

AEWA Implementation Review Process (IRP)

Enhancing the Implementation of the Agreement

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Presentation overview

- Background & procedure
- Brief overview of the IRP cases to date
- Lessons learned



Background & procedure

IRP established by MOP4 in 2008 (Resolution 4.6) in accordance with Article VI.9(e). Dedicated webpage: www.unep-aewa.org/en/activities/irp

Standing Committee (StC) mandated to address incidents of (potential) adverse effects on migratory waterbirds or on their sites/habitats as a result of human activities.

Procedure established after MOP4:

- IRP information sheet on possible cases available on AEWA website: www.unep-aewa.org/en/activities/irp;
- When the Secretariat is notified of a possible case, the information received is forwarded to the Technical Committee for advice;
- TC advice is then forwarded to StC for consideration and decision on whether to open an IRP case or not;
- The StC Chair / the Secretariat approach the CP requesting more information to assess the case and if needed to undertake an on-the-spot assessment mission by an independent international expert team;
- The StC submits its recommendations to the CP and invites reports on their implementation.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC: Illegal hunting of the critically endangered Sociable Lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*)



- **TRIGGER:** IRP info sheet submitted by BirdLife Middle East about regular hunting incidents at SL roosts during migration. Case opened by the StC in September 2009.
- **ACTION TAKEN:** In February 2010 an AEWA on-the-spot assessment mission took place. Based on the missions report the AEWA StC submitted recommendations to the relevant national authorities.
- **STATUS:** Ongoing / on hold (due to ongoing political situation)

MONTENEGRO: Drainage of the Salina of Ulcinj for Tourism Development



- **TRIGGER:** In December 2011 both AEWA and CMS Secretariats received information from various sources and sent a letter in consultation with their respective Standing and Scientific/Technical Committees. Case opened by the AEWA StC in early 2012.
- **ACTION TAKEN:** The Secretariat undertook consultations for a possible joint mission with the CMS, Ramsar and Bern Conventions. Lack of response from the Government of Montenegro until early 2015. In April 2015 the Secretariat attended an international conference on Ulcinj Salina which resulted in a list of action points with clear deadlines and responsibilities. The StC adhered to these action points and asked the government to report regularly.
- **STATUS:** The StC is monitoring the progress of implementation by the Government and updating its recommendations.

BULGARIA: Windfarming project adjacent to Lake Durankulak posing risk to the globally threatened Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*)



- **TRIGGER:** In February 2012 the Secretariat received IRP info sheet from BSPB/BirdLife Bulgaria concerning plans for a new windfarm to be situated directly between the roosting and feeding sites of Red-breasted Geese in the vicinity of Lake Durankulak.

Up to 90% of the global RbG population is known to winter in the Lake Durankulak and adjacent Lake Shabla area.
- **ACTION TAKEN:** Lengthy correspondence with the Government of Bulgaria. On-the-spot assessment mission declined by the Government due to ongoing appeals and hearing in the court of justice. The Secretariat met with representatives of the Ministry of Environment. One new protected area designated and another enlarged.
- **STATUS:** Further information and update expected before the StC to decide on the next steps of the procedure.

ICELAND: Icelandic forestry policy - lowland afforestation threatening breeding habitats of AEWA-listed waterbird species



- **TRIGGER:** In April 2014 the Secretariat received IRP info sheet from Fuglavernd (BirdLife partner in Iceland) concerning plans for large-scale state-subsidised lowland afforestation mainly for timber production and involving non-native species of trees.
- **ACTION TAKEN:** In July 2014 a joint AEWA/Bern/Ramsar/CAFF on-the-spot assessment mission was welcomed by the Ministry of Environment and finally took place in May 2016 (narrowed down by the Government to an AEWA/Bern mission). In September 2016 a detailed draft mission report was produced and submitted to relevant national authorities for review and comments.
- **STATUS:** Feedback on the report from the Icelandic Ministry of Environment is expected. The Report will be submitted to the StC to decide on the next steps of the procedure. The Bern Convention StC will consider this report too.

Lessons learned

- Useful and successful only when Government is committed to address the issue at stake
- Long-term commitment of all involved required
- Resource needs
 - Secretariat staff
 - Finances - ca. 20,000 EUR per case (mission costs); core budget allocation useful
- Critical review of potential cases necessary
- Possibly suitable for emergency cases (not attempted)

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Time for questions