals of organizations such as Birdlife-Netherlands, WWF and SOVON.
- c. It could be suggested to optimize synergies with other international biodiversity related conventions. Perhaps the existing cooperation between the major biodiversity conventions (CBD, CITES, CMS, Ramsar, WHC) can be used for the daughter agreements of CMS also. The existing cooperation with Ramsar in the Wings over Wetlands project is an excellent example of cooperation between treaties.
- d. The NGO-partners fulfill a very important role. Their (institutional) independence, the quality of their input in debates, their strong communication with the public, and their immense networks of volunteers are seen as the most important and critical success-factors. Also their input is seen as a very cost-effective way to contribute to the objectives of the AEWA action plan.

7.2 Observations on AEWA bodies

Observations concerning the functions and services of the various AEWA bodies

a. The Agreement Secretariat

The Secretariat should consider harmonizing the format of the Report of the Parties with other reports as for example for RAMSAR, and the EU Birds Directive. Enhanced communication on AEWA at the national level, e.g. through cooperation with Birdlife (VBN), WWF (WNF) and SOVON at the Dutch national level could be considered.

b. International organizations

See 7.1.b and 7.2.c

c. AEWA NGO partners

The NGO-partners play a very important role. This is not only true at the national level, mentioned before, but of course also at the international level (Wetlands International, Birdlife International, etc).

7.3 Development of the Action Plan

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

In its role as a member of the Standing Committee of AEWA, the Netherlands have given input to the draft new Strategic Plan. A formal position on the de draft decisions of MOP4 in September 2008 will be prepared in the coming months.

8. Progress to implement Resolutions and Recommendations of the Meeting of the Parties

General: See Chapter 1.

Res. 2.1	AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEXES TO THE AGREEMENT Review the status of <i>Anas acuta</i> and <i>Somateria mollissima</i> , no activities in the last triennium.
Res. 2.2	PHASING OUT LEAD SHOT FOR HUNTING IN WETLANDS Lead shot is, in close cooperation and fully approved by the hunting community, totally prohibited in the Netherlands, see paragraph 1.1. and 4.1.
Res. 2.3	CONSERVATION GUIDELINES See chapters 2 and 3
Res. 2.4	INTERNATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES FOR 2003 – 2007 The Netherlands supported several NGO's and State parties to implement some of the identified actions
Res. 2.5	INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS: TECHNICAL COMMITTEE No comments.
Res. 2.6	INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS: STANDING COMMITTEE No comments.
Res. 2.7	FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS No comments.
Res. 2.8	GUIDELINES FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BUDGET OF THE AGREEMENT IN KIND IN LIEU OF CASH No comments.
Res. 2.9	FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SMALL CONSERVATION GRANTS FUND FOR THE AGREEMENT No comments.
Recommendation 2.1	INTERNATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON THE DARK-BELLIED BRENT GOOSE (Rotgans) See chapters 2 to 6.
Res. 3.1	CLOSURE OF THE REGISTER OF INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS Not Applicable
Res. 3.2	PROCEDURES TO REVIEW BIOGEOGRAPHICAL LIMITS OF WATERBIRD POPULATIONS The possibility to include a contribution to this work in future research for the ministry will be considered together with other options.
Res. 3.3	DEVELOPING GUIDELINES FOR INTERPRETATION OF CRITERIA USED IN TABLE 1 OF THE AEW ACTION PLAN Not Applicable
Res. 3.4	SUBMISSION OF NATIONAL REPORTS TO MOP Reported
Res. 3.5	DEVELOPMENT OF AN ONLINE NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT Not Applicable
Res. 3.6	DEVELOPING OF AN INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUPPORT OF WATERBIRD POPULATION ASSESSMENTS Through Alterra, part of Wageningen University & Research (WUR), which cooperates on this theme with Wetlands International, the Netherlands have contributed to the maintenance of the IWC for several years. As regards the situation after 2008 no decisions have been made yet.

- Res. 3.7 **IMPLEMENTING THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE *WATERBIRDS AROUND THE WORLD CONFERENCE***
As regards the (implicit) implementation of conclusions of the WAW conference, see this national report; the conservation of flyways also has a high priority in the new Biodiversity Policy Programme (BB), adopted by the cabinet in March 2008.
- Res. 3.8 **AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEXES TO THE AGREEMENT**
Positions to be prepared for MOP4.
- Res. 3.9 **DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR AEWA**
Input has been given to the draft Strategic Plan in our capacity as Standing Committee member (depository) ; Position on Strategic Plan to be prepared for MOP4.
- Res. 3.10 **COMMUNICATION STRATEGY FOR AEWA**
See chapters 1 and 6.
- Res. 3.11 **AEWA INTERNATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES FOR 2006 - 2008**
No comments; contribution by the Netherlands to the implementation, as far as applicable, see this report.
- Res. 3.12 **ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLANS**
Not Applicable
- Res. 3.13 **INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS : TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**
Not Applicable
- Res. 3.14 **FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**
Voluntary contributions on a project basis have been made to AEWA and Wetlands International
- Res. 3.15 **DATE AND VENUE OF MOP 4**
Not Applicable
- Res. 3.16 **A TRIBUTE TO THE ORGANISERS**
Not Applicable
- Res. 3.17 **CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS**
Water policies in the Netherlands are closely linked to climate change issues. River management policy includes wetland restoration. Climate change is also part of the philosophy behind the National Ecological Network. More developments are likely to take place in the coming years.
- Res. 3.18 **AVIAN INFLUENZA (AI)**
Project support related to AI has been given to AEWA and Wetlands International. Contacts have been established between the department of Nature and the department in charge of veterinary affairs regarding future research on migratory water birds by WUR-Alterra.
- Res. 3.19 **IMPLEMENTING THE ADDIS ABABA PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY**
See chapter 4, sections 1-3 on hunting.
- Res. 3.20 **REQUEST TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL**
Not Applicable

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Other results of the Flyways research plan in 2007:

- Presentation 15 year Dutch-Russian cooperation on 25 September 2007.
- Organization of a mini-symposium on 24 January during which the Russian counterpart Prof. Yuri Mazourov (Moscow State University) presented books on the second and third Taimyr-expeditions to Frank Berendse (Scientific Director of the WUR, Centre for Ecosystem Studies).
- A presentation by Dr. Ebbinge on density dependent growth of geese populations on 3 November 2007 at a meeting of the Dutch Ornithological Union in Leiden
- Organization of a short expedition to Taimyr (23 June-23 July 2007, see <<http://pooljaar.nl/siberie>>). Dr Nolet (NIOO) and Dr.Ebbinge jointly received a NWO grant for expedition to Taimyr in 2008.

- The annual meeting of the Goose Specialist Group of Wetlands International and the IUCN Species Survival Committee was organized jointly with Dr. J.H. Mooij in Xanten, Germany from 26 - 31 January (see report on www.geese.org/gsg <<http://www.geese.org/gsg>>).
- The development of a web-based tool to enter goose re-sighting data (www.geese.org) from all individual countries within the western palearctic flyway is in full progress.
- Expansion of the database on (changing) site use of waterbirds in Siberia, Europe and Africa has been improved and expanded. Population estimates and trends have been updated.
- During EURING 2007 meeting in New Zealand plans to analyze survival rates by the statistical unit of the University of Canterbury (Prof. Byron Morgan) have been made. In November 2007 these plans have been further developed during a visit by Dr B.S. Ebbinge to Canterbury. Dr. B.Ebbinge gave a lecture for the statistical group in Canterbury, and provided two PhD-students of Prof. Morgan with a huge datasets, that is currently being analyzed.

Outputs of the Flyways research plan in 2008 (expected) are:

1. Report on hunting pressure in West-African rice-growing areas outside the Casamance area and the identification of alternative staging sites by black-tailed godwits.
2. Report on AI infection in relation to dispersal behaviour of white-fronted and brent goose and linking habitat use to population trends.
3. Report on Identification of threats to bird groups with different wintering strategies.
4. Completed web-based data input modules
5. Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds in the Agreement Area. Fourth Edition. AEWA Technical Series.
6. Report on the flyways and distribution of the Asian goose population based on the Goose Specialist Group meeting on Asian goose populations, Ladakh, India (May 2008)
7. Meeting of all Specialist Group coordinators (organized by IUCN) in Abu Dhabi (11-15 Feb 2008)
8. Expedition to Pyasina Delta in Taimyr June-August 2008 (externally funded research but very relevant to the flyways project).

Sovon articles

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Zomerganzen Delta 2007. Mon 2007-02

Zomerganzen in het Deltagebied in 2007 (pdf 501 kB)

Jaar van de Nachtzwaluw. Ond 2007-10

Jaar van de Nachtzwaluw 2007 (pdf 761 kB)

Fort Erfprins. Ond 2007-05

Effecten van schietoefeningen vanaf Fort Erfprins op natuurwaarden in het zeegat van Texel. Een inventarisatie van bestaande kennis en een voorstudie voor nader onderzoek (pdf 771 kB)

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Overleving van Grauwe Ganzenfamilies langs de Axelse Kreek in 2007 (pdf 2.922 kB)

Grutto's in mozaïkbeheer. Ond 2007-06

Broedsucces van Grutto's in drie gebieden met verbeterd mozaïkbeheer (pdf 6.192 kB)

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Meetplan MUS. Ond 2006-13

Meetplan M.U.S. (Meetnet Urbane Soorten) (pdf 337kB)

Overzomerende ganzen. Ond 2006-02

Overzomerende ganzen in Nederland: grenzen aan de groei? (pdf 7.970 kb)

Scholksterpopulatiestudies Ond 2006-05

Scholkster populatie studies Bijdrage aan de zoektocht naar de oorzaken van de sterke achteruitgang van de Scholkster in het Waddengebied (pdf 953 kB)

Tapuitenrapport Ond 2006-14

Broedsucces en voedsel生态学 van Tapuiten in de Nederlandse kustduinen (pdf 1.922 kB)

Watervogelrapport 2004-05. Mon 2006-02

Watervogels in Nederland in 2004/2005 (pdf 8663 kB)

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Habitatselectie Kwartelkoning Ond 2006-09

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Samenvatting Belang van het Nederlandse duin- en kustgebied voor broedvogels (pdf 4.184 kB)

Jaar van de Tapuit. Ond 2006-04
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Broedvogelrapport2004. Mon 2006-01
Broedvogels in Nederland 2004 (pdf 19.604 kB)

Baggerspeciebergiging Kaliwaal 2006 Ond 2006-03
Effecten van baggerspeciebergiging tijdens schemering op de slaapplaatsfunctie van de Kaliwaal bij Druten (pdf 120 kB)

Kwartelkoning in Nederland in 2005. Inf 2006-01
SOVON -informatierapport 2006-01. (pdf, 331kb)

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Bergerheide. Ond 2005-08
Voorlopige evaluatie van mogelijke effecten van vliegbewegingen vanuit Airport Weeze op de broedvogels van Vogelrichtlijngebied Maasduinen (pdf 2.754 kB)

Broedsucces kustvogels Waddenzee. Ond 2005-07
Broedsucces van kustbroedvogels in de Waddenzee 2005 (pdf 1.291kb)

Broedvogelrapport2003. Mon 2005-01
Broedvogels in Nederland 2003 (pdf 22.232 kB)

Ganzen- en zwanentrends. Ond 2005-12
Ganzen- en zwanentrends vanaf 1975/76 en in Vogelrichtlijngebieden en watersystemen (pdf 1.518 kB)

Grutto mozaïk. Ond 2005-10
Broedsucces van Grutto's bij agrarisch mozaïkbeheer in 'Nederland Gruttoland' (pdf 20.300 kB)

Indexen weidevogels. Inf 2005-13
Indexen van een aantal weidevogelsoorten: 1990-2004 (pdf 763 kB)

Kwartelkoning in Nederland in 2004. Inf 2005-01
Kwartelkoning in Nederland in 2004 (pdf, 733kb)

Nachtzwaluw. Ond 2005-09
Soortbeschermingsplan Nachtzwaluw Noord-Brabant (pdf 1.794 kB)

Natura 2000. Inf 2005/09
Samenvatting Trends van vogels in het Nederlandse Natura 2000 netwerk (pdf 29.409 kB)
Errata: (PDF 173 kB)

Pleisterplaatsen van Dwergganzen in Nederland. Inf 2005-06
Pleisterplaatsen van Dwergganzen (pdf 3.394 kb)

Predatie bij weidevogels (bijlagen). Ond 2005-11
Bijlagen bij Predatie bij weidevogels (pdf 6.437kb)

Predatie bij weidevogels (samenvatting). Ond 2005-11
Samenvatting van Predatie bij weidevogels (pdf 1.475kb)

Predatie bij weidevogels. Ond 2005-11
Predatie bij weidevogels (pdf 9.351kb)

PTT-Rapport 1980-2004 Mon 2005-02
Punt Transect Tellingen (pdf, 23.199kb)

Samenvatting Grutto mozaïk. Ond 2005-10
Samenvatting Broedsucces van Grutto's bij agrarisch mozaïkbeheer in 'Nederland
Gruttoland' (pdf 196 kB)

Stadsduivenproblematiek in de stad Groningen. Ond 2005-03
Een analyse van de effectiviteit van controle maatregelen. (pdf, 370kb)

Toelichting op de Gruttokaart van Nederland 2004. Ond 2004-04 (pdf 2.454kb)

Watervogels in Nederland 2003/2004. Mon 2005-03 (pdf 14.903 kb)

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Baggerspeciebergiging Kaliwaal 2005. Inf 2005-03
Effecten van baggerspeciebergiging op overwinterende watervogels in de Kaliwaal bij
Druten (pdf 295 kB)

Appendix 1: Status of Single Species Action Plans

See section 2.3

SSAP's have been replaced by the (multi-species-) so called habitat approach.

Appendix 2: Special Protection Areas designated under the EU Birds Directive and Wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention

Status (*)	SPA #	Ram #	Special Protection Area (SPA)	SPA Year	SPA Area (ha)
Ramsar	1	7	Alde Feanen	1994	2.123
Waterbirds	53		Arkemheen	2000	1.445
Ramsar	2	12	Bargerveen	1992	2.089
Ramsar	3	33	Biesbosch	1996	8.529
Waterbirds	61		Boezems Kinderdijk	2000	340
Non-Wet	75		Brabantse Wal	2000	4.929
Ramsar	62	28	Broekvelden/Vettenbroek	2000	710
Ramsar	54	15	De Wieden	2000	9.326
Waterbirds	63		De Wilck	2000	116
Ramsar	4	8	Deelen	1992	514
Ramsar	5-1	41	Deurnese Peel	1992	1.475
Waterbirds	64		Donkse Laagten	2000	203
Non-Wet	31		Drents-Friese Woud	2000	6.390
Ramsar	42	21	Drontermeer	2000	571
Ramsar	39E	2	Duinen Ameland	2000	2.055
Ramsar	39F	2	Duinen Schiermonnikoog	2000	1.042
Ramsar	39D	2	Duinen Terschelling	2000	3.221
Ramsar	39C	2	Duinen Texel	2000	3.102
Ramsar	39B	2	Duinen Vlieland	2000	1.398
Waterbirds	7		Dwingelderveld	1996	3.766
Waterbirds	8		Eemmeer	1994	1.069
Waterbirds	43		Eilandspolder	2000	1.411
Ramsar	9	13	Engbertsdijkvenen	1989	893
Ramsar	32	5	Fluessen/Vogelhoek/Morra	2000	2.112
Waterbirds	10		Fochteloerveen	1998	2.599
Waterbirds	45-2		Friese IJsselmeerkust	1998	5.229
Waterbirds	55		Gelderse Poort	2000	6.070
Waterbirds	11		Gooimeer	1994	516
Ramsar	65	35	Grevelingen	2000	13.831
Ramsar	12	42	Groote Peel	1986	1.308
Ramsar	33		Groote Wielen	2000	607
Ramsar	66	31	Haringvliet	2000	10.796
Ramsar	67	32	Hollands Diep	2000	3.977
Ramsar	44	18	IJmeer	2000	7.488
Waterbirds	56		IJssel	2000	9.094
Ramsar	45-1	16	IJsselmeer	2000	108.122
Waterbirds	46		IJperveld, Varkensland en Twiske	2000	2.202
Non-Wet	14		Kampina	1986	1.173
Ramsar	47	20	Ketelmeer en Vossemeer	2000	3.842
Ramsar	16	34	Krammer-Volkerak	1995	6.078
Waterbirds	17		Kwade Hoek	1994	897
Ramsar	34	3	Lauwersmeer	2000	5.583
Ramsar	35	10	Leekstermeergebied	2000	1.549
Non-Wet	77		Leenderbos en Grote Heide	2000	2.524
Waterbirds	18		Lepelaarplassen	1994	358

Status	SPA #	Ram #	Special Protection Area (SPA)	SPA Year	SPA Area (ha)
Non-Wet	13		Maasduinen	2000	4.308
Waterbirds	5-2	41	Mariapeel	1986	1.068
Ramsar	48	17	Markermeer	2000	60.999
Waterbirds	19	36	Markiezaatsmeer	1989	1.800
Non-Wet	20		Meinweggebied	1994	1.803
Ramsar	21	26	Naardermeer	1986	635
Waterbirds	57		Neder-Rijn	2000	3.258
Waterbirds	22		Nieuwkoopse Plassen	1997	2.077
Ramsar	39A	2	Noordzeekustzone	2000	123.646
Ramsar	49	27	Oostelijke Vechtplassen	2000	6.683
Waterbirds	23	36	Oosterschelde	1989	35.497
Ramsar	24	24	Oostvaardersplassen	1989	5.505
Ramsar	36	4	Oudegaasterbrekken e.o.	2000	773
Waterbirds	68		Oudeland van Strijen	2000	1.578
Waterbirds			Polder Zeevang	2005	1.862
Ramsar		9	Rottige Meenthe	2000	1.135
Non-Wet	58		Sallandse Heuvelrug	2000	2.228
Ramsar	37	6	Sneekermeer/Goengarijster Poelen en Terkaplesterpoelen	2000	2.311
Waterbirds	38		Van Oordt's Mersken e.o.	2000	864
Ramsar	69	38	Veerse Meer	2000	2.577
Non-Wet	59		Veluwe	2000	93.052
Ramsar	50	22	Veluwemeer	2000	3.056
Waterbirds	25	40	Verdronken Land van Saeftinge	1995	3.578
Ramsar	70	29	Voordelta	2000	88.768
Ramsar	71	30	Voornes Duin	2000	159
Waterbirds	15		Waal (incl. Kil van Hurwenen)	2000	5.499
Ramsar	26	1	Waddenzee	2000	272.040
Ramsar	27	14	Weerribben	1986	3.316
Non-Wet	77		Weerter- en Budelerbergen	2000	2.255
Ramsar	72	39	Westerschelde	2000	15.720
Waterbirds	40		Witte en Zwarte Brekken en Oudhof	2000	434
Ramsar	51	23	Wolderwijd en Nuldernauw	2000	2.482
Waterbirds	52		Wormer en Jisperveld	2000	1.753
Waterbirds	73		Yerseke en Kapelse Moer	2000	484
Ramsar	74	37	Zoommeer	2000	1.053
Waterbirds	28		Zouweboezem	1994	132
Ramsar	41	11	Zuidlaardermeergebied	2000	2.095
Ramsar	6	25	Zwanenwater	1988	595
Ramsar	29	19	Zwarte Meer	1995	2.200
Waterbirds	60		Zwarte Water en Overijsselse Vecht	2000	1.424
Waterbirds	30		Zwin	1996	141
			TOTAAL		1.013715

(*)

Ramsar = site designated under the Ramsar (Wetland) Convention;
Waterbirds = other Special Protection Areas important for waterbirds;
Non-Wet = Special Protection Areas (SPA) designated for terrestrial bird species.

Natura 2000-gebieden (Vogelrichtlijn)

schaal 1 : 1 000 000



Wetlands aangewezen onder de Wetlands-Conventie

schaal 1 : 1 000 000

- 1 Waddenzee
- 1a Boschplaat
- 1b Grifend
- 2 Waddeneilanden en Noordzeekustzone
- 3 Lauwersmeer
- 4 Oudegaasterbrekken e.o.
- 5 Fluessen, Vogelhoek en IJlora
- 6 Sneekemeer, Goengarjsterpoelen, Terkaplesterpoelen en Akmarrip
- 7 Alde Faanen
- 8 De Deelen
- 9 Rotlige Meenthe
- 10 Leifstêrmeergebiet
- 11 Zuidlaardermeergebiet
- 12 Bargerveen
- 13 Engbemsdijkvenen
- 14 Weemibben
- 15 Wieden
- 16 IJsselmeer
- 17 Markermeer
- 18 IJmeer
- 19 Zwaite Meer
- 20 Ketelmeer en Vossemeer
- 21 Drontermeer
- 22 Veluwemeer
- 23 Woldervijld en Nuldemaauw
- 24 Oostvaardersplassen
- 25 Zwanenwater
- 26 Naardermeer
- 27 Oostelijke Vechtplassen
- 28 Boekervelden/Wettenbroek
- 29 Voordelta
- 30 Voornes Duin
- 31 Haringvliet
- 32 Hollands Diep
- 33 Biesbosch Zuidwaard
- 34 Krammer-Volkerak
- 35 Grevelingen
- 36 Oosterschelde en Markiezaat
- 37 Zeemmeer
- 38 Verse Meer
- 39 Westerschelde
- 40 Verdrinken Land van Saeflinge
- 41 Deumese Peel
- 42 Grootse Peel



23 maart 2005



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

See sections 3.4 and 3.5

Appendix 4: List of research and monitoring programs and projects

Title: Flyway conservation of migratory water birds.

Period: 2006 - 2009

Related organizations

Financier: Department of Knowledge

Secretariat: Alterra, Green World Research (WUR)

Title: The flight of the Purple Heron

Period: 2006 - 2009

Related organizations

Financier: Vogelbescherming Nederland

Secretariat: Vogelbescherming Nederland

Title: Measurement network summer birds Wadden Sea

Period: 01/2004 - 12/2006

Related organizations

Financier: Department of Knowledge

Secretariat: Alterra, Green World Research (WUR)

Title: The response of meadow birds to an increasingly fragmented landscape in the Netherlands

Period: 12/2000 - 12/2005

Related organizations

Financier: University Utrecht (UU)

Secretariat: Centre for Geo-ecological Research (UvA)

Title: Research effects large wind turbines on birds

Period: 01/2002 – unknown

Related organizations

Secretariat: Energy research Centre of the Netherlands – ECN

Title: Bird collisions and lightning detection

Period: 01/2004 – unknown

Related organizations

Secretariat: Energy research Centre of the Netherlands – ECN

Title: Seasonal variation in the immunity system and energy consumption in birds

Period: 07/2004 – unknown

Related organizations

Financier: Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research

Secretariat: Animal Ecology (RuG)

Title: Nature friendly banks

Period: 10/1996 - 12/2005

Related organizations

Financier: Hoogheemraadschap Amstel, Gooi en Vecht / Beleid

Secretariat: Dienst Waterbeheer en Riolerings – DWR

Title: Monthly counts of waterbirds - SOVON

Period: September – April, annually

Related organizations

Financier: Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Rijkswaterstaat en Vogelbescherming Nederland

Secretariat: SOVON

Title: Arctic breeding waterfowl as vectors for avian influenza viruses

Period: 2007 – 2010

Related organizations

Financier: Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research - International Polar Year

Secretariat: Nederlands Instituut voor Ecologie

Appendix 5 and 6: List of national institutions involved in migratory waterbird conservation and their Web addresses

- Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality www.minlnv.nl
- Vogelbescherming Nederland Dutch Partner of BirdLife International www.vogelbescherming.nl
- Ringing stations in the Netherlands www.vogeltrekstation.nl
- SOVON Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology www.sovon.nl
- Alterra, research institute for our green living environment www.alterra.nl
- Ecological Monitoring Network (NEM) <http://nemweb.ipo-rivm.nl>
- Wetlands international www.wetlands.org
- The Wings Over Wetlands Project (WOW): <http://www.wingsoverwetlands.org>

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

See section 3.7 and the separate added Appendix - List of projects.xls