

LATVIA / LETTONIE / LETONIA

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY
SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS (BONN CONVENTION)

SEVENTH CONFERENCE OF PARTIES, BONN, 2002-03-11

REPORT OF THE LATVIA PURSUANT TO
ARTICLE VI
PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE CONVENTION

I. General information

Name of Party: LATVIA

Date of report: 11 March 2002

Period covered by report: 1 July 1999- 10 March 2002

Date of entry into force of
the Convention for Party: 1 July 1999

Territory to which Convention applies: Latvia

Reservations: None

Appointment to Scientific
Council: Dr. Otars Opermanis
Laboratory of Ornithology
Institute of Biology
Miera Str. 3
LV- 2169, Salaspils
Latvia
Tel: (371)2945437/(371)9485626
Fax: (371) 783 02 91
E-mail: otars@parks.lv

Designated focal point: Vilnis Bernards
Ministry of Environmental
Protection and Regional
Development of Latvia
Peldu 25, LV-1494, Riga
Latvia
Tel: (371) 702 65 24
Fax: (371) 782 04 42
E-mail: vilnis.bernards@varam.gov.lv

Membership in Standing Committee: Not applicable

II. Implementation of the Convention

1. Legislation through which the Convention is implemented:

Law on Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals was adopted by Parliament in 11 March 1999.

Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development was appointed as co-ordinator for implementation of the Convention.

Law on Species and Habitat Protection (2000).

Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No 396 'On list of specially protected species and species with exploitation limits' (2000).

Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No 421 'On list of specially protected habitats' (2000).

Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No 45 'On establishment, management and protection of Micro Reserves' (2001).

Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No 345 'On compensation for significant damage for land users caused by the specially protected non-game species and migratory species' (2001).

2. Species listed in Appendix I:

(a) *Anser erythropus*, Lesser White-fronted Goose
Branta ruficollis, Red-breasted Goose
Aythya nyroca, Ferruginous Duck
Polysticta stelleri, Steller's Eider
Haliaeetus albicilla, White-tailed Eagle
Aquila clanga, Greater Spotted Eagle
Acrocephalus paludicola, Aquatic Warbler

(b) Lesser White-fronted Goose is a specially protected species in Latvia. Breeding has never been recorded in Latvia. Regular migrant, during last years in increasing numbers.

Red-breasted Goose is a specially protected species in Latvia. Non-breeding in Latvia. Very few records during migration.

Ferruginous Duck is a specially protected species in Latvia. Ferruginous Duck is irregular breeder, last record on 1 pair in 1992. No regular records.

Steller's Eider is a specially protected species in Latvia. Steller's Eiders appear irregularly (max. 7 birds). The wintering population of Steller's Eider has been increasing.

White-tailed Eagle is a specially protected species in Latvia. The breeding sites are under protection. The breeding population is estimated 15-25 pairs, wintering 20-50 birds.

The Greater Spotted Eagle is a specially protected species in Latvia. The breeding sites are under protection. The population is estimated to be 1-5 pairs.

In the accordance with Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No 45 'On establishment, management and protection of Micro Reserves' (2001) for *Aquila clanga* and *Haliaeetus albicilla* nests protection micro reserves must be established (area size for *Aquila clanga* 10-200 ha, for *Haliaeetus albicilla* 50-200 ha).

Aquatic warbler is a specially protected species in Latvia. Lake Liepājas is the only site in which singing males were recorded. It is a specially protected nature area.

(c) Protection of natural habitats is taken as a basic and the most important measure to conserve breeding, wintering and resting habitats of the Appendix I and Appendix II species in the country. There are several categories of protected territories, covering 550 000 ha or 8,53 % of total area of Latvia. There are 4 strict nature reserves, 3 national parks, 211 nature reserves, 22 nature parks, 6 protected landscape areas.

The Lake Kanieris, Lake Engure, Teichi and Pelechare Bogs are designated as internationally important wetlands under Ramsar Convention.

(d) All species in Appendix I are fully protected by national legislation. Law on Species and Habitat Protection Article 11 sets prohibited actions with species of specially protected animal species.

'Following activities are prohibited in respect to specially protected animals including birds species in all stages of their development:

- 1) all forms of deliberate capture or killing;
- 2) deliberate disturbance (particularly during period of breeding, rearing, moulting, hibernation and migration) and deliberate destruction of their habitats;
- 3) deliberate destruction or taking of eggs from wild;
- 4) deterioration or destruction of breeding sites;
- 5) keeping in capture, transportation, donation, selling or exchange, offering for sale or exchange.'

In accordance with Article 8 (4) 'Provision of this law can also be ascribed to migrating bird species that are not included in the list of specially protected species'.

Here are no exceptions regarding Appendix I species

3. Species listed in Appendix II:

(a) None

(b) Preparation of draft law On EUROBATS agreement is ongoing.

(c) Several species conservation action plans were developed during Latvian-Denish project 'Inventories of Species and Habitats, Development of Management Plans and Capacity Building in Relation to Approximation of EU Birds and Habitats Directives':

Species Conservation Action Plan for Lesser Spotted Eagle

Species Conservation Action Plan for Corncrake

Species Conservation Plan for Great Snipe

Species Conservation Plan for Roller

4. Latvia supports Draft Memorandum of Understanding on the Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*).

III. List of national activities relating to species listed in Appendices I and II and to other migratory species

(a) The major survey activities concerning the habitats of migratory species was conducted in the context of Important Bird Areas inventory and inventories under the project Preparation for Latvia's Compliance with the EMERALD and NATURA 2000 Networks of Protected Areas.

This inventory identifies 61 IBAs in Latvia. In all, 54 are inland areas and cover total area of 259,688 ha - 4% of the country's land surface. The remaining 7 IBAs are marine sites covering totally 339,470 ha.

Inventory of Specially Protected Nature Territories is ongoing process.

(b) The Laboratory of Ornithology, Institute of Biology, University of Latvia is performing the monitoring of migratory waterfowl, including population dynamics for important game species. Complex monitoring of Lake Engure nature park (Ramsar site) has been performed by Laboratory of Ornithology. New State Biodiversity Monitoring Programme is in preparation.

(c) Institute of Biology, Latvian Fund for Nature, Latvian Ornithological Society, Specially Protected Nature Territories Administrations and other partners carried out research activities.

IV. Any other comments

National Programme on Biological Diversity was accepted by Cabinet of Ministers on 1 February 2000.