



## **Report on the implementation of AEW A for the period 2018-2020**

The format for reports on the implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) for the period 2018-2020 was approved by the 7th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP7, 4-8 December 2018, Durban, South Africa) through Resolution 7.1 and modified by the Standing Committee at its 15th meeting (11-13 December 2019, Bristol, UK) as mandated by the MOP. This format has been compiled following the AEW A Annex 3 (Action Plan), the AEW A Strategic Plan 2019-2027 and resolutions of the MOP.

In accordance with article V(c) of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, each Party shall prepare to each ordinary session of the MOP a National Report on its implementation of the Agreement and submit that report to the Agreement Secretariat. By Resolution 7.1 of the MOP the deadline for submission of National Reports to the 8th Session of the MOP was set at 180 days before the opening date of MOP8, which was scheduled to take place on 5-9 October 2021 in Hungary; therefore the deadline for submission of National Reports was Thursday 8 April 2021.

As per Resolution 7.1 of the MOP, Chapter 3 of the National Report Format for MOP8 reports was developed as a stand-alone online reporting module, which was administered through a separate reporting process on the population status of AEW A-listed (native) and non-native species of waterbirds for the period 2013-2018. This reporting process was concluded on 30 June 2020 as agreed by MOP7. Therefore, this report does not contain Chapter 3.

The AEW A National Reports 2018-2020 were compiled and submitted through the AEW A Online National Reporting System, which is part of the broader CMS Family Online Reporting System. The CMS Family Online Reporting System was developed by the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) in close collaboration with and under the guidance of the UNEP/AEW A Secretariat.

# 1. General Information

## **Name of reporting Contracting Party**

>>> The Netherlands

## **Date of entry into force of AEWA in the Contracting Party**

>>> 1999

## 2. Institutional Information

Please update information on the National AEWA Administrative Authority, the National Focal Points, the Designated National Respondent and the other contributors to this report.

### Designated National AEWA Administrative Authority

Full name of the institution

>>> Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality

Name and title of the head of institution

>>> Minister Carola Schouten

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### Designated National Focal Point (NFP) for AEWA matters

Name and title of the NFP

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### Designated National Focal Point for AEWA Technical Committee (TC NFP) matters

Name and title of the TC NFP

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### **Designated National Respondent (DNR) in charge of the compilation and submission of the AEWA National Report 2018-2020**

Please select from the list below as appropriate.

The National Focal Point (NFP) has been designated as the National Respondent

### **Other contributors to the AEWA National Report 2018-2020**

Please list the names and affiliations (institution, organisation) of the other contributors to this report. For Contracting Parties in which nature conservation is not an exclusive competence of national/federal government, Designated National Respondents are encouraged to seek input from other relevant levels of government.

>>> Wageningen Environmental Research: René Henkens

Sovon: Theo Verstrael

Ministry of LNV: Wilmar Remmelts, Wim Pelgrim

# Pressures and Responses

## 4. Species Conservation

### 4.1 Legal Measures

**1. Following MOP7, was a review undertaken in your country of the relevant domestic legislation against the provisions of the latest version of the Agreement text and its annexes, including Table 1 in Annex III, taking into account all amendments adopted by MOP7? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Actions 1.1 (a), 1.1 (b), 2.2(a) and 2.2(b))**

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> There is no need to review the national legislation. The Nature Conservation Act (entered into force 1-1-2017) prohibits the hunting and trade of all AEWA-listed birds, except for hunting of Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) during a fixed period. In the Netherlands, the NW European population of the Mallard is the only one occurring in the Netherlands.

**2. Was your country's national legislation reviewed following the Guidance on Measures in National Legislation for Different Populations of the Same Species, Particularly with Respect to Hunting and Trade (Resolution 6.7)?**

**See Appendix 1 / Appendix 2 / Appendix 3**

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> There is no need to review the national legislation. The Nature Conservation Act (entered into force 1-1-2017) prohibits the hunting and trade of all AEWA-listed birds, except for hunting of Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) during a fixed period. In the Netherlands, the NW European population of the Mallard is the only one occurring in the Netherlands.

**3. Please confirm the protection status under your country's national legislation of the AEWA Table 1, Column A populations that are regularly occurring in your country (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.1; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 1.1 ).**

**Guidance on responding to this question:**

- 1- Please click here and download the Excel file starting with your country's name. (**Notice:** before clicking on this hyperlink, please keep pressing the Ctrl button on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.)
- 2- Fill in the Excel template comprehensively;
- 3- Upload the completed Excel file as an attachment here. For uploading please click on the little blue icon below containing a paper clip.

I confirm that I have downloaded the Excel file with my country's name, filled it in as necessary and uploaded the completed file as an attachment to this question.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Netherland\\_Q3\\_AEWA\\_NR\\_2018-2020\\_PopColA.xlsx](#)

**4. Please confirm whether there is an open hunting season for the AEWA Table 1, Column A, category 2 or 3 with an asterisk or category 4 populations that are regularly occurring in your country (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.1; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 1.1).**

**Guidance on responding to this question:**

- 1- Please click here and download the Excel file starting with your country's name. (**Notice:** before clicking on this hyperlink, please keep pressing the Ctrl button on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.)
- 2- Fill in the Excel template comprehensively;
- 3- Upload the completed Excel file as an attachment here. For uploading please click on the little blue icon below containing a paper clip.

I confirm that I have downloaded the Excel file with my country's name, filled it in as necessary and uploaded the completed file as an attachment to this question.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

**5. Please confirm whether taking is regulated for the AEWA Table 1, Column B populations that are regularly occurring in your country (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.2; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 1.1).**

**Guidance on responding to this question:**

1- Please click here and download the Excel file starting with your country's name. (**Notice:** before clicking on this hyperlink, please keep pressing the Ctrl button on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.)

2- Fill in the Excel template comprehensively;

3- Upload the completed Excel file as an attachment here. For uploading please click on the little blue icon below containing a paper clip.

I confirm that I have downloaded the Excel file with my country's name, filled it in as necessary and uploaded the completed file as an attachment to this question.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Copy\\_of\\_Netherlands\\_Q5\\_AEWA\\_NR\\_2018-2020\\_PopCoIB.xlsx](#)

**6. Please indicate if any of the following modes of taking are prohibited in your country: snares, limes, hooks, live birds which are blind or mutilated used as decoys, tape recorders and other electronic devices, electrocuting devices, artificial light sources, mirrors and other dazzling devices, devices for illuminating targets, sighting devices for night shooting comprising an electronic image magnifier or image converter, explosives, nets, traps, poison, poisoned or anesthetic baits, semi-automatic or automatic weapons with a magazine capable of holding more than two rounds of ammunition, hunting from aircraft, motor vehicles, or boats driven at a speed exceeding 5 km p/h (18 km p/h on the open sea), other non-selective modes of taking. (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.2(b); AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 1.1)**

Yes, one or more modes of taking have been prohibited

**Please provide details to each mode of taking in the list below:**

Snares

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Nature Conservation Act

Limes

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Nature Conservation Act

Hooks

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Nature Conservation Act

Live birds which are blind or mutilated used as decoys

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Nature Conservation Act

Tape recorders and other electronic devices

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Nature Conservation Act

Electrocuting devices

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Nature Conservation Act

Artificial light sources

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Nature Conservation Act

Mirrors and other dazzling devices

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Nature Conservation Act

Devices for illuminating targets

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Nature Conservation Act

Sighting devices for night shooting comprising an electronic image magnifier or image converter

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Nature Conservation Act

Explosives

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Nature Conservation Act

Nets

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Nature Conservation Act

Traps

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Nature Conservation Act

Poison

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Nature Conservation Act

Poisoned or anaesthetic baits

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Nature Conservation Act

Semi-automatic or automatic weapons with a magazine capable of holding more than two rounds of ammunition

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Nature Conservation Act

Hunting from aircraft, motor vehicles, or boats driven at a speed exceeding 5 km p/h (18 km p/h on the open sea)

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Nature Conservation Act

Other non-selective modes of taking

Yes, fully

Please specify which other non-selective modes of taking have been prohibited

>>> All non-selective modes of taking are prohibited under the Nature Conservation Act, which applies to the entire country. Exemptions from the provisions under the EU Bird Directive can be allowed for specified reasons if there is no other satisfactory solution.

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Nature Conservation Act

If one or more non-selective modes of taking have not been prohibited, please explain the reasons

>>> Not Applicable

**7. Has your country granted exemptions from any of the above prohibitions in order to accommodate livelihoods uses? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.2(b); AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 1.1)**

No

**8. Were any exemptions granted to the prohibitions required by paragraphs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 of the AEWA Action Plan? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.3; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 1.1)**

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

Yes

9. Has a review of enforcement of and compliance with the domestic legislation relevant for AEWA implementation, [in particular the legislation which caters for the obligations under paragraphs 2.1 and 4.1 of the AEWA Action Plan], been undertaken in your country after MOP7? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Actions 1.1(c) and 2.2(c))

Yes

When was the review completed? Please attach a copy or provide a weblink, if available.

>>> On a rolling basis, before and after MOP7 the Netherlands review compliance with, and enforcement of, relevant legislation and identify and implement measures to strengthen compliance and enforcement where needed.

What is the assessed level of enforcement and compliance?

Very high (full compliance - 100%)

Please provide details and reasons for the high level of compliance

>>> The Netherlands Enterprise Agency has an enforcement team to promote compliance with the Nature Conservation Act. This team works on the basis of an enforcement program that is risk-oriented and target-group-oriented. Species and nature conservation organizations and local residents can also report possible violations of the Nature Conservation Act. The team has various enforcement tools at its disposal: information, enforcement communication, project visits, administrative checks and corrective interviews.

In the event of a violation, the enforcement team can impose administrative sanctions such as an order subject to a penalty or an order subject to administrative coercion. Where necessary, the enforcement team makes use of the competent control officers of the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority.

**10. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on National Legislation for the Protection of Species of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats?**

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

Not Applicable

Please explain.



>>> The migratory waterbirds and their key habitats are protected under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives and as such under the Nature Conservation Act of the Netherlands. The guidelines of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives are in line with the AEWA guidelines.

## **4.2. Species Action and Management Plans**

### **11. Please report on the progress of turning the International Single Species Action and Management Plans (ISSAP and ISSMP), as well as International Multi-species Action Plans (IMSAP), listed below, into National Action or Management Plans. (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.2; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 1.2 (d))**

#### **Please report on all listed ISSAP, ISSMP and IMSAP**

##### **Barnacle Goose / *Branta leucopsis* National Plan for Barnacle Goose / *Branta leucopsis***

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> The (non-breeding, wintering) Barnacle Goose is an Annex I listed species of the Birds Directive, for which Natura 2000-sites are designated and management actions are implemented. Natura 2000-sites are part of the National Nature Network (NNN), the backbone of nature conservation in The Netherlands.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> - To date the (non-breeding) Barnacle goose is target species for 26 Natura 2000-sites, which requires species specific management actions.  
- Monitoring by SOVON, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology.

Please rate the degree of current implementation of the plan taking into account the time schedule of the ISSAP

Full implementation – all actions are underway as per the time schedule of the ISSAP

Please provide details and reasons for the full implementation.

>>> The implementation of species specific management actions is part of the obligations under the EU Bird Directive.

##### **Greylag Goose / *Anser anser* National Plan for Greylag Goose / *Anser anser***

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> The (non-breeding) Greylag Goose is an Annex I listed species of the Birds Directive, for which Natura 2000-sites are designated and management actions are implemented. Natura 2000-sites are part of the National Nature Network (NNN), the backbone of nature conservation in The Netherlands.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> - To date the (non-breeding) Greylag Goose is target species for 29 Natura 2000-sites, which requires species specific management actions.  
- Monitoring by SOVON, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology.

Please rate the degree of current implementation of the plan taking into account the time schedule of the ISSAP

Full implementation – all actions are underway as per the time schedule of the ISSAP

Please provide details and reasons for the full implementation.

>>> The implementation of species specific management actions is part of the obligations under the EU Bird Directive.

##### **Pink-footed Goose / *Anser brachyrhynchus* National Plan for Pink-footed Goose / *Anser brachyrhynchus***

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> The (non-breeding) Pink-footed Goose is an Annex I listed species of the Birds Directive, for which Natura 2000-sites are designated and management actions are implemented. Natura 2000-sites are part of the National Nature Network (NNN), the backbone of nature conservation in The Netherlands.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> - To date the (non-breeding) Pink-footed Goose is target species for four Natura 2000-sites, which requires species specific management actions.

- Monitoring by SOVON, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology.

Please rate the degree of current implementation of the plan taking into account the time schedule of the ISSAP

Full implementation - all actions are underway as per the time schedule of the ISSAP

Please provide details and reasons for the full implementation.

>>> The implementation of species specific management actions is part of the obligations under the EU Bird Directive.

### **Lesser White-fronted Goose / *Anser erythropus*** **National Plan for Lesser White-fronted Goose / *Anser erythropus***

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> The Lesser White-fronted Goose is an Annex I listed species of the Birds Directive, for which Natura 2000-sites are designated and management actions are implemented. Natura 2000-sites are part of the National Nature Network (NNN), the backbone of nature conservation in The Netherlands.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> - To date the (non-breeding) Lesser White-fronted Goose is target species for five Natura 2000-sites, which requires species specific management actions.

- Monitoring by SOVON, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology.

Please rate the degree of current implementation of the plan taking into account the time schedule of the ISSAP

Full implementation - all actions are underway as per the time schedule of the ISSAP

Please provide details and reasons for the full implementation.

>>> The implementation of species specific management actions is part of the obligations under the EU Bird Directive.

### **Bean Goose / *Anser fabalis*** **National Plan for Bean Goose / *Anser fabalis***

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> The (non-breeding) Bean Goose is an Annex I listed species of the Birds Directive, for which Natura 2000-sites are designated and management actions are implemented. Natura 2000-sites are part of the National Nature Network (NNN), the backbone of nature conservation in The Netherlands.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> - To date the (non-breeding) Bean Goose is target species for two Natura 2000-sites, which requires species specific management actions.

- Monitoring by SOVON, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology.

Please rate the degree of current implementation of the plan taking into account the time schedule of the ISSAP

Full implementation - all actions are underway as per the time schedule of the ISSAP

Please provide details and reasons for the full implementation.

>>> The implementation of species specific management actions is part of the obligations under the EU Bird Directive.

## **Ferruginous Duck / *Aythya nyroca***

### **National Plan for Ferruginous Duck / *Aythya nyroca***

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> The Ferruginous Duck is a rare (mainly) non-breeding species in The Netherlands. Its conservation status is assessed as favourable but that is an assessment for the last 30 years where the species was all the time very rare. On a longer time scale it decreased most likely substantially. Numbers nowadays are too low to justify a NP. The species may benefit from the National Nature Network including many (large) wetlands.

## **Corncrake / *Crex crex***

### **National Plan for Corncrake / *Crex crex***

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> The Corncrake is an Annex I listed species of the Birds Directive, for which Natura 2000-sites are designated and management actions are implemented. Natura 2000-sites are part of the National Nature Network (NNN), the backbone of nature conservation in The Netherlands.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> - To date the Corncrake is target species for five Natura 2000-sites, which requires species specific management actions.

- Monitoring by SOVON, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology.

Please rate the degree of current implementation of the plan taking into account the time schedule of the ISSAP

Full implementation - all actions are underway as per the time schedule of the ISSAP

Please provide details and reasons for the full implementation.

>>> The implementation of species specific management actions is part of the obligations under the EU Bird Directive.

## **Tundra Swan / *Cygnus columbianus***

### **National Plan for Tundra Swan / *Cygnus columbianus***

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> The (non-breeding) Tundra Swan is an Annex I listed species of the Birds Directive, for which Natura 2000-sites are designated and management actions are implemented. Natura 2000-sites are part of the National Nature Network (NNN), the backbone of nature conservation in The Netherlands.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> - To date the (non-breeding) Tundra Swan is target species for 26 Natura 2000-sites, which requires species specific management actions.

- Monitoring by SOVON, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology.

Please rate the degree of current implementation of the plan taking into account the time schedule of the ISSAP

Full implementation - all actions are underway as per the time schedule of the ISSAP

Please provide details and reasons for the full implementation.

>>> The implementation of species specific management actions is part of the obligations under the EU Bird Directive.

## **Great Snipe / *Gallinago media***

### **National Plan for Great Snipe / *Gallinago media***

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> The Great Snipe is a vagrant species in The Netherlands. Numbers are too low to justify a NP. The species may benefit from the National Nature Network.

## **Black-tailed Godwit / *Limosa limosa*** **National Plan for Black-tailed Godwit / *Limosa limosa***

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> The Black-tailed Godwit is the national bird of the Netherlands. Breeding numbers have declined dramatically past decades and several plans have been developed to turn the tide. Most recent plan (November 2020) concerns the Aanvalsplan Grutto (Black-tailed Godwit attack plan) by Vogelbescherming Nederland (Dutch Organisation for the Protection of Birds) aimed at the conservation of breeding meadow birds in general and the Black-tailed Godwit in particular. The plan is supported by the provincial government and local stakeholders of all six 'meadow bird provinces'.

The (non-breeding) Black-tailed Godwit is an Annex I listed species of the Birds Directive, for which Natura 2000-sites are designated and management actions are implemented. Natura 2000-sites are part of the National Nature Network (NNN), the backbone of nature conservation in The Netherlands.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> - To date the (non-breeding) Black-tailed Godwit is target species for 20 Natura 2000-sites, which requires species specific management actions.

- Monitoring by SOVON, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology.

- A plan has been drafted (Aanvalsplan Grutto; November 2020) aimed to by Vogelbescherming Nederland (Dutch Organisation for the Protection of Birds) aimed at the conservation of breeding meadow birds in general and the Black-tailed Godwit in particular. The plan is supported by the provincial government and local stakeholders of all six 'meadow bird provinces'. The plan aims to designate key conservation areas for breeding meadow birds.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Black-tailed Godwit attack plan](#) - A plan by Vogelbescherming Nederland (Netherlands Society for the Protection of Birds for the Protection of Birds) aimed at the conservation of breeding meadow birds in general and the Black-tailed Godwit in particular.

Please rate the degree of current implementation of the plan taking into account the time schedule of the ISSAP

Moderate implementation - some of the actions are underway as per the time schedule of the ISSAP

Please provide details and reasons for the lower degree of implementation.

>>> The implementation of species specific management actions for non-breeding Black-tailed Godwits is part of the obligations under the EU Bird Directive. However, a policy plan for breeding meadow birds, among which the Black-tailed Godwit, still needs to be approved and implemented.

## **Eurasian Curlew / *Numenius arquata*** **National Plan for Eurasian Curlew / *Numenius arquata***

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> The (non-breeding) Curlew is an Annex I listed species of the Birds Directive, for which Natura 2000-sites are designated and management actions are implemented. Natura 2000-sites are part of the National Nature Network (NNN), the backbone of nature conservation in The Netherlands.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> - To date the (non-breeding) Curlew is target species for 14 Natura 2000-sites, which requires species specific management actions.

- Monitoring by SOVON, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology.

Please rate the degree of current implementation of the plan taking into account the time schedule of the ISSAP

Advanced implementation - most of the actions are underway as per the time schedule of the ISSAP

Please provide details and reasons for the high degree of implementation.

>>> The implementation of species specific management actions is part of the obligations under the EU Bird Directive.

The species partly breeds on meadows. Implementation of plans for the conservation of breeding meadow birds (see information under Black-tailed Godwit) will also support this species.

### **White-headed Duck / *Oxyura leucocephala*** **National Plan for White-headed Duck / *Oxyura leucocephala***

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> The White-headed Duck has always been a vagrant species in The Netherlands. Numbers are too low to justify a NP. The species may benefit from the National Nature Network, including many (large) wetlands.

### **Eurasian Spoonbill / *Platalea leucorodia*** **National Plan for Eurasian Spoonbill / *Platalea leucorodia***

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> The (breeding and non-breeding) Eurasian Spoonbill is an Annex I listed species of the Birds Directive, for which Natura 2000-sites are designated and management actions are implemented. Natura 2000-sites are part of the National Nature Network (NNN), the backbone of nature conservation in The Netherlands.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> - To date the (breeding and non-breeding) Eurasian Spoonbill is target species for 25 Natura 2000-sites, which requires species specific management actions.  
- Monitoring by SOVON, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology.

Please rate the degree of current implementation of the plan taking into account the time schedule of the ISSAP

Full implementation – all actions are underway as per the time schedule of the ISSAP

Please provide details and reasons for the full implementation.

>>> The implementation of species specific management actions is part of the obligations under the EU Bird Directive.

12. Has your country provided assistance for the coordination and implementation of International Species Action or Management Plans through funding of AEWA International Species Working and Expert Groups? (Resolution 7.5)

Yes

Please provide details, including amount of funds donated

>>> The Netherlands funds the coordinator of the International Species Working Group of the Black Tailed Godwit and contributes financially and through in kind expertknowledge to the EGMP

13. Has your country provided financial or in-kind assistance for the development of new International Species Action or Management Plans? (Resolution 7.5)

Yes

Please provide details, including amount of funds donated

>>> - Vogelbescherming Nederland (The Netherlands Society for the Protection of Birds) is one of the compilers of the International Multi-Species Action Plan for the Conservation of Breeding Waders in Wet Grassland Habitats in Europe (2018 – 2028).

- The Netherlands participated in a meeting of the AEWA Eurasian Curlew International Working Group for the establishment of an adaptive harvest management process for the nominal subspecies that took place on 18 September 2019 in Paris, and the second meeting 10-11-2020.

The NL organized a workshop for the eastern flyway of the BlackTailed Godwit 25-8-2020. As it was an online meeting the funding is reserved for the next meeting.

14. Has a review and prioritization been undertaken in your country of the resources needed to develop national action plans in response to ISSAPs, implement those plans and coordinate their implementation? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 1.2(g))

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> Not particular. However these issues are covered and reflected in the multiple actions carried out with the implementation of Natura 2000-management plans. Besides that, the Aanvalsplan Grutto (the Black-tailed Godwit Attack Plan) is in line with the International Multi Species Action Plan for the conservation of breeding waders in wet grassland habitats. Resources needed for the Aanvalsplan Grutto are budgetted at an annual investment of 40 million euros and a one-off investment of 35 million euros spread over several years.

**15. Does your country have in place or is your country developing a National Single Species Action Plan for any species/population for which an AEWA ISSAP has not been developed? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.2.2)**

No

**16. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines for the preparation of National Single Species Action Plans for migratory waterbirds?**

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

No

Please explain the reasons. What has been used instead as a basis for the preparation of NSSAPs?

>>> The Netherlands have no formal National Single Species Action and Management Plans (ISSAP, ISSMP) or International Multi-species Action Plans (IMSAP).

Focus in the Netherlands lies on the implementation and management of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives and the implementation of the National Nature Network, including the Natura 2000 sites. This substantially benefits migratory waterbirds.

**Optionally you can provide additional information on section 4.2. Single Species Action Plans**

>>> The Netherlands do not develop any national single species action plans anymore. The impact of these plans was assessed as too low. The strategy is now focussed on a more holistic approach of a combination of species in threatened habitats and/or the Natura 2000-sites.

### 4.3 Emergency Measures

**17. Please report on any emergency situation that has occurred in your country over the past triennium and has threatened waterbirds. (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.3)**

Please indicate whether an emergency situation threatening waterbirds, such as botulism, chemical pollution, earthquake, extreme weather, fire, harmful algal bloom, infectious disease, introduction of alien species, lead poisoning, nuclear accident, oil spill, predation, volcanic activity, war or other emergency (please specify), has occurred in the country over the past triennium.

No emergency situation has occurred

**18. Are there any other emergency response measures, different from the ones applied in response to the emergency situations reported above, that were developed and are in place in your country so that they can be used in future in emergency cases?**

Yes

**Please provide information on each emergency situation for which measures have been developed and are in place**

#### Measures for Botulism

Shortly describe the emergency measures in place in your country

>>> The impact of Botulism on species populations is generally low. Botulism is an annual reoccurring problem in several locations in the Netherlands however. An overview cannot be given, since there is no central point where this information is registered.

In the event of the discovery of dead animals in the water the municipality or water board concerned need to be contacted. Agreements between these two government bodies exist concerning the removal of cadavers. The municipality removes dead fish and birds that are found in parks, on private land and at the shores, while the water board removes dead birds and fish that are floating on the water.

If botulism is confirmed, the laboratory or veterinarian concerned notifies the municipal health service (GGD). Waters that have botulism each year can be deepened or regularly flushed which ensures that the water temperature rises less rapidly and the botulism bacteria gets no chance. Additional water can be supplied from adjacent waterways to increase water flow and oxygen. Excess organic material is removed.

One of the measures to prevent further spread of the botulism bacteria is to prevent the public feeding waterfowl in contaminated water. Feeding always attracts more birds and thus increases the risk of spreading the botulism.

## Measures for Extreme weather

Shortly describe the emergency measures in place in your country

- >>> - Citizens can dial 144 to call for an animal ambulance if they find a bird victim. Animal ambulances exist across The Netherlands.
- Birds that are victims of chemical pollution / extreme weather may be taken to one of many Bird Care Centres in the Netherlands.
- closing of hunting during extreme weather.

## Measures for Harmful algal bloom

Shortly describe the emergency measures in place in your country

- >>> Blooms of poisonous Cyanobacteria (Blue-green algae) regularly occur in the Netherlands and the number of blooms is expected to increase due to climate change. In February 2011 a protocol for the management of Cyanobacteria has been implemented by Rijkswaterstaat, which is the executive arm of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment.

## Measures for Infectious disease

Shortly describe the emergency measures in place in your country

- >>> See chapter 11: Avian Influenza

## Measures for Introduction of alien species

Shortly describe the emergency measures in place in your country

- >>> In countries of the European Union (EU), the European exotics regulation applies, which includes plants and animals that cause damage to nature. So also in the Netherlands. Part of the European exotic species regulation is the Union list of invasive exotic species. EU countries must combat the invasive alien species on the Union list. Some of these species are found in the Netherlands. The Union list is regularly updated.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[List of Invasive Alien Species of Union concern](#)

## Measures for Oil spill

Shortly describe the emergency measures in place in your country

- >>> (a) Monitoring of beached birds is carried out in the event of real oil spills and as regular surveillance. Monitoring of oil spills as such is carried out by a government service (Kustwacht).
- (b) Oil spills are prohibited under environmental legislation (not the specific Flora and Fauna Act).
- (c) preparedness in the form of an emergency plan exists under the coordination of Rijkswaterstaat (under the Ministry of Infrastructure & Environment). In emergency situations the 'Samenwerkingsregeling' (cooperative plan of action) will come into force, under which Rijkswaterstaat, Kustwacht, municipalities, NGOs (Sea bird group and bird sanctuaries that treat oiled birds), and scientists (NIOZ) cooperate.
- (e) treatment is done by voluntary sanctuaries, licensed by the government (Bird Care Centres, see web link attached).

## 19. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on identifying and tackling emergency situations for migratory waterbirds?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

No

Please explain the reasons. What was used instead as a basis for dealing with emergency situations?

- >>> In the Netherlands there are guidelines on how to deal with various emergency situations concerning threats to waterbirds. These are in line with the AEWA Guidelines.

Rijkswaterstaat (part of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water management) manages the North Sea and the Dutch inland waterways. They are responsible for the prevention of oil spills, and clean-up of oil spills and chemicals. There are contingency plans to prevent oil spills. For the Wadden Sea an ecological timetable is made for oil pollution.

Rijkswaterstaat continuously measures water quality, among which the presence of cyanobacteria and growth conditions for cyanobacteria.

Beached bird surveys are conducted by volunteers of the Dutch Seabird Group (NZG/NSO), commissioned by Rijkswaterstaat, to get insight in the proportion of dead oiled birds washed ashore in The Netherlands of the total number of birds washing ashore.

The Dutch Wildlife Health Centre (DWHC) monitors and identifies major diseases among wild animals, along

with related institutions.

There is a special plan for incident control on the North Sea.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Incidentbestrijdingsplan \(IBP\) Noordzee.](#)

### **Optionally you can provide additional information on section 3.3. Emergency Measures**

>>> Incidents of botulism and infectious disease in water birds are not rare in The Netherlands, but emergency situations did not occur pas triennium.

## **4.4 Re-establishments**

### **20. Is your country maintaining a national register of re-establishment projects occurring or planned to occur wholly or partly within your country? (Resolution 4.4)**

Yes

Please provide details on the register

>>> Information about the number of re-establishment projects in the Netherlands (between 1908-2008) is publicly available (see for example the web link). This is a website with facts and figures about the environment, nature and land-use in the Netherlands. It is a publication from the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL) and Wageningen University and Research Centre (Wageningen UR).

The last re-establishment/re-introduction of a species under AEWA was the White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) in 1969. No recent re-establishments.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Reintroduction of species in the Netherlands.](#)

### **21. Is there a regulatory framework for re-establishments of species, including waterbirds, in your country (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.4)?**

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The Nature Conservation Act requires that we should avoid harming plants and animals, this is also referred to as 'the duty of care'. For the protection of our native plant and animal species, the release of animals in the wild is prohibited under the Nature Conservation Act. The Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality may grant an exemption for the release, breeding or catching and translocation of protected animals.

Reintroductions are entirely carried out in accordance with the provisions of the guidelines of the IUCN. The guidelines are contained in the Policy Guideline Reintroductions (Parliamentary 31 200 XIV, no. 215).

### **22. Has your country considered, developed or implemented re-establishment projects for any species/population listed on AEWA Table 1? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.4)**

No

### **23. Has your country used the AEWA conservation Guidelines on the translocation of waterbirds for conservation purposes?**

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> Translocation of waterbirds is not an issue in the Netherlands.

## **4.5 Introductions**

### **24. Does your country have legislation in place, which prohibits the introduction into the environment of non-native species of animals and plants which may be detrimental to migratory waterbirds? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.5.1)**

Yes, and being enforced

Please provide the following details: title of legislation, year of adoption, institution that adopted it, institution that enforces it. Please clarify whether legislation applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

>>> Non-native species of animals and plants can easily migrate across borders and become problematic



(Invasive Alien Species - IAS). This is why the EU has adopted a law - the IAS Regulation - to tackle the problem in a coordinated, joint effort across all Member States. The IAS Regulation entered into force in January 2015. At the core of the IAS Regulation is a list of invasive alien species of Union concern, including some of those species that cause the most damage to native biodiversity, and for which concerted measures are required across the EU. The IAS Regulation imposes restrictions on the keeping, importing, selling, breeding and growing of the listed species. Member States are also required to take measures for their early detection and rapid eradication, and to manage populations that are already widely spread in their territory. Prevention is the priority because established populations can be expensive to manage and difficult or impossible to eradicate.

As new information and evidence become available, the Union list gets updated at regular intervals. The Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality requested The Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA) to advise on the Dutch approach per Union listed species. This advice has been laid down in the document Substantiation strategy Union list species (Onderbouwing strategie Unielijstsoorten; September 2016). The NVWA also advises the ministry of species that might be added to the Union list, among which wetland species. The list is available at the NVWA website (see web link). The legislation concerning IAS is implemented in the Nature Conservation Act 2017 and applies to the entire country. The responsibility for implementing the IAS Regulation is divided between the state (Min. of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality) and the provinces.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Unionlist of invasive alien species \(IAS\) in the Netherlands](#) - List of potential IAS in the Netherlands available at the website of The Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA).

**25. Does your country impose legislative requirements on zoos, private collections, etc. in order to avoid the accidental escape of captive animals belonging to non-native species which may be detrimental to migratory waterbirds? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.5.2)**

Yes, and being enforced

Please provide the following details: title of the document, year of adoption, institution that adopted it, institution that enforces it. Please clarify whether legislation applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

>>> See description under question 24.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> The policy document Substantiation strategy Union list species (Onderbouwing strategie Unielijstsoorten; September 2016) describes the management actions (if any) per Union-list species that has been observed in the Netherlands. The Union list is dynamic and new species can be added.

The Union list does not cover all harmful exotic species within the EU, as species will only be listed after a risk assessment based on EU criteria. The fourth edition of the Netherlands field guide on invasive aquatic plants lists for instance 22 species with management recommendations (see weblink), while only 13 of these are listed on the Union list.

Some Union list species do exist in the Netherlands, but are not managed (yet) as present climatic conditions prevent reproduction like Water hyacinth (Waterhyacint; *Eichhornia crassipes*) and the fresh water turtles Red-eared slider (Roodwangschildpad; *Trachemys scripta elegans*), Yellow-bellied slider (Geelbuikschildpad; *T. scripta scripta*) and Cumberland slider (Geelwangschildpad; *T. scripta troostii*).

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Fieldguide for invasive waterplants in the Netherlands](#) - Fourth edition (2019)

**26. Has your country considered, developed or implemented programmes to control or eradicate non-native species of waterbird so as to prevent negative impacts on indigenous species? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.5.3)**

Yes

**Please provide information on each species for which relevant action has been undertaken**

**Ruddy Duck / *Oxyura jamaicensis*  
For Ruddy Duck / *Oxyura jamaicensis***

Control or eradication programme developed and being implemented

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Factsheet Ruddy Duck in the Netherlands](#) - Lat update 21-3-2019

**Egyptian Goose / *Alopochen aegyptiaca***

## For Egyptian Goose / *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Control or eradication programme being developed

Please provide starting date and expected finalisation date

>>> The NVWA is developing elimination and management plans for species of the Union list (among which the Egyptian Goose) in cooperation with provinces (and other authorities), with water and site managers and other experts. This involves action plans for combating populations that are present in nature (or where settlement can take place in the future). These plans are being made in phases, starting with the species that are most relevant for the Netherlands. As soon as the (final) plan is ready, it will be available for download.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Factsheet Egyptian Goose](#) - Last update 22-03-2018

## African Sacred Ibis / *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

### For African Sacred Ibis / *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Control or eradication programme developed and being implemented

## 27. Has your country considered, developed or implemented programmes to control or eradicate other non-native species (in particular aquatic weeds and terrestrial predators) so as to prevent negative impacts on migratory waterbirds? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraphs 2.5.3 and 4.3.10 and Resolution 5.15)

Yes

Please list the non-native species for which relevant action has been undertaken

>>> Since August 2nd 2017, the following aquatic Union list species do exist in the Netherlands and are actively controlled through management actions.

Fresh water plants:

- Floating primrose-willow (Kleine waterteunisbloem; *Ludwigia peploides*): early signalling and elimination;
- American skunk cabbage (Moeraslantaarn; *Lysichiton americanus*): early signalling and elimination;
- Fanwort (Waterwaaier; *Cabomba caroliniana*): damage control, early signalling and elimination;
- Floating pennywort (Grote waternavel; *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*): damage control, early signaling and elimination;
- Curly waterweed (Verspreidbladige waterpest; *Lagarosiphon major*): early signalling and elimination or effective management;
- Nuttalls waterweed (Smalle waterpest; *Elodea nuttallii*): early signalling and elimination or effective management;
- Water-primrose (Waterteunisbloem; *Ludwigia grandiflora*): elimination of small populations; research on biological pest control;
- Parrot's feather (Parelvederkruid; *Myriophyllum aquaticum*): damage control, early signalling and elimination.
- Broadleaf watermilfoil (Ongelijkbladig vederkruid; *Myriophyllum heterophyllum*): damage control, early signalling and elimination.

Mammals:

- Coypu (Beverrat; *Myocastor coypus*): elimination influx from Germany and individual specimen elsewhere.
- Muskrat (Muskusrat; *Ondatra zibethicus*): damage control through elimination of specimen (management costs approx. 35 million euro per year).

Amphibians:

- American bullfrog (Amerikaanse stierkikker; *Rana catesbeiana*): early signalling and elimination.

Fish:

- Amur sleeper (Amoergrondel; *Percottus glenii*): elimination in isolated waters;
- Stone moroko (Blauwband; *Pseudorasbora parva*): elimination in isolated waters.

Freshwater invertebrates:

- On 8 July 2016 commercial fisheries on all crustacean species below became legalised.
- Chinese mitten crab (Chinese wolhandkrab; *Eriocheir sinensis*): elimination not possible, management through commercial fisheries.
- Spiny-cheek crayfish (Gevlekte Amerikaanse rivierkreeft; *Orconectus limosus*): elimination not possible, management through commercial fisheries.
- Virile crayfish (Geknobbelde Amerikaanse rivierkreeft; *O. virilis*): elimination not possible, management through commercial fisheries.
- Signal crayfish (Californische rivierkreeft; *Pacifastacus leniusculus*): elimination not possible, management through commercial fisheries.
- Red swamp crayfish (Rode Amerikaanse rivierkreeft; *Procambarus clarkii*): elimination not possible, management through commercial fisheries.
- Marbled crayfish (Marmerkreeft; *Procambarus fallax f. virginalis*): elimination not possible, management through commercial fisheries.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Substantiation Strategy Union List Species \(Onderbouwing strategie Unielijstsoorten\)](#)

## **28. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on avoidance of introductions of non-native waterbird species?**

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

No

Please explain the reasons. What was used instead as a basis for dealing with the issue?

>>> The AEWA Guidelines were not used specifically, but the national legislation and guidelines on avoidance of introductions of non-native waterbird species are in accordance with the AEWA-guidelines.

## **4.6 Seabirds**

The country has maritime territories and the AEWA seabird conservation priorities are relevant for the country:

Yes

29. Does your country have comprehensive data on seabird by-catch? (Resolution 7.6)

Yes

Please provide details, including references or attach a file, if available.

>>> Collecting information from by-catches (such as undersized fish, but also birds, marine mammals and benthos) in marine fisheries that are not landed is essential for evaluating the impact of fishing on the marine ecosystem and in particular on fish stocks. The European Data Collection Regulation (DCF) requires Member States to collect these data and make it available to end users.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Monitoring by-catches](#)

30. Have you assessed the impact of by-catch by artisanal fisheries to AEWA-listed seabirds? (Resolution 7.6)

Yes

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Mariene Strategie Monitoring.pdf](#) - No specific good environmental status (GMT) has yet been established for seabird by-catches (see p. 53).

31. Have you assessed the impact of artisanal/recreational fisheries on seabirds' prey? (Resolution 7.6)

Yes

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Recreational fisheries research](#)

Please provide details, including reference or attach a file, if available.

>>> The European Data Collection Regulation (Data Collection Framework, DCF) requires member states to collect data on the extent of recreational fisheries for eel, cod, sea bass, salmon, sharks and rays in the North Sea and for eel and salmon in inland waterways. Recreational fishing mainly takes place with fishing rods from the shore or from boats.

32. Has your country undertaken steps towards the adoption/application of measures to reduce the incidental catch of seabirds and combat Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing practices in the Agreement Area? (Resolution 3.8)

Yes

Please provide short description of all actions

>>> Incidental catch of seabirds is relatively uncommon in The Netherlands with no large scale longline fishing present. All fishing practices in the Netherlands are regulated through the law of Fisheries including the prevention of illegal or unregulated fisheries.

33. Does your country have comprehensive data on hunting and egg harvesting (both legal and illegal) of AEWA-listed seabirds? (Resolution 7.6)

Partial Data

Please provide details, including references or attach a file, if available.

>>> Hunting and egg harvesting of AEWA-listed sea birds is illegal in the Netherlands unless an exemption is provided. Data are collected by the more than 300 wildlife management units in the Netherlands.

Data of illegal hunting are less obvious. Birdlife International has a database on this issue.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Stop Illegal Bird Killing](#) - Publication of Birdlife International (2017)

34. Have you assessed the impact of hunting and egg harvesting (both legal and illegal) on AEWA-listed seabirds? (Resolution 7.6)

Not Applicable

Please explain the reasons.

>>> This is not really an issue in the Netherlands.

All legal take should meet the requirements of the EU Birds Directive.

35. Have you identified those seabird colonies at risk from invasive non-native species? (Resolution 7.6)

Not Applicable

Please explain the reasons.

>>> The seabird colonies in the Netherlands are generally located in protected areas, most often Natura 2000-sites. Risks from non-native species, like housecats or feral cats, is currently becoming an issue. A research project on the actual impact will start this year.

36. Have you identified the key coastal and at-sea areas where responses to oil spills would be most urgently required in relation to the presence of AEWA-listed seabirds? (Resolution 7.6)

Yes

Please provide details, including reference or attach a file, if available.

>>> These are the Natura 2000-sites at sea and along the coast that are designated for seabird species. See the map at [www.natura2000.nl](http://www.natura2000.nl)

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Map of Natura 2000-sites in the Netherlands](#) - Map that shows the terrestrial and marine Natura 2000-sites, some of which have been designated to conserve its breeding, foraging and resting functions for (AEWA-listed) seabirds.

Are AEWA seabirds and seabird sites adequately represented within existing oil spill response plans?

Yes

Please provide details, including references or attach a file, if available.

>>> Rijkswaterstaat (Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management) is responsible in the event of an oil spill at sea. Oiled birds can wash up on the coast. For the shelter and care of these birds, Rijkswaterstaat has made the SBV (Collaboration scheme for handling infected birds) with agreements between the bird shelters and volunteers along the coast, the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, the coastal municipalities, research institutes and international aid organizations. When sheltering many birds, Rijkswaterstaat provides a TOV (Temporary Rescue Centers for Birds) with specially equipped tents and equipment for cleaning and caring for the birds. After rehabilitation, the birds are released back into nature. In the summer of 2018, the TOV was deployed in a major oil spill in the port of Rotterdam, in which hundreds of Mute swans were smeared with fuel oil.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Oil spill control at sea](#)

37. **(Applicable only to countries bordering the North or Baltic Sea)** Has your country undertaken a program of data-collection to validate models of population level impacts of offshore windfarms in the North and Baltic Seas on AEWA seabirds? (Resolution 7.6)

Yes

Please provide details, including references or attach a file, if available.

>>> See the websites concerning wind energy from Wageningen Marine Research and Wageningen Environmental Research.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Mortality limits used in wind energy impact assessment underestimate impacts of wind farms on bird populations](#) - Wageningen Environmental Reserach et al. (2020)

[Offshore wind energy](#) - Wageningen Marine Research

38. Have you identified priority sites by filling gaps in the Critical Site Network for seabirds (breeding, non-breeding, pelagic and coastal areas)? (Resolution 7.6)

Yes

Please provide details, including references or attach a file, if available.

>>> Priority sites for seabirds have been identified and designated as (future) Natura 2000-sites.

## Pressures and Responses

### 5. Habitat Conservation

#### 5.1 Habitat Inventories

##### **39. Has your country identified the network of all sites of international and national importance for the migratory waterbird species/populations listed on Table 1? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 3.1.2; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 3.1(a))**

Partially

Please describe the progress

>>> All sites of international importance for migratory waterbird species/populations in the Netherlands have been identified. Most of them are part of the National Nature Network and have been designated as Natura 2000-site. A selection of them have also been designated as Ramsar site.

The Natura 2000 sites and Ramsar-sites however, do not cover most of the foraging and breeding areas for waterbirds on farmland, such as those for Bewicks and Wooper Swan, several Geese species, Black-tailed Godwit, Ruff, Oystercatcher, Curlew and Corncrake. The Agri- Environmental Scheme has an approach with focus areas for breeding meadow birds.

Sites of national importance are not formally identified in the Netherlands other than Natura 2000.

Have you reviewed, confirmed and communicated to the AEWA Secretariat after MOP7 the inventory of known nationally and internationally important sites in your country?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> An internal review is made on the inventory of important sites . However no decision is made yet on what sites we wish to communicate to AEWA.

##### **40. If your country has identified or is currently identifying the networks of sites of international and national importance, were the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on the preparation of site inventories for migratory waterbirds used?**

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

No

Please explain the reasons. What has been used instead as a basis for the inventory?

>>> The AEWA Guidelines were not used specifically, but the national guidelines on the identification of the network of sites of international and national importance in the Netherlands are based on the Birds Directive and are as such in accordance with the AEWA-guidelines.

#### 5.2. Conservation of Areas and Habitats

##### **41. Has your country assessed the future implications of climate change for protected areas and other sites important for waterbirds (i.e. resilience of sites to climate change)? (Resolution 5.13)**

###### **For one or more single sites**

Yes

Please give details as to where relevant information about these assessments have been published (either as publications or web-link).

>>> The expected impacts of climate change are integrated in the management plans of the sites concerned. Besides that, climate mitigation and adaptation are key issues in the Programmatic Approach Main Waters. All of these main waters are of crucial importance for waterbirds and have therefor been designated as Natura 2000-sites and most also as Ramsar-sites.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Programmatic Approach Main Waters](#) - Programmatische Aanpak Grote Wateren

###### **For the national protected area network**

Yes

Please give details as to where relevant information about these assessments have been published (either as publications or web-link).

>>> All main water bodies concerned in the Programmatic Approach Main Waters are part of the national protected area network.

**42. Which sites that were identified as important, either internationally or nationally, for Table 1 migratory waterbird species/populations have been designated as protected areas under the national legislation and have management plans that are being implemented, including with the aim to increase resilience to the effects of climate change? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 3.2.1; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 3.3)**

Please report separately on internationally important sites, nationally important sites and buffer zones.

- Reporting on designation and management of internationally important sites
- Reporting on designation and management of nationally important sites. (Sites of national importance excludes the sites already reported above as internationally important)
- Reporting on establishing buffer zones around waterbird sites (as an approach for maintaining or increasing resilience of ecological networks, including resilience to climate change)

**All sites of international importance**

(sites recognized as having international importance for migratory waterbirds following criteria of, for instance, the AEWA Critical Site Network, the Ramsar Convention, the EU Birds Directive (SPAs), the Bern Convention Emerald Network, the BirdLife International's Important Bird Areas)

Total number

>>> 150

Total area (ha)

>>> 935749

Number of internationally important sites under national protection designation

>>> 77

Area of international importance under national protection designation (ha)

>>> 935749

Please rate the effectiveness of the national protection designation

High

Internationally important protected sites with a management plan in place which is being implemented

Number of sites

>>> 77

**All sites of national importance**

Total number

>>> 180

Total area (ha)

>>> 935749

Number of nationally important sites under national protection designation

>>> 77

Area of national importance under national protection area designation

>>> 935749

Please rate the effectiveness of the national protection designation

High

Has your country identified around which nationally or internationally important sites the establishment of buffer zones is needed to maintain or increase resilience?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Roughly 50 - 75% of designated Birds Directive sites (approx. 50 sites) require a kind of buffer zones. To a certain extent, all designated Birds Directive sites have undesignated buffer zones in order to prevent significant ecological impacts of projects and activities in their vicinity. Some sites have official buffer zones however, like the Naardermeer and Groote Peel, which conserve the hydrological conditions of these peat

swamp sites.

## Examples of best practice (optional)

If any site, in your opinion, represents an outstanding process of management planning or implementation, please highlight it as an example of best practice (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

>>> - A remarkable wetland restoration project concerns the development of the 10.000 ha archipelago of the Marker Wadden in the Markermeer Ramsar site. The first created islands already gave a boost to the biodiversity of the site, especially for birds.

- The Wadden Sea is a key-site for AEWA listed waterbirds. The Program towards a Rich Wadden Sea (Naar een rijke Waddenzee) started in 2010. In this program residents, users, non-governmental organizations and governments are working on nature improvement, a resilient ecosystem and sustainable economic use of the Wadden Sea. The 3rd phase of the program started on 1 March 2019. Among the recent results are the return of seagrass beds and the increase of mussel beds. Both can be considered biodiversity hotspots of the Wadden sea ecosystem.

Furthermore the Council of Europe awarded four sites in The Netherlands a European Diploma for Protected Areas, which are:

- Boschplaat (Terschelling) (since 1970)
- National Park Weerribben-Wieden (since 1996).
- Naardermeer (since 2005)
- Oostvaardersplassen (since 1999).

All these sites are important for AEWA listed species.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Towards a Rich Wadden Sea](#)

[Nature restoration on the Marker Wadden.](#)

## DESIGNATION GAP FILLING

Yes

Please provide full reference or a web link, as well as details concerning the process and the status of this strategy / plan

>>> The National Nature Network (NNN) includes almost all nationally and internationally important sites. The NNN is due to be completed in 2027. The activities on the NNN concern enlarging, connecting and improving the protected areas by nature development and management.

The Programmatic Approach Main Waters pays special attention to the nature development of the large water bodies, also in respect to climate change and other function like water recreation. This is especially relevant for AEWA listed species.

Main gap within the NNN is the agricultural land. Intensification of agriculture past decades has led to dramatic loss of biodiversity. A policy aiming to develop and conserve sustainable (breeding) populations of meadow bird species is one of the main nature policy challenges.

Has it been implemented?

Yes, being implemented

Please provide details, including when it is expected to be concluded

>>> See the website attached.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Realization Nature Network - acquisition and design, 1990-2018](#) - Indicator that describes the area increase of the National Nature Network between 1990 and 2018.

## MANAGEMENT GAP FILING

Being developed

Please provide starting date and expected date of finalisation

>>> The newly acquired nature areas will be designed (if necessary) and managed by one of the site management organizations.

44. Is the network of nationally and internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds integrated into your country's water- and land-use policies and planning and decision-making processes? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 3.4)

Yes, partially

Please provide details and reasons for partial integration



>>> Some sites are farmland with a primarily agricultural function.

If available, please provide best practice examples of integration of the flyway site network into your country's water- and land-use policies and planning and decision-making processes

>>> The flyway site network is reflected in the National Nature Network and the Natura 2000-network on land and water.

#### **45. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on the management of key sites for migratory waterbirds?**

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

No

Please explain the reasons. What guidance has been used instead?

>>> The AEWA Guidelines were not used specifically, but the national guidelines on the management of key sites for migratory birds are based on the Birds Directive and as such in accordance with the AEWA-guidelines.

#### **46. Has the Critical Site Network (CSN) Tool for the AEWA area been accessed and used in your country? (Resolution 7.9)**

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Information from critical sites for the AEWA area is mainly based on up-to-date data from SOVON Bird Research Netherlands (SOVON Vogelonderzoek Nederland). The CSN-tool for the sites in The Netherlands is based on SOVON-data but probably less accurate.

47. Following MOP7, has your country been involved in the establishment of innovative, international, multi-stakeholder partnerships to guide the development and implementation of habitat management, creation and restoration projects in the wider environment? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 4.4(a))

Yes

Please provide details on each partnership arrangement your country has been involved in

>>> - Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) with Germany and Denmark. Among others the TWSC and Mauritania's Banc d'Arguin National Park (PNBA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the 12th Trilateral Governmental Conference in Tønder, Denmark, in 2014. This is because the intertidal ecosystem of Banc d'Arguin at the West African Atlantic coast is the most important wintering area for Wadden Sea birds along the East Atlantic Flyway in Africa.

There are also transboundary cooperations with Germany for the sites Gelderse Poort and Bargerveen, although this is more focused on information and education:

- The Netherlands cooperate with Germany on the transboundary Gelderse Poort site, which is part of the Natura 2000-site Rijntakken.

- Cooperation with Germany on the international nature park Veenland-Bargerveen. Bargerveen is also designated as Natura 2000-site.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation](#) - Cooperation between The Netherlands, Germany and Denmark on the management of the Wadden Sea

[Veenland-Bargerveen](#) - Cooperation with Germany on the transboundary site Bargerveen.

[Gelderse Poort](#) - Cooperation with Germany on the transboundary site Gelderse Poort

Have a specific project or projects been established under the partnership arrangement(s) to implementation of habitat management, creation and restoration projects in the wider environment?

Yes

Please provide details on each project initiative

>>> The Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation started in 1978 and multiple joined projects have been carried out since (see website).

# Pressures and Responses

## 6. Management of Human Activities

### 6.1. Hunting

48. Does the legislation of your country implement the principle of sustainable use of waterbirds, as envisaged in the AEWA Action Plan, taking into account the full geographical range of the waterbird populations concerned and their life history characteristics? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.1; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 2.2)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> The Netherlands have more than 300 Fauna Management Units which develop Fauna Management Plans. This is coordinated by the Fauna Management Unit in the provinces. The AEWA guidelines have not specifically been used for this matter, but the Fauna Management Plans are in line with the AEWA obligations.

49. Does your country have an established system for the collection of harvest data, which covers the species/populations listed in Table 1? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.3; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 2.1(b))

Yes

Does it cover the following? (tick where applicable and provide details)

All AEWA species occurring in your country

>>> Hunters (united in Fauna Management Units or WBE's) have to report the annual harvest and other derogation shooting in the Fauna Registration System (Fauna Registratie Systeem FRS).

Does it cover the following? (tick where applicable and provide details)

The whole territory of your country

>>> No AEWA species, apart from the Mallard, are hunted. There is however the possibility of shooting with an exemption in the case of damage management. Damage control usually occurs in the agricultural area's and at airports.

Does it cover the following? (tick where applicable and provide details)

All forms of waterbird harvesting

>>> Hunters (united in Fauna Management Units or WBE's) have to report the annual harvest and other derogation shooting in the Fauna Registration System (Fauna Registratie Systeem FRS).

50. Has your country phased out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.4; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 2.2(d))

Fully

When was lead shot use in wetlands banned?

>>> By the end of 2020 the EU banned lead gunshot in wetlands in all European Union Member States under REACH, the EU's framework regulation for chemicals. However, the use of lead shot was already banned in The Netherlands since February 1st 1993. Possession of lead shot in the field is also illegal, though illegal use is sometimes reported. The enforcement of this ban is carried out by the police. A hunter's certificate will be suspended in case of an offence. The ban is generally accepted by the hunting community, since there are good alternatives available at comparable costs.

What legislation is in place?

>>> Hunting is regulated in the Nature Conservation Act (2017). Hunters need to have a hunting certificate. Falconers (Hawk or Peregrine Falcon) need to have a falconer certificate. They need to be member of a Fauna Management Unit (in Dutch Faunabeheereenheid), which is a local hunters association. The Mallard is allowed to be hunted between August 15th and January 31st. All AEWA-listed species can only be hunted with a specific derogation, if there are no alternatives for damage control or population management.

Who enforces this legislation?

>>> The Provinces are responsible for enforcement of the Nature Conservation Act which includes the hunting legislation.

Has assessment of compliance with the legislation been undertaken?

Yes

Please explain how this was assessed.

>>> Fauna Management Units make a Fauna Management Plan based on an assessment of the species populations. These plans are publicly available for inspection and possible objection. All hunted game is registered by the Fauna Management Unit and send to the Province.

Please explain what the compliance with legislation was found to be:

Good (almost full compliance)

Please provide details and reasons for the high level of compliance.

>>> The system works quite well, though this does not prevent illegal actions. The hunting or falconer certificate can be withdrawn in case of illegal actions.

Please indicate any known reasons for good compliance or any barriers to compliance. Please attach any published or unpublished references.

>>> The number of species and the period that is allowed for hunting is limited. The system is considered to work quite well, though this does not prevent illegal actions. Exemptions are registered. All hunted game is registered as well by the Fauna Management Unit and send to the Province.

Has measurement of impact of the legislation been undertaken i.e. where there was a problem of lead poisoning in waterbirds, has this been reduced?

No

If appropriate, please explain the reasons for not doing this.

>>> Lead poisoning is no issue in the Netherlands anymore as the use of lead was banned 25 years ago in February 1993.

**51. Are there measures in your country to reduce/eliminate illegal taking? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.6; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 2.2(e))**

Yes

How would you rate the effectiveness of the measures?

Moderate

Please provide details and reasons for the lower level of effectiveness.

>>> Hunting is strictly regulated in the Netherlands by the Nature Conservation Act and the Law on Weapons and Ammunition (enforced by the Ministry of Justice and Security). If a legal weapon owner is caught poaching, his/her weapon and hunting certificate will be taken. Poaching can be discovered by hunters, tourists, birdwatchers, farmers, foresters etc. and reported to the police/wardens who then detect the poachers and give them a fine or warrant.

The Nature Conservation Act is enforced by wardens (BOA's, special investigators) and the police. These wardens are mainly employed by land managers (TBO's), municipalities, provinces, and by anglers and hunters. BOA's do not only trace poaching, but all violations of the Nature Conservation Act. The number of Green Special Investigating Officers ('green BOAs') was some 460 by the end of 2018. In a survey among Green BOA's by the end of 2019 it was concluded that the demand for extra capacity is high due to an increase of incidents and aggression.

**52. Does your country maintain an adequate system for making realistic estimates of the number of waterbirds taken illegally? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 2.1(b))**

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> The level of illegal taking of waterbirds is not well known.

**53. Is legally binding proficiency testing for hunters, including amongst other things bird identification, in place in your country? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.8; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 2.2)**

Yes

Please provide details and reference to the relevant legislation

>>> The Netherlands Hunting Training Foundation (Stichting Jachtopleidingen Nederland - SJN) develops and organizes courses and exams in the field of nature, hunting and wildlife management.

**54. Are best practice codes and standards for hunting in place in your country in support of enforcement of hunting laws and regulations? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.7; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 2.3)**

Yes

What do these cover?

Club Affiliation

Emergency closure of hunting in cases of exceptionally unfavourable or endangering conditions

Please provide details on each item selected above

>>> Hunters are affiliated with a wildlife management unit. That is the local hunters association in a region. The Dutch hunters work together in 285 game management units. There are 278 (98%) game management units member of the Royal Dutch Hunting Association. The WBEs form a nationwide network. Species populations in an unfavorable condition are no longer huntable anymore, like the Partridge.

Please rate the degree of application of these best practice codes and standards:

Very high (always applied)

Please provide details and reasons for the high degree of application

>>> The Netherlands Hunting Training Foundation (SjN) develops and organizes courses and exams in the field of nature, hunting and wildlife management. The SjN originated from the Hunters Association and has over 40 years of experience.

Please rate the effectiveness these best practice codes and standards in supporting enforcement of hunting laws and regulations:

High (very effective in supporting enforcement of hunting laws and regulations)

Please provide details and reasons for the high degree of effectiveness

>>> Hunters are affiliated with one of the 285 wildlife management units which form a nationwide network. 98% of these units are member of the Royal Dutch Hunting Association. The units form a nationwide network. The Netherlands Hunting Training Foundation (SjN) originates from this Hunters Association and has over 40 years of experience. It develops and organizes courses and exams in the field of nature, hunting and wildlife management.

## **55. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on sustainable harvest of migratory birds?**

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

No

Please explain the reasons. What other guidance has been used instead?

>>> The Netherlands have 285 Wildlife Management Units which develop Fauna Management Plans. This is coordinated by the Fauna Management Unit in the provinces. The AEWA guidelines have not specifically been used for this matter, but the Fauna Management Plans are in line with the AEWA obligations.

## **Optionally, you can provide additional information on section 6.1. Hunting**

>>> Hunting on breeding waterbirds is only allowed, in a limited period outside the breeding season, for the Mallard (August 15 - January 31).

Shooting of other species (Wigeon, geese) because of crop damage or air safety reasons is only possible with an exemption.

Specific management approaches are implemented for geese species and Wigeon. This includes shooting, gasification, disturbance and collection of eggs. (see [www.faanabeheereenheid.nl](http://www.faanabeheereenheid.nl)).

The traditional collection of eggs of the Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) in the province of Fryslân/Friesland between March 1 and April 1 was allowed in the past triennium. In January 2015, it has been forbidden though by the Council of State. Reason is that species numbers are declining.

## **6.2. Ecotourism**

56. Is wetland- and waterbird-related ecotourism integrated into your country's national tourism development strategies or other relevant national strategies? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.2.1; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 2.5(c))

Yes

Please describe and provide details

>>> See for instance the Programmatic Approach Main Waters and the Code of Conduct of the IJsselmeergebied. Recreatie and tourism is integrated into the Natura 2000-managementplans of each site.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Code of Conduct IJsselmeergebied](#) - Code of conduct for water recreation at the IJsselmeergebied, which is the main

fresh water lake area of The Netherlands. (area)

#### Programmatic Approach Main Waters

57. Are there existing ecotourism initiatives in your country specifically based on migratory waterbirds and their habitats? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 2.5)

Yes

Please describe how many initiatives are in place and provide details for each of them

>>> The exact number of initiatives is not known, but many nature management organisations offer guided excursions to the public as well as they have constructed bird hides at bird hot spots.

Please rank the degree to which these initiatives are designed to deliver both conservation and community benefits:

Not at all

Please provide details

>>> Nature management organisations are the hosts of their nature area. They often provide guided nature excursions to the public as well as they raise bird hides at bird hotspots. Community benefits are generally no part of the design, although the local catering industry will undoubtedly have some gain from these initiatives.

### **6.3. Other human activities**

58. Have restrictions on use of lead fishing weights been introduced in your country? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.3.12). When answering this question please also consider question 78 in chapter 7 - Research and monitoring.

No

If appropriate, please provide further details.

>>> Lead poisoning is recognized as a problem in the Netherlands, but so far no legal restrictions on the use of lead in fishing weights are made. In 2018 the sports fisheries organization and the Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality agreed to reducing the use of lead with 30% in three years' time prior to legislative measures for a complete ban.

Besides that, government subsidises innovative research aiming to develop alternatives for lead fishing weights. The Royal Dutch Angling Association introduced a lead code, aiming at the wise use and disposal of lead. Also a Green Deal on Lead Fishing weights was started in 2018 aiming to realize a ban on lead fishing weights.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Green Deal on Lead Fishing Weights](#) - The Green Deal Lead on Lead Fishing Weights (Sportvisserij Loodvrij) aims to ban lead in sport fishing.

59. Does your country have legislation in place, which provides for Strategic Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA/EIA) of activities potentially negatively affecting natural habitats or wildlife? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.3.1; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 3.5)

Yes and being implemented

Does this legislation apply to the entire country or only to particular states/provinces thereof?

Entire country

Please provide details

>>> The EU Birds Directive is the key legal instrument for the protection of the habitats of waterbirds in the Netherlands. It is the main instrument to give practical effect to the objectives of AEWA in the EU. Based on the list of species of Annex I and other migratory species of the Birds Directive, important habitats are designated as Special Protected Area (Natura 2000). The Directive requires that any plan or project shall undergo an appropriate environmental impact assessment (EIA) to determine its implications for the site concerned and to be approved only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned. In exceptional circumstances, a plan or project may still be allowed to go ahead, in spite of a negative assessment, provided there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project is considered to be of overriding public interest. In such cases the EU Member State must take appropriate compensatory measures to ensure that the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network is protected. EIA for plans or projects of some size with expected effects on the environment outside Natura 2000 sites are also compulsory. The Dutch EIA is part of the Environmental Law, which implements EU directive 97/11/EC. The same goes for SEA, based on EU directive 2001/42/EC.

Do the SEA/EIA processes consider waterbirds and habitats on which they depend?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The EU Birds Directive is the key legal instrument for the protection of the habitats of waterbirds in the Netherlands. It is the main instrument to give practical effect to the objectives of AEWA in the EU. Based on the list of species of Annex I and other migratory species of the Birds Directive, important habitats are designated as Special Protected Area (Natura 2000). The Directive requires that any plan or project shall undergo an appropriate environmental impact assessment (EIA) to determine its implications for the site concerned and to be approved only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned. In exceptional circumstances, a plan or project may still be allowed to go ahead, in spite of a negative assessment, provided there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project is considered to be of overriding public interest. In such cases the EU Member State must take appropriate compensatory measures to ensure that the overall coherence of the Nature 2000 network is protected. EIA for plans or projects of some size with expected effects on the environment outside Nature 2000 sites are also compulsory. The Dutch EIA is part of the Environmental Law, which implements EU directive 97/11/EC. The same goes for SEA, based on EU directive 2001/42/EC.

Do the SEA/EIA processes include public participation?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The draft EIA report is published for public consultation. The term to react is usually six weeks. The national EIA commission takes the results of the consultation process into consideration in its subsequent advice. Public participation also applies to SEA. EIA applies to projects, SEA to plans. When the final decision is made the competent authority has to explain how citizens and civil society organisations were involved in the preparation of the plan.

60. Are there any other legal and/or administrative measures in your country to avoid, mitigate and compensate for adverse impacts of development activities on the sites of national and international importance for migratory birds? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 3.5)

Yes

Please describe each measure and provide details for each of them

>>> Apart from EIA and SEA there is the so-called duty of care (Zorgplicht) which is part of the Nature Conservation Act. The duty of care concerns both area and species protection. The duty of care provision thus offers protection to Natura 2000 sites, animals, plants and their immediate living environment. Moreover, it concerns not only animals and plants of species for which the Birds and Habitats Directives require specific protection measures, but all wild animals and plants.

Please rank the effectiveness of these measures:

High

Please provide details and the reasons for the high effectiveness

>>> Development activities must be tested against the Nature Conservation Act to determine whether a permit is required. If so and a permit is granted, this is usually accompanied by a number of mitigating and/or compensating measures.

The effectiveness of these mitigating and/or compensating measures requires long-term monitoring research, which may reveal that certain improvements are necessary to increase its ecological effectiveness.

61. In the last three years, has your country used SEA/EIA for all relevant projects, including energy sector projects such as renewable energy developments and power lines installation, to assess the impact of proposed projects on migratory waterbird species listed on Table 1 and/or habitats/sites on which they depend? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.3.1, Resolution 5.11 and Resolution 5.16; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 3.5(b))

Yes, all proposed projects

Please provide information on the outstanding cases

>>> The Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA; 'Commissie voor de Milieueffectrapportage) reports at its website [www.commissiemer.nl](http://www.commissiemer.nl) (see attached) about completed and current advices.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment](http://www.commissiemer.nl)

Where an SEA/EIA has identified a likelihood of significant negative impacts on migratory waterbirds, have steps been taken to avoid these impacts, including avoidance of protected areas and other sites of importance for migratory waterbirds?

Yes

Please describe the measures put in place

>>> When there is a likelihood of significant negative impacts on migratory waterbirds, the first measure that is considered is avoidance of the protected area and look for alternative locations.

Exemptions under the Nature Conservation Act are always accompanied by mitigation or compensation measures, aiming to keep the impacts on habitats and species populations within acceptable (non-significant) limits.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> New power lines are preferably constructed in combination with existing lines.

There are different documents and guidelines available on how to mitigate effects of renewable energy (wind energy) offshore and on land, that are used in EIAs.

62. Do you maintain a record of the cases of adverse impacts of development activities and other pressures on sites of national and international importance for migratory waterbirds in your country? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 3.5(a))

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> No, theoretically there should be no adverse impacts of development activities as these are bound to permits with mitigation and/or compensation measures. Besides that, the migratory bird population in all sites of national and international importance are being monitored and the data are processed by SOVON Vogelonderzoek Nederland (Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology; see website Bird Atlas Netherlands). Population declines may be due to impacts inside or outside the sites concerned. If inside, measures can be included in the sites management plan.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Bird Atlas Netherlands](#) - Numbers and distribution of breeding and wintering birds in the Netherlands.

Please estimate the number of sites of national and international importance for migratory waterbirds in your country that are subject to adverse impact of development activities or other pressures. Please list those sites with their names, central geographic coordinates and observed impacts.

>>> See explanation above.

Please estimate the number of sites of national and international importance for migratory waterbirds in your country where adverse impact of development activities or other pressures has been effectively avoided, mitigated or compensated. Please list those sites with their names, central geographic coordinates and the impacts that have been addressed.

>>> See explanation above.

Please estimate the number of sites of national and international importance for migratory waterbirds in your country where no effective avoidance, mitigation or compensation has been implemented for adverse impact of development activities or other pressures. Please list those sites with their names, central geographic coordinates and observed impacts.

>>> See explanation above.

63. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on how to avoid, minimize or mitigate impact of infrastructural developments and related disturbance affecting waterbirds?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl** button on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

No

Please explain the reasons. What other guidance has been used instead?

>>> The AEWA Guidelines were not used specifically, but the national legislation and EU-guidelines on how to avoid, minimize or mitigate impact of infrastructural developments and related disturbance affecting waterbirds are in accordance with the AEWA-guidelines.

## **64. Please report on the implementation of Resolution 5.11 on Power Lines and Migratory Waterbirds.**

64.1. Are relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, scientific bodies, nongovernmental organisations and the energy sector, being regularly consulted in order to monitor jointly the impacts of power lines on waterbirds and to agree on a common policy of action?

Partially

Please provide details.

>>> Monitoring is generally part of the obligatory conditions in a derogation for the construction of powerlines. Nevertheless, this is a priority issue in The Netherlands, considering the upscaling of the energy transition in the near future and its impacts on nature (see the weblink attached).

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Vulnerable species for energy infrastructure in the Netherlands (2018) - Overview of the effects of renewable energy infrastructure and high-voltage lines on the vulnerable species of birds, bats, marine mammals and fish, and possible solutions for a nature-inclusive energy transition

64.2. Has a baseline of waterbird distribution, population sizes, migrations and movements (including those between breeding, resting and feeding areas) been established as early as possible in the planning of any power line project, over a period of at least five years, and with particular emphasis on those species known to be vulnerable to electrocution or collision?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The planning of any new power line project requires an appropriate assessment (EIA) to determine its implications for the site concerned, including waterbird populations. In this assessment all available knowledge and data is used, including the waterbird monitoring data (see also the answer under question 62). If data is insufficient to make a good assessment of the impact, additional counts and research is carried out. Baseline studies on waterbird distribution are carried out each month in important sites by the Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology (SOVON). These data are stored in databases and can be used for Ecological Impact Assessments (EIAs). EIA are obligatory for infrastructural developments like the construction of power lines.

64.3 If such studies, as described in the question above, have identified any risks, has every effort been made to ensure these are avoided?

Yes

Please provide details.

>>> Yes by searching for alternative sites or by implementing compensation and or mitigation measures.

64.4. Have the location, route and direction of new power lines been designated on the basis of national zoning maps?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The EU Birds Directive requires that any plan or project, including new power lines, shall undergo an appropriate assessment to determine its implications for the site concerned and to be approved only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned or have a significant effect on the populations of the bird species for which the Nature 2000 area is designated (all Ramsar sites are also designated as Natura 2000-sites). In this assessment all available knowledge on bird distribution, key habitats for waterbirds and migration routes is used. If there is insufficient knowledge additional field work will be executed to be able to make the assessment.

64.5. Has, wherever possible, the construction of power lines along major migration flyways and in habitats of conservation importance\* been avoided, where such construction is likely to have significant effects on waterbirds?

\* such as Special Protection Areas under the EU Birds Directive, Important Bird Areas, protected areas, Ramsar sites, the West/Central Asian Site Network for Siberian Crane and other waterbirds and other critical sites as identified by the Critical Site Network (CSN) Tool for the African-Eurasian region.

Yes

Please provide details.

>>> See answer above under 64.4.

64.6. Are bird-safe designs in the construction of new power infrastructure, including measures designed to reduce electrocution and collisions being used in your country?

Yes



Please provide details

>>> All low utility and medium voltage distribution lines have been placed underground in the Netherlands. The electrocution problem is therefore absent in our country.

TenneT (national electricity transmission system operator) works closely with stakeholders to balance environmental concerns with a secure and stable energy supply. In coming years, TeneT expects to realise another 10 km underground 380 kV cables, further reducing the impact on local ecology and landscape. In addition, the overhead lines will be realised with the Wintrack pylon. The benefits to landscape and ecology of this relatively new type of pylon is that instead of two overhead lines crossing the landscape and forming a danger to birds, only one line will remain. Bird flight diverters will be placed in bird habitat areas. Research is also carried out on the effectiveness of so-called 'bird flaps' that are aimed at minimising the collision with power lines.

For the connection of offshore wind farms in the Dutch part of the North Sea, TenneT has signed a partnership with the NGO 'Natuur and Milieu', jointly working to minimise the impact of future offshore wind farm connections on the environment.

64.7. Have those sections of existing power lines that are causing relatively high levels of waterbird injury and/or mortality due to electrocution and/or collision been identified?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> TenneT has placed bird markers on locations with relatively high numbers of collision. All low utility and medium voltage distribution lines have been placed underground in the Netherlands. The electrocution problem is therefore absent in our country.

64.8. Where sections of existing power lines have been identified to cause relatively high levels of waterbird injury and/or mortality due to electrocution and/or collision, have they been modified as a matter of priority?

Yes

Please provide details.

>>> Mitigation measures will be installed if any of these sections exist.

64.9. Is there in your country regular monitoring and evaluation of the impact of power lines on waterbird populations at the national scale?

Partial

Please provide details.

>>> Monitoring (on a local scale) is generally an obligatory condition in a derogation. Occasionally the impacts on a national scale are evaluated (See the weblink to the scientific report under question 64.1).

64.10. Is there in your country regular monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of mitigation measures put in place to minimise the impact of power lines on waterbird populations?

Partial

Please provide details.

>>> If part of the conditions in a derogation.

64.11. Have the measures contained in Resolution 5.11. been included in your country's National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and relevant legislation?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> See answers above.

65. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on how to avoid or mitigate impact of electricity power grids on migratory birds in the African-Eurasian region?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

Yes

Please provide details

>>> In the case of new connections the EU- and AEWA guidelines are used. EIA are applied, mitigating measures are incorporated in the permit conditions, assessments are made with sufficient research and post-monitoring of collision victims takes place. TenneT has signed the European Grid Declaration in which grid operators and environmental organisations team up to promote sustainable modernisation of electricity grids.

## 66. Please report on the implementation of Resolution 5.16 on Renewable Energy and Migratory Waterbirds.

66.1. Has a national sensitivity and zoning mapping to avoid overlap of renewable energy developments with areas of importance for migratory waterbirds been developed in your country?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Updated wind turbine risk maps for birds have been published early 2021 by SOVON Vogelonderzoek Nederland (Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology).

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Background paper wind energy sensitivity map birds \(Netherlands\)](#)

66.2. Have any international environmental guidelines, recommendations and criteria been followed in your country for impact assessment of renewable energy developments and the utilization of renewable energy sources?

Yes

Please describe which guidelines, recommendations and criteria have been followed.

>>> The environmental legislation in The Netherlands is in line with the international environmental guidelines, recommendations and criteria.

66.3. Is post-construction monitoring being undertaken of the renewable energy installations and associated infrastructure in your country?

Yes

Please share information and lessons learnt from the post-construction monitoring.

>>> In general this is part of the obligatory conditions of a derogation.

Has adverse effect on migratory waterbirds and their habitats been identified?

Yes

Are mitigation measures being implemented?

Yes

Please provide details on the measures implemented.

>>> Several mitigation measures. See the attached overview by Tennet (2017).

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Nature and the high voltage grid \(Tennet, 2017\)](#)

Please share information and lessons learnt from the mitigation measures.

>>> In 2009, TenneT, the body responsible for the Dutch power network, funded research into reducing the number of bird collisions with high voltage power lines. As part of this research, part of a 150kV line near Hazerswoude-Rijndijk in the Netherlands, was fitted with a new type of marking device: the 'bird flaps' (or 'vogelflappen'). In order to investigate the effectiveness of these 'bird flaps', Bureau Waardenburg carried out research into the numbers of collision victims along both marked and unmarked parts of the power line. The research revealed that the 'bird flaps' led to a 67% reduction in the number of collision victims for bird that crossed the line during the day. The 'bird flaps' apparently allowed birds to detect the power line at a greater distance and adjust their altitude accordingly. In particular, the number of ducks, which made up a large proportion of the collision victims, reduced by around 80%. This is particularly interesting as most ducks passed the line at night. This suggests that the 'bird flaps' even increase the visibility of the line during periods of darkness (see attached website Bureau Waardenburg).

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Effective marking of Powerlines](#)

66.4. Where damage cannot be avoided or mitigated, has compensation for damages to biodiversity been provided?

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> In general it can be said that the policy is to change the project to avoid or mitigate damage to biodiversity. So compensation is usually not applicable in these cases.

Operate wind farms in ways that minimise bird mortality, for example by introducing shortterm shutdowns during peak migration and minimising lighting in wind farms.

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The Appropriate Assessment (Passende Beoordeling) reveals that significant negative impacts on nature are not to be expected with windfarms at sea of up to 10 NM as long as mitigating measures are taken. This means limits to noise levels in the construction phase, limits to the number of wind turbines, limits to the minimal size of the turbines and agreements about temporarily adjusting the rotation speed of wind turbines in very specific weather conditions.

Dismantling of wind turbines in existing installations, should waterbird mortality have an effect on the population status of a species and other mitigation measures have proved insufficient.

Not applicable

Please explain the reasons

>>> This situation is non-existent in The Netherlands.

Focusing research efforts on alleviating the negative effects on waterbirds from wind farms, such as the mapping of the main migration corridors and migration crossings for waterbirds also allowing the optimising of wind farm layouts.

Yes

Please provide details

>>> These issues are part of (strategic) environmental impact assessments.

66.6. Have any specific measures been put in place to assess, identify and reduce potential negative impacts of biofuel production on migratory waterbirds and their habitats?

No

Please explain the reasons. What are the constraints preventing implementation of this activity?

>>> The production of biofuels may lead to changes in land-use, which can have an affect on biodiversity. So far no assessment has been made on the potential negative impact of biofuel production on migratory waterbirds and their habitats in The Netherlands. Compared to other negative impacts on migratory waterbirds this subject is currently low on the agenda, as biofuel production is relatively limited in the Netherlands.

66.7. Have the measures contained in Resolution 5.11. been included in your country's National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and relevant legislation?

No

Please explain the reasons. What are the constraints preventing implementation of this activity?

>>> Resolution 5.11 concerns Power Lines and Migratory Waterbirds. As stated above the impact of power lines on migratory birds is relatively limited in the Netherlands.

67. Has your country used the following AEWA Conservation Guidelines - Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment (Resolution 6.11)?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

No

Please explain the reasons. What other guidance has been used instead?

>>> Other information gave already the needed facts for national implementation. The national implementation is in general in line with the AEWA guidelines.

68. Is by-catch of waterbirds in fishing gear taking place in your country? (Resolution 3.8) (Please respond to this question only with respect to species, which are NOT considered seabirds. Seabird by-catch is dealt with in section 4.6 Seabirds)

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Waterbirds are caught as bycatch in gillnet fisheries. Sites where this is for instance a problem is lake IJsselmeer. Different assessments have been made about the magnitude and importance with different results ranging from large impact to relatively small impact. Mitigation measures are implemented.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Bycatch of birds in the fresh water lakes IJsselmeer and Markermeer \(2012/2013\)](#)

70. Has any project / initiative been implemented in your country that promotes the integration of cultural and provisioning ecosystem services of migratory waterbirds into policy and decision-making affecting them or their habitats? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 2.6)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Not specifically although ecosystem services as such are increasingly part of policy and decision making. See the Atlas Natural Capital.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Atlas Natural Capital](#)

# Pressures and Responses

## 7. Research and Monitoring

71. Does your country have in place waterbird monitoring schemes for the AEWA species? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Actions 1.4(a) and 1.4(b))

Yes

### Covering the breeding period

Guidance: Including pre- and post-breeding sites of concentration, such as moulting sites close to breeding areas

Partially

Please provide details. (incl. list the species covered OR not covered (whichever list is shorter))

>>> Breeding waterbirds are monitored in The Netherlands as part of the integral national breeding bird monitoring scheme. This scheme is made up of several partial schemes that are combined in the stage of analysis. The data are gathered in a standardized way in sample areas and statistically weighted by using weighting parameters based upon land use. The results are calculated for The Netherlands as a whole making use of sophisticated statistical imputing techniques.

Is information on drivers of population trends also being collected?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Because the breeding waterbird monitoring scheme is an integral part of the national breeding bird scheme in which information on drivers of population trends is not gathered during field work.

### Covering the passage period

Partially

Please provide details. (incl. list the species covered OR not covered (whichever list is shorter))

>>> All species passing by during the passage period are counted by volunteers using the private-owned Trektellen.org facility. There is no formal monitoring scheme for birds during the passage period in The Netherlands.

Is information on drivers of population trends also being collected?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Data collection on birds on passage has no central coordination in standard field method but is fully based on the volunteer activities of the observers. Almost all observers use the Trektellen-app so all data come together in that database.

### Covering the non-breeding/wintering period

Fully [Guidance: Coverage is full when all internationally and nationally important non-breeding/wintering sites are covered at least by one comprehensive annual count.]

Please provide details.

>>> The national Waterbird Monitoring Scheme gathers data of all AEWA species in almost all important waterbird areas. The coordination of the observers is heavily influenced by the ultimate goal to count all areas during all counts (6-7 in total) but because the counts are voluntarily that aim is almost impossible to reach. Yet the results are calculated for The Netherlands as a whole making use of sophisticated statistical imputing techniques.

Is information on drivers of population trends also being collected?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Collecting this information is not part of the project. Information on drivers is collected from many different data sources enabling to do detailed analyses as the information on these drivers are well available in The Netherlands on many different spatial scales.

72. Is data collected through the International Waterbird Census or other relevant monitoring schemes being actively used in your country to inform national-level implementation of AEWA? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 1.5(a))

Yes

73. Has your country supported, technically or financially, other Parties or Range States in designing appropriate monitoring schemes and developing their capacity to collect reliable waterbird population data? (Resolution 5.2)

Yes

Which country(ies) were supported?

>>> Through cooperation in the European Bird Census Council many countries in southern and eastern Europe have been able to make use of the advices and experiences in The Netherlands. These experiences were also extensively used in the Waddensea Flyway Initiative in which western African countries are enabled to do waterbird counts themselves.

**74. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on waterbird monitoring?**

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

Yes

Please provide details

>>> One of the co-authors was a Dutch leading expert on (international) waterbird monitoring.

75. Has your government provided over the past triennium funds and/or logistical support for the International Waterbird Census and/or other waterbird monitoring scheme at international or national level? (Resolution 6.3)

Yes

**Nationally**

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The national bird monitoring schemes are primarily financed by the national government.

**Internationally**

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The Waddensea Flyway Initiative is partly financed by the Dutch national government. Most of the activities for AEWA is also financed by the Dutch national government.

76. Has your country donated funds to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Fund in the past triennium (Resolution 6.3, Resolution 7.7)?

**Notice:** Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the Ctrl button on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

Yes

78. Has the impact of lead fishing weights on waterbirds been investigated in your country? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.3.12). When answering this question please also consider question 58 in chapter 6 - Management of human activities.

No

Are there plans to investigate the impact of lead fishing weights on waterbirds in your country?

No

Please provide reason(s)

>>> Use of lead has completely stopped in The Netherlands.

# Pressures and Responses

## 8. Education and Information

### 8.1. Communication, Education and Public Awareness

79. Has your country developed and implemented programmes for raising awareness and understanding on waterbird conservation and about AEWA specifically? (Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 4, Target 4.3 and AEWA Action Plan, paragraphs 6.1-6.4, Resolution 3.10, Resolution 5.5; Resolution 6.10)

Guidance: Such programmes should consist of a series of established, long-term communication activities, which are guided by clearly defined goals, target audiences and communication channels. A programme does not constitute a single, one-off communication activity, product or event. In other words, an established national programme to raise awareness and understanding on waterbird conservation and about AEWA would ideally be a number of targeted communication activities which are guided by a communication plan and are backed by sufficient human and financial resources.

Yes, being implemented

Please describe the awareness programmes which have been developed. Please upload any relevant sample materials which have been developed and add contact details of a contact person for each programme.

>>> Many CEPA activities are implemented or ongoing, like:

- In the project 'Rust voor Vogels, Ruimte voor Mensen' (Rest for birds, space for people), Birdlife Netherlands, along with other nature- and landscape organizations, improves the conditions for breeding, resting and foraging birds in the Wadden Sea area. The project also aims to let visitors enjoy the birds of the Wadden Sea by bringing the nature experience closer. This is realised by creating new bird watching areas, handing out free bird recognition cards, a free downloadable bird recognition app, interactive maps, educative posters, short animation movies, and creating new bike- and walking routes. The philosophy is that the more people enjoy birds and nature, the greater the support for conservation and restoration. (see the website attached).

- Some 18 education centres are located at wetlands of international importance (for AEWA species among others): Oosterschelde (2), Wieden, Weerribben, Westerschelde and Saeftinghe, Biesbosch (3), Alde Feanen, Lauwersmeer, Groote Peel, Grevelingen, Oostvaardersplassen and the Wadden islands of Texel, Vlieland, Terschelling, Ameland and Schiermonnikoog (which not only provide information on the island dunes but also on the Wadden Sea and adjacent North Sea Coastal Zone). All these visitor centres provide information on the value of these sites for (AEWA-listed) migratory bird species. They also often run programs for school children.

- Educational programmes on Forest and Nature Conservation (including wetland and bird conservation) are offered at all educational levels: Secondary Vocational Education, Universities of Applied Sciences and Scientific Universities.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Enjoy the Wadden Nature](#)

Does the programme specifically focus on AEWA and the provisions of its Action Plan?

No

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> The programs focus on the natural values (among which migratory birds), wise use and conservation issues mainly.

80. Has a National AEWA Focal Point for Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) been designated by your country? (Resolution 5.5; Resolution 6.10)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> This position is vacant at the moment, due to limited capacity.

81. Have measures been taken by your country to implement the provisions related to "Education and Information" in the AEWA Action Plan over the last triennium? (AEWA Action Plan, Paragraphs 6.1-6.4)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> No, not specifically. The focus of the Netherlands is on the implementation of the National Nature Network including the Natura 2000 sites. The education and information activities concerned are generally in line with the AEWA Action Plan.

82. Have World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) activities been carried out in your country during this reporting

cycle? (Resolution 5.5)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Nature excursions among others regarding migratory birds are provided by nature management organisations, but these are not specifically attributed to WMBD. Events during the Covid-19 period are very much limited though.

83. Has your country provided funding and/or other support, as appropriate (e.g. expertise, network, skills and resources) towards the implementation of the AEWA Communication Strategy and/or towards priority CEPA activities in the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027? Please consider both national and international funding and different types of support provided. (Resolution 6.10)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Not specifically, as the present focus of the Netherlands lies on the implementation, including CEPA activities, of the National Nature Network including Natura 2000 sites. However, many national and international activities by GO and NGO's are in line with the AEWA Communication Strategy, including:

- Wetland Guardians (comparable to Birdlife Internationals IBA-caretakers) (See website attached)
- Wetland Visitor Centres and activities organised by nature management organisations like Staatsbosbeheer and Natuurmonumenten.
- International projects by the Netherlands Society for the Protection of Birds aiming at the conservation of wetlands within the AEWA-flyway.
- International training by the Centre for Development Innovation (Wageningen) on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)

Besides that numerous (general nature) CEPA activities have been implemented under the governmental and NGO nature education programmes.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[International projects by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Birds \(Vogelbescherming Nederland\)](#)  
[Wetland Guardians](#)



# Pressures and Responses

## 9. Implementation

84. Have you undertaken a national assessment of the resources needed for the delivery of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.6.(b))

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> All resources go to the implementation of the EU Birds- and Habitats Directives. By doing so the NL also implements AEWA.

85. Has your country approached non-contracting party range states to encourage them to accede to the Agreement? (Resolution 3.10; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 5.2)

Report only on activities over the past triennium

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Other priorities due to limited capacity.

86. Does your country have in place a national coordination mechanism for implementation of AEWA, possibly linking to national coordination mechanisms for other biodiversity Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)? (Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.3(b))

**Guidance:** Such mechanism can be a dedicated cross-institutional working group, involving representatives of the civil society and other relevant stakeholders, aimed at planning, coordinating and reporting the implementation of the Agreement in the country. Alternatively, the implementation of AEWA at national level can be coordinated as an extension of larger national coordination mechanisms for other MEAs, such as National Ramsar Committees or CBD NBSAPs coordination.

Yes, it is operational on a regular basis

Please provide details

>>> The AEWA AA (Director of the current Department of Nature & Biodiversity) is also responsible for CMS, Ramsar, CITES, CBD and the EU Habitats and Birds Directives and the species policies.

Are priority capacity gaps addressed by the coordination mechanism?

Yes

Please rank the effectiveness of the national coordination mechanism for AEWA implementation:

High

Please provide details and the reasons for the high effectiveness

>>> The activities concerning AEWA are increasingly in line with other biodiversity Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) which increases the effectiveness of AEWA implementation.

87. Have you undertaken a national assessment of the capacity needs for AEWA implementation? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.3.(e))

No

88. Has your country concluded, or considered concluding, twinning schemes between sites with other countries, the sites of which share common migratory waterbirds or conservation issues? (Resolution 5.20)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> No new sites within past triennium, but cooperation already exists regarding sites like the Wadden Sea (with Germany and Denmark) and Banc d'Arguin in Mauritania . Also the Dutch Society for the Protection of Birds (Vogelbescherming Nederland) supports sites in other countries along the AEWA-flyway (see website)

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Memorandum of Understanding Banc d'Arguin - Wadden Sea \(2014\)](#)

[International projects by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Birds \(Vogelbescherming Nederland\)](#)

89. Are those officers in your country's government responsible for AEWA implementation co-ordinated and engaged with national processes contributing towards the Aichi Targets and the assessment of achieving these targets? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.4(a))

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Both officers work within the Department of Nature and Biodiversity of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality.

90. Are those officers in your country's government responsible for AEWA implementation co-ordinated and engaged with national processes contributing towards the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and the assessment of achieving these goals? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.4(a))

Yes

91. Are those officers in your country's government responsible for AEWA implementation co-ordinated and engaged with national processes to implementation and assess the delivery of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.4(a))

Yes

**92. Are the AEWA priorities incorporated into your country's National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) and/or other similar strategic plans and policies (Resolution 6.3; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 5.5)?**

92.1 NBSAP

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> The Netherlands do not have a specific NBSAP. However, the AEWA priorities are well incorporated in the national biodiversity strategy, which focuses on the realisation of the National Nature Network which includes almost all Natura 2000 sites. Nearly all sites of international importance for AEWA-listed species are included herein.

92.2 Other strategic plans and policies

Yes

Please name the other strategic planning processes

>>> The National Nature Network, which is the backbone of biodiversity conservation in the Netherlands, is due to be finalised in 2027.

Sustainable Development Goals

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Not specifically but the interests of AEWA are covered for by international projects under the Dutch Fund for Climate and Development (see website attached).

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Dutch Fund for Climate and Development \(2019\)](#)

Aichi Targets

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Not specifically but the interests of AEWA are covered for by international projects under the Dutch Fund for Climate and Development (see website attached above).

Strategic Plan for Migratory Species

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Not specifically but the interests of AEWA are covered for by international projects under the Dutch Fund for Climate and Development (see website attached above).

**94. How would your country suggest promoting further links between the biodiversity MEAs to which your country is a Contracting Party, so as to make your work more efficient and effective?**

>>> We support the Future Shape process in the CMS, as well as current cooperation among nature conservation related MEAs. Better coordinated reporting and less duplications would be welcomed.

**95. Has your country donated funds to the AEWA Small Grants Fund (SGF) over the past triennium? (Resolution 7.1)**

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of funds

**96. Has your country donated other funding or provided in-kind support to activities coordinated by the Secretariat?**

Yes

Please provide details, including amount of funds donated

>>> The Netherlands provided inkind support to the modelling and monitoring work of the EGMP. The Netherlands funds the coordinator of the Black Tailed Godwit IWG. The Netherlands provided inkind support to the MOP documents on monitoring.

**97. Has your country prioritised and allocated a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) to the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat for Technical Committee support or for any other area of work? (Resolution 7.11, Resolution 7.12)**

No and has not been prioritised

**98. Please report on the implementation of Resolution 6.21 on Resource mobilisation for the implementation of AEWA.**

98.1 Did your country's government provide in the last triennium financial and/or in-kind resources to support national activities which are intended to achieve the objectives of this Agreement, particularly those in line with the AEWA Strategic Plan including the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa, and in accordance with your national plans, priorities and programmes?

Yes

Please describe the resources provided

>>> Statebudget is forwarded to the provinces for nature conservation. This also includes specific actions for the protection of waders.

98.2 Does your country's government have unpaid dues to the AEWA Trust Fund (annual assessed contributions to the Agreement's budget as approved by each session of the Meeting of the Parties)?

No

98.3 Has your country's government provided funding to support developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, to meet their obligations under AEWA, and the implementation of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027? Under this question please report for support provided outside of formal and established intergovernmental cooperation. For the latter, please refer to the next question 98.4.

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> No funding made available

98.4 Does your country's government participate in any South-South, North-South or triangular cooperation to enhance financial and technical support for the successful implementation of AEWA activities?

Yes

Please describe each cooperation arrangement

>>> Through the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative Milestones](#)

98.5 Does your country's government use innovative financing mechanisms for implementing the AEWA Strategic Plan such as a (national) Migratory Waterbirds Fund?

No

98.6 Does the implementation of AEWA in your country benefit from synergies between biodiversity-related

conventions at national level, amongst others, through information sharing on potential funding opportunities and sharing of financial resources such as the Desertification Fund, Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund, and the Global Environmental Facility?

Yes

Please describe each synergetic arrangement and benefits acquired

>>> -The implementation of AEWA benefits from the EU Birds Directive as the legal framework for the designation of protected areas, for the protection of the birds in general and the knowledge and monitoring scheme's to establish the status of the Species.

-The Bern Convention requires additional information. Based on articles 1 &3 the Netherlands publishes Red Lists that are established according our national criteria and methods. For the international comparison we also make a Red List based on IUCN criteria. In 2017 the Red List of Breeding Birds was renewed.

-The Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation provides efforts for a joint knowledge base for protecting one of world's most important migratory hotspots.

- The Wadden Sea Flyway initiative has a focus on the monitoring and the necessary capacity building for monitoring along Migratory routes.

# Pressures and Responses

## 10. Climate Change

### 99. Please outline relevant climate change research, assessments and/or adaptation measures that are relevant to migratory waterbirds and which have been undertaken or planned in your country. (Resolution 5.13)

a. Research and studies of climate change impacts on waterbirds

Undertaken

Please provide references or weblinks to any such work so as to facilitate their use as potential case-studies to assist other Contracting Parties

>>> A broad range of institutions and universities are involved in research on the effects of climate change on birds. (See some of these in the attached websites).

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Netherlands Institute of Ecology](#)

[Reports on climate change by the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat](#)

[Research on the impacts of climate change on birds by the Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology](#) - Dossier Climate Change by SOVON, the Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology.

[Climate change threatens migratory birds of the Wadden Sea \(2020\)](#) - Research by the Wadden Academy

[Research on migratory birds by Groningen University](#)

[Research on climate change by Wageningen University](#)

b. Assessment of the potential vulnerability to climate change of key habitats used by waterbird species (including those outside protected area networks) (Please note that the question asks about habitats, rather than sites. Question 41 in Section 5, sub-section 5.2 investigates vulnerability of sites to climate change)

Undertaken

Please provide references or weblinks to any such work so as to facilitate their use as potential case-studies to assist other Contracting Parties

>>> See the websites provided above under a.

c. Assessment of the potential vulnerability of waterbird species to climate change.

Undertaken

Please provide references or weblinks to any such work so as to facilitate their use as potential case-studies to assist other Contracting Parties

>>> See websites under a. as well as the reference to papers attached.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Arctic Geese Tune Migration to a Warming Climate but Still Suffer from a Phenological Mismatch](#)

[Wintering bird communities are tracking climate change faster than breeding communities](#)

d. Review of relevant national conservation policies relevant to waterbirds and climate change.

Undertaken

Please provide references or weblinks to any such work so as to facilitate their use as potential case-studies to assist other Contracting Parties

>>> Climate change will cause temperature rise, sea level rise and increase of rain fall peaks. Winters will be wetter and summers will be drier. Rising sea levels, changing rain patterns and a warmer climate will have a direct effect on migratory bird species. Climate change will lead to changes in water management in the Netherlands, which will impact on the conditions for nature.

On 22 March 2018, the Minister presented the 'Room for the River' final evaluation to the House of Parliament. The goal of the Dutch Room for the River Programme was to give the river more room for dynamic processes and to be able to manage higher water levels. At more than 30 locations, measures were taken to give the river space to flood safely. Moreover, the measures were designed in such a way that they improve the quality of the immediate surroundings. Monitoring reveals a strong increase of natural values in 20 years of nature development along the large rivers.

The Programmatic Approach Main Waters aims for a future-proof system of the main waters in the Netherlands where high-quality nature goes well with a powerful economy. These waters are the main habitat for migratory bird species. The approach strongly takes into account the effects of climate change. Natural

processes have a crucial role in creating new synergies between various urgent tasks as the necessary measures for flood protection, nature conservation and recreation and tourism. This concept is called Building with Nature or Ecoengineering.

The approach shows a resilient and robust nature: giving more space to the rivers (and nature), and their dynamic processes, restoring transitions between fresh and marine waters and between land and water.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Programmatic Approach Main Waters](#)  
[Room for the River Program](#)

e. National Action Plan for helping waterbirds adapt to climate change (as a separate implementation process or as part of a larger national framework for biodiversity adaptation to climate change. Please note that Question 42 in Section 5, sub-section 5.2 investigates national measures for increasing resilience of the ecological network for waterbirds to climate change).

Undertaken

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Programmatic Approach Main Waters](#)

Please provide references or weblinks to any such work so as to facilitate their use as potential case-studies to assist other Contracting Parties

>>> The Programmatic Approach Main Waters, may be considered as a national action plan for helping waterbirds adapt to climate change. Furthermore, most sites important for migratory waterbirds are designated as Natura 2000-site and have a managementplan. If necessary these plans include species-specification adaptation measures to climate change.

f. Other undertaken or planned relevant activities.

No

**100. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on measures needed to help waterbirds to adapt to climate change?**

**Notice:** Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the Ctrl button on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

No

Please explain the reasons. What other guidance has been used instead?

>>> The AEWA Guidelines were not used specifically, but the national legislation and Natura 2000-measures needed to help waterbirds adapt to climate change are in accordance with the AEWA-guidelines.

# Pressures and Responses

## 11. Avian Influenza

### 101. What issues have proved challenging in responding nationally to the spread of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in the last triennium and what further guidance or information would be useful in this respect?

#### List challenges

>>> Highly pathogenic Avian Influenza is a recurring issue in the Netherlands. The Netherlands is a favorite location for many migratory waterbirds to hibernate. Avian Influenza virus circulates in wild waterbirds when they gather on breeding ground in North Europe and Russia. When infected birds migrate towards the Netherlands in the fall, they take the virus with them and wild birds or poultry in the Netherlands may become infected.

#### List required further guidance or information

>>> This year many wild birds that died from AI were reported. Primarily barnacle geese were found dead but also various types of ducks and other geese were affected. Since January 2021 several raptors were found dead from HPAI, mainly buzzards, a species which is numerous in the Netherlands and is known to (also) eat dead waterbirds.

#### Field for additional information (optional)

>>> We take several preventive measures to protect poultry holdings from becoming infected with avian influenza. These measures apply year round or might be obligatory in the high risk period when migratory birds in the Netherlands have been found to be infected with HPAI.

1. We oblige poultry farmers to keep their poultry indoors, when there is a high risk of avian influenza.
2. Additional biosecurity measures according to a hygiene protocol have to be implemented at the farms and farms have to keep a register of visitors.
3. Farmers have to report mortality rates rise above 0,5% at the Competent Authority NVWA
4. Farmers have to report a suspicion of an infection immediately to the CA
5. We have a serological monitoring programme to detect low pathogenic viruses
6. We cull infected farms to reduce the probability of further spread and to reduce the chances of spill over from poultry farms to wild bird populations
7. We have a monitoring programme to monitor the AI situation in wild bird populations

## **12. 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 implementation of AEWA for the period 2018-2020 has been verified and the report has been approved for submission by the appropriate state institution in the country.

#### **Date of submission**

>>> 16-4-2021