

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

48th Meeting of the Standing Committee

Bonn, Germany, 23 – 24 October 2018

UNEP/CMS/StC48/Doc.4.1.1

**REPORT OF THE EUROPEAN PARTIES' ACTIVITIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES AND ITS RELATED INSTRUMENTS
TO THE 48TH MEETING OF THE CMS STANDING COMMITTEE**

**Report of the European parties' activities for the implementation of the Convention on
Migratory Species and its related instruments
to the 48th Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee**

This report presents the activities undertaken since the Twelfth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (October 2017) at national, regional, sub-regional levels for the implementation of the Convention and its related instruments as well as relevant resolutions and decisions.

1. CMS and its relevant instruments and other initiatives

Agreements

Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)

FRANCE:

France is hosting the nearly extinct Albatros of the Amsterdam island (*Diomedea amsterdamensis*). A national action plan has been implemented by French district "Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises" between 2012 and 2017. The subsequent NAP should be developed and carried out between 2018 and 2027 (pending validation of Conseil national de protection de la nature to be expected in September). This future plan includes :

- actions to prevent threats to this species (including diseases, pathogens and bycatch);
- conservation measures (population monitoring, demographic analysis, marine distribution, e.g);
- public awareness raising, communication.

Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)

The 13th meeting of the AEWA Standing Committee was held in The Hague, The Netherlands, from 3 to 5 July. Several European parties have reported for this meeting; the information can be found in the "Report on activities relating to the implementation of AEWA for the Europe and Central Asia Region" on:

http://www.unep-awea.org/sites/default/files/document/stc13_inf_7_reg_report_europe_and_central_asia_rev1.pdf

In addition, the AEWA MOP7 will be held from 4 to 8 December 2018 in Durban, Republic of South Africa. Many national reports could be found soon on: <http://www.unep-awea.org/fr/meeting/7eme-reunion-des-parties-awea>.

FRANCE:

- France carried on supporting financially the Technical Support Unit (TSU) which includes ONCFS and Tour du Valat and permanently implements activities both in North and Subsaharan Africa.
- France is developing since November 2016, several activities in sub-Saharan Africa through the FFEM/FAO/EU RESSOURCE project, in particular in Senegal, Chad, Egypt and Sudan. This project of an amount of 5 M€ on 4 years will enhance the management of waterbirds in the Sahel and Nile Valley.
- Through a financial support to the NGO, OMPO, France carried on the development of the project initiated in 2012 aiming at improving knowledge on the conservation status of 5 species of Turdidae (4 thrushes and the Blackbird) and 6 species of Anatidae.
- The French Ministry of Environment, together with National Hunters' Federation and Fondation François Sommer has funded the drafting of the International Management Plan for the Greylag Goose (NW/SW European population) under the AEWA. The drafting has been entrusted to OMPO. In addition, France contributed to the functioning of the European Goose Management Platform (EGMP) for 30,000 Euros in 2017 and 40,000 € in 2018 with the support of Fondation François Sommer. In that framework, France attended the 3rd meeting of the European Goose management Platform (Leeuwarden, The Netherlands, July 2018).

- The EU Regulations on IAS have been transcribed into French law by the Decree No. 2017-595 of April 21, 2017 on the control and management of the introduction and spread of certain animal and plant species, the Order of February 14, 2018 on the prevention of the introduction and spread of invasive alien animal species in metropolitan France, and the Order of February 14, 2018 on the prevention of the introduction and spread of species invasive alien plants on the metropolitan territory. The decree of April 21, 2017 gives provisions for species already established: eradication for new populations, confinement for others. The first order of February 14, 2018 prohibits the introduction into the natural environment of several animal species, including the Canada goose. A more restrictive level (Level 2) also prohibits the possession, sale, exchange or transport of the IASs listed in the European regulation, with derogation for zoos (under conditions) and transitional measures for the current legal holders (no reproduction, no escape). The Egyptian Goose and the Ruddy Duck are regarded by Level 2, the objective being to avoid new introductions.
- France attended the the 1st Meeting of the AEWA Eurasian Curlew International Working Group (Aberlady Bay, Scotland, 4-6 September 2018).

THE NETHERLANDS

- The Netherlands contributes to the AEWA European Goose platform, financially and by a Dutch goose research programme, and also established a national goose platform.
- The Netherlands has hosted meetings for the AEWA Black Tailed Godwit ISAP for the Western European Breeding Grounds in the Netherlands and one in Senegal for the wintering and stop-over countries.
- The Netherlands participates in the AEWA Curlew ISAP.
- Under the umbrella of the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative, the Netherlands continues with coordinating, supporting and supervising waterbirds counts of tidal areas in West Africa together with other relevant partners. In January 2017 the 2nd huge simultaneous count was held in 30 countries, involving more than 1500 counters. The final report of the total synchronous counts of the East Atlantic Flyway in 30 countries in 2017 is now being produced.
- In 2018 The Netherlands financed and organized the bird counts in the key areas along the East Atlantic Flyway as part of the Waddensea Flyway Initiative.
- The Netherlands contributes to the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna, Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (CAFF/AMBI) To help to reinforce the East Atlantic Flyway.
- The Netherlands also contributes to a research project called: "Sensing ecological changes in the Wadden Sea and Arctic sites as indicated by migratory birds of the EAF, starting in the Wadden Sea"
- The 2016 trilateral Framework Action plan for Breeding birds in the Trilateral Waddensea resulted into a specific action plan for the Dutch Wadden sea breeding birds and is pending implementation. This programme is taken up in the EU Life-IP delta Nature programme the Netherlands successfully submitted.

Agreement on the Conservation of cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) / Agreement on the Conservation of small cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS)

FRANCE:

- France encourages the launch of ASCOBANS/ ACCOBAMS bycatch working group.
- Among recent measures taken by France under ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS main stakes, it is worth mentioning:
 - the extension of the ACCOBAMS "High quality whale watching" label in the ACCOBAMS area in 2019.
 - reflexion on the way to regulate whale-watching in waters under French jurisdiction.
 - set up of a national working group on small cetaceans bycatch in the Atlantic, chaired by Fisheries Directorate and encompassing all relevant stakeholders (Administration, scientists and fisheries). It has 3 main goals : (i) improving knowledge on interactions between fishing ships and small cetaceans population; (ii) preventing bycatch through raising awareness and proposing innovative measures ; (iii) raising awareness of fisheries, and gathering information on bycatch. This group will still be on-going in 2019

- implementation of actions on marine mammals, turtles, and acoustics, under the Marine Framework Sustainable Directive (D1 for marine mammals, birds and turtles, D11 for marine noise). On acoustics and under D11 descriptor mentioned above, France will in 2019 publish a guide (“guide pour limiter les impacts des émissions acoustiques en mer d’origine anthropique sur la faune marine”) including proposals to reduce and mitigate human induced marine noise impacts to marine species. This guide will be mainly provided to French local administrations to help them assess impacts of infrastructure projects.

THE NETHERLANDS:

The Netherlands continues its research on bycatch of the harbor porpoise and also on the pathology on stranded animals

Agreement on the Conservation of Population of European bats (EUROBATS)

The 14th meeting of the Eurobats Standing Committee was held in Tallinn, Estonia, from 14 to 17 May. Several European parties have reported for this meeting; the information can be found on: <http://www.eurobats.org/node/1424>

In addition, the Eurobats MOP8 was held from 8th to 10th October 2018 in Monte Carlo, Principality of Monaco. Many national reports from the European region can be found on: <http://www.eurobats.org/node/1422#1>.

CZECH REPUBLIC:

- Czech Republic attended the 23rd meeting of the Advisory Committee and 14th meeting of the Standing Committee organised back-to-back in Tallinn, Estonia, from 14th to 17th May 2018) as well as MOP8 held from 8th to 10th October 2018 in Monte Carlo.

FRANCE:

- France attended the 23rd meeting of the Advisory Committee and 14th meeting of the Standing Committee organised back-to-back in Tallinn, Estonia, from 14th to 17th May 2018) as well as MOP8 held from 8th to 10th October 2018 in Monte Carlo.
- Following a first restoration plan of bats (1999-2004) and a first national action plan covering the period 2009 to 2013, a second national action plan 2016-2025 has been designed (see: <http://www.plan-actions-chiropteres.fr/> and http://www.plan-actions-chiropteres.fr/IMG/pdf_PNA-Chiropteres-2016_2025.pdf).
- The overall objective of this new action plan is to restore and maintain populations of 19 priority species throughout the metropolitan area. To that end, the inclusion of chiroptera in spatial planning policies, that is a major challenge for the long-term conservation of these species, represents the core of this new draft action plan. The conservation of ecological continuity, the reconciliation of agricultural and forestry practices are actions that will be undertaken as part of this plan. The impact of night lighting, new insulation standards for buildings and wind farms will be assessed and adapted to the relevant partners. Finally, the plan provides for the establishment of a national observatory for bats aimed at collecting data on these species and valuing them. The mobilization of actors from various horizons (public authorities, nature protection associations, socio-professional organizations, companies, individuals) is also necessary to carry out these actions and promote a better consideration of these species.
- A first assessment of this action plan for 2017 was published in the first quarter of 2018. In addition, a new version of the environmental monitoring protocol for onshore wind farms was adopted in March 2018. This protocol provides for new actions in favor of bats, including monitoring activity at altitude, continuously and without any duration sampling over the entire period of activity of bats.

THE NETHERLANDS: The Netherlands is conducting a study on the effects of windfarms on bats.

Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)

Bird species

Aquatic Warbler MOU

FRANCE: Following the evaluation of the first National Action Plan (NAP) for Aquatic Warbler and the reform of the NAP policy by the Ministry in charge of the Environment in 2017, a second NAP for the conservation of Aquatic Warbler will be conducted in France for the next ten years. Contrary to what had been considered for a moment, this NAP will remain a monospecific plan only dedicated to Aquatic Warbler.

The conclusions of the evaluation of the first NAP confirmed the peculiarities of the monitoring and the management of the habitats of this species:

- the monitoring of the Aquatic Warbler populations requires obligatorily to use the ringing which mobilizes a comprehensive network of specific actors under the control of the MNHN/CRBPO;
- the phenology and dates of migration of the species in France (mainly August and September) imply specific management actions of the staging sites meeting the requirements of the species.
- France's commitments through the MoU require coordination with the international action plan and an orientation of the NAP, allowing France to respond, in the long term, to the needs of the other parties expressed in the recommendations of the last Conference of the Parties. which took place in 2015 in Lithuania.

The steering committee for the drafting of the second NAP met on 2nd July 2018 in Paris. The drafting will be conducted in 2018; its content will mainly be organized around the 3 axes previously announced to CMS:

- carry on the French commitments taken at the third meeting of the MoU:
 - continue the monitoring on the migration sites;
 - provide indicators for breeding success under the guidance of CRBPO, which was committed during the last steering committee meeting;
- make managers of natural sites aware of the staging sites of the Aquatic Warbler;
- adapt the action plan, principally in the Natura 2000 sites, so as to maintain or increase the conservation status of those sites in order to meet the Aquatic Warbler's requirements.

In the meantime, field actions for the conservation of the Aquatic Warbler are still being carried on, notably the monitoring of the post-breeding migration by banding in late July / early August.

In addition, French representatives (Christine Blaize, (Bretagne vivante) national coordinator of the NAP and Arnaud Le Nevé of the DREAL Pays de Loire) attended the 20th anniversary of the AWCT (Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team) which will be held in Germany in April 2018.

Birds of Prey MOU

CZECH REPUBLIC: Czech Republic is preparing a National Raptors Strategy.

FRANCE:

- France provided information on the implementation of action plans through: (i) Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*) Global Action Plan (SakerGAP) - Implementation Status Questionnaire; (ii) Vulture MsAP Implementation Questionnaire.
- For the third consecutive year, young Bearded Vultures were reintroduced in the Natural Regional Park of Baronnies Provençales (south of Drôme département). Thus, three individuals born in captivity were released on May 6 2018.
- As part of the project of Osprey reintroduction in Aquitaine, 10 young Osprey, born in the Center-Val de Loire Region, were moved to New Aquitaine Region on the site of the Marais d'Orx in July 2018.

Marine species

IOSEA & Marine Turtles MOU

FRANCE:

- France expects to give a voluntary contribution to IOSEA this year.
- Activities developed in the Natura 2000 Camargue zone to mitigate bycatch of sea turtles during gillnet fishing as part of the project MAVA ACCOBAMS on mitigating negative interactions between threatened marine species and fishing activities (<http://www.accobams.org/main-activites/projects/interactions-with-fisheries/>) were presented at the Closing workshop of the project at Fuengirola (Málaga), Spain, in March 2018. A report on these actions has been published: Gambaiani, D. 2017. *Projet d'atténuation des interactions négatives entre les espèces marines menacées et les activités de pêche : Pêcheries au filet maillant dans la région camarguaise*. MoU ACCOBAMS No. 02/2016, 63 p (available on request). Finally, as requested by ACCOBAMS and FAO, the results of the project will be presented during the Fishforum which will be held in Rome: <http://www.fao.org/gfcm/fishforum2018/en/>

Sharks MOU

FRANCE: is carrying out the process in order to sign the MoU possibly at the next meeting of the signatories (MoS3, Monaco 10-14/12/2018).

THE NETHERLANDS: The Netherlands hosted the Technical and Advisory Committee Meeting in Bonaire.

2. Resolutions and Decisions

FRANCE: In July 2018, the French government adopted a Biodiversity Plan entitled "Biodiversity. All living!". This plan is articulated based on 6 thematic axes divided into 22 objectives and 90 actions for the realization of which, the Ministry in charge of environment will mobilize 600 million euros over 4 years. Some of these actions allow the implementation of several resolutions of the COP. This is particularly the case for resolutions:

- 12.03: "Manila declaration on sustainable development and migratory species" whose implementation is covered by two actions of the objective 4.1 "Bring a new ambitious framework for biodiversity at the international level" and three actions of the objective 4.2. "Setting biodiversity as a priority on the European agenda" under Axis 4 – "Develop an ambitious European and international roadmap for biodiversity";
- 12.06: "Wildlife Disease and Migratory Species" which is considered through one action of the objective 2.4 "Strengthen the consideration of biodiversity issues in human, animal and plant health policies" under Axis 2 "Building a pollution-free economy with low impact on biodiversity";
- 12.07: "The Role of Ecological Networks in the Conservation of Migratory Species" implemented by six actions of the objective 3.1 "Create new protected areas and reinforce the ecological network in the territory" under Axis 3 "Protect and restore nature in all its components";
- 12.13: "Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs)", 12.14: "Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans and Other Migratory Species", 12.16: "Recreational In-Water Interaction with Aquatic Mammals", 12.17; "Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region" and 12.22: "Bycatch" which are encompassed in one action of the objective 3.2 "Protecting endangered species and combating invasive species" under Axis 3;
- 12.20: "Management of marine debris" which is covered by the same action of the objective 3.2 and seven actions of the objective 2.1. "Put an end to plastic pollution" under Axis 2.

In addition, France contributed to resolutions:

- 12.8: "Implementation of Articles IV and V of the Convention" by carrying out the process to sign the MoU Sharks;
- 12.11 "Flyways" in sub-Saharan Africa through the FFEM/FAO/EU RESSOURCE project (see activities reported under AEWA);
- 12.19: "Endorsement of the African Elephant Action Plan" by: (i) contribution to the funding of the African Elephant Fund (€ 50,000 in 2018) and (ii) realizing a support mission in Chad for combatting elephant poaching in Binder-Léré reserve in May 2018;
- 12.20: "Management of marine debris" through the publication of the document: "Guide to water recreation at sea. Safety and environment. 2018 Edition".

With regards to Resolution 10.18 Rev.COP12, no action has been conducted since the current NBSAP covers the period 2011-2020. Specific actions regarding the conservation of migratory species could be considered for the next strategy whose design is scheduled for next year.

POLAND:

Resolution 7.3 (Rev.COP12): “Oil pollution and migratory species”.

- Since 2011, the project of removing lost nets, so called “ghost nets”, initiated by WWF Poland, is continuously under way.
- In 2016, WWF Poland joined the international project called MARELITT BALTIC. Its aim is to develop simple, cost-effective and environmentally safe methods of fishing “ghost nets” from the Baltic Sea floor and finding a system solution to the environmental problem associated with derelict fishing gear (DFG) - marking and identification of the nets.
- In addition, in 2017, Polish fishermen with the MARE Foundation actively joined an action of removing ghost nets from the Baltic Sea. In total, 147 tons of derelict fishing nets were removed.
- Estimates carried out on orders from WWF showed that up to 800 tons of ghost nets can be stored in Polish zone of the Baltic Sea. So far, in their activities, WWF and its partners have fished 300 tons of derelict fishing nets.

3. Activities planned for next year

CZECH REPUBLIC will:

- Prepare the National Strategy on prevention the risk of poisoning and illegal killing of wild animals of the Czech Republic
- Launch an open call for submission of a project on Influence of Pesticides to Wild Animals (supported by Technology Agency of the Czech Republic).
- Possibly start the implementation of the two Strategies mentioned above.

FRANCE will:

- Carry on supporting the RESSOURCE project in Sub-saharan Africa;
- Sign and implement the MoU Sharks.

THE NETHERLANDS

A new legislation, the Nature Conservation Act, came into force on January 1st 2017. This act has strengthened the management of invasive alien species. The Netherlands has a complete hunting ban on all migratory species.