



Brussels, 15 April 2011

NOTE TO THE ORNIS COMMITTEE

Subject: New Reporting Format under Article 12 of the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC for the period 2008 to 2012

After extensive discussion in the Expert Group on Reporting, its sub-group on the streamlining of progress reporting under the Habitats and Birds Directive (WP2) and after two consultations of the ORNIS Committee, the Commission has finalised the new reporting formats to be used by Member States for the next Art.12 report (period 2008-2012), due on **31st December 2013** at latest.

Background

In order for Member States to fulfil their obligations under the Birds Directive, a good level of knowledge on the status and trends of bird populations is a pre-requisite. The new reporting system will improve the quality of progress reporting under the Birds Directive by changing the focus from a process-based exercise towards an outcome-oriented one, dealing primarily with status and trends of bird populations. Also the role and effectiveness of the Natura 2000 network for the status and trends of bird species is an important aspect of implementation and has been included in this new reporting concept.

Besides being of direct use to implementation, the information collected under this new approach will also provide much wider benefits to increasing the knowledge base for the wider biodiversity policy development and its targets.

In view of the new focus of the reporting on status and trends of birds populations, the reporting frequency for progress reports was agreed to be reduced (6 instead of 3-yearly reporting cycles) and streamlined with reporting cycles under Art.17 of the Habitats Directive¹.

The system was developed in close cooperation with Member States in the frame of the Expert Group on Reporting² and is based on the common understanding between Commission and Member States.

¹ Which is why this first reporting period under the new system is actually only 5 years.

² For working documents produced during the development process, please see http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/env/monnat/library?l=/expert_reporting/work-package_reporting&vm=detailed&sb=Title

The Reporting Format for 2008-2012

The format consists of:

- *General reporting format*
- *Bird species' status and trends reporting format*

In addition as supporting documents:

- *Guidelines document* (Explanatory Notes & Guidelines for the period 2008-2012)
- *Art.12 reference portal*³ (holding important reference documents such as code-lists, species-checklists, etc. important for filling in the formats).

All documents can be accessed and downloaded via:

http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/env/monnat/library?l=/reporting_art12/art12_2008-2012&vm=detailed&sb=Title

Technical implementation

As soon as the reporting format for the 2008-2012 period is finalised, the Commission together with ETC-BD and EEA will start working on the technical implementation of a Reporting Tool in order to provide all technical support needed by Member States as soon as possible and at latest by mid 2012. This process shall be accompanied by the Expert Group on Reporting, including active participation by Member States in the development and the testing of the tools.

Annexes

Table 1: Indicative timeline

Annex 1: General reporting format

Annex 2: Bird species' status and trends reporting format

³ http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/activities/Article_12_Birds_Directive/reference_portal

Progress report under Art.12 of the Birds Directive (2008-2012) - Indicative timeline

	Year															
	2011				2012				2013				2014			
Quarter	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Reporting documents finalised, including report format, guidance and species checklist (using MS feedback)																
IT system for data collation and delivery developed (via the EEA's Reportnet, details pending EC/EEA/ETC-BD discussions)																
Kick-off meeting (Centre Borschette, Brussels: 13 October 2011), attended by national MS focal points (i.e. responsible for bird reporting) and BirdLife Partner staff and potentially other experts appointed by MS																
National MS focal points (i.e. responsible for bird reporting) establish national consensus-building mechanisms (e.g. expert panels) of relevant data holders/stakeholders (all of whom agree to make relevant data available for reporting purposes). MS appoint national coordinators to compile data, prepare documents, convene meetings, build consensus, etc.																
National coordinators collate data from all relevant sources and discuss with national panel/mechanism. Consensus on national data should be sought (and any disputes resolved) through expert discussion at this stage wherever possible																
National coordinators submit agreed national data sets to MS focal points to check - highlighting any unresolved disputes																
MS focal points check data and discuss any issues/disputes with national coordinator and/or expert panel, providing evidence to justify any changes needed to data sets (in extreme cases, if disputes cannot be resolved nationally, MS may consult the EC or the ORNIS Committee for advice)																
MS focal points sign off on agreed national data sets (including as well data on threats/pressures, Natura 2000 coverage and conservation measures for 'SPA trigger																

