

**REPORT TO THE COMMISSION  
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DIRECTIVE 79/409/EEC ON THE  
CONSERVATION OF WILD BIRDS**

**Part II. Summary of national reports by Member States**

**Update for 2005-2007**

FINAL

## INTRODUCTION

The summary covers national report submitted by 26 countries for the period 2005-07, i.e. all Member States except Ireland. However, the report from Finland is overall incomplete as the information (with the exception for the number of SPAs, section 2.1) only covers the mainland part of Finland while the autonomous province of Åland Islands has been left out (without any justifications given in the national report). For Romania and Bulgaria that joined the EU by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007, the information provided from these countries primarily covered only one year, although some information of activities during 2005 and 2006 with relevance for the accession to the EU were given in the national reports.

The summaries are presented under the same heading and sub-headings as in the format recommended by the Commission to be used for the national reports, i.e. as follows:

1. Species covered by the Directive.
2. Protection of habitats (Articles 3 and 4).
  - 2.1. State of progress for the classification of Special Protection areas
  - 2.2. Targeted measures drawn up per SPA
  - 2.3. Actions undertaken outside SPAs
  - 2.4. Targeted measures taken for bird habitats in wider countryside (e.g. environmental schemes, etc).
3. Protection of species.
  - 3.1. General system of protection (Article 5)
  - 3.2. Hunting and capture of bird species (Article 7)
  - 3.3. Means, arrangements or methods used for the large-scale or non-selective capture or killing of birds (Article 8)
  - 3.4. Synthesis of derogations from provisions of Article 5, 6, 7 and 8 (Article 9)
  - 3.5. Authorization of sale of bird species referred to in Annex III/2 (Article 6)
  - 3.6. Introduction of species of birds which do not occur naturally in the wild state in the EU (Article 11).
4. Encouragement of research and any work required as a basis for the protection, management and use of the population of all bird species referred to in Article 1 (Article 10).
  - 4.1. Research efforts, completed or on-going
  - 4.2. Education, information and communication in relation to bird protection
5. Texts of the main provisions of national law adopted in the field governed by the Directive (Article 18).
6. Other complementary information relevant to the conservation of wild birds.

Mostly, the information is summarised under the same headings as in the national report, even if parts of it might have been more relevant for other sections. Furthermore, some Member States did not exactly follow this format (e.g. UK, Belgium, Austria), and for these Member States the information provided has been summarised under the most relevant heading.

Information related to measures taken before 2005 is mostly not included in the summaries, unless of relevance for follow-up measures during 2005-07. Similarly, information about measures done after 2007 have been included only when being direct consequences of initiatives taken during 2005-07.

The summaries are kept neutral, but some comments on matters that might be worth further noticing are sometimes given in separate paragraphs in italics.

In several national reports, web-links are given to a variety of documents; including legal texts, guidelines to these, statistics on protected sites, action plans, follow-ups of these, reports on status and trends of birds etc. A somewhat arbitrary selection of links judged to be of more general interest is included in the summaries (but the report text should be overloaded if to include all of them). However, several web-links were found to be no longer in function, when checked during the compilation of the national summaries (spring-summer 2010).

Finally, the quality and level of details vary widely between different Member States, with substantial incompleteness for some countries. A few Member States (e.g. Austria, Belgium and Spain) delivered information compiled by each region, "Land" or similar; sometimes with very different level of details between regions and for many sections it has not been possible to make any conclusions on the national level for these countries.

## 1. SPECIES COVERED BY THE DIRECTIVE

<b>Austria</b>	No information provided.
<b>Belgium</b>	<p><i>Flanders District:</i> No detailed information provided, but from information on trends of various bird species under section 3.1 it can be concluded that 21 species listed in Annex I breed in the region (of which 17 are assessed to suffer from an unfavourable conservation status).</p> <p><i>Wallonia District:</i> No detailed information provided, but information on the current status of the bird fauna in the region is annexed to the national report.</p>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	No information provided; only that all species from Annex I of the Birds Directive and occurring in Bulgaria are listed in Annex 2 of the national Biodiversity Law.
<b>Cyprus</b>	No information provided
<b>Czech Republic</b>	59 wild-living bird species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive occur in the country (information given in Section 6 of the national report).
<b>Denmark</b>	The national legislation does not include any complete list of birds, but it has a general reference to all birds with a natural presence in Denmark.
<b>Estonia</b>	<p>65 species are listed in the national report.</p> <p><i>Comment: Obviously covering all species listed in Annex I and breeding in the country, but not explicitly mentioned.</i></p>
<b>Finland</b>	<p>121 species listed in total in any of annexes, out of which 58 breed regularly and 6 occasionally and in addition 38 regularly occurring migratory species. Altogether, SPAs have been designated for 101 species.</p> <p><i>Comment: No list of Annex I species, but lists of all species occurring in Finland, of alien escaped species, huntable species and species that are not protected are provided.</i></p>
<b>France</b>	A total of 123 species or subspecies listed in Annex I occur regularly in France; as breeding, wintering or passage migrants.
<b>Germany</b>	462 bird species (seen at least once since 1950) are reported for Germany <sup>1</sup> , but as for 2002-04 there is no distinction with reference to species specifically covered by the Directive.

<sup>1</sup> Bartel & Heibig (2005) Artenliste der Vögel Deutschland. *Limicola* 19 (2): 89-111.

<sup>2</sup> NATURA 2000 Newsletter, No 27, December 2009.

<sup>3</sup> NATURA 2000 Newsletter, No 27, December 2009.

<sup>4</sup> NATURA 2000 Newsletter, No 27, December 2009.

<sup>5</sup> NATURA 2000 Newsletter, No 27, December 2009.

<sup>6</sup> As elaborated in the EC Regulation 338/97 on the implementation of the CITES Convention in the EU.

<b>Greece</b>	No information provided.
<b>Hungary</b>	The report lists 397 (naturally occurring) species recorded between 1801 and 2007 in Hungary. This includes 121 species from Annex I of the Birds Directive (41 of them can be considered vagrant); 20 from Annex II/1; 53 from Annex II/2 (but 2 of them are extinct); 4 from Annex III/1 and 17 from Annex III/2 (1 is extinct).
<b>Ireland</b>	No national report for 2005-07 submitted.
<b>Italy</b>	209 species reported for Annex I (but overinflated as the lists also includes migratory species), 23 species for Annex II/1, 47 species for Annex II/2, 13 species for Annex III/1 and 18 species for Annex III/2.
<b>Latvia</b>	337 species are listed on the taxonomic list of bird species for Latvia.  <i>Comment. In comparison to 2002-04 report, number of species has increased by 6, i.e., 331 species reported by 2004. No specific information on the number of species covered by the Birds Directive.</i>
<b>Lithuania</b>	67 species are covered by Annex I of the Directive (species list included). In addition, 20 species are listed in Annex II/1, 54 species in Annex II/2, 4 species in Annex III/1 and 17 species in Annex III/2.
<b>Luxembourg</b>	No detailed information given.
<b>Malta</b>	All species covered by the Birds Directive are also covered under the Maltese Regulations (Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations - LN79/06 as amended).  <i>Comment: No reference to the number of bird species actually present and/or protected in Malta.</i>
<b>Netherlands</b>	45 species are listed Annex I, 47 are migratory species ref. Article 4(2) of the Directive, 20 are listed in Annex II/1, 9 in Annex II/2, 4 in Annex III/2 and 16 species are listed in Annex III/2. Species listed in a series of tables.
<b>Poland</b>	434 bird species occur naturally in Poland, including 193 species listed in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive.
<b>Portugal</b>	323 bird species naturally occurring in the country (list provided).
<b>Romania</b>	The annexes of the Birds Directive are integrated in the Romanian legislation by the Governmental Ordinance 57/2007 and Hunting Law 407/2006 (modified by Law 197/2007).  <i>Comment: No information on the species covered by the Directive in Romania.</i>
<b>Slovakia</b>	Explained that all species of wild birds naturally occurring in the European territory of the EC are legally protected in the national legislation on nature and landscape protection.  <i>Comment: No information of number of species listed in the various annexes of the Birds Directive that occur naturally in Slovakia.</i>
<b>Slovenia</b>	370 species of wild birds are recorded.
<b>Spain</b>	The species covered by the Birds Directive are those normally occurring in Spain, with the exception of invasive alien species.  Species lists have been provided for Canary Islands and Extremadura Regions.  Castilla-La Mancha stated that no changes have occurred in the conservation status during the report period.  The region of Cantabria has guaranteed the legal protection of all species listed in the Bird Directive on the basis of new legislation from 2006, in which the conservation measures of the Natura 2000 network and the general conservation criteria of wild flora and fauna have been set.

<b>Sweden</b>	67 species are covered by Annex I of the Directive (these species are listed but no information about other relevant annexes).
<b>UK</b>	No explicit information, such as species list or information of number of species listed in the various annexes of the Directive. However, there is substantial information on various measures of relevance with reference to Article 2 of the Directive. They are briefly summarised under relevant sections in the following.

## 2. PROTECTION OF HABITATS (Articles 3 & 4)

### 2.1 State of progress for the classification of Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

<b>Austria</b>	<p>Information provided for six of the nine "Länder":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Kärnten: One new SPA</li> <li>• Land Niederösterreich: Modification of five SPAs due to a EU complaint case (Nr. 99/2115); designation of four new SPAs</li> <li>• Land Oberösterreich: Nothing new; 11 SPAs</li> <li>• Land Salzburg: Seven new SPAs</li> <li>• Land Vorarlberg: One new SPA (<i>at least, not clear if the list given is complete</i>)</li> <li>• Land Wien: four SPAs (<i>not clear if new</i>)</li> </ul>
<b>Belgium</b>	<p><i>Federal Government (marine territories):</i> 3 SPAs (total surface 305 km<sup>2</sup>) were designated in October 2005, to the benefit for e.g. <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>, <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>, <i>Sterna hirundo</i> and <i>Larus minutus</i>.</p> <p><i>Brussels District:</i> Limited number of species in the area, therefore no SPAs are designated.</p> <p><i>Flanders District:</i> In July 2005, one new 24<sup>th</sup> SPA, "Baai van Heist", was designated.</p> <p><i>Wallonia District:</i> In March 2005, 116 ha were designated as Natura 2000 sites. This makes a total of 240 Natura 2000 sites, covering 220,944 ha (no specific information on number and surface areas of SPAs).</p>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	<p>There are 114 SPAs designated in Bulgaria, which cover 20.4% of the national territory.</p> <p>In 2006, as a result of 2 consecutive projects (4 years in total) for identification of potential SPAs, partly funded by the Ministry of Environment, the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds identified and proposed a list of 114 candidate SPAs, covering 23% of the country's territory and 430 km<sup>2</sup> of marine territory. In September 2006, the Bulgarian Council of Ministers endorsed 88 of them and the remaining 26 sites were postponed for a second scientific opinion. The Ministry of Environment assigned the task to the Bulgarian Academy of Science (BAS), which at the end confirmed the importance of the postponed sites but proposed reduction of the territory of some of them. The proposal of BAS was endorsed in September 2007.</p>
<b>Cyprus</b>	<p>A total of 19 SPAs have been designated during the period 2005-2007 (7 in 2005 and 12 in 2007). In 2007, 7 additional sites have been taken into consideration for their designation as SPAs, but they were officially designated only in 2008.</p> <p><i>Comment: Information about 7 SPAs, covering 788 km<sup>2</sup>, ref. Natura 2000 Barometer updated until November 2009<sup>2</sup>, depends on data problems.</i></p>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<p>The species and numbers to qualify for SPA designation were defined in a governmental order of December 2004, which came into force in 2005.</p> <p>41 SPAs are designated, of which 39 have been approved by the Government. The approval of the remaining two sites has been postponed. The 39 sites inhabit together 43 species listed in Annex I of the Directive; remaining 16 species of Annex I are either sporadic or occur only in small numbers (information in Section 6 of the national report).</p>

	<i>Comment: The process of formal approvals through governmental orders seems to have slowed down. 38 SPAs were approved during the previous reporting period (2002-04) so only one additional site approved during the reference period, and only after a reduction of surface area. The approval of the remaining two sites is still pending.</i>
<b>Denmark</b>	There are 113 SPAs in Denmark, and no new sites have been designated during 2005-07 (nor were any new sites designated for 2002-04), but one site (Ringkøbing Fjord, DK00CX043) has been enlarged in relation to the follow-up of a LIFE-Nature project (Skjern River). Revised regulations have been decided for six sites (web links to the national N2000 web-site and for the legal documents are given).
<b>Estonia</b>	66 SPAs have been classified in Estonia. The total area is about 1.2 million ha; 0.59 million ha are located in mainland and 0.68 million ha in marine areas. 13 % of the Estonian territory is covered by SPAs.
<b>Finland</b>	By the end of the reporting period Finland (including Åland Islands) had 468 SPA sites, altogether about 3,100,000 ha or 9% of Finland's surface. Decision of the arrangement for protection was still pending for some 20,000 ha of private sites.
<b>France</b>	<p>During 2005-07, the terrestrial SPA network in France was basically completed. During the reporting period, 197 new SPAs were designated and another 38 sites were extended. The total area reached 4,619,471 ha by end of 2007, e.g. an increase of 223% in 3 years. A complete list of the new or extended sites is included in the national report.</p> <p>Further to the surface extension, currently most of the areas appropriate for the protection of Annex I species and/or migrating species are taken into consideration. After updating of the 1994 IBA Inventory, it has been possible to include previously non-identified as IBA in the SPA network.</p>
<b>Germany</b>	<p>Within the reporting period several SPAs were enlarged and 175 new sites were designated. Thus the total area of SPAs in Germany was enlarged by 1,157,366 ha, and by end of 2007 there were 685 SPAs with a total surface of 5,402,958 ha. Two SPAs were situated in the EEZ of North Sea and Baltic Sea.</p> <p>10.2 % of the total terrestrial surface of Germany is designated as SPAs.</p> <p>The process of SPA designation is now finalised for 11 of the 16 German "Länder" and for the EEZ as well. Most of the SPAs are covered by specific conservation regulations, in total or to some extent. Details are given in annexes to the national report.</p>
<b>Greece</b>	During 2005-06, 3 more SPAs in Greece were designated as "Protected Areas": Pindus National Park (2005), Dadia Forest (2006) and Lake Kerkini National Park (2006).
<b>Hungary</b>	There were no changes in the number and size of SPAs designated (55 SPAs, covering 1.351.912 ha were designated in 2004 in the course of the EU accession procedure).
<b>Ireland</b>	No national report for 2005-07 submitted.
<b>Italy</b>	91 new SPAs were designated during the 2005-07 period, corresponding to a surface of 1,882,845 ha. At the end of the triennial the total surface of SPAs in Italy was 14.5% of national territory.
<b>Latvia</b>	<p>Total area of specially protected nature territories (Natura 2000 sites) in Latvia is 774,189 ha, or 11.9% of the country's terrestrial area. 336 sites out of the total 689 protected nature areas are included in Natura 2000 network.</p> <p>312 sites with a total area 672,308 ha are established as SPAs, and they</p>



	<p>qualify with reference both to the Birds and Habitats Directives. 5 specially protected sites with a total area of 3009 ha were designated according to Birds Directive.</p> <p>Moreover, Latvian Ornithological Society has carried out an IBA inventory. 71 IBAs are designated in Latvia; 64 out of them are land-located and cover 534,056 ha (8.3% of the territory), and 7 sites are marine and cover 339,470 ha. All 64 terrestrial IBAs partly overlap with existing protected areas. In comparison to the previous IBAs report, the relative protection level for land-based sites has increased from 71% to 94.3%, but in absolute figure the surface areas has more than doubled, i.e. from 183,119 ha to 503,833 ha. The biggest part overlaps with National Parks (29%), Nature Parks (28%) and Nature Reserves (27%). The rest, 13%, are located in Protected Landscape Areas and 4% in Nature Reserves. Six designated and approved RAMSAR sites overlap with IBAs.</p> <p><i>Comment: 95 SPAs, covering 6,999 km<sup>2</sup>, ref. Natura 2000 Barometer updated until November 2009<sup>3</sup>. A similar remark about discrepancies was done for the reporting during 2002-04.</i></p>
<b>Lithuania</b>	By end of 2007, 77 SPAs were established, covering 8.4 % of the territory. This includes 38 sites designated during 2005-07, and an increase by 3.4 % of the total surface area. Two additional sites remained to be designated by end of 2007.
<b>Luxembourg</b>	Legal designation of SPAs is only foreseen for the year 2010.
<b>Malta</b>	Six sites were designated in 2004 and another six in 2006. Thus, to date, Malta has designated twelve SPAs, covering 4.5% of the land area of the islands (equivalent to about 1,434 hectares). Most of the areas are also SCIs under the Habitats Directive. Two of the sites are also RAMSAR sites, and the six sites decided in 2006 are also IBAs.
<b>Netherlands</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 new area was designated during this reporting period: Polder Zeevang (1,862 ha) which is of great importance for wintering <i>Anas penelope</i>.</li> <li>• Boundary changes were made to some SPAs, resulting in enlargements (in 8 cases more than 100 ha) as well as in reductions.</li> <li>• 3 complaint cases resulted in expansions of existing SPAs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ilperveld, Varkenseland Entwiske was expanded with 362 ha in the northern part.</li> <li>- Wormer en Jisperveld was expanded with 425 ha in the north and eastern part.</li> <li>- Waddeneilanden, Noordzeekustzone en Polder Breebaart: This area was split up in 6 areas, but two of them (Duinen Texel and Waddenzee) did not qualify for SPA designations but were designated under the Habitats Directive in the beginning of 2009 and consequently re-designated under the Birds Directive.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In a 4<sup>th</sup> case, IJmeer, the boundaries were changed because they did not correspond to the original designation decision; the area was reduced by 20 ha that were already excluded in the legal text.</li> <li>• In the preparation of the designations under the Habitats Directive it has been decided to combine areas that overlap with Bird Directive areas to so called Natura 2000 areas. The Natura 2000 database that was submitted in August 2007 contained 11 such areas (Annex 1 of the national report).</li> </ul> <p>With all the changes (splits, combinations and new designations) the total Bird Directive designations came to 77 SPAs by end of the reporting period; with a total surface of 1,015,320 ha, compared to 79 SPAs</p>

	covering 993,104 ha at the beginning of the reference period.
<b>Poland</b>	<p>In addition to the proposal in 2004 of 72 SPAs (3,315,631 ha, of which 2,414,205 ha terrestrial; 7.8% of the country area), another 52 SPAs were notified to the EC in August 2006. In 2007 those SPAs were approved and designated by the decision (regulation) of the Minister of the Environment. In total, by end of 2007, 124 SPAs had been proposed, covering 5,040,664 ha (15.62% of the country area).</p> <p>Current weblink to the national Natura 2000 website is <a href="http://natura2000.gdos.gov.pl/natura2000/pl/jednostki.php">http://natura2000.gdos.gov.pl/natura2000/pl/jednostki.php</a></p> <p><i>Comments: Further extensions of the SPA network to be done in 2008 and 2009 according to the national report; 141 SPAs, covering 55,228 km<sup>2</sup>, ref. NATURA 2000 Barometer updated until November 2009<sup>4</sup>.</i></p>
<b>Portugal</b>	<p>No new SPAs have been designed during the period concerned.</p> <p><i>Comment: There are 59 SPAs in Portugal for a total area of 1.047.487 ha.</i></p>
<b>Romania</b>	<p>In 2007, 108 SPAs totalling a surface of 2,842,000 ha were officially designated.</p> <p><i>Comment: Based on a letter of September 2008 from the Commission regarding the non-compliance with requirements of the Directive, Romania has committed to EC to extend the areas of 15 SPAs and to analyse the designation of another 8 new SPAs by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009.</i></p>
<b>Slovakia</b>	<p>The national list of SPAs includes 38 sites (as approved by a governmental decree in 2003), and SPAs as a new category of protected areas has now been included in the national regulations. During the reference period, five of the SPAs were formally designated, and designation orders for the remaining sites have been elaborated but not approved. More than 50% of the SPAs are also covered by the existing network of protected areas (national parks, nature reserves etc).</p>
<b>Slovenia</b>	<p>No change in comparison with the previous period. The Natura 2000 network was officially established in 2004, when 26 SPAs, covering 22.8% of the territory, were designated.</p>
<b>Spain</b>	<p>A new national law, 42/2007, on the regulation of the natural and biodiversity heritage has been approved.</p> <p>The level of detail varied substantially between the different regions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the Andalusia Region, procedures for the designation of two new SPAs, "Campiña de Sevilla" and "Alto Guadiato" were started.</li> <li>• In Aragon the boundaries of the "Desfiladeros del río Jalón" SPA have been expanded.</li> <li>• In Canary Islands, the Government approved in 2006 an Agreement which expands 12 SPAs and designates 15 new areas.</li> <li>• In Castilla-La Mancha, 12 new SPAs have been designated, 10 in 2005 and 2 in 2007.</li> <li>• In Catalonia, a total of 73 SPAs were designated in 2006. Moreover, a set of general and specific guidelines for the management of the bird species inside the new SPAs was prepared.</li> <li>• In the Balearic Islands, with the Decree 28/2006, 40 areas have been declared as SPAs (20 in Mallorca, 12 in Minorca and 8 in Ibiza). 10 new SPAs have then been added to the previous list, with the Decree 29/2006 (7 in Mallorca and 3 in Minorca). Finally three expansions of SPAs boundaries have been granted in Menorca, mainly for the protection of <i>Milvus milvus</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>Sweden</b>	<p>21 new SPAs were designated, all in 2006 and with a total surface area of</p>

	92.6 km <sup>2</sup> . By end of 2007 there was in total 530 SPAs, with a total area of 28,741 km <sup>2</sup> .
<b>UK</b>	<p>The work to further develop the SPA network, initiated during previous reporting period and tracing back to the SPA review done in 2001, has continued. This includes the extension of the network into marine waters.</p> <p>During 2005-07, seven new SPAs were designated (495 km<sup>2</sup> in total) and boundaries were revised for another four sites (details on <a href="http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-3517">http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-3517</a>). The approximate number of SPAs in UK is 290, covering a total of around 18.400 km<sup>2</sup> (full national list on <a href="http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-162">http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-162</a>).</p> <p>The UK SPA and RAMSAR (Avian) Scientific Working Group, set up in 2001, continued its work during the reference period (web-links to annual reports: <a href="http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1770">http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1770</a>).</p> <p><i><u>Comment:</u> Figures on number and surface area of SPAs by end of 2007 according to the national report are higher than those reported for November 2009, ref. the Natura 2000 Barometer<sup>5</sup>.</i></p>

## 2. PROTECTION OF HABITATS (Articles 3 & 4)

### 2.2 Targeted measures drawn up per SPA

<b>Austria</b>	<p>Specific information was provided for two of the nine “Länder”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Kärnten: Management plans finalised for seven SPAs. Some other measures like monitoring, visitor guidance and management done at other sites.</li> <li>• Land Oberösterreich: Management plans finalised for two SPAs, for four SPAs the development of management plans started</li> </ul>
<b>Belgium</b>	<p><i>Federal Government (marine territories):</i> A royal decree on user agreements and setting up management plans was launched in October 2005. This enables agreements between stakeholders and the competent minister to establish procedures for the development and adoption of “policy plans”. The federal administration started up the preparation of “policy plans” for five marine protected areas in 2007. - User agreements with voluntary commitments to respect the environmental regulations and to raise awareness about the conservation objectives of the SPAs were signed with the recreation sector (yachting, angling sports) in October 2005.</p> <p><i>Brussels District:</i> No information provided.</p> <p><i>Flanders District:</i> Protection of SPAs and RAMSAR sites were included as main priority areas under the “Biodiversity” theme of The Environment and Nature Policy Plan for 2003-07 (and continued under the same plan for 2008-10). Important projects and initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several LIFE Nature projects for habitat restoration etc, to the benefit for e.g. <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>, <i>Anser albifrons</i> and <i>Limosa limosa</i>.</li> <li>• Enlargement of het Zwin (one of the largest salt-marsh areas in Belgium), to the benefit for e.g. <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>, <i>Platalea leucordia</i> and <i>Anser albifrons</i>.</li> <li>• Compensation measures for loss of habitats in the harbour area of Zeebrugge. An artificial “Tern Island” (8 ha) has been developed to enable settlement of breeding birds, primarily <i>Sterna hirundo</i> (4% of biogeographical population), <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> (up to 2% of world population) and <i>Sterna albifrons</i>.</li> <li>• For compensation, following the extension of the Antwerp harbour, a large-scale project of restoration of 450 ha was initiated, within a larger area of around 1000 ha along the left bank of River Schelde.</li> </ul> <p><i>Wallonia District:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bird habitat conservation has taken place at five LIFE Nature project sites, including restoration of habitats for <i>Crex crex</i>.</li> <li>• Creation, new protection and various restoration projects in natural reserves and “wetlands of biological interest” (ZHIB).</li> </ul>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirements of the Birds Directive were introduced in the Bulgarian legislation in 2002, with the Biodiversity Law and its deeds and regulation. In 2005, substantial amendments and additions were made; including defining, conservation and management of the SPAs. Also national and regional public campaigns were envisaged, and an obligatory 1-month public debate of proposed regimes was introduced. The full transposition of the Directive was made in 2007, with endorsement of Law for Amendments and Additions of the Biodiversity Law.</li> <li>• In 2007, the Regulation concerning the evaluation of compatibility of plans and projects with the purpose and targets for conservation of SPAs entered</li> </ul>

	<p>into force.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During 2005-2007, a number of measures for institutional capacity building of the Ministry of Environment and its regional inspectorate regarding the Natura 2000 network were undertaken</li> <li>• A preparation of the main documents concerning Cohesion and Structural funds was accomplished, and an Operational Programme “Environment” was developed. One of its priority is “Conservation and recovery of biodiversity” with a budget around 106,000,000 €. Funds available under the Programme for development rural areas are around 310,000,000 €, those under Operational programme “Fisheries and aquaculture” are around 53,000,000 €.</li> <li>• The implementation of preventive measures for conservation of birds habitats started in 2005, within the framework of procedures for EIAs and Strategic ecological assessments, laid down in the Law for Conservation of the Environment</li> </ul> <p>In 2007, the process of issuing of orders for designation with specific measures and regimes for each particular SPA started. The first such order was for “Suha reka” SPA (BG 0002048), issued and published in the state gazette in November 2007. The process of 13 other sites was launched by the end of the year.</p> <p>In August 2007, the Minister of Environment and Waters issued an order to forbid for a certain period a list of activities which can be harmful for the SPA Emine (BG0002043). This was done in consequence of the presence of numbers of plans and projects for developments for this site.</p> <p><i>Comment: Legal texts transposing Articles 4 and 6 of the Directive are presented in the report. - Restrictions for Emine SPA are listed in the national report.</i></p>
<b>Cyprus</b>	<p>Initiatives have been taken but not yet completed.</p> <p><i>Comment: No information about the current status of the various initiatives etc.</i></p>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<p>Following a request from The Ministry of Environment in 2004 to The Agency for the Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection, documents (or management plans) recommending measures to improve the status of species under protection in particular SPAs (to be done in cooperation with stakeholders) have been approved for 1 SPA, are under preparation for 3 SPAs, and close to approval for 3 sites. For another 3 sites, overlapping with SCIs, the plans have been integrated with those for the SCIs.</p> <p>22 specific measures are listed, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat management for <i>Tetrao tetrix</i>, <i>Tetrao urogallus</i> and <i>Bonasia bonasa</i>; as well as for <i>Crex crex</i> and <i>Lanius collurio</i>.</li> <li>• Nest watching for <i>Falco peregrinus</i>.</li> <li>• Artificial nests for e.g. <i>Aegolius funereus</i>, <i>Glaucidium passerinum</i> and <i>Ficedula albicollis</i>.</li> <li>• Management and restoration of fishponds and adjacent habitats.</li> <li>• Measures to protect birds from electrocution.</li> </ul> <p>Inside the SPAs, 32 species of Annex I are monitored on annual basis, and the remaining ones by 2-3 year’s interval (details given in Section 6 of the national report).</p>
<b>Denmark</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SPAs are managed according to the same principles as the SCIs, with a favourable conservation status for the designated bird species as a general objective (with an explicit reference to Article 2 of the Habitats Directive).</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During 2005-07, new legislation for the protection of Natura 2000 sites have been launched for various activities in marine environments, in much formalising already existing practise.</li> <li>• The legal framework for the management of bird protection areas was modified in 2007, so far as parts of the competence were transferred to the municipalities.</li> </ul> <p>Within the legal framework, site-wise Natura 2000 plans, with concrete objectives and guidelines for the active management and protection are to be drafted by end of 2009, after which the municipalities have to draft action plans by 2010, at latest. The plans are to be implemented on the basis of agreements with the land-owners or decisions based on relevant legislation. However, concrete actions in order to avoid damage on the bird-fauna have already been initiated, primarily in the many Game Reserves with core areas closed for hunting or disturbing activities. Restrictions and measures done in Game Reserves are regulated in individually statutory orders, and information regarding measures can be found there.</p> <p>Web-links to the various legal documents are given.</p>
<b>Estonia</b>	<p>99 % of SPAs are protected as national parks, nature conservation areas, species protection sites, special conservation areas or landscape protection areas.</p> <p>Three LIFE-Nature projects have been launched to restore and maintain the habitats of Annex I bird species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LIFE03NAT/EE/000180 on “Conservation of Natura 2000 biotopes in Rāpina Polder”, to ensure and preserve long term stopping-, feeding- and nesting place for internationally important and endangered bird species and societies. About 20,000 birds (or more) are reported to stop over in this area, including 3500-7000 <i>Anser albifrons</i> and 300 <i>Grus grus</i>. The site is also an important breeding area for <i>Crex crex</i>, <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> and <i>Larus minutus</i>. The project included the restoration or management of ca 880 ha of grasslands and up to 180 ha of arable land.</li> <li>• LIFE04NAT/EE/000072 on “The implementation of National Action Plans for <i>Ciconia nigra</i>, <i>Aquila pomarina</i> and <i>Aquila clanga</i> in Estonia”, with the aim to secure the maintenance of the populations of those species in Estonia. Inter alia, the project includes meadow habitat restoration on a total of 2850 ha at five SPAs.</li> <li>• LIFE05NAT/D/000152 on "Rehabilitation of the Baltic coastal lagoon habitat complex"; to contribute significantly to a favourable conservation status of the Baltic coast line and the surrounding habitats as well as the species characteristic to this habitat complex in Denmark, Germany and Estonia. In Estonia, the project has included the management of ca 350 ha of coastal wetland habitats, to the benefit for <i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i>, <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> etc.</li> </ul> <p>In addition to LIFE projects, several national projects aimed to protect threatened bird species and habitats on SPAs are funded by the Environmental Investment Centre</p>
<b>Finland</b>	<p>The protection of SPAs is mainly implemented by establishing nature conservation areas through the Nature Conservation Act. Most of the SPAs are state-owned. In addition, the State buys SPA areas from private land owners and it also establishes conservation areas, following a financing programme set up by the government in 1996. The programme was planned to be completed by 2007, but owing some delays it will continue till the end of 2009. Some 20,000</p>

	<p>ha are still pending a decision.</p> <p>Out of 163 SPAs in need of restoration measures, restoration has taken place or is on-going on 62 sites (38%) during 2005-07. Plans are ready or under preparation for 30 sites (19 %), but for 71 sites there were yet no restoration plans.</p> <p>A total of 12 LIFE Nature projects were completed, under implementation or started during the reporting period. Primarily, they target habitats; especially in mires, bogs and wetland areas, but also species like <i>Anser erythropus</i>.</p> <p>Restoration work on <i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i> has been carried out in SW and W Finland as well as in N Ostrobothnia. During the reporting period there were 55-59 breeding pairs of <i>C. alpina schinzii</i> in Finland. In 2006, management plans were completed for <i>Calidris temminckii</i> and <i>Sterna albifrons</i>, and in 2007 for <i>Sterna caspia</i>. A management plan for <i>Anser erythropus</i> is under preparation, as a part of a LIFE project.</p>
<b>France</b>	Initiatives have been taken but are not yet completed.
<b>Germany</b>	In 83 % of the SPAs designated until end of 2007 conservation measures were done within the reporting period. Most of the measures were aimed at the maintenance or development of habitats, or they were part of conservation programs (including monitoring and research) for specific species. Other measures targeted on the information of the public. Just for some SPAs there were management plans. Measures were mostly financed by the Länder, partly by the federal state. Details are given in annexes to the national report.
<b>Greece</b>	<p>During 2005-06, 3 more SPAs in Greece were designated as "Protected Areas": Pindus National Park (2005), Dadia Forest (2006) and Lake Kerkini National Park (2006).</p> <p>Several Special Environmental Studies on both SCIs and SPAs were initiated, continued or finished and approved.</p> <p>The following LIFE-Nature projects related to specific bird species or to their habitats either started, continued or finished:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LIFE02/NAT/GR/8497: "Management Plan for <i>Aegypius monachus</i> in Dadia Forest Reserve".</li> <li>- LIFE02/NATIGR/8489: "Nestos Delta".</li> <li>- LIFE02/NAT/GR/8491: "Strophylia-Kotychi. Management Plans for habitats and species".</li> <li>- LIFE03/NAT/GR/000091: "Actions for the protection of <i>Falco eleonora</i> in Greece".</li> <li>- LIFE03/NAT/GR/0089: "Pindos: Pilot Management Plan for priority forest habitats".</li> <li>- LIFE04/NAT/GR/0101: "Tiles Island. Management Plans for 3 priority bird species (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>, <i>Falco eleonora</i>, <i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i>)".</li> </ul>
<b>Hungary</b>	<p>The report describes all the active conservation measures taken within SPAs, including those not specifically or exclusively aimed for the protection of birds. Active management actions are implemented on humid grasslands in the plain, hay meadows and wetlands, while less intervention is needed in rocky slopes and sandy habitats (except fighting invasive plant species). Wetlands and water habitats are subject of water interventions and reedbed management.</p> <p>Habitat management measures directly for the benefit of birds include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural land management (<i>Otis tarda</i>, <i>Anser erythropus</i>, <i>Crex crex</i>)</li> <li>• Survey of electric power lines and insulation in some cases</li> <li>• Rehabilitation of <i>Spermophilus citellus</i> populations</li> <li>• Nest guarding (<i>Falco cherrug</i>)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvement of nesting conditions; with the management of loess walls (<i>Riparia riparia</i>, <i>Merops apiaster</i>), forest management (<i>Falco vesperinus</i>) or placing out nest boxes (<i>Coracias garrulus</i>)</li> <li>Waterfowl habitat reconstruction with artificial flooding and establishment of artificial islands; monitoring.</li> </ul> <p>The most frequent habitat restoration actions were aimed at the prevention or elimination of unwanted overgrowth vegetation on various grasslands (meadows, pastures, wooded pastures). The report highlights measures targeting larger sites where the favourable conditions had almost fully or completely disappeared because of the overgrowing vegetation (often invasive alien plant species).</p>
<b>Ireland</b>	No national report for 2005-07 submitted.
<b>Italy</b>	<p>In October 2007, the Ministry of the Environment issued a specific decree, "Criteri minimi uniformi per la definizione di misure di conservazione relative a Zone Speciali di Conservazione (ZSC) e a Zone di Protezione Speciale (ZPS)", which identifies the minimum homogeneous criteria for the adoption of conservation measures and/or the management plans relative to the SPAs.</p> <p>LIFE Nature projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 11 Natural Reserves also classified as SPAs the LIFE Nature project LIFE04NAT/IT/000190 – "Tutela di siti NATURA 2000 gestiti dal Corpo Forestale dello Stato" is being implemented.</li> <li>The project LIFE00NAT/IT/007147 "Conservazione degli habitat e delle specie del Bosco della Mesola", aimed at the restoration of the habitats inside the SPA, finished in 2005.</li> </ul> <p>The Marche Region used the regional and structural funds for the restoration of habitats inside the SPA IT5330022 "Montagna di Torricchio".</p>
<b>Latvia</b>	No specific information.
<b>Lithuania</b>	<p>Drafting and implementation of management plans, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management plans (strategic planning documents) for 25 SPAs; 11 funded via EU Structural Funds and 14 by various institutions (not specified). In addition, designation documents have been drafted for 2 SPAs with funding from EU Structural Funds.</li> <li>Management has been funded from EU Structural Funds for 11 sites (not explained if the same ones that received funding for the management plans).</li> <li>Adoption of management plans (zoning documents) for 7 SPAs.</li> </ul> <p>The work on management plans has included internationally famous sites, such as the Curonian Lagoon Biosphere Polygon, River Nemunas Delta, Čepkeliai Nature Reserve and Žuvintas Biosphere Reserve. The River Nemunas Delta is also targeted for a demonstration project within "Wings over Wetlands" (2007-10).</p> <p>NGO funded projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Conservation of inland wetlands biodiversity in Lithuania", with the aim to halt degradation, minimize anthropogenic impact, preserving biodiversity and ensuring long-term protection.</li> <li>"Conservation of Tetraonidae birds in Dzūkija National Park", focussed on <i>Tetrao tetrix</i>, <i>Tetrao urogallus</i> and <i>Bonasa bonasia</i>.</li> <li>"Restoration of wetland ecosystems in Aukštumula Nature Reserve".</li> <li>"Conservation of rare bird species in Kamanos Strict Nature Reserve developing environmental consciousness of the society".</li> </ul> <p>Furthermore, LIFE-Nature has supported a project titled "NATURA 2000 site conservation and management on the Lithuanian coasts", with measures to the</p>



	<p>benefit for e.g. <i>Milvus migrans</i>, <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>, <i>Lullula arborea</i> and <i>Anthus campestris</i>, with management actions in 2 SPAs.</p> <p>Web-links are given for the above mentioned projects.</p>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	<p>Management plans were drawn up for the following four sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LU2007 Vallée supérieure de l'Alzette</li> <li>- LU2012 Haff Réimech</li> <li>- LU2010 Dudelange Haard</li> <li>- LU2011 Aspelt – Lannebur, Am Kessel</li> </ul>
<b>Malta</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Five SPAs continue to be managed by NGOs according to previous agreements/regulations on nature protection.</li> <li>• One additional SPA is object of a LIFE Nature project, which foresees the preparation of a site management plan. The site holds one third of the Maltese breeding population of <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>.</li> <li>• Conservation measures for each of the remaining SPAs will be addressed through a project aimed at preparing management plans for all terrestrial Natura 2000 sites. The project will be submitted for funding under the Rural Development Programme for Malta (2007–13) with completion expected by 2013.</li> </ul>
<b>Netherlands</b>	<p>The 'Ecologisch Hoofdstructuur' (EHS – National Ecological Network) is the backbone of Dutch nature and forms a network of connected nature areas. The conservation of these areas is done by the federal and provincial governments together with nature conservation NGOs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In October 2005 the Nature Protection Act came into force imposing management plans and permits in Natura 2000 areas.</li> <li>• During 2005-07 work was done to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- formulate feasible preservation goals per species,</li> <li>- prepare a profile document,</li> <li>- re-border and combine Birds and Habitat Directive areas into Natura 2000 areas,</li> <li>- designate SCIs taking into account the altered SPAs. In 2007, 118 of the 162 NATURA 2000 draft designation decisions were laid down for consultation.</li> <li>- prepare management plans for each area.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Under the LIFE-Nature programme, the projects Tiengemeten and Brackish Marsh received cofinancing for actions that are to the benefit of target species of the Birds Directive.</li> <li>• <u>Cockle fishery in the Wadden Sea</u>: The cockle fishing industry had 7 years to make their practices more sustainable. Since this time limit was judged to be too short, the government has decided to abolish the practice completely. As regards the mussel industry consultation is now ongoing to find a more sustainable way of practicing it in the Wadden Sea.</li> <li>• There is a shift from single species protection plans to a living area approach, where the living area of multiple threatened species is targeted. During this reporting period a protection plan for marshland birds has been executed.</li> <li>• <u>Analysis of <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> in the Wadden Sea</u>: Breeding numbers of this species in the Wadden Sea have gone down since 1995. Research has been done to find the causes of this decline and to formulate some protection measures.</li> </ul>
<b>Poland</b>	<p>Under a PHARE Project in 2005, management/protection plans were elaborated for the following SPAs: PLC200004 – Puszcza Białowieska, PLB280008 - Puszcza Piska, PLB280003 – Jezioro Łuknajno, PLB 140006 - Małopolski Przełom Wisły, PLB020001 - Dolina Baryczy, PLB080001 - Ujście Warty, PLB990003 – Zatoka Pomorska, as well as for SPA/pSCI Puszcza Białowieska.</p>

	<p>For 6 SPAs (partly covering those above), the implementation of the management/ protection plans have started.</p> <p>In 2006-07 the implementation of the management/protection plans for 15 SPA have started (list provided).</p> <p>Under the transition facility project “Development of the renaturation plans for the habitat and species sites and management plans for selected species from Bird and Habitat Directives” different actions have been undertaken. The project was implemented in the cooperation with UK and the Netherlands during January 2006-December 2007. The aim was to elaborate local cooperation plans for protection of 55 Natura 2000 sites, as well as preparation of protection plans for 15 fauna and flora species. Communication to the local society and stakeholders was an integral part. Development of the management plans took place during numerous workshops organized in the whole country. Under this project, management plans for 18 SPAs (list provided) were elaborated. Added value of this project was the development of cooperation schema between different authorities, that harmonies nature protection and development.</p> <p>Two NGOs (Naturalists Club and PTO) cooperated in organising workshops with participation of local population in 3 SPAs listed above.</p> <p>For many SPAs (the number was unspecified), active conservation measures such as the re-naturation of river valleys, the re-establishment of water regime, species protection etc. were undertaken.</p>
<p><b>Portugal</b></p>	<p><i>Continental Portugal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 LIFE projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2 concluded (one in the SPA Paul de Arzila for the restoration of important habitats, and one in the SPA Castro Verde and Mourão-Moura-Barrancos for the recovery of the <i>Falco naumanni</i>).</li> <li>- 2 ongoing (one for the protection of <i>Tetrax tetrax</i>, and one to get information which can contribute to the classification of new marine SPAs in the Portuguese Natura 2000 Network).</li> <li>- 1 started in 2006 (for the protection of <i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i>).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A plan for the preservation of traditional land uses for the protection of bird species as <i>Falco naumanni</i>, <i>Otis tarda</i> and <i>Tetrax tetrax</i> in Castro Verde.</li> </ul> <p><i>The islands:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 LIFE projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4 in Madeira (for the preservation of bird species such as <i>Pterodroma feae</i> and <i>Pterodroma madeira</i>).</li> <li>- 1 in Azores (for the protection of <i>Pyrrhula murina</i>).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 1 survey of invasive alien plant species in the Laurissilva Forest (UNESCO World Heritage nature site).</li> <li>• 2 studies in Madeira, aimed at mapping and assessing the impact of aerial electric lines on birds species.</li> </ul> <p>A Sectoral Plan for the Portuguese Natura 2000 Network has been produced to establish an integrated management at national level. The plan assigns responsibilities at central and local level clarifying some strategic lines as, for instance, the integration of conservation objectives into land management instruments. It also promotes partnerships between the agricultural, forestry, pastoral and fisheries sectors, especially by owners and managers, as key orientation for the active management of Natura 2000. A specific Sectoral Plan of the Natura 2000 Network in the Azores has been also approved.</p>

	As a general-objective, the Portuguese government considers essential that all the sites and SPAs are provided with the appropriate operational management tools by the end of 2010.
<b>Romania</b>	<p>A Guide for Elaboration of Management Plans for Protected Areas in Romania was produced through a GEF project;  <a href="http://www.arpmv5.ro/pages/doc/Procesul_de_elaborare_a_planurilor_de_management_pentru_arii_protejate.pdf">http://www.arpmv5.ro/pages/doc/Procesul_de_elaborare_a_planurilor_de_management_pentru_arii_protejate.pdf</a></p> <p>For Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve a master plan was prepared and currently is part of the evaluation within SEA procedures. For another 22 national and natural parks that are overlapping with SPAs and SCIs, management plans that include also NATURA 2000 requirements were elaborated and are under official approval procedures.</p> <p><i>Comment: No specific information on SPA management provided, but only general initiatives and management plans that are not operational are mentioned.</i></p>
<b>Slovakia</b>	<p>Site-wise information about measures and actions taken for each one of the 38 SPAs are listed in an annex to the national report. This includes (primarily with reference to species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nest-site and habitat management for several species; including <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>, <i>Ciconia nigra</i>, <i>Falco vespertinus</i>, <i>Aquila heliaca</i>, <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>, <i>Aquila pomarina</i>, <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>, <i>Milvus migrans</i>, <i>Milvus milvus</i>, <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>, <i>Sterna hirundo</i>, <i>Crex crex</i>, <i>Porzana parva</i>, <i>Tetrao urogallus</i>, <i>Strix uralensis</i>, <i>Aegolius funereus</i>, <i>Anthus campestris</i>, <i>Acrocephalus melangopogon</i> and <i>Lanius minor</i>.</li> <li>• Controlling and watch-keeping of breeding raptors; including <i>Falco peregrinus</i>, <i>Falco cherrug</i>, <i>Aquila heliaca</i>, <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>, <i>Aquila pomarina</i> and <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>.</li> <li>• Restrictions in forestry, to the benefit for e.g. <i>Falco peregrinus</i>, <i>Aquila pomarina</i>, <i>Milvus milvus</i> and <i>Tetrao urogallus</i>.</li> <li>• Land purchase (38 ha + 6.5 ha, 2 sites) and agri-environmental agreements for 300 ha of <i>Otis tarda</i> habitats (1 site). Population monitoring of <i>Otis tarda</i> (in co-operation with Hungary and Austria, 2 sites).</li> <li>• Monitoring activities for around 40 species listed in Annex I, at one or several sites.</li> <li>• Various kinds of dissemination activities (seminars, training courses, exhibitions etc) at 12 sites.</li> </ul> <p>Activities inside SPAs significantly overlap with the implementation of the RAMSAR Convention; i.e. a new transboundary RAMSAR site (with Hungary has been established (Ipel Valley, 2648 ha in total, 1448 ha in Slovakia).</p> <p>Within the framework of LIFE Nature projects, measures for <i>Aquila heliaca</i>, <i>Otis tarda</i> and <i>Falco cherrug</i> have been financed, as well as actions at 3 SPAs.</p>
<b>Slovenia</b>	<p>Spatial plans covering the entire territory have been prepared. Protected areas, which include the SPAs, are included in the preparation and approval procedures of these plans. Conservation guidelines (official documents in planning procedures) are used as background for nature conservation plans, for the preparation of the spatial plans, and to plan interventions and use of natural resources. There have been requests for plan approvals that triggered the development of 236 guidelines, related to specific aspects of all 26 SPAs, by The Institute for Conservation of Nature.</p> <p>The Natura 2000 management program for the period 2007-13 (October 2007), sets out detailed conservation objectives and measures for bird species inside each SPA (measures are listed in Appendix A to Annex 1 of the report).</p>

	<p>Protected area management plans for six SPAs have been prepared.</p> <p>In 2007, RDP Subsidies were granted on 29,921 ha of agricultural land inside SPAs (Appendix C to Annex 1). The Slovenian experts are critical about the limited measures in terms of surface and ambition aimed at birds linked to grassland habitats. The Government plans to finance more effective measures in the coming years.</p> <p>A brief description of the restoration measures aimed at habitats for birds is provided. They have been carried out mainly in the framework of six LIFE and one PHARE projects.</p>
<p><b>Spain</b></p>	<p><i>Planning:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the 14 National Parks, 2 new Management Plans (7 were already approved) and 2 Master Plan for Use and Management (plus 5 for which the approval proceeding is ongoing) have been approved.</li> <li>• The management plans for six SPAs have reached the final approval (5 in Aragon and 1 in Andalusia) and another 6 are still ongoing.</li> <li>• 5 Master Plans for Use and Management of the SPAs have been approved in the Asturias and the approval of one plan is ongoing in the Murcia Region.</li> <li>• In Extremadura, on the basis of the Law 9/2006, three Management Plans and four Master Plans for Use and Management of protected natural areas have been approved.</li> <li>• In the Canary Islands, Master Plans for the management of protected areas have been prepared. As SPAs substantially overlap with protected areas, these plans are also used as base for the management of the SPAs.</li> </ul> <p><i>Comment: No information is provided to clarify whether the management plans and master plans for national parks include specific provisions for the management of the SPAs.</i></p> <p><i>Electrocution:</i> Many projects are ongoing to avoid bird's deaths caused by the electrocution; projects have been started in Andalusia, Aragon (providing list of specific measures adopted), Castilla-La Mancha, Extremadura and Murcia Regions.</p> <p><i>Projects:</i> During the reporting period several projects have been carried out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A series of projects in Cantabria to improve the habitats of forest and sub-alpine species, and others have been carried on in Castilla-La Mancha (including conservation measures for species as <i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i>, <i>Aquila adalberti</i>, <i>Ciconia nigra</i> and <i>Aegypius monachus</i>).</li> <li>• Numerous projects have been carried out inside SPAs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 7 in Madrid (most of which for census and marking of birds), 2 in Navarre,</li> <li>- 3 in Extremadura (one specifically for protected species)</li> <li>- 2 in Murcia and one in La Rioja (dedicated to the <i>Perdix perdix hispaniensis</i>).</li> <li>- In Asturias several actions for the conservation of species included in the Regional List of Threatened Species have been carried out.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Several LIFE projects have been carried out or concluded during the reference period (10 in the Murcia Region, 2 in Extremadura and in Canary Islands, 1 in Catalonia).</li> </ul> <p><i>Monitoring:</i> During the reference period several monitoring activities have been carried out, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All species living in six SPAs in the Basque Country.</li> <li>• Waterbirds present in Cantabria.</li> </ul>

	<p><i>Legislation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2005 the Balearic Islands approved the Law 5/2005 aimed at the conservation of areas of natural importance (included SPAs), establishing the conservation measures and a Natura 2000 Network Committee.</li> <li>• In 2006, the Catalonia Region approved the list of SCIs and designated the SPAs.</li> </ul> <p><i>Territorial planning of the Extremadura region foresees:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• specific actions in SPAs</li> <li>• financing for sustainable development in protected natural areas and habitats of protected species</li> <li>• financing of environmental education activities carried on by NGOs or organizations</li> <li>• compensation of the damage caused to third parties or their property by endangered species</li> </ul>
<b>Sweden</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several SPAs are subject for monitoring of the bird fauna. Some improvements of the methodology have been initiated.</li> <li>• Management plans are in place for the SPAs, but the management is decentralised to the county level, so figures for the country as a whole do not exist. A database and GIS system for improvement of the administrative support inside SPAs and other protected areas has been launched and expected to be fully operational in 2008.</li> <li>• According the national legislation, SPAs and SCIs are priority areas for conservation measures, and are mostly given additional legal protection status, e.g. as nature reserves.</li> <li>• Annually allocated funds for the management of protected sites can also be used for measures in the SPAs.</li> <li>• Designated sites must be taken into account during the planning processes.</li> <li>• Seminars aimed for increasing the knowledge of the Natura 2000 sites and their importance have been carried out.</li> </ul> <p><i>Comment: Except for improved methodology for monitoring and the launching of the database and GIS system for management administration, the information is almost identical to that given for 2002-04.</i></p>
<b>UK</b>	No specific information given with reference to SPAs, although the management agreements etc for SSSIs (see section 2.3) also cover some SPAs.

## 2. PROTECTION OF HABITATS (Articles 3 & 4)

### 2.3 Actions undertaken outside SPAs

<b>Austria</b>	Some "Länder" have reported on the realisation of actions/action plans for specific species (e.g. Land Oberösterreich for <i>Bubo bubo</i> , <i>Athene noctua</i> , <i>Tyto alba</i> , <i>Crex crex</i> , <i>Lullula arborea</i> , <i>Saxicola rubetra</i> ; Land Salzburg for <i>Merops apiaster</i> ; Burgenland for <i>Otis tarda</i> and <i>Aquila heliaca</i> ). Land Oberösterreich has also compiled basics for a plan with measures to preserve and support endangered birds breeding outside of conservation areas.
<b>Belgium</b>	<p><i>Federal Government (marine territories):</i> Potential environmental impact of the construction and operation of a windmill park at Thornton Bank (25 km off the coast), with possible impact on marine birds, was assessed in 2006. The wind park started to operate in 2007, and a monitoring program for the assessment of the impact on birds has been launched.</p> <p><i>Brussels District:</i> No information provided.</p> <p><i>Flanders District:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The "Long Term Vision for the Schelde River 2030" is an initiative to create a development plan for the estuary of the river. The plan was initially inspired by the need to offer protection from flooding but it was gradually realised that wetlands can have a significant buffer capacity. The first step is the elaboration with "The Development Plan 2010", in cooperation with authorities in the Netherlands.</li> <li>• Under the Nature Conservation Decree of October 1997, 25 Nature Development Projects are currently underway, several aiming at wetland restoration and creation of habitat for waterbirds.</li> </ul> <p><i>Wallonia District:</i> Initiatives during the reporting period include management measures to protect biodiversity in public forest ecosystems, and regulations on cutting hedges.</p>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	No information provided.
<b>Cyprus</b>	<p>The adoption of the conclusions of the Bergen-Op-Zoom (25 Years of the Birds Directive) in the Cyprus development strategy is ongoing, under the Town Planning &amp; Housing Department. The strategy mainly includes measures outside the SPAs, and aim to control building/housing development and general land-use changes in Cypriot countryside.</p> <p>Yearly habitat improvement measures have been carried out; i.e. planting of crops and seeds, cleaning of water springs, etc.</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> No detailed information is provided on the types/surface of habitats improved and on the bird species which are expected to benefit from this improvement.</p>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<p>Measures outside SPAs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconstruction of high-voltages lines, in order to reduce the risk of electrocution.</li> <li>• Protection and promotion of the gene pool for e.g. <i>Circus pygargus</i> and <i>Tyto alba</i>.</li> <li>• Nest construction and habitat measures for <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>.</li> <li>• Habitat management for e.g. <i>Otis tarda</i>, <i>Crex crex</i> and <i>Tetrao tetrix</i>.</li> <li>• Mowing (several sites).</li> <li>• Wetland restoration.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cutting/removal of <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> and <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>.</li> </ul> <p>A list of ca 190 activities is included.</p>
<b>Denmark</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many important habitats for birds are covered by the general legal framework for nature protection, including habitats benefitting from a general protection (e.g. dunes, minor and specific forest habitats etc). There are also decisions about protection and reserves to the benefit for birds outside the Natura 2000 network.</li> <li>• Special permits are needed for many activities with a potential negative impact in bird habitats</li> </ul> <p>There has not been any change in the legal framework for actions outside the SPAs, but much of the competence has been transferred from the counties to the State and the municipalities.</p>
<b>Estonia</b>	<p>To maintain the habitats of Annex I bird species outside SPAs, national action plans for several bird species have been compiled: <i>Aquila clanga</i>, <i>Aquila pomarina</i>, <i>Bubo bubo</i>, <i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i>, <i>Ciconia nigra</i>, <i>Gallinago media</i>, <i>Grus grus</i>, <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> and <i>Tetrao urogallus</i>. All plans have been approved by the Minister of Environment, and they enable to arrange, co-ordinate and implement species' protection management activities in the whole distribution range.</p>
<b>Finland</b>	<p>The waterfowl protection programme (approved by the Government in 1982) that includes 287 areas covering some 83,500 ha continued to be implemented. The majority of these sites are included in the Natura 2000 network but some nationally important sites are located outside it. The aim is to complete this long-term conservation programme by 2009. In addition, other protection programmes (e.g. for mires, herb-rich forests and old old-growth forests) include areas important for birds.</p> <p>Valuable bird areas are also identified in the regional and local plans. The protection of these areas is fulfilled through land use and construction legislation.</p>
<b>France</b>	<p>During the reporting period, 12 species have benefitted from actions within the framework of National Action Plans, i.e. <i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i>, <i>Accipiter gentilis arrigonii</i>, <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>, <i>Larus audouinii</i>, <i>Milvus milvus</i>, <i>Tetrax tetrax</i>, <i>Crex crex</i>, <i>Sitta whiteheadi</i>, <i>Aegypius monachus</i> and <i>Neophron percnopterus</i>.</p> <p>Three plans, for <i>Tetrax tetrax</i>, <i>Falco naumanni</i> and <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>, were evaluated during the reporting period. Objectives were found to have been globally reached and population trends were positive. Nevertheless, for a favourable status, it was concluded that the initiatives should be consolidated and prolonged through a second phase.</p> <p>Special information was given for some species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u><i>Tetrax tetrax</i></u>: A breeding centre was inaugurated in 2008.</li> <li>• <u>Vultures and <i>Falco naumanni</i></u>: A research study on long term viability and dynamics of the populations of these species has been carried out. It aims at setting up guidelines on future management options and reintroduction or reinforcing the populations. As for the extension of the SPA network, scenarios have been drafted to designate new sites to the benefit of these species.</li> <li>• <u><i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i></u>: Research done on the importance of France for autumn migration.</li> </ul>
<b>Germany</b>	<p>For the conservation of bird species and their habitats the German Länder conducted many additional measures (and partly programs, as in Lower Saxony) outside of the SPAs, concentrating on the maintenance or development of habitats. In many cases nature protection contracting (with</p>

	land owners/users, mostly farmers) was implemented. Within the EEZ, measures aimed at an increase of relevant knowledge. Details are given in annexes to the national report.
<b>Greece</b>	No information provided.
<b>Hungary</b>	<p>The report describes all the active conservation measures taken by the competent national park directorates, including those not specifically or exclusively aimed at the protection of birds. The habitat management actions include scrub clearance, grazing, mowing, reed cutting, wetland, grassland and forest management, conversion of alien tree forest stands to native ones, elimination of invasive alien plant species. The more specialised measures include survey, insulation of electric power lines, and placing out artificial nest boxes.</p> <p>The bird-oriented habitat restoration measures were focussing primarily on SPAs, and were just seldom carried out outside them (if so, usually only on lands managed by the relevant national park directorate). The types of restoration actions taken outside SPAs were similar to those of taken inside SPAs.</p> <p>Species-specific protection measures were taken for 32 species directly plus 2 groups of measures targeting <i>Accipitriformes</i>, <i>Falconiformes</i> and <i>Acrocephalus</i> spp. in general (list with summaries provided). These activities include protection of breeding, feeding and staging sites, habitat construction and maintenance (sand quarry walls, control of old mines); supplementary feeding and planting food sources; rescue, care and release of injured birds; population surveys, placing out and controlling artificial nests, guarding, ringing, radio-telemetry and satellite monitoring, insulation of electric power lines or placing them under the surface, rescue of chicks fallen out of nests or removed because of mowing; re-location of threatened nests, pest control.</p> <p>1 national species action plan (<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>) was officially approved in 2005.</p>
<b>Ireland</b>	No national report for 2005-07 submitted.
<b>Italy</b>	<p>Four new RAMSAR sites were designated in 2006, for a total surface of 2,659 ha.</p> <p><u>Comments:</u></p> <p>1) However, and as elaborated in section 4.1, national action plans were published in 2007 for <i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>, <i>Falco biarmicus</i>, <i>Falco eleonora</i> and <i>Aythya nyroca</i>.</p> <p>2) Further and also explained in section 4.1 of the national report, work on a protocol of understanding between the Ministry of the Environment and the Sardinian forest agency for the reintroduction of <i>Gyps fulvus</i> was initiated in 2006.</p>
<b>Latvia</b>	<p>For the protection of important habitats of certain species outside Natura 2000 sites, micro-reserves are being established in accordance with regulations issued in 2001. A micro-reserve for the protection of protected birds habitats can be established when inhabited nests or mating places have been identified. The regulations include a list of species for which protection a micro-reserve can be established as well as feasible minimal and maximal area for each species.</p> <p>In total 907 micro-reserves have been created, i.e. for <i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>, <i>Aegolius funereus</i>, <i>Columba oenas</i>, <i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>, <i>Dendrocopos medius</i>, <i>Dendrocopos tridactylus</i>, <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>, <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>, <i>Aquila pomarina</i>, <i>Milvus migrans</i>, <i>Tetrao urogallus</i>, <i>Ciconia</i></p>



	<p><i>nigra</i>, <i>Bubo bubo</i>, <i>Coracias garrulous</i> and <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>.</p> <p>Management/conservation plans for <i>Tetrao urogallos</i> and <i>Ciconia nigra</i> have been elaborated and approved by the Minister of Environment (plans available at the website of Nature Conservation Agency, <a href="http://www.daba.gov.lv/public/eng/">http://www.daba.gov.lv/public/eng/</a>-, reported under section 3.1 in the national report).</p> <p><u>Comment.</u> High number of microreserves established for <i>Tetrao urogallus</i> (362), <i>Ciconia nigra</i> (168) and <i>Aquila pomarina</i> (126). For many species the area of a microreserve can be up to 200 ha, and overall presumably a useful contribution. However, no specific information about the number of microreserves (and for which species) that were established during the 2005-07 period.</p>
<b>Lithuania</b>	<p>Several initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>, including surveys (78 nests sites found), 92 artificial nests and winter feeding at 10 sites (NGO-funded).</li> <li>• Conservation of <i>Ciconia nigra</i>, with recommendations for conservation measures etc (NGO-funded).</li> <li>• Conservation of <i>Strix uralensis</i> (building artificial nests etc; funding from UK/DEFRA to the Lithuanian Ornithological Society).</li> <li>• Survey of the national population of <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>, 2005, as part of an international initiative.</li> </ul> <p>Within a transboundary LIFE-Nature project (beneficiary = Baltic Environmental Forum / Latvia) the establishment of a Natura 2000 network in coastal and offshore marine waters of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania is a main issue.</p> <p>Species-wise action plans have been drafted for <i>Gallinago media</i>, <i>Tetrao urogallus</i>, <i>Ciconia nigra</i> and <i>Sterna albifrons</i>; within the framework of a PHARE project on "Protection of endangered species of flora and fauna and their habitats through implementation of CITES and the Bern and Bonn Conventions and related EU legislations". The plans had not been adopted by end of 2007.</p>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	<p>Action plans were elaborated for <i>Bonasa bonasia</i>, <i>Perdix perdix</i>, <i>Athene noctua</i>, <i>Lanius excubitor</i> and <i>Lullula arborea</i>.</p>
<b>Malta</b>	<p>An important measure is the designation of protected areas aiming also towards the conservation habitats for bird species. In 2005-07, 11 new protected areas were designated. The list and maps can be found at <a href="http://cdr.eionet.eu.int/mt/eea/cdda1">http://cdr.eionet.eu.int/mt/eea/cdda1</a>.</p> <p>Habitat protection has been addressed through various legal instruments established under the Environment Protection Act and the Development Planning Act, most importantly through the transposition of the Habitats Directive in the "Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (LN311/06)".</p> <p><u>Species introduction:</u> In order to prioritise eradication or control plans to address alien species, the Malta Environment and Planning Authority has commissioned two studies to provide a detailed list of alien flora (prior to reporting period) and fauna (partly during reporting period) in the Maltese Islands, to identify the alien species, their invasiveness and extent, the threats they pose on local biodiversity, their present exploitation and other uses, and suggest ways to control or eradicate and the implications resulting from such measures, provided they are feasible. A database on alien species has been initiated, for eventual publication and free access of information to the public. In cases where sufficient information is available, emergency actions have been</p>

	<p>initiated, although none related to bird species. Nevertheless, such actions also benefit the natural habitats and birds. One example is the eradication of the invasive brown rat, <i>Rattus norvegicus</i>, from the St. Paul's Islands Nature Reserve.</p> <p><i>Comment: No specific description of concrete actions aimed at birds outside the N2000 network. All the legislation cited refers to the protection of habitats under the Habitats Directive, although in part also to the benefit for birds.</i></p>
<b>Netherlands</b>	<p>The 'Ecologisch Hoofdstructuur' (EHS – National Ecological Network) is the backbone of Dutch nature and forms a network of connected nature areas. In land surface the total EHS was 728.500 ha and in the North Sea another 6.3 million ha by end of the reference period.</p> <p>During the reporting period a special species protection plan for <i>Crex crex</i> was implemented, as well as a plan for 13 species of marshland birds (reported under Section 3.1 in the national report, as the plan involves actions both inside and outside the SPAs).</p>
<b>Poland</b>	<p>Under the above mentioned transition facility (section 2.2) project management / protection plans for 15 fauna and flora species were elaborated, including <i>Tetrao tetrix</i> and <i>Tetrao urogallus</i>.</p> <p>There were 28 examples of the activities undertaken outside SPAs for species protection (list with short description provided). These included maintenance of biodiversity, preventing site destruction, keeping breeding sites of unspecified species (Krepskie Swamp); protection of gathering and stop-over sites of cranes in Warmia and Mazury regions; creation of breeding sites and co-operation with local community and schools in installing breeding boxes and monitoring (Middle Sudéty); active protection of owl and bat species in churches of Pomorskie Voivodship; revitalisation of nature reserves.</p> <p><i>Comment: Substantial overlap with activities listed for 2002-04.</i></p>
<b>Portugal</b>	<p>Some of the actions undertaken mentioned in the previous section 2.2. are also relevant outside the SPAs.</p> <p>For the islands of Madeira and Azores several projects have been carried out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restoration of habitats, preservation of birds species, including <i>Puffinus puffinus</i>. Actions also included the construction of a care centre and eradication of invasive alien species</li> <li>• New legislative measures have been proposed; among those the revision of the Regional Network of protected areas and the designation of a new RAMSAR site – Fajãs dos Cubres e da Caldeira de Santo Cristo (in the Azores).</li> </ul>
<b>Romania</b>	During reporting period no actions were undertaken outside SPAs.
<b>Slovakia</b>	For several SPAs, complementary actions and measures to the benefit for species listed for the sites have been done outside the SPAs.
<b>Slovenia</b>	No information provided.
<b>Spain</b>	<p>Most of projects carried on outside of the SPAs referred to the species monitoring activities, with actions carried out in Cantabria, Castilla-La Mancha, Catalonia, Madrid and Basque Country.</p> <p>As for inside the SPAs (see section 2.2) many actions to avoid the death of birds caused by electrocution have continued also outside the SPAs; in Aragon, Castilla-La Mancha and Basque Country.</p> <p>Several other projects have been designed aiming at the conservation of</p>

	<p>species also outside of the SPAs, most of which in Castilla-La Mancha and in the Basque Country (mostly as action programmes foreseen in management plans), but also in other regions. Both Murcia and Castilla-La Mancha regions have been involved in the rehabilitation of <i>Falco naumanni</i>.</p> <p>48 new wetlands have been added to the Inventory of Wetlands of Andalusia and 11 new wetlands have been included in the RAMSAR zones of Andalusia.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> There is some overlap between sections 2.2 and 2.3 in the reporting for some of the regions (e.g. Ceuta and Extremadura).</p>
<b>Sweden</b>	<p>Species-wise action plans are now in force for six species: <i>Anthus campestris</i>, <i>Gallinago media</i>, <i>Crex crex</i>, <i>Miliaria calandra</i>, <i>Sterna caspia</i> and <i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>; and in preparation for another seven species: <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>, <i>Falco peregrines</i>, <i>Falco rusticolus</i>, <i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i>, <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>, <i>Circus pygargus</i> and <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>. Costs for the implementation varies substantially; from less than 100,000 € (<i>Miliaria calandra</i>) to around 20,000,000 € (<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>, including large areas for forest protection) during 2005-08.</p>
<b>UK</b>	<p>Web-links are given for information on the number and extent of SSSIs/ASSIs (Sites/Areas of Special Scientific Interest), and for management agreements for the SSSIs. These agreements include, but are not limited to, birds. Approximately 7000 sites benefit of this kind of protection, overlapping with and beyond the SAC or SPA networks.</p> <p>A revised UK list of priority species and habitats was presented on the UK Biodiversity Action Planning (BAP) web-site in 2007. The list includes 59 species/subspecies (including 16 species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive). Single species action plans exist for 26 of these species/subspecies (including 11 species listed in Annex I: <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>, <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>, <i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>, <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>, <i>Crex crex</i>, <i>Lanius collurio</i>, <i>Loxia scotica</i>, <i>Lullula arborea</i>, <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>, <i>Sterna dougallii</i> and <i>Tetrao urogallus</i>. - Progress up to 2008 will be published in 2009 (<a href="http://www.ukbap.org.uk/GenPageText.aspx?id=114">http://www.ukbap.org.uk/GenPageText.aspx?id=114</a>).</p> <p>With reference to the 45 Habitat Action plans (HAPs) launched in 1995, a web-link for update on progress until 2008 is given. The plans are not primarily bird-oriented, but include actions such as habitat restoration and recreation to substantial benefits for birds.</p> <p>From October 2006, all local authorities and other public authorities in England and Wales have a legal duty to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in exercising their functions (and a similar duty exists in Scotland since 2004). Web-links to legal texts and guidance documents are given.</p> <p>The RAMSAR review, initiated during the previous reference period and with focus on underrepresented habitats and species, has proceeded with further activities planned also for the 2008-10 reporting period.</p> <p>Further measures were taken for raptor protection and management, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting up a Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) stakeholder dialogue group in Scotland, in order resolves issues related to Hen Harrier presence and grouse management.</li> <li>• Continued work to establish a free-living population of Red Kite (<i>Milvus milvus</i>) in Scotland, including relocation of an additional</li> </ul>

	<p>number of 30 birds in 2007.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Considering that raptor persecution is still a concern in Scotland, initiatives to partnerships between conservation organisation and land management interests have been taken, in parallel with work to strengthen enforcement.</li><li>• Within the third phase of the relocation program for <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> in Scotland, 15 birds of Norwegian origin were relocated in 2007 (the project dates back to 1975). The birds have radio tags, and will be tracked up to five years after release.</li></ul>
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## 2. PROTECTION OF HABITATS (Articles 3 & 4)

### 2.4 Targeted measures taken for bird habitats in wider countryside (e.g. agri-environmental schemes etc)

<b>Austria</b>	Land Salzburg reports on the use of nature protection contracting (with land owners/users, mostly farmers).
<b>Belgium</b>	<p><i>Flanders District:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actions for protection of habitat and birds are included in most conservation projects, such as measures for the protection of birds in agricultural habitats.</li> <li>• Cross-boundary projects for nature rehabilitation and management in the coastal zone have been extended; the IJzer river and Schelde river estuaries and the Grensmaas river, which are all sites of high importance for migratory waterbird species.</li> </ul> <p><i>Wallonia District:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New agri-environmental measures have been implemented, including incentives for conservation of landscape and ecological network elements such as hedges and trees, isolated trees, fruit trees, ponds, natural grasslands, high nature-value grasslands.</li> <li>• “Opération Combles et Clochers” which includes the fitting out of roofs and church towers for bat populations. Installation of nesting boxes is implemented in 128 towns in Walloon, to the benefit for e.g. <i>Tyto alba</i>, <i>Corvus monedula</i> and <i>Apus apus</i>.</li> <li>• Several other initiatives that contribute to bird protection, such as Municipality plan for nature development (PCDN) and waterway schemes (contrats de rivières), with actions in favour of bird habitats.</li> </ul>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	No information provided (but see Section 2.2 for funding via the Cohesion and Structural Funds).
<b>Cyprus</b>	No information provided.
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<p>Three programmes are of relevance, with reference bird protection and habitat management.</p> <p><u>1. Agri-environmental measures.</u></p> <p>Information is given for the 2007-13 period, while information in the previous report for 2002-05 applied also for 2005-06. For 2007-13 the following measures are of direct relevance for bird habitat management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Bird habitats on grassland - <i>Crex crex</i>”: Proposed payment = 183 €/ha, on 25,247 ha; includes restrictions against fertilizers, and time for mowing (not before 15<sup>th</sup> August etc) and how it should be done.</li> <li>• “Bird habitats on grassland - waders”: Proposed payment = 202 €/ha, on 3,442 ha; includes restrictions against fertilizers, and time for mowing (not before 15<sup>th</sup> July etc) and how it should be done.</li> <li>• “Permanently wet meadows and peat meadows”: Proposed payment = 417 €/ha, on 3,366 ha (no fertilizers, no liming or drainage etc; light-weight machinery to be used, no grazing etc.).</li> <li>• “Bio-belts on arable land”: Proposed payment = 410 €/ha (6-12 m wide, to be sowed no later than 31<sup>st</sup> May, and then left without management until 31<sup>st</sup> March next year etc.).</li> </ul> <p><u>2. Programme of landscape management.</u></p> <p>Includes measures in wider countryside as well as in SPAs. The actions specifically for protected areas (including SPAs) include management plans, geodetic limitation, technical measures (information panels, fences</p>

	<p>etc), initiatives to remove negative activities and their impact etc.</p> <p><u>3. Operational Programme Environment.</u></p> <p>“Priority 6 axis” includes measures for the implementation and management of the Natura 2000 network (almost 30,000,000 €), support for biodiversity (almost 114,000,000 €) and recovery of landscape features (almost 78,000,000 €); in total around 37% of the resources in the programme.</p>
<b>Denmark</b>	<p>With a new statutory order in 2007, a land-owner can obtain a right release more birds for the purpose of hunting if there are biobelts in connection to arable land on the property.</p>
<b>Estonia</b>	<p>Estonia has implemented agri-environmental schemes since 2000 and most of them have been nationwide. During 2005-07, three area-based measures were implemented nationally and included support for the maintenance of semi-natural habitats (wooded meadows, wooded pastures, coastal meadows, flooded meadows, paludified and fen meadows, alvars, juniper thickets, heaths and grasslands on mineral soil) located in Natura 2000 areas.</p> <p>Other schemes with a potential impact on birds include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmentally friendly farming, in which the objective of the "light and shallow" measure was to contribute to wider environmental objectives (soil, water, biodiversity)</li> <li>• Organic farming scheme, with maintaining and increasing biological and landscape diversity as one of the objectives.</li> <li>• To reduce damages to the agriculture, caused by migratory birds, crop fields have been established as additional feeding grounds in the coastal areas (especially Saaremaa Island). This activity is subsidized by the Environmental Investment Fund.</li> </ul> <p><i><u>Comment:</u> No information of bird species or size of surface areas that might have benefited.</i></p>
<b>Finland</b>	<p>The biodiversity of rural environment is improved by the agri-environment support system. The actions for the farmers participating in the system include both mandatory basic ones and a choice of additional voluntary measures. For more effective environmental and management actions there is a possibility of special support.</p> <p>With reference to the protection of birds, special support can be granted for following actions: management of meadows, pastures, interfaces between fields and forests, overgrown forest areas, buffer zones and small-scale wetlands.</p> <p><i><u>Comment:</u> Figures given in the national report on surface areas of different habitats that have benefitted relate to the end of the previous reporting period.</i></p>
<b>France</b>	<p>In 1997, the ministries of ecology and agriculture joined forces with the <i>Museum national d'histoire naturelle</i> to formulate a “Habitats Workbook” (Cahiers d’habitats). 7 workbooks were completed in 2001-04, but with the Workbook on Bird Habitats (Cahier d’habitats pour les Oiseaux, CHO) sole missing. Thus, work on writing up this CHO was initiated in December 2003, and the drafting of worksheets for 274 bird species was divided between 7 organisations under the scientific coordination of the <i>Museum national d'histoire naturelle</i>. The CHO prime aim is to establish guidance for the drafting of ‘objectives documents’ in view of identifying birds and their habitats, analyzing their conservation status and defining the management measures relevant to each site together with the Steering</p>

	<p>Committee of the site.</p> <p>The publication of this CHO is expected in mid-2009 and 273 of the worksheets are already available online; <a href="http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/ext/natura/">http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/ext/natura/</a>. Following their publication, the worksheets will be at disposal on the Natura 2000 web site open to the public via a search per habitat or species.</p>
<b>Germany</b>	<p>There are additional programs and measures running in the 16 Länder, e.g. agri-environmental schemes and species programs. Some examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Brandenburg</u>: Management for chicks of <i>Otis tarda</i>, <i>Aquila pomarina</i>, <i>Falco peregrinus</i>.</li> <li>• <u>Hesse</u>: Landscape conservation programs with measures for e.g. <i>Crex crex</i> and contracts for the conservation of <i>Bubo bubo</i> and <i>Falco peregrinus</i>.</li> <li>• <u>Rhineland-Palatinate</u>: programs for different land use forms and protection measures e.g. for <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> and <i>Ciconia nigra</i> as well as ground breeders.</li> </ul>
<b>Greece</b>	No information provided.
<b>Hungary</b>	<p>Agri-environmental measures have been taken as part of the National Rural Development Programme. The farmers, who signed 5-year contracts in 2004, received more than 21,000,000 €/year for managing approximately 120,000 hectares. Schemes were targeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arable lands for <i>Otis tarda</i> (<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i> and <i>Coracias garrulous</i>, birds of prey also benefiting).</li> <li>• Bird-friendly arable land management (primarily to the benefit for <i>Aquila heliaca</i>, <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> and <i>Perdix perdix</i>).</li> <li>• Alfalfa for <i>Otis tarda</i>, (<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i> and <i>Coracias garrulous</i>, birds of prey also benefiting).</li> <li>• Cultivation of arable lands with focus on habitat development; grassland management with focus on <i>Otis tarda</i>.</li> <li>• Grassland management, including actions for <i>Crex crex</i>.</li> <li>• Establishment of grasslands on Environmentally Sensitive Areas.</li> </ul>
<b>Ireland</b>	No national report for 2005-07 submitted.
<b>Italy</b>	No information provided.
<b>Latvia</b>	<p>The Law on the Conservation of Species and Biotores prescribes a right of landowners and tenants to have compensation on substantial damage caused by protected and migratory species animals. New Regulations on 'Procedures by which Indemnification of Substantial Losses caused by protected Non-game Species and Migratory Animal Species to be Assessed for Land-users' were approved in 2007, replacing previous regulations from 2001. Compensations have been paid out by the Latvian Environmental Protection Fund. In year 2005, 18 requests on damage caused by migratory birds were submitted and compensations of 40,651 LVL (ca 58,000 €) paid; in 2006, 53 requests and 140,063 LVL (ca 200,000 €), and in 2007, 43 requests and 98,000 LVL (ca 140,000€).</p> <p>On 1 January 2006, The Law on Landowners Rights to Receive Compensation for the Restrictions of Economic Activities in Specially Protected nature Territories and Micro-reserves came into the force.</p> <p><u>Comment.</u> No information about more specific bird-oriented measures (agri-environmental schemes, etc).</p>
<b>Lithuania</b>	<p>Three programs under the Rural Development Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two programs directly oriented on bird protection, on management of shore belts of water bodies and on landscape stewardship attracted only 349 farmers with a total of 3123 ha of agricultural land. Main</li> </ul>

	<p>reasons for the failure were low payment rate and to little information about the programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A program titled “Ecological Farming” with more general measures (i.e. not specific for birds) was more successful and attracted 2291 farmers with a total of 91290 ha of agricultural land (= 5% of the agricultural area in the country).</li> </ul> <p>More options for environmental schemes related to farming or forestry are foreseen in the national Rural Development Program for 2007-2013, including a scheme for “forest environmental payments”.</p>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	No information provided.
<b>Malta</b>	<p>A list of nine measures, included in the Rural Development Plan, that have a direct or indirect benefit to bird species is provided.</p> <p><i>Comment: None of the measures are directly aimed at birds, and no information on how these measures have been implemented for bird protection has been given, although at least one of them, on ‘Support for the conservation of rural structures providing a natural habitat for fauna and flora’ may be to potential benefit.</i></p>
<b>Netherlands</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Meadow bird management:</u> The number of contracts has decreased over the last years due to the difference in agricultural and subsidy yield and the fact that farmers are not renewing their contracts: 51,660 ha by end of 2004 compared to 35,849 ha by end of 2007. Besides, a network for research was established.</li> <li>• <u>Farmers for Nature:</u> Within this Interreg programme, the Netherlands has a few successful projects. In Friesland “Skries4You” has as objective to find measures to make the <i>Limosa limosa</i> management compatible with modern agricultural techniques.</li> <li>• <u>Accommodation for overwintering geese and <i>Anas penelope</i>:</u> As of 2005, ca 80,000 ha has been designated foraging areas, partly in nature areas but mostly in agricultural land. Within these foraging areas sufficient food and rest for the geese and wigeons will be guaranteed.</li> <li>• <u><i>Circus pygargus</i>, ambassador for birds of arable land:</u> In the last century the population of <i>Circus pygargus</i> has declined from 500-1000 pairs in 1900 to 250 pairs in 1950 and 50 pairs in 1980 to less than 10 pairs in 1990. Vast following of meadow land in Oost-Groningen maybe the reason that the population has risen again to 25 pairs. <i>Perdix perdix</i>, <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> and <i>Alauda arvensis</i> have also benefited from these following measures.</li> </ul> <p>In 2007, the Netherlands changed from making individual species protection plans to a “living area approach” thus targeting a bigger group of species that need the same measures.</p>
<b>Poland</b>	<p>Agri-environmental schemes started in Poland in March 2008; however, activities preparing implementation of this program were undertaken before (and during the reporting period). In total 31 activities were done for bird habitat protection, including many diverse for examples of habitat restoration and improvement projects for species, traditional agricultural management, protection and re-naturation, keeping of nature values, restoration and maintenance of endangered species, development of integrated tourism system, protection and restoration of wetlands or extension of biotope suitable for particular species (list and short description provided).</p> <p><i>Comment: Most of the actions reported were mentioned also in the</i></p>



	<i>previous report for 2002-04. Information was also given about activities after the 2005-07 reporting period.</i>
<b>Portugal</b>	No information provided.
<b>Romania</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the beginning of 2007, Romania had prepared the National Strategic Plan for Rural Development (2007-2013) that. The second axis, "Improvement of rural environment and countryside", has objectives aiming to conserve the biodiversity of bird species related to agricultural land and to rehabilitate the land at Natura 2000 sites.</li> <li>The Law 280/2003 is targeting the biodiversity conservation on coastal areas.</li> </ul> <p><i>Comment: No information regarding the implementation results of the legislative measures.</i></p>
<b>Slovakia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Rural Development Program for 2004-06 made measures to the benefit for birds possible; such as protection of semi-natural and natural meadows, water and wetland habitats, ecological agriculture and activities in less favourable areas (4 sub-categories). Since 2007, measures in less favourable areas are implemented via the new Rural Development Program for 2007-13. References to the national legal framework are given.</li> <li>5 pilot sites with wetlands important for birdlife were included in the SAPARD programme during 2000-06.</li> </ul> <p><i>Comment: No concrete or quantitative information to what extent areas of bird conservation value finally have benefitted from measures via the RDP.</i></p>
<b>Slovenia</b>	<p>The Institute for Conservation of Nature has developed 223 nature conservation guidelines for approval of sectoral plans or projects in Ecologically Important Areas (EPO) outside SPAs.</p> <p>13 technical proposals, including revision of laws and parks regulations, concrete conservation projects and scientific basis for designing protected areas, have been prepared.</p> <p><i>Comment: See also section 2.2 for RDP subsidies for agricultural land inside SPAs.</i></p>
<b>Spain</b>	<p>Most of the Spanish regions have specific plans for conservation measures for birds in the countryside including explicit financing (Aragon, Asturias, Cantabria, Basque Country, Navarre, Castilla-La Mancha, Extremadura, Murcia, Aragon, Catalonia).</p> <p><i>Comment: The level of detail varies substantially between regions, with information on species-related activities and costs for single regions, while very scanty for others, so not possible to make any overall assessment on the national level on the basis of the information provided.</i></p>
<b>Sweden</b>	<p>The Parliament has adopted 16 environmental quality objectives, to be achieved within one generation. An evaluation in 2007 suggested intensified efforts in e.g. forestry and agriculture in order to improve the situation for biodiversity, including the bird fauna.</p> <p><i>Comment: No information about more specific bird-oriented measures.</i></p>
<b>UK</b>	<p>At least one major agri-environmental scheme is run each country (England, Wales and Scotland).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In England, the funding by the Country Stewardship has increased from 29,000,000 GBP in 1999/2000 to 126,000,000 GBP in 2006/07. An Environmental Stewardship (ES) was launched in 2005, with three levels (entry, organic entry, higher), to be the centrepiece in delivering</li> </ul>

	<p>the Government's agricultural and rural and policies etc. This scheme is also the primary mechanism for delivering DEFRA's Public Service Agreement targets on reversing the long-term declining trend in farmland birds by 2020, and for bringing 95% of the SSSIs in a favourable condition by 2010.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• At least four different (and complementary) schemes are run in Wales.</li><li>• Two main programmes are run by the Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP); Rural Development Contracts - Land Managers' Options that enables all land managers to deliver a range of public benefits, and Rural Development Contracts - Rural Priorities which is a competitive mechanism and including five regional priorities specifically for biodiversity benefits (e.g. heath management, habitat management for <i>Crex crex</i>, wardening of <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>). - SRDP will assist in achieving targets on increasing the abundance of terrestrial birds, and to increase the proportion of protected sites (including SPAs) to 95%.</li></ul>
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### 3. PROTECTION OF SPECIES

#### 3.1 General system of protection (Article 5)

<p><b>Austria</b></p>	<p>Information has been provided for seven of the nine “Länder”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Burgenland: Preparation of revisions of the nature conservation law, the hunting law, and the species conservation regulation.</li> <li>• Land Niederösterreich: Revision of the nature conservation law to follow a ruling of the European Court of Justice (C-507/04).</li> <li>• Land Oberösterreich: Revisions of the nature conservation act and the species conservation regulation.</li> <li>• Land Salzburg: Revisions of the nature conservation act.</li> <li>• Land Steiermark: Revisions of the nature conservation act and the species conservation regulation.</li> <li>• Land Tirol: Adaptations of the hunting law</li> <li>• Land Wien: Revisions of the nature conservation act. Revision of the regulation on the close season for huntable game.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Belgium</b></p>	<p><i>Federal Government (marine territories):</i> No information provided.</p> <p><i>Brussels District:</i> All wildlife is fully protected under the Edict of 29.08.1991 (i.e. nothing new to report for 2005-07).</p> <p><i>Flanders District:</i> No change in existing law: Wild specimens of bird species listed have full protection, and taking of wild birds and their eggs and trade of these birds, their eggs and recognizable parts of these birds are not allowed. However, preparation for new legislation has been initiated, to combine all species under the same regulations and to be in full accordance with the relevant EU legislation, including the Birds Directive.</p> <p><i>Wallonia District:</i> Nothing new to report since the last previous period.</p>
<p><b>Bulgaria</b></p>	<p>All species, concerned by Art 4, 5 and 6 and 7 of the Birds Directive are introduced by articles 37, 41, and 45 of the Biodiversity Law (BL). Strictly protected species are listed in Annex 3; those with lower conservation status are protected with article 45. The game species pursuant to article 41 (BL) are subject of regulation on Law of hunting and game protection. - Annex 5 to Article 44 of BL determines the forbidden methods and ways and means of hunting. - Article 38 of BL introduces prohibits of article 5 and 6 of the Birds Directive. - Protection of all species which are not listed in Articles 3 and 4 of BL is subject of regulation of Article 45 of the same Law.</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> Legal texts of provisions mentioned above are provided in the national report.</p>
<p><b>Cyprus</b></p>	<p>During the reporting period, the Cypriot legislation has been harmonised with the EU Birds Directive. The website <a href="http://www.cypruswildlife.gov.cy/">http://www.cypruswildlife.gov.cy/</a> includes all the national laws adopted.</p> <p>During the period 2005-07, the Law for the Protection and Management of Wild Birds and Game Species of 2003 has been revised according to guidance of the European Commission.</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> The website indicated is apparently no longer active (checked 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010).</p>
<p><b>Czech Republic</b></p>	<p>Reference to the previous report for 2002-04; no new information provided.</p>
<p><b>Denmark</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new ordinance on the protection of certain animal and plant species</li> </ul>

	<p>was launched in July 2007, where all previous rules of relevance for bird protection have been collected in a common legal framework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New rules on the control of damage caused by wild birds and mammals went into force in July 2007, with explicit reference to Article 9 of the Birds Directive.</li> </ul>
<b>Estonia</b>	<p>Updates of legislation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 56(6), where it is prohibited to capture or intentionally disturb specimens of protected species during the breeding, rearing, wintering or migration season, except in the cases specified in subsections 58 (4) or (5) of this Act.</li> <li>• Section 58 (4) which states that removal of specimens of protected species from the wild is prohibited, except for treatment of injuries, and in the cases specified in subsection (5) of this section.</li> <li>• 58 (5) which states that specimens of protected species may be removed from the wild for educational, medicinal or research purposes, or for reintroduction, thereof with the permission of the Minister of the Environment; or for relocation, thereof only if this does not compromise the favourable conservation status of the species.</li> </ul>
<b>Finland</b>	<p>No change compared to the previous report for mainland Finland (no information for Åland Islands given).</p>
<b>France</b>	<p>The existing legislation was modified in July 2005 to take into consideration the provisions of Council Regulation 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by controlling their trade. With this modification, an exception from the prohibition of transporting, using, offering for sale, sale or purchasing protected species was given for specimens acquired before 1<sup>st</sup> June 1947, if they were significantly altered from their natural raw state for jewellery, adornment, art, utility, or musical instruments and that require no further carving, crafting or manufacture, and for which an invoice or age certification is provided.</p> <p>A second modification was made in July 2006, when specimens born or bred in captivity were excepted from the prohibition of naturalization, transporting, using, and offering for sale, sale or purchasing.</p>
<b>Germany</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The federal nature conservation act was updated in December 2007.</li> <li>• The federal game protection regulation was revised in February 2005.</li> <li>• The federal species protection regulation was revised in 2004, but adopted only in 2005.</li> </ul> <p>New reference texts are provided in annexes.</p>
<b>Greece</b>	<p>No information provided.</p>
<b>Hungary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The list of Laws, Government decrees and Ministerial decrees regulating species protection was provided in extenso (in Hungarian), as well as the list of huntable species (16 species). Besides many modifications of existing acts, a new decree was adopted to restrict air traffic over selected areas.</li> <li>• Also according to a new decree adopted in 2005, activities which otherwise do not need permission, but in that given case may potentially threaten strictly protected species (e.g. during nesting), can be restricted temporarily, and for which the land-owner can be compensated. This solution is usually applied outside protected areas to prevent losses of <i>Otis tarda</i>, <i>Glareola pratinicola</i>, <i>Crex crex</i> etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Ireland</b>	<p>No national report for 2005-07 submitted.</p>
<b>Italy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The national legislation (L 157/92), which is the transposition of the Birds Directive in Italy, was not changed in comparison with the previous report.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some Regions modified their legislation in accordance to the national legal framework. Other Regions, which have made modification not congruent with the national law and/or with the Birds Directive, are under infraction procedure.</li> <li>• In 2006, Italy joined “The Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)” and issued a decree on “Norme in materia ambientale” (DL 152/2006), which aims at the conservation of aquatic ecosystems and avifauna linked to this environment.</li> </ul>
<b>Latvia</b>	<p>General bird species protection requirements are ensured by the Law on Species and Habitat Protection and related/subordinated Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers. Since previous reporting period, several amendments have been made in order to ensure activities and measures for bird species protection. This includes the evaluation of endangered, ecologically sensitive and rare species, with reference to population trends etc. For the species protection, the area of the most suitable size shall be established, taking into account conservation requirements in marine and terrestrial areas. The law also prescribes forbidden activities for protected animals incl. bird species: Capture, killing, destroying and pollution of habitats, disturbance, captivity, transporting, selling etc. The Law foresees exceptions for disturbing - on the condition when public health and safety interests are endangered and for research purposes.</p> <p>The list of bird species not applying to forbidden activities is approved by the Cabinet of Ministers (Regulations No 212 of 27/03/2007).</p>
<b>Lithuania</b>	<p>No substantial changes in the legal framework for hunting (launched in 2002) were done during the reference period. 16 bird species can be legally hunted (12 listed in Annex II/1 and 4 in Annex II/2).</p>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	<p>Update of the legislation (comprising the list of huntable species) and of the jurisprudence, measures taken (i.e. management plans, specific actions, etc) and a control system. Thus, the law on Protection of Nature of January 2004,  <a href="http://www.legilux.public.lu/leg/a/archives/2004/0010/a010.pdf#page=2">http://www.legilux.public.lu/leg/a/archives/2004/0010/a010.pdf#page=2</a>  , was modified in December 2007,  <a href="http://www.legilux.public.lu/leg/a/archives/2007/0239/a239.pdf#page=2">http://www.legilux.public.lu/leg/a/archives/2007/0239/a239.pdf#page=2</a>.</p> <p>The National Plan for the Protection of Nature (PNPN) was presented in 2007  <a href="http://www.environnement.public.lu/conserv_nature/dossiers/PNPN/PNPN_vfinale200407-2.pdf">http://www.environnement.public.lu/conserv_nature/dossiers/PNPN/PNPN_vfinale200407-2.pdf</a></p>
<b>Malta</b>	<p>In March 2006 the old regulations on “The Protection of Birds and Wild Rabbits” has been substituted with the “Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations”, which is the transposition of the Birds Directive into Maltese law. The Regulations establish a general system of protection of all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild. They allow for the hunting on land, in accordance with the provisions of the Birds Directive, of 32 species. In October 2007, the Regulations were amended so that hunting at sea is permissible for 12 of these species.</p> <p>Seven other species may also be captured for the purpose of keeping them in captivity in accordance with the provisions of the Accession Treaty, wherein Malta was granted a transitional measure in this regard until 31 December 2008. This activity is carried out in accordance with the principles governing the timing of migratory bird species as outlined in the Birds Directive.</p>
<b>Netherlands</b>	<p>The Flora and Fauna Act came into force in 2002 and it includes the</p>

	<p>former Bird Act (Vogelwet) and Hunting Act (Jachtwet).</p> <p>Since 2005 the Flora and Fauna Act has initiated the use of Codes of Conduct. These are formulated by the sectors and will be presented to the Ministry for approval. Codes of conduct that have already been approved for careful forest management, for the recreation sector, for the Union of Water Boards, for the provinces concerning construction and maintenance of provincial infrastructure, and for communes regarding management of communal green services. For more information on the Code of Conduct, <a href="http://www.minInv.nl/portal/page?_pageid=116,164089e&amp;_dad=portal&amp;_sehe_ma=PORTAL&amp;p_document_id=I1Q637&amp;p_node_id=166257&amp;p_mode=BRQWSE">http://www.minInv.nl/portal/page?_pageid=116,164089e&amp;_dad=portal&amp;_sehe_ma=PORTAL&amp;p_document_id=I1Q637&amp;p_node_id=166257&amp;p_mode=BRQWSE</a>.</p> <p>In the Netherlands, there has been a shift from a single species protection plan to a living area approach where the living area of multiple threatened species is targeted. Implementation of this approach will take place in 2008, but some successful projects were launched already in 2007.</p>
<b>Poland</b>	<p>The Nature Protection Law of April 2004 and Regulation by the Minister of Environment of September 2004 on protected species of Wild animals specify the species protection requirements (details given in the summaries for 2002-04). There were no changes in the general system of protection compared to previous reporting period.</p> <p><i>Comment: Changes in nature protection law were decided in 2008.</i></p>
<b>Portugal</b>	<p>The national law relative to the transposition of the Habitats and Birds Directive was revised in 2005 (both nature directives were transposed in the national legislation in 1999).</p>
<b>Romania</b>	<p>According to Romanian legislation, the hunting of birds listed in the Annex I of Birds Directive is forbidden. The Law 407/2006 foresees that hunting of protected birds can be authorized only on the basis of derogations complying with European legislation and based on an environmental authority order and on the statement of the Romanian Academy. The bird species that can be hunted are listed in the Annex I of the Law 407/2006. The Governmental Ordinance 57/2007, which integrates the Habitat and Birds Directives into Romanian legislation, prohibits hunting in strictly protected areas.</p>
<b>Slovakia</b>	<p>The national legal framework for implementing the Birds Directive (ref. order of the Ministry of Environment, 2003) was further updated with additional orders in 2006 and 2007. Details on how the specific articles of the Directive are reflected in the national legislation are given in an annex.</p>
<b>Slovenia</b>	<p>No changes compared to the previous report.</p>
<b>Spain</b>	<p>The list of Special Protected Species (birds) was confirmed with the national Law 42/2007; establishing provisions also for the Catalogue of Threatened Spanish Species. For the species included in this Catalogue specific areas have to be designated and recovery plans have to be produced. On the basis of the Catalogue, a special committee will have to approve Conservation Strategies for Threatened Species. In the period concerned, strategies have been approved for three species: <i>Tetrao urogallus aquitanicus</i>, <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i> and <i>Fulica cristata</i>.</p> <p>At regional level, many other protection systems have been adopted.</p> <p>Extremadura, Cantabria and Castilla-La Mancha approved new versions of the Regional Law for Nature Conservation, and Catalonia modified the Law for the Animals Protection.</p> <p>Several Catalogues of Threatened Species were produced (in Aragon,</p>

	<p>Canary Islands, Extremadura, Galicia) and also many specific plans for threatened species (in Canary Islands for <i>Fringilla teydea polatzeki</i> and <i>Neophron percnopterus</i>, in Castilla-La Mancha for <i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i> and <i>Falco naumanni</i>, in the Balearic Islands for <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>, <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> and <i>Larus audouinii</i>, in La Rioja for <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>, <i>Circus pygargus</i>, vultures and <i>Falco naumanni</i>, in Extremadura for <i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i> and <i>Aegypius monachus</i>).</p> <p>Laws establishing periods and species that may be hunted have been approved in many regions, such as Murcia, Basque Country, Extremadura, Ceuta and Aragon. Moreover two regions have adopted specific decrees to avoid death of birds caused by electrocution (Aragon and La Rioja), and Murcia adopted an anti-venom decree. The Extremadura Regions continued financing the three recovery centres for wild species, while Aragon adopted a decree for the creation of the Network of the Feeders for Scavenger Birds.</p>
<b>Sweden</b>	<p>Revised Species Protection Ordinance decided and gained legal force by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008.</p> <p><i>Comment: This revision includes a reinforced protection of wild-living species in general, also to the benefit for wild-living birds but no specific bird-related measures.</i></p>
<b>UK</b>	<p>Stricter domestic measures to the general system of protection have been introduced, including takes, damages or destroys (at any time) of nests habitually used by <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>, <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> and <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>; and extension of the protection afforded to wild birds to include birds bred in captivity and lawfully released into the wild as part of a re-population or re-introduction programme.</p> <p>Initiatives taken during previous reporting periods to ensure effective enforcement of legislation against wildlife crime have continued, including partnerships between the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) and the police. Furthermore, thematic wildlife crime arrangements were initiated in Scotland (finalised in 2008, web-link given).</p>

### 3. PROTECTION OF SPECIES

#### 3.2 Hunting and capture of bird species (Article 7)

<b>Austria</b>	Land Niederösterreich referred to its report following Art. 9 of the Birds Directive. The other "Länder" partly just referred to relevant law in place or did not provide any information.
<b>Belgium</b>	<p><i>Federal Government (marine territories):</i> The hunting and capture of birds is prohibited in the marine areas (ref. legislation from 2001).</p> <p><i>Brussels District:</i> The hunting and capture of birds is prohibited.</p> <p><i>Flanders District:</i> No significant changes were made in the relevant legislation during the 2005-07 period.</p> <p><i>Wallonia District:</i> Prohibition to kill, capture, intentionally disturb or to take eggs of all European wild bird species is included in the law on nature conservation, except for game species. A bill identifying the dates for open shooting season during 2006-11 was given in May 2006. New regulations of October 2005 on the use of firearms and shots forbid the use of lead shots to shoot waterbird game species at less than 50 meters from a marsh, lake, pond, water reservoir, river or canal.</p>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	<p>Terms and periods of hunting are regulated by the Regulation of implementation of the Law of hunting and game protection.</p> <p>In the period 2005-07 ways and means of hunting according to the Law of hunting and game protection were applied. Open hunting periods were applied for 20 species or species groups (all listed in Annex II of the Birds Directive).</p>
<b>Cyprus</b>	<p><i>Fixation of hunting days:</i> The hunting season is between 16 August and the end of February each year.</p> <p><i>Competent authority:</i> Ministry of Interior (Game Fund Service). For the designation of SPAs the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment through the Scientific Committee is also involved, which makes the appropriate scientific sound suggestions to the Minister of Interior.</p> <p><i>Control systems:</i> The Game Wardens exercised numerous controls and enforced the relevant legislation. During 2005-07 a total of 889 illegal poaching/wildlife crime cases have been reported. Out of these 483 cases were involved with illegal trapping of wild birds.</p>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reference to the previous report for 2002-04; no changes done in the legal framework.</li> <li>• Hunting statistics for 2005, 2006 and 2007 is listed in tables.</li> </ul> <p><i>Comment:</i> The lists of hunted species is not in perfect consistency with Annex II of the Birds Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For geese, only the genus <i>Anser</i> is listed, with no specification with reference to species.</li> <li>• Some <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> shot in 2006 and 2007, although not listed in Annex II/2 for Czech Republic (and not clear if this is the same as the derogation for this species at wine-yards, mentioned under Section 3.4).</li> <li>• See also Section 3.6 for keeping of <i>Falco</i> hybrids for falconry.</li> </ul>
<b>Denmark</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new legal framework for species protection, launched in July 2007, also included a general ban of killing and capturing birds.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revised rules for open seasons hunting of birds and mammals were decided in June 2007, with explicit reference to Article 7 of the Birds Directive.</li> </ul>
<b>Estonia</b>	<p>A list of hunted species (34) is provided. Also the seasons open for hunting are listed for most of the species.</p> <p>The Competent Authority at the ministerial level is the Forestry Department and Ministry of the Environment, and the administrative level the County Environmental Departments.</p> <p>Estonia has a State Monitoring System for different bird species.</p> <p><u>Comments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The list of hunted species includes Ardea cinerea, Phalacrocorax carbo and Corvus corone, which are not huntable species in Estonia (ref. Annex II of the Birds Directive).</i></li> <li><i>Not mentioned which species that are covered by the State Monitoring System.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Finland</b>	<p>Limited spring hunting has taken place in Finland, as regulated by the Hunting Decree. To guide this activity, the Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry has given annual administrative provisions on maximum amounts of waterfowl to be hunted. Two game management districts have been allowed to grant permits to hunt waterfowl in spring if there is no alternative solution for hunting. The Ministry has taken into account the game research results by Game and Fisheries Research Institute. During the reporting period the amount of birds taken under these exceptions has decreased.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> <i>No information on how the Finnish authorities might have adjusted the national legislation with reference to the ECJ ruling in December 2005 (C-344/03) on ban of spring hunting of several duck species, nor that the still on-going spring-hunting of Clangula hyemalis is under investigation by the Commission.</i></p>
<b>France</b>	<p>No changes of the legislation were reported during 2005-07 as the open hunting periods are concerned.</p> <p>During the reporting period, a number of decrees and decisions were taken in order to fix the dates of the hunting season, which are variable depending on game bird groups. Most of these decrees and decisions were legally challenged and partly suspended and the Ministry ordered to modify the dates. However, in some cases these instructions were taken too late for effective application (months after the season had actually started).</p>
<b>Germany</b>	No new information compared to the previous report.
<b>Greece</b>	<p>Every year, usually in July, the Minister of Rural Development &amp; Food issues the "Annual Hunting regulation", which defines the opening and closing dates for the hunting season, the list of huntable species, etc. Copies of the three regulations have been provided. Full legal texts were annexed to the national report.</p> <p>Through a Joint Ministerial Decree in 2007, new legislation was launched in order to assure better implementation of Article 7 of the Birds Directive (annexed to the national report for 2007).</p> <p>Two triennial research projects have been financed: "The phenology of migration of the huntable waterbird species in Greece" and "The impact of hunting on the huntable waterbird species in Greece". Field work has continued throughout 2005-07.</p>
<b>Hungary</b>	The precise hunting dates for huntable species were provided, as well as information on the administrative structure of hunting management. By 1 <sup>st</sup>

	<p>January 2007 the national responsibility was transferred from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to the Central Agricultural Office.</p> <p>Since 15 August 2005, the use of lead shots is prohibited over wetlands. The same decree enlarged the list of sites where waterfowl hunting may be permitted only in agreement with the nature conservation authorities. In some cases waterfowl hunting was temporarily prohibited upon the request of national park directorates.</p>
<b>Ireland</b>	No national report for 2005-07 submitted.
<b>Italy</b>	<p>Regions are the competent authorities for hunting.</p> <p>The Regions issue every year the dates of the hunting season, the hours during which hunting is allowed, the species which may be hunted and the number of birds which may be killed every day and on an annual basis. The last two sets of data are decided in accordance with the national institution for the protection of the environment (ISPRA).</p> <p>Birds capture is prohibited, with the exception of very rare cases specifically authorised by ISPRA. For instance, provinces can use nets to trap wild birds which then are used by hunters as live decoys in cover-shooting. The trappers are authorised by ISPRA, after passing an examination. All 7 species trapped in Italy as live decoys are huntable.</p> <p>The use, sale and detention of traps are prohibited, with exception for a few Research Institutes that are specifically authorised.</p>
<b>Latvia</b>	<p>Hunting Law (2003) prescribes that hunting species and periods are determined by the Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers. Subsequently, the Hunting Regulations (No 760, of December 2003) foresees limited or unlimited hunting periods for different species, including birds. Hunting of <i>Tetrao urogallus</i> and <i>Tetrao tetrix</i> is allowed according to management/conservation plans adopted for these species.</p>
<b>Lithuania</b>	<p>The Ministry of Environment is the competent national authority for hunting. The report gives details on open seasons for the 16 huntable species listed in Annex II (see Section 3.1). Information is given about the control of <i>Corvus frugilegus</i> in the interest of public health and safety (destruction of nests permissible but not shooting into nests), and <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> for which hunting is allowed only at specialised fish-breeding ponds in order to prevent serious damage.</p> <p>Bag statistics have been collected since 1934, and all hunters are obliged to report about the hunting bag to competent authorities, per hunting day and by species (no longer by species groups, such as geese or ducks).</p>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	<p>Updates of the legislation and of the jurisprudence relating to hunting (i.e. by fixing hunting periods), competent authorities (both on administrative and ministerial level) and measures taken (i.e. management plans, specific actions, etc.) and a control system were done during the reporting period. All information is found on the following websites per reporting year:</p> <p><a href="http://www.legilux.public.lu/leg/a/archives/2005/0117/a117.pdf#page=2">http://www.legilux.public.lu/leg/a/archives/2005/0117/a117.pdf#page=2</a>  <a href="http://www.legilux.public.lu/leg/a/archives/2006/0132/a132.pdf#page=2">http://www.legilux.public.lu/leg/a/archives/2006/0132/a132.pdf#page=2</a>  <a href="http://www.legilux.public.lu/leg/a/archives/2007/0121/a121.pdf#page=5">http://www.legilux.public.lu/leg/a/archives/2007/0121/a121.pdf#page=5</a></p>
<b>Malta</b>	<p>Under the old Regulations, the hunting and trapping seasons were established and fixed by law. With the introduction of the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations in 2006, the Maltese Government decides the dates on a yearly basis upon a recommendation being made by the ORNIS Committee. This ensures that the hunting dates are sensitive to any particular conditions that might dominate the particular season. The hunting and trapping seasons are provided.</p> <p>No hunting or taking is permissible between two hours after sunset and two</p>

	<p>hours before sunrise of the next following day and after 13.00 hrs on Sundays and Public Holidays. Further to the above, the Maltese Government imposed an extra restriction during 15-30 September 2007 that no hunting could be permissible after 15.00 hrs until two hours before sunrise of the next following day.</p>
<b>Netherlands</b>	<p>Under the Flora and Fauna act there are only 4 bird species indicated as hunting birds: <i>Columba palumbus</i>, <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>, <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> and <i>Perdix perdix</i>, but since the latter is a red list species it nevertheless cannot be hunted. The other species can be hunted outside the breeding season.</p> <p>Farmers are compensated for damages caused by overwintering geese and <i>Anas penelope</i>. Geese and widgeons moving outside the 80,000 ha designated areas (see Section 2.4) are chased away.</p>
<b>Poland</b>	<p>Hunting and capturing of birds is regulated by the Hunting Law, and two Minister's Regulations on hunted species and on hunting periods. Based on these, the huntable species are <i>Anser anser</i>, <i>Anser fabalis</i>, <i>Anser albifrons</i>, <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>, <i>Anas crecca</i>, <i>Aythya ferina</i>, <i>Aythya fuligula</i>, <i>Columba palumbus</i>, <i>Fulica atra</i>, <i>Perdix perdix</i>, <i>Phasianus ssp.</i>, <i>Scolopax rusticola</i> and <i>Bonasa bonasia</i>. Information about open shooting seasons given.</p>
<b>Portugal</b>	<p>A new decree (No 49 of November 2005) regulates the General Law on Hunting. It establishes the legal regime for conservation, promotion and exploitation of hunting with a view to their sustainable management, as well as principles governing the hunting activity, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identifying huntable species</li> <li>- Establishing periods, processes and means of hunting, standards for correcting density, protected areas and daily limits of killing for each species</li> <li>- Delimiting the hunting periods, taking into consideration breeding and rearing periods or the return to nesting sites for migratory species</li> <li>- Establishing national, municipal or touristic hunting zones subjected to the hunting regulation (whose approval is subjected to the opinion of the national authority of natural conservation in cases of Natura 2000 sites).</li> </ul>
<b>Romania</b>	<p>The capture and hunting of bird species is regulated by Law 407/2006 modified by Law 197/2007. The legislative changes done in 2007 are new penalties and costs of claims due to illegal actions, and adjustments of the species open for hunting (<i>Alauda arvensis</i> and <i>Anas strepera</i> added) and the hunting periods for various species.</p> <p>The competent authorities are: Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development (hunting authority) and its territorial branches (ITRSV), game management institutions (AGVPS – General Romanian Hunters Association, ROMSILVA – State Forest Administration, private hunting associations), Ministry of Environment (environmental authority) and its branches (ANPM, ARPM, APM), National Environmental Guard (control authority).</p>
<b>Slovakia</b>	<p>The order of 2003 by the Ministry of Environment determines which bird species that can be hunted etc, in correspondence with earlier legislation dating back to 1962. Open hunting seasons applies for 18 bird species (17 of them listed in Annex II of the Directive; species and open periods listed in a table).</p> <p><i>Comment: An open season, 1 October-31 December, applies for Raven</i></p>

	<i>(Corvus corax), although not listed in Annex II.</i>
<b>Slovenia</b>	No changes in comparison with the previous report.  The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning has sent information on the periods of migration and of reproduction of Annex II birds not hunted in Slovenia to Orbicon (a company contracted by the European Commission).
<b>Spain</b>	The hunting periods, the lists of species that may be hunted, the competent authorities, actions taken and control system are regulated annually by each autonomous region. Most of the Regions (Andalusia, Aragon, Canary Islands, Cantabria, Castilla-La Mancha, Catalonia, Ceuta, Navarre, Extremadura, Galicia, Balearic Islands, La Rioja, Basque Country, Asturias, Murcia) reported about updated legislation and case law (information variable in details, depending on region).
<b>Sweden</b>	Following modifications of The Hunting Ordinance, additional means and methods for capture or killing of birds have been prohibited; including snares, glues, tape-recorders and electric or electronic devices that kill birds. Also prohibited to use blind or mutilated birds as decoys, artificial sources of light etc.
<b>UK</b>	No further changes in measures introduced to implement Article 7 were done during the reference period.

### 3. PROTECTION OF SPECIES

#### 3.3 Means, arrangements or methods used for the large-scale or non-selective capture or killing of birds (Article 8)

<b>Austria</b>	No information provided.
<b>Belgium</b>	<p><i>Federal Government (marine territories):</i> No information provided.</p> <p><i>Brussels District:</i> No information provided.</p> <p><i>Flanders District:</i> No significant changes were done in the relevant legislation during the 2005-07 period. The use of lead shot, used for hunting, is to be fully phased out by July 2008.</p> <p><i>Wallonia District:</i> Nothing new to report since last reporting period.</p>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	<p>Annex 5 to Article 44 of BL bans the use of non-selective ways and means of capture and killing. List of bans concerning bird species is provided.</p> <p>Derogations are allowed only for a defined number of specimens, when there is no alternative and on the condition that the populations of the species concerns are not damaged in their area and has a favourable status, in those cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- in interest of conservation of wild flora and fauna and natural habitats</li> <li>- for protection of serious damages on the agricultures and fish farms</li> <li>- in interest of public health and safety</li> <li>- in interest of safety of air transport</li> <li>- for scientific purposes and education</li> </ul>
<b>Cyprus</b>	The Game Fund Service conducted regular controls in areas where trapping of wild birds takes place. The Game Fund has been cooperating with the Cyprus Police for this task.
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Reference to the previous report for 2002-04; no changes done in the legal framework done during the reporting period.
<b>Denmark</b>	Relevant aspects are covered under the new legal framework for species protection, launched in July 2007.
<b>Estonia</b>	<p>According to the Hunting Act (1/03/2003) the permitted hunting equipment are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) firearms with a smoothbore barrel or rifled barrel or combination rifle-shotguns, except fully automatic firearms;</li> <li>2) semi-automatic firearms with a magazine capable of holding up to two cartridges;</li> <li>3) traps, except leghold traps;</li> <li>4) decoys;</li> <li>5) hunting dogs.</li> </ol>
<b>Finland</b>	No changes since the previous reporting period.
<b>France</b>	An overview of the legal framework was given in the national report, and a new decree on the use of stone crush traps ('tendelles') was issued in November 2005.
<b>Germany</b>	No new information compared to the previous report.
<b>Greece</b>	No information provided.
<b>Hungary</b>	No changes compared to what was reported for 2002-2004: Large scale capture, killing or scaring away of 5 species ( <i>Cygnus olor</i> , <i>Passer domesticus</i> , <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> , <i>Larus cachinnans</i> , <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> ) may be permitted for public health, air traffic safety and agricultural reasons if not in conflict with conservation objectives. No permissions are

	needed for scaring away these species outside protected areas between 1 July and 28 February, and during the whole year around airports.
<b>Ireland</b>	No national report for 2005-07 submitted.
<b>Italy</b>	Large scale capture or non-selective killing of birds is not permitted by the national law. However, in case of important damages to agriculture, fishery or historical sites, Regions can allow control plans, that are selective and directed on the most dangerous species (according to Law 157/92).
<b>Latvia</b>	Hunting Law (2003) names all types, means and tools/instruments of illegal hunting, i.e. timing, licences, limits, areas, specific circumstances of animals, applied sound, lights, mirrors, laser sights, nets etc.
<b>Lithuania</b>	No changes, compared to what was reported for 2002-04.
<b>Luxembourg</b>	No modifications were done during the reporting period.
<b>Malta</b>	<p>National legislation permits the hunting and taking of birds with the use of firearms, but prohibits all methods mentioned in the Birds Directive, except for traditional hand-operated nets known as clap-nets. Article 8 of the 2006 Regulations establishes that finches may be deliberately captured by these nets for the purpose of keeping the birds in captivity. The nets shall be operated solely by human intervention without the use of electrical, electronic, or mechanical means, and the largest size of each such net shall not in any case exceed 37.81 square meters (405 square feet).</p> <p>Furthermore, Article 12 of the 2006 Regulations establishes that no person may hunt or take birds without having a valid licence issued by the Maltese authorities. The licence is renewable on a yearly basis, and the license holder must be a member of a local hunting organisation in order to obtain such renewal.</p> <p>Article 18(b) of the 2006 Regulations prohibits the use of firearms which have a magazine capable of holding more than two shots at any time. The Regulations also stipulate that no hunting may be carried out at sea on boats or seacraft that have a maximum speed of more than 18 km/h.</p> <p><i>Comment: According to the Birds Directive the use of clap-nets should be prohibited. However, in the Accession Treaty Malta was guaranteed a transitional period (until 2008) for the use of clap nets to capture seven finch species.</i></p>
<b>Netherlands</b>	In 2007, an amendment was prepared in the Flora and Fauna Act for a complete prohibition of the use of non-selective traps as mentioned in Annex IV of the Birds Directive. This new law went in force as of 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2008.
<b>Poland</b>	All capturing and keeping wild birds is forbidden, regardless of the means. The Hunting law allows only for hunting but forbids capturing, keeping, disturbing or wounding animals.
<b>Portugal</b>	The provisions of Art. 8 of the Birds Directive are included in the national legislation on hunting and in the Decree of transposition of the Directive. No changes in the legislation, related to the implementation of the Birds Directive, took place during the reference period.
<b>Romania</b>	The hunting methods are listed in the Law 407/2006 and are defined as hunting by using guns and hunting by using traps (approved by the authorities). The forbidden hunting methods are listed in the Government Ordinance 57/2007, and include snares, baiting birds, electronically devices, lighting devices, night vision devices, explosives, nets, traps, poisoning and tranquilizing baits, guns with more than two bullets.
<b>Slovakia</b>	No changes in the legislation (from 2002) was done during 2005-07 (prohibited means, arrangements and measures are listed in the national report).

<b>Slovenia</b>	No changes in comparison with the previous report.
<b>Spain</b>	<p>Cantabria approved the Law 4/2006 on the basis of which the non-selective capture or killing methods are forbidden; the Castilla- La Mancha stated the same through the Law 8/2007.</p> <p>The Extremadura Community reported that the capture, keeping or killing of bird species with these kinds of methods are explicitly allowed for the purpose of research and teaching or to prevent serious damage to crops, livestock, forests, fisheries and water or for the protection of flora and fauna. All these derogations are listed in the annual reports sent to the Commission. The Murcia report stated that these methods are not allowed in the region.</p> <p>No changes seem to have been made in the other regional legislations.</p>
<b>Sweden</b>	No change in the legislation, related to the implementation of the Birds Directive, has taken place during 2005-07 (but see under Section 3.2).
<b>UK</b>	<p>No further changes in measures introduced to implement Article 8 were done during the reference period.</p> <p><i><u>Comment:</u> The stricter measures mentioned in the report concerning methods of killing and taking wild birds, specifically in respect of the use of lead shots, were all taken during previous reporting periods (and satisfactorily summarised in the 2002-04 report).</i></p>

### 3. PROTECTION OF SPECIES

#### 3.4 Synthesis of derogations from provisions of Article 5, 6, 7 and 8 (Article 9)

Most Member States have provided information only for 2005 and 2006.

A cross-check has been done against the information given in the EC composite derogation reports for 2005 and 2006 which analyse the information provided by the Member States in the separate reports on the implementation of Article 9, following Article 9(3) of the Directive. The summaries given here include a control of consistency of the information in Section 3.4 of the national reports for 2005-07 in comparison to the annual EC composite derogation reports. Note-worthy findings in the EC composite derogation reports have been repeated here; in order to have a more complete picture.

The EC composite derogation reports for 2005 and 2006 are available via [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/rep\\_birds/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/rep_birds/index_en.htm).

<p><b>Austria</b></p>	<p>Land Wien reports on exemptions for the following projects: Building of a drinking water treatment plant, a clearing to build a house, construction of a street, and research. Several different species were affected by these projects. No information provided for Austria in total or on the federal level.</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> Although it was concluded in the EC composite derogation reports for 2005 and 2006 that most of the derogations were not in apparent conflict with the species protection measures, concern was expressed for legal proceedings relating to <i>Accipiter gentilis</i> and <i>Bubo bubo</i>, and the possible impact of hunting on <i>Tetrao urogallus</i>.</p>
<p><b>Belgium</b></p>	<p><i>Federal Government (marine territories):</i> One derogation was given in 2004 to the Institute for Forest and Nature (INBO) for the collection and transport of marine birds in the Belgian part of the North Sea (expires in 2008).</p> <p><i>Brussels District:</i> No information provided.</p> <p><i>Flanders District:</i> Detailed information provided for each year; most derogated species were <i>Corvus corone</i> and <i>Pica pica</i>.</p> <p><i>Wallonia District:</i> Ca 304,000 birds of all species for the purpose of research, education, re-population etc (ca 300,000 for scientific ringing).</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> Not possible on the basis of the information provided to make a full cross-check with the information given for 2005 and 2006 in the EC composite derogation reports, but obvious that information for Wallonia is incomplete. In the EC composite derogation reports it was concluded that not all information needed was provided, although it seemed that the derogations were not in conflict with the species conservation measures.</p>
<p><b>Bulgaria</b></p>	<p>Order No 8 from 2003 regulates the set of rules and conditions for issuing of licences for derogations of bans, introduced by the Biodiversity Law concerning all plant and animal species listed in Annex 3, all animal species in Annex 4 and all bird species which are not listed in Annexes 3 and 4 as well as the use of non selective means, ways and arrangements for trapping of killing described in Annex 5.</p> <p>During 2005-07, 26 permits for derogations were issued, and 4 permits, issued in 2004 were valid during the reported period (7 permits for destruction, consolidation or relocation of White stork nests, 18 for</p>



	<p>scientific purposes and 1 for use of specimens of protected species for educational purposes). Based on these permits, 17 <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> nests built on electric pylons have been destroyed and then rebuilt on special metal platforms.</p> <p>Permits for scientific purposes are issued mainly for ringing activities aiming migration investigations and bird parasites. 9,120 bird specimens have been ringed.</p>
<b>Cyprus</b>	<p>Reference to the 2007 derogation report has been provided, from which the following information can be extracted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reasons: 9.1a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Species concerned:</u> <i>Pipa pica</i>, <i>Corvus corone cornix</i>, <i>Merops apiaster</i> and <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>.</li> <li>- <u>Means, arrangements or method authorized for capture or killing:</u> firearms.</li> <li>- <u>Conditions of risk and the circumstances of time and place under which derogations may be granted:</u> time and place are indicated.</li> <li>- <u>Authority empowered and number of authorizations delivered:</u> Ministry of Interior (Game Fund Service); "all hunting license gun holders of 2006-2007".</li> <li>- <u>Controls carried out:</u> "The staff of the Game Fund Service exercised regular checks in all areas where hunters were allowed to shoot the specified species."</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Comment:</i> No information is provided for 2005 and 2006. However, according to the EC composite derogations reports relative to this biennial, none of the Cypriot derogations were in apparent conflict with the species protection measure.</p>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<p>365 derogations and exemptions were given in 2005, 165 in 2006 and 69 in 2007. General derogations have been given for bird ringing and killing of <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> at wine-yards. From information given in Section 2.3 it also appears that quite generous derogations have been given for <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> (2022-2690 individuals each year) and <i>Ardea cinerea</i> (84-140 individuals in each year).</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> Concluded in the EC composite derogations reports for 2005 and 2006 that none of the derogations were in apparent conflict with the Birds Directive (it might be noted, however, that a few derogations were given for falconry). Furthermore, the figure of 2190 individuals of <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> in 2006 does not match the figure of 203 individuals to prevent serious damage to fishery and water, as stated in EC composite derogation report for 2006.</p>
<b>Denmark</b>	<p>No information provided (not even a reference to the annual derogation reports).</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> Concluded in the EC composite derogations reports for 2005 and 2006 that none of the derogations were in apparent conflict with the Birds Directive.</p>
<b>Estonia</b>	<p>24 derogation licences for altogether 1114 individuals were issued in 2005, 24 licences for 1555 individuals in 2006 and 24 licences for 1043 individuals in 2007.</p> <p>All licences were for killing by firearms</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> Ref the EC composite derogation reports for 2005 and 2006, none of the Estonian derogations were found to be in apparent conflict with</p>

	<p><i>the species protection measures. However, concern was raised about the high numbers of Branta leucopsis (952, 919 and 462 in 2005, 2006 and 2007, respectively) and (in the report for 2006) whether alternative solutions were sought.</i></p>
<b>Finland</b>	<p>53 derogation licences were issued in 2005, 116 in 2006 and 126 in 2007.</p> <p>Most of the derogations concern killing by firearms, in the interest of public health and safety, to prevent serious damage to crops etc. Derogations were also granted for research. For a number of derogations the methods were nets of catching by hand.</p> <p>The derogation regulations were as during the previous reporting periods.</p> <p><i><u>Comment:</u> The number of derogations given in the national report for 2005 and 2006 are not fully consistent with the information in the EC composite derogation reports, where it was concluded that none of the derogations were in apparent conflict with bird protection measures, with the possible exception for the derogations given for recreational spring-hunting of ducks (see section 3.2).</i></p>
<b>France</b>	<p>Derogations for destruction or capture can be given for any reasons in accordance with Article 9 of the Birds Directive.</p> <p><u>1. Bird species under strict protection in compliance with the Code of Environment:</u> On February 2007, a Decree has fixed the conditions for demanding and instructing the derogations foreseen under the Code of Environment on protected species of fauna and flora.</p> <p><u>2. Other bird species:</u> In compliance with the Code of Environment, the authorised means of destruction of birds are poisoning, trapping and shooting.</p> <p>With reference to derogations to allow for trapping with stone crush traps, the takings of various species of thrushes was estimated at 450 in Aveyron Department and 1600 in Lozère Department) during hunting campaign 2006-07. By two decrees in 2006 and 2007, this practise has been limited to 100 birds per hunting season and per hunter. The surveillance led by ONCFS (Office national del la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage) mobilised 18 agents for the season 2006-07.</p> <p><i><u>Comment:</u> Despite obvious lack incompletes in the national derogations reports it was concluded in the EC composite derogations reports for 2005 and 2006 that none of the derogations were in apparent conflict with the protection measures under the Birds Directive.</i></p>
<b>Germany</b>	<p>The report states that reasons for derogation were those given under Article 9.1a to 9.1c (for the later no numbers are given).</p> <p><u>Comments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>For some species, numbers reported are smaller than those given in the annual EC composite derogations reports. Furthermore and regarding reasons and methods, the national report for 2005-07 also mentions the removal of nests due of the demolition or renovation of buildings, in addition to reasons mentioned in the annual composite derogation reports.</i></li> <li>• <i>Concluded in the EC composite derogations reports for 2005 and 2006 that none of the derogations were in apparent conflict with the Birds Directive, although a need of co-ordination of the management of Phalacrocorax carbo on the national level was flagged up.</i></li> </ul>

<b>Greece</b>	<p>No information provided.</p> <p><i>Comments: The EC composite derogations reports for 2005-06 concluded that none of the derogations were in apparent conflict with the Birds Directive provisions.</i></p>
<b>Hungary</b>	<p>The report mentions 391 derogations licensed in 2005-07, for 19 species, most of them to allowed for killing or scaring away <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>, <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>, <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>, <i>Hirundo rustica</i>, and <i>Passer domesticus</i>; mostly to prevent serious damage to crops, livestock, forests, fishery and water, or for public health interests.</p> <p><u>Comments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Six species (Anser fabalis, Anser albifrons, Pica pica, Garrulus glandarius, Corvus corone cornix, Scolopax rusticola) are missing from the national report, although these were included in the EC derogation reports 2005 and/or 2006.</i></li> <li>• <i>Ref. the EC composite derogation reports for 2005 and 2006, it was concluded that none of the derogations (except for Scolopax rusticola for which the EC has conducted an infringement procedure) were in apparent conflict with the species protection measures.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Ireland</b>	<p>No national report for 2005-07 submitted.</p>
<b>Italy</b>	<p>The derogation system is implemented at the provincial level. The highest number relates to capture 173,106 individuals belonging to six bird species to be used as a live decoy. The captured birds are immediately ringed and registered, and provided to the hunters together with a form of registration; in order to prevent and avoid illegal detention of birds. This activity has been carried out under specific protocols and authorisations by ISPRA (ex. INFS), by authorised persons inside structures owned by the Provinces.</p> <p>Data on capture with the aim of controlling bird populations are more vague because, in most cases, ISPRA is not informed about this type of activities carried out by the Regions and by the Provinces (the national law allows these administrations to take decision after the consultation of the regional observatory). E.g. this type of derogations has been granted for the control of <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> due to the significant damages to fishery.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> <i>According to the EC composite derogation reports, the Italian derogations are not in apparent conflict with the species conservation measures, with the exception of derogations issued for hunting/killing several species of birds in different Italian regions. For this issue, Italy is under infringements procedure (started in April 2006). In some regions, the derogations granted under Article 9 seem to be used to grant an almost permanent hunting season, which is not in line with the Birds Directive provisions.</i></p> <p><i>However, and with reference to the capture of wild birds to be used as live decoys, e.g. the only kind of derogation mentioned in the national report under Article 12, this type of derogation is granted under Article 9(1)(c) and all the species trapped in Italy as live decoys are huntable. During 2005-07, and still today, the Provinces concerned carried on trapping although the opinion of the institute (ex. INFS, ISPRA) was negative. Under article 4 of the national law (157/92), the Regions are obliged to consult the institute before fixing the number of birds to be captured for each species in each Province and the number of arrangements which each Province may authorize within its administrative boundaries. However this opinion is not</i></p>

	<p><i>binding. Thus, it might be questioned if this activity has been carried out under any strict control.</i></p>
<b>Latvia</b>	<p>Derogations were issued by the Nature Conservation Agency for <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> (5+10 wounded birds) taken to National Zoo for recovery, <i>Tetrao urogallus</i> (57+66+68 birds, only male shooting at concentrated mating places allowed according to species management plan), <i>Grus grus</i> (1 wounded bird) taken to National Zoo for recovery, <i>Aegolius funereus</i> (1 wounded bird) taken to National Zoo for recovery, <i>Aquila pomarina</i> (3 birds for reintroduction in Germany issued by Nature Conservation Agency), and <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> (permits issued for 149 birds to aquaculture companies to eliminate substantial harm for fish farming).</p> <p>Derogations on an annual basis were allowed for 20 days in the period from 20 April to 10 May for <i>Tetrao urogallus</i> (57, 66 and 68 males killed in 2005-07, respectively).</p> <p>In addition, derogations have been issued by Nature Conservation Agency to the University of Latvia for scientific and educational purposes: <i>Delichon urbica</i> (5 eggs), <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> (1 egg), <i>Anthus trivialis</i> (1 egg), <i>Parus major</i> (2 eggs), <i>Sylvia communis</i> (1 egg) and <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i> (2 eggs).</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> <i>Concluded in the EC composite derogations reports for 2005 and 2006 that none of the derogations were in apparent conflict with the species protection measures.</i></p>
<b>Lithuania</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ministry of Environment is the national competent authority empowered to take decisions on derogations.</li> <li>• Derogations were given in the interest of public health and safety for 11 species (71 individuals) in 2005, for 10 species/species groups (62 individuals) in 2006 and for 21 species (683 individuals including 615 <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>).</li> <li>• Derogations to prevent serious damage in fisheries etc were given for <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> (2596 individuals in 2005, 1782 individuals in 2006, 807 individuals in 2007).</li> </ul> <p><u>Comment:</u> <i>The information is consistent with that given in the EC composite derogations reports for 2005 and 2006, where it was concluded that none of the derogations were in apparent conflict with the Birds Directive (although concern that no other satisfactory solutions had been tried for Phalacrocorax carbo was expressed).</i></p>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	<p>Derogations were given for the destruction of empty nests of <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>. Furthermore, authorisation was given for the ringing activities done by LNVL (national BirdLife partner).</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> <i>Concluded in the EC composite derogations reports for 2005 and 2006 that none of the derogations were in apparent conflict with provisions of the Birds Directive.</i></p>
<b>Malta</b>	<p>No specific information but reference is given to the derogation reports relative to the period.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> <i>According to the EC composite derogation reports, none of the 2005 derogations were found in conflict with the species conservation measures. However, for 2006 and in 2007 the derogations for the hunting of several individuals of Coturnix coturnix and Streptopelia turtur during spring were subject to legal proceedings. The European Commission started legal action against Malta in 2006, sent the final warning letter on October 2007 and took Malta to the European Court of Justice on January</i></p>

	<p>2008 for allowing the hunting of quails and turtle doves during spring (Case C-76/08). The Court gave its ruling on 10 September 2009 concluding that the derogations for the spring hunting of the two species, <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> and <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>, were in breach of Article 9 of the Birds Directive in that they did not constitute an adequate solution strictly proportionate to the Directive's objective of conservation of the species. The Court noted that spring hunting would be possible where the requirement of proportionality and the other requirements laid down in Article 9(1) were met.</p>
<b>Netherlands</b>	<p>In addition to the derogations summarised in the EC composite reports for 2005 and 2006, there was also information about a derogation made for the collection of eggs of <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> in the Province of Friesland during the period 1 March–1 April, under “strictly supervised conditions”. Ca 6000 collectors were registered and they were entitled to take 15 eggs per person. They have the obligation to protect the nests in the period of the collection and after against agricultural activities. In the year 2006, 4566 eggs were collected and 22767 eggs in 2007. SOVON has calculated that there are between 200,000–300,000 breeding pairs in the Netherlands and that this number is very constant. The maximum number of eggs to be collected is adjusted to the number that has an effect on the population that stays within the 1 % range of the total annual mortality.</p> <p><u>Comments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the EC composite derogation reports for 2005 and 2006 it was concluded that the national reports did not provide all the information needed, with a special remark for extremely high number of some common species.</li> <li>• Since 2009, the licenses for egg-collecting of <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> are structured in such a way that the total number of eggs is maximised to below 6000.</li> </ul>
<b>Poland</b>	<p>During 2004-07 a total number of 373 derogation licenses were issued, mostly for the purpose of research and teaching or monitoring as well as to prevent serious damage to social security and fishery.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Concluded in the EC composite derogations reports for 2005 and 2006 that none of the derogations were in apparent conflict with provisions of the Birds Directive.</p>
<b>Portugal</b>	<p>The derogations provided are meant to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- scare away some birds species to prevent damages to crops</li> <li>- destruct nests outside of the breeding season</li> <li>- capture small quantities of birds species for scientific objectives</li> </ul> <p>None of the individuals concerned has been killed.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The lists of species provided in the national report for 2005-07 are not fully consistent with the derogations listed in 2005, 2006 and 2007 reports. However, as concluded in the EU composite derogations reports none of the derogations were in apparent conflict with the Birds Directive.</p>
<b>Romania</b>	<p>During 2007, the Nature Protection, Biodiversity and Biosafety Directorate from the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development did not authorize any derogation regarding capturing and/or killing of bird species listed in the Birds Directive.</p>
<b>Slovakia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>2005:</u> 22 derogations, 18 for research and teaching purposes (mostly ringing), 1 in the interest of public, and 3 in the interest of public health.</li> <li>• <u>2006:</u> 33 derogations, 22 for research and teaching purposes (mostly</li> </ul>

	<p>ringing), 5 in the interest of public, and 6 in the interest of public health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>2007</u>: 71 derogations, 41 for research and teaching purposes (mostly ringing), 11 in the interest of public, and 15 in the interest of public health.</li> </ul> <p><i>Comment: The information is consistent with that given in EC composite derogations reports for 2005 and 2006, where concluded that none of the derogations were in apparent conflict with the Birds Directive, although concern was expressed for a derogation granted for Scolopax rusticola for the period 16 March - 30 April 2005.</i></p>
<b>Slovenia</b>	<p>A total of 17 derogations have been issued in the three years period.</p> <p><i>Comment: According to the EC composite reports none of the Slovenian derogations were in apparent conflict with the species protection measures.</i></p>
<b>Spain</b>	<p>The national report contained two tables; one summarizing all the derogations granted during the reporting period by the different autonomous communities, indicating the reasons and the methods (but not the species involved); another one summarizes all the derogations granted for the capture and keeping in captivity of singing birds.</p> <p>The control authorities and activities vary for each region.</p> <p><i>Comment: Due to the different reporting methods it is difficult to assess the consistency of the information provided in the national report with that in the derogations reports. According to the EU composite reports on derogations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>2005 derogations: In June 2006 the Commission decided to launch infringement proceedings against Spain for breach of the Birds Directive in allowing hunting in spring until 2005 of Columba palumbus in the province of Vizcaya, as they return to their breeding grounds. This case was brought by the Commission following a judgment of the Court of Justice on 9 June 2005 (Case C-135/04) against Spain for spring hunting of the same species in the neighbouring province of Guipúzcoa concerning the same hunting periods. The Commission considers that the same situation applies in Vizcaya, as an alternative satisfactory solution to spring hunting exists, i.e. the possibility to hunt in autumn.</i></li> <li>• <i>2006 derogations: On the basis of the lacking information provided it was not possible to estimate whether there was a risk for the affected bird populations and whether derogations were adequately justified.</i></li> <li>• <i>2007 derogations: None of the derogations was in apparent conflict with the provisions of the Birds Directive. However, the Commission is monitoring derogations granted “to permit, under strictly supervised conditions and on a selective basis, the capture, the keeping, or other judicious use” of Falconiformes and Fringillidae and the method adopted to carry out the capture of passerine songbirds (arbolillo).</i></li> </ul>
<b>Sweden</b>	<p>For 2005 and 2006, reference is given to more detailed information in the specific derogation reports. 92 derogations were granted in 2005 and 24 in 2006, and for a total of 43 species (including 10 species listed in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive).</p> <p><i>Comment: In the EC composite derogations reports for 2005 and 2006 it was concluded that none of the derogations were in apparent conflict with the Birds Directive.</i></p>

<b>UK</b>	<p>No information provided, but reference given to the annual derogation reports.</p> <p><i><u>Comment:</u> Concluded in the EC composite derogations reports for 2005 and 2006 that none of the derogations seemed to be conflict with the Birds Directive, although concern was expressed about incomplete information in the national report for 2006.</i></p>
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### 3. PROTECTION OF SPECIES

#### 3.5 Authorization of sale of bird species referred to in Annex III/2 (Article 6)

<b>Austria</b>	No information provided.
<b>Belgium</b>	<i>Federal Government (marine territories):</i> No information provided. <i>Brussels District:</i> No information provided. <i>Flanders District:</i> No information provided. <i>Walloon District:</i> Nothing new to report since the previous reporting period.
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Species, subject to trade are listed in Annex 6 of the Biodiversity Law.  <u><i>Comment:</i></u> <i>List is not provided</i>
<b>Cyprus</b>	The Law on the 'Protection and Management of Wild Birds and Game Species was voted on 3.10.2003 by the Parliament (Gazette no. 3758); <a href="http://www.cypruswildlife.gov.cy/">http://www.cypruswildlife.gov.cy/</a> ; i.e. no changes done during the reporting period.  <u><i>Comment:</i></u> <i>The website indicated is apparently no more active (as checked 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010).</i>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Reference to the previous report for 2002-04; no changes done in the legal framework.
<b>Denmark</b>	Relevant aspects are covered under the new legal framework for species protection, launched in July 2007.
<b>Estonia</b>	The national Nature Conservation Act prohibits transactions with specimens of species in the protected categories I, II and III, except for broods reared in artificial conditions.  <u><i>Comment:</i></u> <i>No clarification what categories I, II and III stand for.</i>
<b>Finland</b>	No changes, as compared to the previous reporting period.
<b>France</b>	In accordance to a Decree of February 2005, related to the development of rural areas, activities linked to the trade and transport of animals of species for which hunting is authorised were liberalised and simplified; irrespective whether the animals come from a natural environment or breeding centre, dead or alive. Except for species listed in Annex III/1 of the Birds Directive, transportation with the aim of trade, the sale, the selling, the keeping with the aim of selling and the purchase is permanently forbidden for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- living birds, legally captured in their natural environment</li> <li>- birds legally killed during hunt</li> <li>- eggs taken from their natural environment.</li> </ul> <u><i>Comment:</i></u> <i>Although a simplified legislation, seems as requirements with reference to Article 6 of the Directive are still met.</i>
<b>Germany</b>	No new information compared to the previous report.
<b>Greece</b>	No information provided.
<b>Hungary</b>	There was no trade of species listed in Annex III/2 during 2005-07.
<b>Ireland</b>	No national report for 2005-07 submitted.
<b>Italy</b>	The sale of wild birds captured and their holding in captivity is prohibited at national scale. The detention and sale of birds borne in captivity may instead be provided by laws at regional level, provided that they are ringed with the certification of origin as required by the CITES Convention <sup>6</sup> . In addition and as stricter domestic measures, also markings of birds



	<p>reproduced in captivity and used for commercial purposes is done, as required by operating procedures implemented by the CITES Management in Italy.</p> <p>The only birds that can be traded freely, as long as they have been acquired legally, are <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>, <i>Alectoris rufa</i>, <i>Alectoris barbara</i>, <i>Perdix perdix</i>, <i>Phasianus colchicus</i> and <i>Columba palumbus</i>.</p>
<b>Latvia</b>	The rules are prescribed in the Hunting Law (2003). No derogation was issued for Annex III/2 species during the reporting period.
<b>Lithuania</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The rules for sale of birds, as regulated by the Rules of Wild Fauna Trade (2002) were amended in 2007.</li> <li>• There was no trade of species listed in Annex III/2 during 2005-07.</li> </ul>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	The regulation of July 2007 on open hunting season states <i>inter alia</i> that the selling and buying in all their forms, as well as the transportation with a view to sell or hawk <i>Scolopax rusticola</i> , <i>Corvus corone</i> , <i>Pica pica</i> and <i>Garrulus glandarius</i> is forbidden.
<b>Malta</b>	<p>Maltese legislation distinguishes between specimen brought into Malta from other EU Member States and specimen that are imported from third countries. Import from 'third countries' is prohibited except for species listed in Annex III/1, and for Annex III/2 after authorisation. Furthermore, there is also a distinction between species that have been brought into Malta prior to Malta's Accession to the EU. The sale of such species is allowed as long as the owner of the species may present at any time when requested, the certificates or permits that accompany such specimen.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> There is no information about any limitations in trading of birds species inside the country, and it is not specified whether sale is allowed from Malta to other countries.</p>
<b>Netherlands</b>	The sale of birds is only allowed when the species was killed for prevention or damage control and only for <i>Anser anser</i> , <i>Anser albifrons</i> , <i>Anas penelope</i> and <i>Fulica atra</i> .
<b>Poland</b>	These authorizations are regulated by the Regulation on protection of wild animal species (from 2004).
<b>Portugal</b>	<p>At national level the rules for sale of birds are regulated by the Decree-Law 49/2005 (see section 3.2). However there was no authorization issued for this activity neither during the period concerned nor before.</p> <p>In the Azores, the sale of birds is regulated by the Decree of transposition of the Birds and Habitat Directives and by the Sectoral Plan of the NATURA 2000 Network for the Azores (see section 2.2).</p>
<b>Romania</b>	Article 6 of the Birds Directive was integrated in the national legislation by article 33 and Annex 5E of the Government Ordinance 57/2007.
<b>Slovakia</b>	No changes in the relevant legislation were done during 2005-07.
<b>Slovenia</b>	The Slovenian legal system does not allow the sale of bird species listed in Annex III/2 of the Birds Directive.
<b>Spain</b>	<p>No changes were done in legislation and no licences were granted during the reference period concerned, except for Extremadura and Balearic Islands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Extremadura, on the basis of the Law 9/2006 the possession, naturalization, transport, import or export of specimens dead or alive is forbidden with the exceptions authorized by the Administration. On the basis of the Decree of 14 June 2007, the commercialisation of <i>Alectoris rufa</i>, <i>Coturnix coturnix</i>, <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>, <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>, <i>Columba palumbus</i> and <i>Columba oenas</i> is allowed.</li> <li>• In the Balearic Islands no changes occurred in the legislation, which allows the commercialisation of: <i>Alectoris rufa</i>, <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>, <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> and <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Murcia Community has not produced any legislation on the sale of birds.</li> </ul> <p><u>Comments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Seems as Article 6 has not been fully transposed into the national legislation.</i></li> <li><i>Some of the species for which sale is allowed are not included in Annex III of the Birds directive (Coturnix coturnix, Columba oenas).</i></li> </ul>
<b>Sweden</b>	No change in the legislation, related to the implementation of the Birds Directive, has taken place during 2005-07.
<b>UK</b>	No further changes in measures introduced to implement Article 6 were done during the reference period.

### 3. PROTECTION OF SPECIES

#### 3.6 Introduction of species of birds which do not occur naturally in the wild state in the EU (Article 11).

<b>Austria</b>	No information provided.
<b>Belgium</b>	<p><i>Federal Government (marine territories):</i> No information provided.</p> <p><i>Brussels District:</i> No information provided (but informed in Section 4.1 that bird monitoring includes non-native species such as <i>Psittacula krameri</i>).</p> <p><i>Flanders District:</i> No information provided.</p> <p><i>Walloon District:</i> Nothing new to report since the previous reporting period.</p>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Introduction of non native animal species is regulated by the Biodiversity Law; Order No 4 from 8.07.2003 of the Minister of Environment and waters and Order No 14 from 27.10.2005 of the Minister of agriculture and food.
<b>Cyprus</b>	No introductions took place.
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<p>Reference to the previous report for 2002-04; no changes done in the legal framework.</p> <p>The popularity of raptor hybrids is on increase. The only hybrid said to be able to reproduce is <i>Falco cherrug X Falco rusticolus</i>, while other hybrids are also quite frequent. Around 20 hybrids are bred intentionally, and most probably a small number escape to the wild each year. But the breeders must not notify to the nature protection authorities when any escape, so there is no central database. Breeding of <i>Falco</i> hybrids in the wild is likely to have a fatal influence on the native populations with reference to gene pool quality.</p> <p>From the information given under Section 3.2 it also appears that <i>Syrmaticus reevesii</i>, <i>Numida meleagris</i> and <i>Meleagris galopavo</i> are by routine released for hunting purposes.</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> Although admitted that escape of <i>Falco</i> hybrids may have fatal influence on the status of wild-living <i>Falco</i> populations (including species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive), there is no control of the falconry with reference to escapes of hybrids bred in captivity, and there is no information in the national report whether any measures are planned to be taken in order to improve. This seems to be a serious neglect, having in mind that escapes of <i>Falco</i> hybrids may have influence on the status of wild-living birds also outside the Czech Republic (although an issues that is more relevant with reference to obligations following from e.g. Article 7 about hunting and capture of bird species and more correctly to have been reported under Section 3.2 in the national report).</p>
<b>Denmark</b>	No information provided.
<b>Estonia</b>	The national legislation prohibits the introduction of live specimens of non-native species in the wild, and to plant or sow non-native plants in the wild. The Minister of the Environment shall establish, by a regulation, a list of non-native species likely to disrupt natural balance, live specimens of which shall not be brought into Estonia for the purposes of rearing or keeping. The list includes one bird species, <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i> .
<b>Finland</b>	No changes, as compared to the previous reporting period. No licenses given for 2005-07.
<b>France</b>	In the framework of the eradication program set up on a European level, 292 <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i> specimens were eliminated in 2005-07 by the

	<p>services of ONCFS. During this period, the breeding population was estimated to 50 pairs.</p> <p>No other information provided.</p>
<b>Germany</b>	No introduction is known to have taken place during the reporting period.
<b>Greece</b>	No introduction of exotic bird species to the wild were carried out in 2005-07.
<b>Hungary</b>	No permits were issued during 2005-07.
<b>Ireland</b>	No national report for 2005-07 submitted.
<b>Italy</b>	The introduction of non-native species is off-limits in Italy. Since 1999, Italy is carrying out the monitoring of exotic species on the whole national territory. The list of these 110 species is provided.
<b>Latvia</b>	Introduction is prohibited in accordance with the Law on Species and Habitat Protection. It might be authorized only after an EIA is applied and the authorization is issued by the Nature Conservation Agency. No application has been received so far.
<b>Lithuania</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The legal framework for deliberate introductions of non-native species was amended in 2005.</li> <li>• No permits were given during 2005-07.</li> </ul>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	No modification in the existing legislation was made for the reporting period 2005-07.
<b>Malta</b>	<p>Bird species that have been introduced in Malta, and which may pose a problem in view of competition for resources, include <i>Colinus virginianus</i>, <i>Alectoris chukar</i> and <i>Phasianus colchicus</i></p> <p>The 2006 Regulations refer to the control and monitoring of introduction of bird species that do not naturally occur in a wild state. Inter alia, the regulations stipulate the functions of Malta's ORNIS Committee, one of these being to 'recommend measures to the Minister to control and monitor that the introduction of any species of bird not occurring naturally in the wild state in the European territory of the Member States of the European Union does not prejudice the Maltese flora and fauna'.</p> <p><i>Comment: See also information about measures taken under "species introduction" in Section 2.3.</i></p>
<b>Netherlands</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The introduction of birds in the Netherlands is prohibited. In the case of escaped exotics the Provincial Governments can impose a reduction in numbers (has been done for e.g. <i>Branta canadensis</i>, <i>Alopechen aegyptiacus</i> and <i>Oxyra jamaicensis</i>).</li> <li>• In October 2007 the Ministry introduced a more strict policy on alien species in common, in order to control the ecological and the economic damage (both to the native species and ecosystems), as well as damage to the public health and to limit safety hazards.</li> </ul>
<b>Poland</b>	The introduction of alien species as well as their developmental forms is forbidden by the Nature Protection Law. It is also forbidden to import species which could endanger local species; a special permit is required.
<b>Portugal</b>	This kind of activity is forbidden by law in the mainland and regulated by the Decree of transposition of the Birds and Habitat Directives and by the Sectoral Plan of the Natura 2000 Network in the Azores (see section 2.2).
<b>Romania</b>	No species introduced during reporting period.
<b>Slovakia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prior approval by the Ministry of Environment is required for introduction of non-native species outside the urban areas of municipalities, with the exception of species specified by the Ministry upon agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture, species specified in an approved forest management plan, or species grown in agricultural plantations.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No introduction of non-native bird species not occurring in the EU was done during 2005-07.</li> </ul> <p><i>Comment: Obviously no changes in the legal framework during 2005-07, but might be useful to have information about the species falling under the exception specified by the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture.</i></p>
<b>Slovenia</b>	No authorizations for the introduction of alien species have been issued in the period 2005-07.
<b>Spain</b>	<p>At national level the population control of the <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i> continued successfully during the reference period.</p> <p>At the regional level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Andalusia Community approved in 2005 the Andalusia Plan for the control of the 45 invasive species (birds) and presented specific action strategies for some of them (specifying also the ecological and economic impacts of those species).</li> <li>In Extremadura, keeping in captivity non-native birds for falconry is reported has expanded.</li> <li>In La Rioja and in the Basque Country specimens of <i>Phasianus colchicus</i> and <i>Coturnix japonica</i> have been released in reserves to be hunted or captured.</li> <li>In the Asturias the repopulation of the <i>Phasianus colchicus</i> have been authorized only in regional reserves where <i>Tetrao urogallus</i> is absent.</li> </ul>
<b>Sweden</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hunting of <i>Oxyra jamaicensis</i> is allowed throughout the year, but no birds shot during 2005-07 and the species is overall seen only rarely.</li> <li>Discussions if to open up for hunting the year around of <i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i> (single breeding attempts in the wild) and <i>Aix galericulata</i> (small wild-living and localised population in SW Sweden) have been initiated.</li> </ul>
<b>UK</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For England and Wales, new offenses were introduced with reference to sale of certain invasive non-native species and powers for the Secretary of State to issue Codes of Conduct related to invasive non-native species; in line with similar legislative changes done in Scotland in 2004.</li> <li>The status of non-native bird species (except those with large and well established populations) is monitored by the Rare Breeding Birds Panel (<a href="http://www.rbbp.org.uk/downloads/rbbp-nn-report-2003-04-05.pdf">http://www.rbbp.org.uk/downloads/rbbp-nn-report-2003-04-05.pdf</a>).</li> <li>Non-breeding and non-native waterfowl and hybrids are routinely monitored both by the Wetland Survey and the Goose &amp; Swan Monitoring Programme (<a href="http://www.bto.org/webs/news/AR05_06/index.htm">http://www.bto.org/webs/news/AR05_06/index.htm</a>).</li> <li>The most recent report on commoner bird species (incl. non-native species) was published by the Breeding Bird Survey and covered the period 1994-2007 (<a href="http://www.bto.org/bbs/results/bbsreport.htm">http://www.bto.org/bbs/results/bbsreport.htm</a>.)</li> <li>Some detailed information about the eradication program for <i>Oxyra jamaicensis</i> is given. A work-shop on this issue was held in September 2007, with representatives also from Spain and France. Counts done in winter 2007-08 resulted in an estimate of 400-500 individuals in UK, compared to around 4500 in winter 2004-05. But extensive culling is still necessary; e.g. a total of 1190 birds during autumn-winter 2007-08. The eradication program will continue during forth-coming years.</li> </ul> <p><i>Comment: Interesting and encouraging information about the control of</i></p>

	<p><i>Oxyra jamaicensis</i>. <i>But future efforts are obviously needed; around one third of the shot birds were immature, which indicate a strong reproductive potential.</i></p>
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#### 4. ENCOURAGEMENT OF RESEARCH AND ANY WORK REQUIRED AS A BASIS FOR THE PROTECTION, MANAGEMENT AND USE OF THE POPULATIONS OF ALL BIRD SPECIES REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 1 (Article 10)

##### 4.1 Research efforts, completed or on-going.

<p><b>Austria</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Burgenland reports on five monitoring programs or surveys on the regional scale for different species (e.g. <i>Bubo bubo</i>, <i>Athene noctua</i>, <i>Merops apiaster</i>) and the federal annual <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> census.</li> <li>• Land Kärnten: Monitoring of <i>Luscinia svecica svecica</i>.</li> <li>• Land Oberösterreich: Research on several endangered breeding bird species, monitoring programs, annual survey on <i>Bubo bubo</i>.</li> <li>• Land Salzburg: Participation in the set-up of a biodiversity database; monitoring or surveys on various species (e.g. <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>, <i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>, <i>Luscinia svecica svecica</i>) and sites.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Belgium</b></p>	<p><i>Federal Government (marine territories):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A biological evaluation map of the Belgian part of the North Sea drawn up.</li> <li>• Sea bird inventory by the Flemish Institute for Forest and Nature conservation.</li> <li>• Preliminary study carried on the impact of beam trawling net fishing on the marine ecosystems, including birds, was carried out in 2007-08.</li> </ul> <p><i>Brussels District: AVES Foundation is assigned to do monitoring for the Brussels District and is engaged in the following projects:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common trends in breeding birds by method of listening points.</li> <li>• A new breeding bird atlas.</li> <li>• Follow-up of some breeding birds, mostly colony breeders like <i>Parus domesticus</i>, waterbirds and non-native exotics (e.g. <i>Psittacula krameri</i>).</li> <li>• Annual count of waterbirds in the winter.</li> </ul> <p><i>Flanders District:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• INBO, Natuurpunt and volunteers have carried out ten monitoring and inventory projects during 2005-07.</li> <li>• Nine specific research projects on Annex I species or internationally important species were also executed by them; including <i>Platalea leucorodia</i>, <i>Sterna hirundo</i>, <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>, <i>Sterna albifrons</i>, and <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>, and migratory species including <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> and <i>Anser albifrons</i>.</li> </ul> <p><i>Wallonia District:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring schemes by AVES underway during 2005-07 include the wintering waterbirds survey, the common bird monitoring and the Atlas of Breeding birds in Wallonia (probably to be published in 2009).</li> <li>• Implementation of methods to collect data on birds in the framework of the elaboration of the Natura 2000 site designation bills.</li> <li>• Monitoring of birds for the State of the Walloon Environment; <a href="http://environnement.wallonie.be/eew/default.aspx">http://environnement.wallonie.be/eew/default.aspx</a>.</li> <li>• Ringing of birds is done by the Royal Institute of Natural Sciences.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bulgaria</b></p>	<p>During the period concerned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21 projects for conservation of wild birds and their habitats.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 53 scientific articles in international and national journals.</li> </ul> <p>Monitoring of wild birds is carried out by the National system for monitoring of biodiversity, which is under implementation since 2007. It includes also data gathering for migratory species. The main activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Waterfowl census (BSPB, Green Balkans, Ministry of Environment, Balkani, Zoology Institute etc).</li> <li>• Monitoring of common bird species (BSPB).</li> <li>• Monitoring of breeding colony of <i>Pelecanus crispus</i> at Srebarna reserve.</li> <li>• Investigation of wintering of <i>Otis tarda</i> (BSPB).</li> <li>• National parks directorates together with Institute of Zoology of BAS carry out monitoring activities of the following species: <i>Circaetus gallicus</i>, <i>Buteo rufinus</i>, <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>, <i>Falco cherrug</i>, <i>Falco peregrinus</i>, <i>Bonasa bonasia</i>, <i>Tetrao urogalis</i>, <i>Alectoris graecca</i>, <i>Perdix perdix</i>, <i>Aegolius funereus</i>, <i>Bubo bubo</i>, <i>Strix uralensis</i>, <i>Dendrocopus leucotos</i>, <i>Tichodroma muraria</i> and <i>Pyrrocorax graculus</i>.</li> </ul> <p>Papers and reports published during 2005-07 are listed (with full references).</p>
<b>Cyprus</b>	<p>1. <i>Monitoring schemes for birds species and habitats (including ringing studies):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring, mainly for waterfowls and important birds of prey (<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>, <i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i>, <i>Buteo rufinus</i>).</li> <li>• Regular monitoring of the main game species (<i>Alectoris chukar</i>, <i>Perdix perdix</i>, <i>Francolinus francolinus</i>, <i>Coturnix coturnix</i>, <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> and <i>Columba palumbus</i>).</li> <li>• Monitoring started for important Annex I species (<i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>, <i>Oenanthe cypriata</i>, <i>Parus ater cypriotes</i>, buntings, shrikes, etc.).</li> </ul> <p>2. <i>Research programmes, specific studies and investigations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Especially on bird species referred to in Article 4 of the Directive (Annex I species, migratory species including waterfowls, endangered species...).</li> <li>• Specific studies are conducted for important birds of prey in Cyprus; <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>, <i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i> and <i>Buteo rufinus</i>.</li> <li>• Regular bag surveys and statistics are conducted for all game species.</li> <li>• During 2005-07 specialized genetic reports have been completed for the conservation of <i>Alectoris chukar</i> and <i>Francolinus francolinus</i>. Two publications have been published while others are in press.</li> </ul> <p>3. <i>Publications (including bird atlas, reports, web site).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yearly bag statistics surveys.</li> <li>• Yearly reports on waterfowl counts.</li> <li>• Publications on <i>Alectoris chukar</i> and <i>Francolinus francolinus</i> (ref. above).</li> </ul>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<p>Several activities listed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 27 bird monitoring and bird ringing programmes, including The Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring and “Constant Effort Sites” (CES).</li> <li>• 48 research programmes and studies, including work done on <i>Tetrao tetrix</i>, <i>Alcedo atthis</i>, <i>Bubo bubo</i> and <i>Lanius collurio</i>.</li> <li>• 44 publications, magazines etc; including results of bird monitoring programmes, <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> census in 2004, and work on <i>Luscinia s. svecica</i>, <i>Lanius collurio</i> and <i>Ficedula albicollis</i>.</li> <li>• 6 web-links given, e.g. to NGOs and the national Natura 2000 site.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11 seminars, workshops, conferences etc; including the SE European Bird Migration Workshop (Prague, February 2006) and international CITES events in April 2006 and May 2007.</li> <li>• Working groups for the protection and surveys of various species; including <i>Grus grus</i>, <i>Crex crex</i>, <i>Alcedo atthis</i> and <i>Lanius sp.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Denmark</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surveillance of birds is included in the national environmental monitoring program, NOVANA. Main target for the bird surveys are species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive, and birds found during migration or in winter in internationally high numbers. The results are published annually by The National Environmental Research Institute (NERI, web-links for the reports for 2004-05 and 2006 are given).</li> <li>• Financial support is given to annual point counts that cover trends for several common and wide-spread species. The program is administrated by The Danish Ornithological Society.</li> </ul> <p><i>Comment: The annual NERI reports, covering all species (not only birds) provides quite detailed and useful information.</i></p>
<b>Estonia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An annual State Monitoring Programme for threatened species (including meadow birds, forest birds) is carried out in Estonia.</li> </ul> <p><i>Comment: No information about which "threatened species" that are included in the annual monitoring programme.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bird ringing activities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Activities coordinated by Matsalu Bird Ringing Centre under the Environmental Board of Estonia. Special population studies using colour marks for scientific purposes are done for a total of 13 species, including <i>Ciconia nigra</i>, <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>, <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>, <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>, <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>, <i>Aquila pomarina</i>, <i>Aquila clanga</i> and <i>Grus grus</i>.</li> <li>- Nigula Nature reserve is the ringing centre for migratory birds in Estonia.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Various studies on e.g. coastal meadow waders, woodpeckers, <i>Gallinago media</i>, <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>, <i>Ciconia nigra</i>, <i>Aquila pomarina</i>, <i>Aquila clanga</i>, <i>Bubo bubo</i>, <i>Tetrao urogallus</i> etc.</li> <li>• Four publications, including studies on <i>Bubo bubo</i>, <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> and <i>Grus grus</i> were published in 2005-06.</li> </ul>
<b>Finland</b>	<p>During the reporting period there were 17 monitoring programs for birds in general or species groups; including the initiation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bird Atlas for Finland, to be carried out during 2006-10. In addition, there were 9 monitoring programmes for single threatened species. Several reports were prepared during the period. The projects, the publications and the responsible institutions/organisations are listed in the report.</p>
<b>France</b>	<p>1. <i>Research programs and studies.</i></p> <p><u>Anatidae:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two research programs, on the population dynamics of <i>Anas crecca</i> and <i>Aythya ferina</i>, <i>A. fuligula</i> and <i>Netta rufina</i> have been carried out by ONCFS and others during the breeding and resting periods, based on individual marking using rings and nasal saddles.</li> <li>• Winter national censuses.</li> </ul> <p><u>Tetraonidae:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Tetrao urogallus</i>, <i>Bonasa bonasia</i>, <i>Tetrao tetrix</i> and <i>Lagopus mutus</i>: Monitoring has been conducted by 43 organisations active in the</li> </ul>

southern mountain region of the country, Jura and Vosges. The results have been communicated to the governmental competent authorities and site managers concerned to set up management and conservation measures, habitats restoration, etc.

- Maps for potential breeding habitats of *Tetrao tetrix* have been produced for Northern Alps.
- Several programs have been launched or prolonged to better understand the functioning of these species; the impact of human activities and their value as habitat indicators.

Phasianidae:

- *Coturnix coturnix*: A study in collaboration with Spain (University of Barcelona) was done in 2005 to set up monitoring of this species in four countries (France, Spain, Portugal and Morocco), including observation sites during the breeding period.
- *Alectoris rufa*: A study on the status and management of populations and habitats, based on hundreds of hunting territories in the Mediterranean region, in order to assess the impact of various management measures. A regional seminar has been organized to insure good knowledge dissemination on the species management to stakeholders.
- *Perdix perdix*: Further to population monitoring, the ONCFS has emphasized the concept of 'partridge habitat'. Researching solutions to strengthen the demography of the species through the dissemination of rural practices or habitat planning constitute the guidelines for the management of the species. A brochure has been published to emphasize the role of the habitat management to favor the sustainable maintenance of small game and of *Perdix perdix*.
- *Phasianus colchicus*: Monitoring on wild populations has been continued, either through spring breeding counting or sampling the birds in summer. Studies have been on the assessment of the diet, mainly in cultivated plain, and on finding out why breeding in high density areas do not meet success.
- *Perdix perdix hispaniensis* and *Alectoris graeca*: Populations and their habitats have been monitored in the Pyrenees and the Alps, including several research programs.

Rallidae: For *Fulica atra*, winter national census following the same protocol as for Anatidae.

Gruidae: For *Grus grus*, ONCFS has contributed to the census in two major sites at a national level.

Otididae: A national recovery plan for *Tetrax tetrax* (see also Section 2.3).

Wader birds:

- *Vanellus vanellus* and *Pluvialis apricaria*: ONCFS has organised winter counts on a national scale and on frequented sites. In 2007, the national populations was estimated to 3,450,000 individuals of *Vanellus vanellus* (half population resting in Europe), and 1,510,000 individuals of *Pluvialis apricaria* (two thirds of the populations resting in Europe).
- *Burhinus oediconemus*: ONCFS has carried out annual censuses of birds gatherings after breeding in Poitou-Charentes region.
- *Lymnocyptes minimus* and *Gallinago gallinago*: Continuation of the National ringing program during migration and resting periods; 14.700 birds were ringed during this period. Monitoring of breeders has been carried out in 57 departments, showing stable populations during 2005-07. Monitoring of resting birds shows a positive trend for the period

	<p>1996/97-2006/2007.</p> <p><u>Columbidae and passerines:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All species of pigeons and doves (except <i>Columba livia</i>) benefit from a research program conducted by ONCFS aimed at defining the functioning modes of the breeding populations and assess the impact of hunting, started in 2000 and very active in ringing etc during the reporting period. Articles have been published in scientific magazines (in collaboration with the Canadian Department for Fauna).</li> <li>• ONCFS has developed a national network to observe the demographic trends of <i>Alaudidae</i>, <i>Columbidae</i> and <i>Turdidae</i>. The program aims at the follow up of the demographic trend of breeding populations of 12 species in France, involving a network of 800 observers. Near 1,000 sampling itineraries with 5 listening posts are monitored twice a year. <i>Turdus viscivorus</i> and <i>Alauda arvensis</i> were declining until 2003 but the trend has been reversed since 2004. <i>Turdus philomelos</i>, <i>Columba palumbus</i> and <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> have increased in numbers</li> <li>• <i>Turdus merula</i>, <i>Turdus pilaris</i>, <i>Turdus philomenos</i>, <i>Turdus iliacus</i>, <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>: All these species are followed through a ringing program at all seasons through a network and several teams of ONCFS.</li> </ul> <p>2. <i>Other activities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A monitoring program, “<i>Suivi Temporel des Oiseaux Commun</i>” (STOC), started in 1989, continued during the reporting period. For about 100 species, trends and nesting have been studied during 1989–2005, and habitat indices etc have been elaborated. The study includes 15 common species that are in a severe or significant decline. - <u>Comment:</u> <i>The species in decline were not mentioned.</i></li> <li>• A report on the status of the bird fauna in France, “<i>Statut des Oiseaux en France</i>”, was published in 2006. - <u>Comment:</u> <i>Attached (pdf) to the national report, useful information and nice layout.</i></li> <li>• Ringing activities have been continued during the reporting period. The network consists of 450 people. Yearly, 200.000 birds are ringed in France and recoveries are done of some 10.000 individuals.</li> </ul>
<b>Germany</b>	<p>In addition to research efforts listed in the previous national report, another 13 research projects started during 2005-07, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Compilation of species characteristics, especially for seabirds;</li> <li>- Concept for the monitoring and reporting for NATURA 2000 regarding marine areas not close to coasts;</li> <li>- Studies on feeding resources for seabirds;</li> <li>- Studies on how to survey and to judge on bycatch of seabirds;</li> <li>- Several marine species inventories;</li> <li>- Study on offshore power lines.</li> </ul> <p>The report lists relevant publications and conferences as well.</p>
<b>Greece</b>	<p>15 research and monitoring projects have been listed for the reporting period, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Midwinter Waterfowl Census (“Wetlands International”): Long term project on national scale.</li> <li>• Conservation studies on Dalmatian <i>Pelecanus crispus</i> and White Pelicans <i>P. onocrotalus</i>. Long term ongoing project on national scale.</li> <li>• Bird ringing: Long term ongoing project on national scale and more (Hellenic Bird Ringing Centre). In addition, more specific projects on Antikythyra Island (Hellenic Ornithological Society / Hellenic Bird Ringing Centre), on Gavdos Island (University of Crete), Charadriiformes in the Evros Delta (Evros Management Body) and</li> </ul>

	<p>Ringling of passerines in Central Macedonia (Hellenic Bird Ringing Centre / Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other species-specific studies include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Hoplopterus spinosus</i> in the Evros Delta,</li> <li>- <i>Aegypius monachus</i> and <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> in Dadia Forest Reserve</li> <li>- <i>Falco eleonora</i>e (including rat control measures on rocky islets against predation of colonially nesting seabirds and <i>Falco eleonora</i>e; Hellenic Ornithological Society)</li> <li>- <i>Calonectris diomedea</i> in islets of Eastern Crete (Univ. of Crete).</li> <li>- <i>Sitta krueperi</i> on Lesbos Island (Hellenic Bird Ringing Centre   University of Aegean).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Monitoring of bird population on Parnis National Park, after the forest fires (Hellenic Ornithological Society).</li> </ul>
<b>Hungary</b>	<p>Key research activities include the monitoring of raptor populations, waterfowl and wildfowl species, the Common Bird Census, monitoring strictly protected and colonially nesting species, and bird ringing.</p> <p>The major financial sources are Transition Facility, central fund of the Ministry of Environment and Water and LIFE (13 LIFE projects were completed, ongoing or started in the reporting period).</p> <p>A comprehensive list of 369 publications is given, including bird atlases and reports (websites given). Further activities include the maintenance of a central website (<a href="http://www.birding.hu">www.birding.hu</a>), holding 19 major conferences / meetings, various training and consultancy programmes.</p>
<b>Ireland</b>	No national report for 2005-07 submitted.
<b>Italy</b>	<p>The Ministry of the Environment has financed the following research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• INFS, Development of guidelines and technical protocols against electrocution - signed on 25.09.2006 (concluded).</li> <li>• INFS, Support to activities linked with the implementation agreement AEWA signed on 04/04/2007 (completed).</li> <li>• INFS, Biodiversity Phase I - Conservation of biodiversity within the Italian wildlife - signed on 23/11/2005 (completed).</li> <li>• INFS, Biodiversity Phase II - Conservation of Biodiversity in the fauna with reference to the Italian national protected areas - signed on 12/12/2007 (ongoing).</li> <li>• INFS, Convention for the publication of the series "Iconography of birds in Italy" (ongoing).</li> <li>• INFS, "The transfer-control issues of damages and notwithstanding the exercise of hunting". January 2007.</li> <li>• INFS, "The capture of birds for purposes of appeal during the period 1994-2005)", published in January 2007.</li> <li>• INFS, Monitoring of birds and mammals.</li> <li>• Publications/reports, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2005: Spegnesi M. and L. Serra (eds.): Birds of Italy. Gaviformes, Podicediformes, Procellariiformes, Pelacaniiformes, Ciconiiformes, Phoenicopteriformes, Anseriformes.</li> <li>- 2007: Action plans for <i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>, <i>Falco biarmicus</i>, <i>Aythya nyroca</i> and <i>Falco eleonora</i>e.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Latvia</b>	<p>In January 2006, a new Environmental Monitoring Programme was approved, including a sub-programme on Monitoring of Biodiversity. This sub-programme includes Natura 2000 sites monitoring, invasive species etc.</p> <p><i>Comment.</i> It is indicated in the national report that the Environmental Monitoring Programme and monitoring reports are available at the website of Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Agency</p>

	<p>(<a href="http://www.lvgma.gov.lv">www.lvgma.gov.lv</a>). But since July 2009, the duties of this agency has been transferred to a State Limited Company 'Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre' and the indicated information is no longer (April 2010) available at the website.</p> <p>Bird ringing is performed by the Latvian Ringing Centre of the Institute of Biology, University of Latvia. Ca 50 persons (professional ornithologists and trained amateurs) ring more than 30,000 birds every year. At the Ornithological station in Pape, Helgoland-type bird-catching equipment is being successfully used since 1967.</p> <p>The Latvian Ornithological Society carried out a number of important projects as well, <a href="http://www.lob.lv">www.lob.lv</a>.</p>
<p><b>Lithuania</b></p>	<p>1. <i>Monitoring schemes.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring of bird species listed in the annexes of the Birds Directive follows the requirements of the National Environment Monitoring Program for 2005-2010. Annual decisions are taken on species to be monitored, sites to be visited etc. The Environmental Protection Agency and the State Service for Protected Areas are responsible for organisation and co-ordination. The Institute of Ecology performs monitoring of species listed in Annex I of the Directive outside SPAs, within an annual co-ordination with the two other organisations.</li> <li>• Monitoring of waterbirds (winter + breeding) is done by The Institute of Ecology at Vilnius University since 2003.</li> <li>• A publication on methodology for bird monitoring was published in 2006 by The Institute of Ecology at Vilnius University</li> </ul> <p>2. <i>Research programmes etc.</i>  Priorities are identified individually by the different research institutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An analysis of the SPA network in Lithuania was done in 2007, with suggestions for further research on some species, insufficiently protected species in the SPA network etc (Laboratory of Birds Ecology at Vilnius University).</li> <li>• Surveys of migrating and wintering waterbirds since 2005 (LIFE-Nature project on "Marine Protected Areas in Eastern Baltic Sea", see also Section 2.3).</li> <li>• Bird surveys and proposals on conservation measures within some of the projects listed in Section 2.3 (<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>, <i>Ciconia nigra</i>).</li> <li>• Bird surveys, 2005-08, in Kuršiu Nerija National Park and Pajūris Regional Park; within an NGO funded project on Natura 2000 site conservation and management at the Lithuanian Coats.</li> <li>• Investigation of impact of commercial fisheries on migrating birds in the Curonian Lagoon.</li> <li>• Surveys of bird species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive in two potential SPAs, 2005-07 (Institute of Ecology and Vilnius University).</li> </ul> <p>3. <i>Publications, web-sites etc</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of private forests (2005)</li> <li>• Lithuanian bird atlas (2006)</li> <li>• Guidelines for management (2006)</li> <li>• Lithuanian Red Data Book (2007)</li> <li>• Report on evaluation of Lithuanian SPAs;  <a href="http://www.am.lt/VI/files/0.603626001201591124.pdf">http://www.am.lt/VI/files/0.603626001201591124.pdf</a> (2007)</li> <li>• Information about SPAs in Lithuania on  <a href="http://www.vstt.lt/VI/index.php#r/56">http://www.vstt.lt/VI/index.php#r/56</a> (State Service for Protected Areas).</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Various papers in national magazines; “Acta Zoologica Litaunica” and “Ciconia”.</li> </ul> <p><i>4. Seminars, conferences etc to disseminate results</i>  Various seminars organised by The State Service of Protected Areas and others, and also within the frame-work of several of the projects etc listed above and in Section 2.3. Other activities include web-sites by most of the administrations for protected areas, and building information centres at many protected sites during 2005-07.</p> <p>Activities carried out by the Lithuanian Ornithological Society include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seminars of the Birds and Habitats Directives for staff of the public forestry, within a project on “Forest and Biodiversity” (2005).</li> <li>• Two seminars for the staff of protected areas administration and services of agricultural consultation, within a project on environmental education of farmers on the application of agri-environmental measures (2007, in partnership with ministries of environment and agriculture).</li> </ul>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	<p>BirdLife Luxembourg (LNPO/LNVL) has produced various publications and reports and has updated the Atlas of Breeding Birds. A List of articles published in the LNVL journal “Regulus” is found on <a href="http://www.luxnatur.lu/lnvlwb.htm">http://www.luxnatur.lu/lnvlwb.htm</a>, with links to pdf-files for several of them.</p> <p>The Centrale Ornithologique de Luxembourg (COL) and LNVL have implemented a number of research/monitoring programmes on bird species targeted by Article 4 of the Birds Directive (species of Annex I, migratory species including waterfowl, and species in danger).</p>
<b>Malta</b>	<p><i>1. Monitoring schemes for birds species and habitats</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bird ringing activities have been carried out.</li> <li>• Since 2005 inspectors from the Control Unit of the Paying Agency and the Malta Environment and Planning Authority carry out specific control on activities with potential negative impact on birds by farmers and livestock breeders submitting applications for direct payments under the Common Agricultural Policy.</li> </ul> <p><i>2. Research programmes, specific studies and investigation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of research efforts focussing on <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i> are undertaken as part of the LIFE Garnija project. These include ringing of every breeding pair and the chicks at MT0000009 - Ramla Tat-Torri/Rdum tal-Madonna, and logging of movements of individuals using telemetry, in order to gather information about foraging and fishing activity.</li> <li>• A study to evaluate farmland bird populations has been commissioned by the Rural Development Department to Birdlife Malta. This study shall run through the breeding season of 2008, with fieldwork being completed by the end of June. Analysis will commence upon completion of fieldwork and the Farmland Bird Index and correlated Breeding Birds Atlas are expected to be produced at the latest by early December of 2008.</li> </ul> <p><i>3. Publications</i>  The Nature Protection section on the Malta Environment and Planning Authority’s website includes sections on biodiversity, species, habitats, data management, biodiversity research, nature protection legislation, nature protection policies, protected areas, biodiversity monitoring, nature publications, environmental tools and biodiversity permitting. The section also includes the data sheets and maps for SPAs as submitted to the</p>

	<p>Commission;  <a href="http://www.mepa.org.mt/environment/nature_protection/mainpage.htm">http://www.mepa.org.mt/environment/nature_protection/mainpage.htm</a></p> <p>A separate section of the Malta Environment and Planning Authority's website is dedicated to Wild Birds;  <a href="http://www.mepa.org.mt/environment/index.htm?wild_birds/mainpage.htm&amp;1">http://www.mepa.org.mt/environment/index.htm?wild_birds/mainpage.htm&amp;1</a></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> None of these links worked, at check 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2010.</p> <p>4. <i>Organisation of seminars, conferences, workshops to disseminate results</i>  A number of national seminars were held between 2005 and 2007 in relation to the Birds and Habitats Directives. These include a national seminar on Natura 2000 in March 2007; a seminar on the protection of marine habitats and species (including sea-birds) in April 2007; two seminars on financing Natura 2000 in 2006 and 2007, and various stakeholder meetings or workshops carried out under the auspices of projects funded by the EU or private companies. Many of these events were organised as part of the Natura 2000 twinning project.</p>
<b>Netherlands</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring of species is performed by the NEM Network of Ecological Monitoring, <a href="http://nemweb.ipo-rivm.nl/">http://nemweb.ipo-rivm.nl/</a>; in cooperation between several governmental institutes; LNV, RIZA, RIKZ, VROM, CBS and RIVM (the Federal Institute for Public Health and Environment), and together with the Provinces. The national bird monitoring is executed by SOVON in collaboration with CBS, Rijkswaterstaat and the provinces. All data from the NEM is collected by SOVON and processed by CBS. Annually SOVON produces reports with the development of trends in breeding bird and waterbird populations, <a href="http://www.sovon.nl">http://www.sovon.nl</a>. The results of these inventories and counts form an important part of the monitoring of the Natura 2000 Network.</li> <li>• SOVON and CBR have completed a study on the trends in numbers and distribution of birds in SPAs under the Directive.</li> <li>• For the moment, Natura 2000 monitoring is specifically done for rare breeding birds and 9 species that fall under BMP.</li> <li>• The Ministries of Defence, LNV etc have set up a Natura 2000 support point for information and communication. This was officially inaugurated with a symposium, <a href="http://www.natura-2000.nl">http://www.natura-2000.nl</a>.</li> <li>• 18 important research projects were started during the reporting period, of which 8 were finished and 10 are still ongoing (Annex 3 of the national report).</li> <li>• SOVON produced 11 articles and participated in the production of 39 reports and Alterra listed 55 reports on birds (Annex 4 of the national report).</li> </ul>
<b>Poland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2005, the Minister of the Environment decided about monitoring programs, including species populations and protected areas designated under the Water Framework Directive.</li> <li>• In 2007-08, a monitoring of birds started, as part of the national monitoring program. The program will provide data for about 140 bird species, including 30 species listed in annex I of the Birds Directive; including <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>, <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>, <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>, <i>Ciconia nigra</i>, <i>Pernis apivorus</i>, <i>Milvus milvus</i>, <i>Milvus migrans</i>, <i>Aquila pomarina</i>, <i>Circus aeroginosus</i>, <i>Circus pygargus</i>, <i>Grus grus</i>, <i>Sterna hirundo</i> <i>Chlidonias niger</i> etc. The program consists of 11 parts (list and short description provided in the national report).</li> <li>• PTOPI (NGO) monitors the population of rare and endangered bird species living on wetlands and bogs.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than 180 publications were listed in the national report.</li> </ul>
<b>Portugal</b>	<p>Research efforts carried out during the reference period include:</p> <p><i>In Continental Portugal and Madeira:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The revision of the atlas of breeding birds</li> <li>• The revision of the Red book of Vertebrate species</li> <li>• The inventory of Portuguese wetlands</li> <li>• Censuses (wintering waterbirds species, <i>Ardeoides</i>, <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>, <i>Sterna albifrons</i>, <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>, <i>Ciconia nigra</i>, <i>Bubo bubo</i>, <i>Atene noctua</i>, <i>Circus pygargus</i>, <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>, <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>, <i>Neophron percnopterus</i>, <i>Gyps fulvus</i>, <i>Milvus milvus</i> and <i>Tyto alba schmitzi</i> and birds in marine IBAs in Madeira)</li> <li>• Ecological studies, including <i>Grus grus</i>, <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>, <i>Alectoris rufa</i>, <i>Larus cachinnans atlantis</i>, <i>Anthus berthelotii</i>, long-lived birds, <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>, Laurissilva forest and Funchal Ecologic Park in Madeira.</li> <li>• National campaign on census, capture and ringing of migratory birds</li> <li>• Monitoring of impacts of electric lines and wind farms on bird species.</li> <li>• Conservation projects on endemic species; <i>Columba trocaz</i>, <i>Pterodroma madeira</i> and <i>Pterodroma feae</i> (see also Section 2.2).</li> <li>• Detailed studies on Annex I bird species; including <i>Otis tarda</i>, <i>Tetrax tetrax</i>, <i>Falco naumanni</i>, <i>Aegypius monachus</i>, <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>, <i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i> and <i>Aquila adalberti</i>.</li> </ul> <p>The Municipal Museum of Funchal has carried out monitoring activities on several bird species (<i>Pterodroma madeira</i>, <i>Calonectris diomedea borealis</i>, <i>Puffinus assimilis</i>, <i>Oceanodroma</i> spp., <i>Bulweria bulwerii</i>) through ringing, marking and data-loggers.</p> <p><i>The Azores:</i></p> <p>Ecological study on <i>Calonectris diomedea</i> through an Interreg project (Marmac)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Database and a document on the Azores' biodiversity through an Interreg project (Atlantico).</li> <li>• Monitoring of marine bird species, in cooperation with the Sea Institute.</li> <li>• Ecological study on several Annex I bird species (<i>Bulweria bulwerii</i>, <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>, <i>Puffinus assimilis</i>, <i>Oceanodroma castro</i>, <i>Sterna hirundo</i>, <i>Sterna dougallii</i>, <i>Columba palumbus azorica</i> and <i>Pyrrhula murina</i>) and monitoring of the <i>Pyrrhula murina</i> population, in cooperation with the Portuguese Society for the Birds' Study.</li> </ul>
<b>Romania</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two projects on area rehabilitation for <i>Branta ruficollis</i> and <i>Pelicanus crispus</i> were implemented during reporting period.</li> <li>• As part of SPAs designation process in Romania, the Danube Delta Research and Development National Institute was contracted to develop a data base concerning all bird species from Romania.</li> </ul> <p><u>Comment:</u> No information regarding data bases, monitoring schemes, research programmes and publications for birds provided.</p>
<b>Slovakia</b>	<p>For much of the information below, additional relevant information is available via the web-sites listed in the national report. The website of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, <a href="http://www.sopsr.sk/natura">www.sopsr.sk/natura</a> (partly in English), includes detailed information about the SPAs and a useful interactive map. Links to various monitoring programmes, publications etc can also be found on the web-site of the Slovak</p>



	<p>Ornithological Society/Birdlife Slovakia, <a href="http://www.vtaky.sk">www.vtaky.sk</a>.</p> <p>Monitoring and research is implemented by the state nature protection institutions (rather limited scale, for specific sites and species), universities and research institutes, and NGOs. The Slovak Ornithological Society undertakes various monitoring programmes, mostly in partnership with other NGOs or institutes, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winter waterbird census, initiated in 1967. In winter 2004-05, 318 volunteers were engaged, covering 381 sites (2500 km of water-courses, 200 km<sup>2</sup> of water bodies).</li> <li>• Census of “common birds” started in 2005, within the Pan European Common Bird Monitoring, complemented with census of breeding waterbirds (24 sites) in 2007.</li> <li>• Monitoring of selected species, including <i>Otis tarda</i>, <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>, cormorants and gees.</li> </ul> <p>Several publications etc listed, including a 735 pages manual on methodology of favourable conservation status and management plans, funded within a PHARE Twinning Project and published in 2005 (available via <a href="http://www.sopsr.sk">www.sopsr.sk</a>, under “publications and documents”).</p> <p>Monitoring of several species listed in Annex I of the Directive is done in various SPAs (Section 2.2).</p>
<b>Slovenia</b>	<p>Monitoring includes the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January count of waterbirds.</li> <li>• Monitoring of birds breeding in Natura 2000 areas (the list of birds monitored in each SPA is provided).</li> <li>• Monitoring of birds by managers of protected areas.</li> </ul> <p>In 2007, monitoring of birds linked to agricultural landscape has been started. On the base of the results the Farmland bird index will be calculated.</p> <p>Research activities and projects relating to species under the Birds Directive are implemented mainly by non-governmental conservation organizations (especially DOPPS), managers of protected areas, National Institute of Biology and Universities. Research activities are often part of LIFE, PHARE and INTERREG projects (the projects which were initiated during the period 2005-07, in progress or completed are listed in the national report).</p> <p>Annexed to the national report is a study where conservation status of the 321 birds inside the 26 SPAs have been assessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 22% of species in 22 SPAs are in a favourable conservation</li> <li>• 59% of species in 19 SPAs are not in a favourable conservation status</li> <li>• 19% of species in 25 SPAs have a questionable conservation status due to insufficient data on birds populations</li> </ul> <p>The favourable conservation status of birds has been assessed in the whole Slovenian territory. The main cause of degradation of habitats suitable for birds in Slovenia is the intensification of agriculture, especially activities such as early mowing, excessive fertilization, depletion of the mosaic of cultural landscapes (e.g. loss of hedgerows, shrubs), reduction of the percentage of meadows and wetlands. Intensive agriculture affects 13 out of the 62 species in poor conservation status. Forest grouse populations are declining due to overgrowth of grassland, pastures, forest edges significant deforestation and degradation of habitat, lack of coordination in hunting management plans and disruption caused by mass tourism and recreation. Also the alteration of freshwater habitats and wetlands has impact on several bird species.</p>

<p><b>Spain</b></p>	<p>The Spanish regions reported about a high number of research efforts completed during the reference period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 174 monitoring schemes for bird species and habitats (including ringing studies)</li> <li>• 166 research programmes, specific studies and investigation, especially of bird species referred to in Article 4 of the Directive</li> <li>• 66 publications (including Birds Atlas, reports, web site)</li> <li>• Organisation of 26 seminars, conferences, workshops to disseminate results</li> </ul> <p>Several species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive were targeted for these activities.</p>
<p><b>Sweden</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The national scheme for surveillance of bird populations, initiated in the 1970s, is continuously operating. It includes counting areas for breeding birds, ringing, counts of migrating birds etc. A general decline of many common and wide-spread bird species has been recorded, related to habitats changes in agricultural and forest areas.</li> <li>• The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) has funded a number of projects on bird species under threat or decline, including <i>Tetrao urogallus</i> (large scale monitoring using satellites), <i>Anser f. fabalis</i> (satellite studies of migration routes and wintering areas), <i>Bubo bubo</i> (GSM-based study to improve knowledge of foraging behaviour and risks for collisions and electrocuting).</li> <li>• SEPA has also funded studies on interactions between grazers (cattle, geese) and impact on breeding shorebirds.</li> <li>• The “Alvin Foundation” foundation has supported several projects on bird conservation during the reference period.</li> </ul> <p><i>Comment: The many research projects related to bird conservation at universities etc have only been briefly mentioned, but not listed.</i></p>
<p><b>UK</b></p>	<p><i>1. Monitoring schemes</i></p> <p><u>Wild Bird Indicator:</u> This is one of the 20 UK indicators for sustainable development etc, considered to be a good indicator of the broad state of wildlife and countryside. Trends since 1970 can be summarised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmland bird index (19 species) is 48% lower than in 1970, and although most of the decline was recorded from mid-1970s to mid-1990s, further declines were recorded in the most recent years (and for the reference period).</li> <li>• The water and wetland bird index (26 species) is 6% lower than by mid-1970s.</li> <li>• The woodland bird index (38 species) is 22% below the 1970s level, but the index is broadly stable since 1991.</li> <li>• Coastal bird populations increased by 37% between 1970 and 1987 and remained stable since then.</li> <li>• The seabirds index (19 species) is 31% higher than in 1970, with a peak in the late 1980s and decline after that.</li> <li>• The wintering waterbirds increased by 57% from mid 1970s to mid 1990s, but signs of a decline in more recent years.</li> </ul> <p><u>Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS):</u> This is joint scheme of the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and JNCC to monitor non-breeding waterfowl. A WeBS alert system has been developed to provide notifications of significant changes in waterbird populations, updated annually</p>

(<http://www.bto.org/webs/alerts>). Web-links are given to the annual reports for the periods 2005/05-2006/07, as well to online capture of data, <http://www.bto.org/webs/news/websdownloads.htm>.

Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme: Set up, following a significant review of raptor conservation in the UK in 2000, with three main objectives including better co-operation between various bodies responsible for collecting information in raptors, survey and monitoring, and to maintain high and uniform standards for collection, analysing of data, information etc. The scheme has produced four annual reports, 2003-06 (<http://www.scottishraptorgroups.org/srmscheme.php>).

Predatory Bird Monitoring Scheme (PBMS): The scheme has worked over a period of 40 years, with the main objective to determine how and why exposure to chemical contaminants varies with species, food-chain, region and time. At present, second generation anticoagulant rodenticides are a major focus, as they have been shown to pose widespread unintentional exposure to large numbers of birds. To date, there is no evidence that this exposure has resulted in decline of populations but monitoring including *Tyto alba*, *Falco tinnunculus* and *Milvus milvus* is currently undertaken (<http://pbms.ceh.ac.uk/default.htm>).

Other bird monitoring programs include:

- Goose & Swan Monitoring Programme: Joint initiative by WTT and JNCC, table with current population estimates given ([http://www.wwt.org.uk/research/monitoring/goose\\_and\\_swan.asp](http://www.wwt.org.uk/research/monitoring/goose_and_swan.asp)).
- Scotland goose management scheme: Minimise economic loss to farmers is one the three core objectives.
- Waterbird Review Series: Individual species or population reviews based on 40 years of monitoring, and presented in a series of species-wise reports (<http://www.wwt.org.uk/research/waterbirdreviews>).
- National surveys of rarer species: Provides a framework for surveys of species not readily covered by other surveillance schemes.

Several reports on status, trends and status of the UK's birds have been published during the reference period (full references and/or web-links given).

## 2. *Bird conservation science*

Proceedings of the major conferences organised the British Ornithologists' Union include for the reference period (web-links given):

- 2005: Wind, fire and water; renewable energy and birds
- 2006: Birds and recreational disturbance
- 2006: Woodland birds: their ecology and management.
- 2007: Birds as predators and prey.

Proceedings from the "Waterbirds around the world Conference", held in Edinburgh 2004 were made publically available with financial support from UK governmental agencies etc in 2006, <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=3891>. At the launch, the UK Minister of Environment announced 176,000 GBP for conservation and research on migratory birds (incl. 40,000 GBP to AEWA).

#### 4. ENCOURAGEMENT OF RESEARCH AND ANY WORK REQUIRED AS A BASIS FOR THE PROTECTION, MANAGEMENT AND USE OF THE POPULATIONS OF ALL BIRD SPECIES REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 1 (Article 10)

##### 4.2 Education, information and communication in relation to bird protection.

<b>Austria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Kärnten: Visitors service in one area.</li> <li>• Land Salzburg: Information activities etc in nature conservation areas.</li> </ul>
<b>Belgium</b>	<p><i>Federal Government (marine territories):</i> A list of the 10 most important publications is given.</p> <p><i>Brussels District:</i> A list with the 8 most important publications is given.</p> <p><i>Flanders District:</i> A list with 24 most important publication is given.</p> <p><i>Wallonia District:</i> 3 major publications are mentioned, as well as 3 leaflets.</p>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	No information provided.
<b>Cyprus</b>	The staff and officers of the Game Fund as well as many Hunting Clubs organize regular education and information seminars. According to new legislation, all new hunters have to attend hunting education seminars and pass a relevant examination before obtaining a hunting license. All persons convicted on the basis of the new legislation must attend these hunting education courses and pass examination before obtaining a new license. These courses include, among others, species identification, wildlife management principles, safety rules and procedures, knowledge of relevant legislation etc.
<b>Czech Republic</b>	12 activities related to training, awareness raising etc listed; including wildlife crime, Natura 2000, public excursions (e.g. European Birdwatch in autumn 2005), and events arranged by NGOs. <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> was the Bird of The Year in 2006.
<b>Denmark</b>	No information provided.
<b>Estonia</b>	Several seminars on bird protection have been carried out, with landowners being the main target group.
<b>Finland</b>	<p>Events arranged by the Finnish Environment Institute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International seminar on "What to do when cormorant comes", April 2007. There were altogether 60 participants, from 25 countries.</li> <li>• Training on the best practices in restoring and managing wetlands, August 2007. The participants were experts from e.g. ministries, regional environment centres and the national forestry agency (Metsähallitus).</li> </ul>
<b>France</b>	No explicit information provided, but some information on stakeholder communication etc for single species or species groups is given in Section 4.1.
<b>Germany</b>	No information provided.
<b>Greece</b>	No information provided.
<b>Hungary</b>	<p>The national park directorates regularly hold events for children and others especially related to various green days, organise guided tours and bird watching, exhibitions etc. The "Bird of the Year" campaign includes all year round events focusing on the given species (<i>Aquila heliaca</i> in 2005, <i>Lanius collurio</i> in 2006, <i>Passer montanus</i> in 2007). There are several programmes targeting kindergartens and higher schools, camps, Bird Watchers' Day, etc.</p> <p>A publication ("Wind Energy and Nature Conservation") was published to</p>

	help the bird-safe planning of wind power stations.
<b>Ireland</b>	No national report for 2005-07 submitted.
<b>Italy</b>	<p>Work on a protocol of understanding with the Sardinian forest agency for the reintroduction of <i>Gyps fulvus</i> in eastern Sardinia was initiated in 2006 (and signed in February 2008, reported under Section 4.1 in the national report).</p> <p>LIPU/Birdlife Italy carried out the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project on "Analysis of studies and projects management, and promotion of the work of biodiversity in urban areas, with particular emphasis on the fauna component, a possible reference for the dissemination of guidelines and practices for project improvement of urban quality".</li> <li>• Third edition of the Atlas of breeding birds in the town of Florence.</li> <li>• Census of the Columbidae of the city of Florence.</li> <li>• Bird census in the areas of ecological compensation along the Mella River in the province of Brescia.</li> <li>• Project to design of soundproof panels along the highways, compatible with the protection of migratory and sedentary birds. These panels are used at several Italian motorways in order to avoid avifauna collision against this type of barrier.</li> <li>• Collaboration with the Swiss Ornithological Institute at Sempach completion of the book "Building with glass and light respecting the birds."</li> <li>• Participation at the International Meeting Re-start IENE - Infra-Eco-Network- Europe which, held in Hungary 9-11 April 2008.</li> <li>• Report "Transport infrastructure and biodiversity. The state of the art in Italy."</li> <li>• Participation at the European Meeting on the decline of <i>Passer domesticus</i> urban environments (London, February 2007).</li> <li>• Presentation of a poster at Project SOS LIPU Sparrows "at the 17th International Conference of the European Bird Census Council (EBCC) Bird Numbers 2007" (Chiavenna, April 2007).</li> <li>• Presentation of the poster on the project "SOS LIPU Sparrows" at the XIV Conference Italian Ornithological Committee (IOC) (Trieste, September 2007).</li> <li>• Brochure "The sparrows. As recognize them, study them, what to do to protect them and prevent their decline. "</li> <li>• Coordination of the Workshop on "Bird synanthropic", at the XIV Italian Congress of Ornithology (IOC) (Trieste, September 2007).</li> </ul>
<b>Latvia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information from the Latvian Ornithological Society is available at the website: <a href="http://www.lob.lv">www.lob.lv</a></li> <li>• Wide and comprehensive information about birds in Latvia is available at <a href="http://www.putni.lv">www.putni.lv</a></li> <li>• Besides, information on species occurring in Latvia (incl. birds) can be found at <a href="http://www.latvijasdaba.lv">www.latvijasdaba.lv</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>Lithuania</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project titled "Training of Protected Areas Staff", with assistance from EU Transnational Facility; 24 courses.</li> <li>• Within a project on reinforcement of State institutions responsible for monitoring and management of SPAs and SCIs (2005-06, funded with EU structural assistance) monitoring methodologies were trained, equipment purchased etc.</li> <li>• "Birds of the Year" is launched every year by The Lithuanian Ornithological Society, with invitations to the public to collect information and encourage conservation.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Web-site for the public to report on nesting sites, rare birds etc, administrated by The Lithuanian Ornithological Society. This information is compiled by The Society and communicated with environmental and forest management institutions.</li> <li>• Several other events and activities arranged by the Lithuanian Ornithological Society (4 listed).</li> <li>• Several events within the projects etc listed in Sections 2.3 and 4.1.</li> </ul>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	Various youth activities arranged by LNVL (national BirdLife partner), <a href="http://www.lnvl.lu/regulus-junior.html">http://www.lnvl.lu/regulus-junior.html</a>
<b>Malta</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A series of five training seminars and five workshops for stakeholders were held in 2006 in the various fields of protected area management, under the auspices of a twinning project, funded under the Transitional Facility Fund, which ran from October 2005 to March 2007, and aimed at strengthening the institutional capacity of the Malta Environment and Planning Authority to implement the EU Nature <i>Acquis</i>, with particular reference to the Birds and Habitats Directives.</li> <li>• An informative leaflet on Natura 2000 has been prepared for distribution during seminars and other events. Posters on protected bird species, available in digital format, are still being distributed to interested parties, and as from 2007, an annual calendar depicting important Maltese species (one per month) is being produced and distributed freely to schools and Local Councils. A series of bookmarks and coasters depicting important Maltese species have also been produced by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority, including dedicated to the National bird <i>Monticola solitarius</i> (Blue Rock Thrush). These were distributed freely; the coasters were also distributed to local bars and restaurants.</li> <li>• Information on selected bird species was provided during a press launch held on 6 September 2006 in view of a research project that was being carried out on the marine habitats around the islet of Filfla and a survey that is underway in view of the western cliffs of mainland Malta.</li> <li>• Information on Natura 2000 in general and on proposed pSCIs and designated Special Protection areas (SPAs) was provided during a press launch held on 12 October 2006 in view of the designation of further such sites.</li> </ul> <p><i>Comment: None of the links to web-sites mentioned in the national report worked, as checked in April 2010.</i></p>
<b>Netherlands</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In June 2006 an observation hut was opened (in a zoo) by the Secretary General, marking the start of a route called "Europe Naturally"</li> <li>• In January 2007 the first 111 draft designation decisions were laid down for consultation and have resulted in over 5000 views. See also <a href="http://www2.minlnv.nl/thema/groen/natuur/Natura20002006/Natura2000.htm">http://www2.minlnv.nl/thema/groen/natuur/Natura20002006/Natura2000.htm</a>. Final designations to follow in 2008 and 2009.</li> <li>• Since 2003, SOVON, Staatsbosbeheer and Vogelbescherming Nederland have organised their annual Bird Festival in August.</li> <li>• In a few Natura 2000 areas (Groote Peel; Oostvaardersplassen en Biesbosch) information centres were erected by Natuurmonumenten, Staatsbosbeheer or the Provincial bodies.</li> </ul> <p>Vogelbescherming Nederland (NBL, <a href="http://www.vogelbescherming.nl">www.vogelbescherming.nl</a>) is the Dutch partner of BirdLife International and has 141,000 members. They</p>

	have started a Wetland Watchers team of volunteers to preserve the Dutch wetlands, mostly all of which are NATURA 2000 areas.
<b>Poland</b>	<p>Over 39 education centres (full list provided per voivodship) operated in Poland, nearly all related to existing Landscape Parks, which have also been established as Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>In 2007, three universities have organized a series of trainings for local administration authorities about “Natural resources as a chance for the sustainable development”. The aim was to provide strong arguments for the discussions with local society and stakeholders, and to convince those that nature protection can bring multiple benefits.</p> <p>Several educational activities were undertaken by NGOs in relation to bird protection, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Educational portal for children, OTOP junior – information about birds for children.</li> <li>- Counting of birds in winter in parks and gardens.</li> <li>- Educational offer for teachers – scenarios of lessons about birds.</li> <li>- European Birds Days.</li> <li>- Educational programs, “Bocian”.</li> <li>- Workshops.</li> </ul>
<b>Portugal</b>	No changes, ref. the previous reporting period.
<b>Romania</b>	During SPAs designation process (2005-06), information sessions at the APMs – Environmental Protection Agencies were carried out.
<b>Slovakia</b>	<p>Training, conferences and other events include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Various events within a PHARE Twinning project on the implementation of the two nature directives, <a href="http://www.sopsr.sk">www.sopsr.sk</a>.</li> <li>• “Raptors Protection of Slovakia” NGO participated at an international electro-technical fair in Prague in April 2006, to demonstrate new device for isolation of electricity poles.</li> <li>• Various projects related to Natura 2000 arranged by the DAPHNE Institute of Applied Ecology, some of the directly SPA oriented; <a href="http://www.daphne.sk">www.daphne.sk</a>.</li> <li>• Various projects on training and restoration of wetlands (inside as well as outside SPAs), in some cases in partnership with Dutch or German institutes etc.</li> </ul> <p>In 2007, the Slovak government signed agreements with 2 of the 3 main electricity suppliers (for western and central parts of the country) on a common approach to tackle electrocution (data sharing, development of new technical solutions etc).</p>
<b>Slovenia</b>	<p><i>Education:</i> Educational activities on SPAs have involved different stakeholders and the general public. Presentations relating to the protection of birds were also included in the programs of other educational events (science camp). Many educational activities were organized for young people. Also employees of the ZRSVN participated in education program thus acquiring greater understanding of Natura 2000.</p> <p><i>Information:</i> Local media have been engaged in informing stakeholders and the general public (newspaper articles, radio and television broadcasts). A large number of publications aimed at the presentation of areas important for birds were also produced. Information on the SPAs is an ongoing process and linked with information on special conservation areas (pSCI).</p> <p><i>Communication:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2007, the Ministry of environment and spatial planning redesigned its webpage <a href="http://www.natura2000.gov.si">www.natura2000.gov.si</a>, where SPA areas and species</li> </ul>

	<p>are presented, as well as all the studies prepared by the Ministry or by subcontractors. Also 3 workshops have been organised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 244 different presentations of Natura 2000 to various stakeholders have been carried out; DOPPS organized more than 50 guided tours and about 30 lectures.</li> <li>• Major activities in the field of education, information and communication relating to the protection of birds are presented in an annex to the national report.</li> </ul>
<b>Spain</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the 2005-07 period the regions of Spain carried out numerous education, information and communication activities as part of LIFE Projects (Canary Islands and Murcia), or included in regional plans of awareness raising for the general public and, in particular, for young people.</li> <li>• Many activities have been organised in the occasion of the World Birds Day.</li> </ul> <p>It is to be noted, in particular, the education activities financed by the Extremadura Community. They foresee information centres for protected natural areas (2 of which inaugurated in 2006), nature's classrooms, environmental education centres (2 of which inaugurated in the period concerned), travelling class, travelling exhibitions, and new signboards in SPAs.</p>
<b>Sweden</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Results from the national scheme for bird surveillance are available on Internet and in various publications.</li> <li>• The Swedish Ornithological Society and its local branches organise meetings, field trips and lectures on issues related to bird conservation.</li> <li>• In 2007, the publication of the study by BirdLife International on the alarming situation for many European bird species created an engaged debate also on the national level. This resulted in an initiative by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency to engage a group of experts to investigate the national situation in more detail, and the publication of a report on trends of all wild-living bird species in Sweden, published in May 2008 (SEPA Report 5813).</li> <li>• Positive experiences of improved hunting methods in order to control populations of American Mink (<i>Mustela vison</i>), by concentrating the efforts to selected islands and islets with good populations of ducks, gulls, terns or shorebirds, have been widely published. A similar project for control of Raccoon Dog (<i>Nyctereutes procyonides</i>) is under planning.</li> </ul> <p><u>Comments:</u>  - No references are given to web-links of publications (except for the SEPA report in bird trends).  - The experiences of control of American Mink deserve some credit.</p>
<b>UK</b>	No information provided.



## 5. TEXTS OF THE MAIN PROVISIONS OF NATIONAL LAW ADOPTED IN THE FIELD GOVERNED BY THE DIRECTIVE (Article 18)

<b>Austria</b>	Updated legal texts provided for Land Tirol ( <i>but most relates to new or changed legislation in 2008, i.e. after the reporting period</i> ).
<b>Belgium</b>	No information provided.
<b>Bulgaria</b>	No information provided (but see under Sections 2.2 and 3.1).
<b>Cyprus</b>	Reference is given to the website <a href="http://www.cypruswildlife.gov.cy/">http://www.cypruswildlife.gov.cy/</a>  <i>Comment: The website indicated is apparently no more active (checked 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010).</i>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Minor amendments, related to the implementation of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, were done in the legislation on nature and landscape protection in 2006 (the legislation dates back to 1992); text included with the changes indicated.
<b>Denmark</b>	No specific information provided, but explained (in the text under “Protection of species”) that the new legal framework for species protection, launched on July 2007, has been adjusted to obligations following from the Directive.
<b>Estonia</b>	The main legal provisions are transposed into the Nature Conservation Act, the Hunting Act, and the Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management System Act. Translations of legal texts (9 pages) are given, except for the Hunting Act.
<b>Finland</b>	Legal texts are available via <a href="http://www.finlex.fi">www.finlex.fi</a> .
<b>France</b>	No information provided.
<b>Germany</b>	Texts of the federal nature conservation law, the federal species protection regulation, the federal hunting law and the federal game protection regulation are given in the annexes to the national report.
<b>Greece</b>	Copies of legal texts linked to annual decisions of open seasons for huntable species and the amendments of the hunting legislation on 2007 are annexed to the national report.
<b>Hungary</b>	Full text of the main provisions was provided in Hungarian (51 pages).
<b>Ireland</b>	No national report for 2005-07 submitted.
<b>Italy</b>	New or revised legislation during the reference period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decree of the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (July 2007), List of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) classified under the Birds Directive (July 2007); <a href="http://87.241.41.49/moduli/output_immagine.php?id=931">http://87.241.41.49/moduli/output_immagine.php?id=931</a></li> <li>• Decree of the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (October 2007) on “Minimum uniform criteria for establishing conservation measures for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs)”; <a href="http://www.minambiente.it/index.php?id_sezione=1483&amp;sid=488b38204442a8d27f51a3d59424c4c2">http://www.minambiente.it/index.php?id_sezione=1483&amp;sid=488b38204442a8d27f51a3d59424c4c2</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>Latvia</b>	Not particularly listed under this section of the national report, but extracts of main legal acts are given under other sections, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law on Species and Habitat Protection (2000, amendments in 2005 and 2006).</li> <li>• Law on Specially Protected Nature Territories (1993, amendments in 2005 and 2007).</li> <li>• Hunting Law (2003).</li> <li>• Law on Landowners Rights to Receive Compensation for the Restrictions of Economic Activities in Specially Protected nature Territories and Micro-reserves (2006).</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers Nr.45 from 30/01/2001 'Establishment, Protection and Management of Micro-reserves'.</li> <li>• Hunting Regulations (Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers No 760, 23/12/2003).</li> <li>• A number of other consequential Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers.</li> </ul>
<b>Lithuania</b>	<p>Main legal acts are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law on Protected Areas (1993, amended in 2001)</li> <li>• Law on Wild Fauna (1997, last amended in 2005)</li> <li>• Law on Protected Plants, Animal and Fungi Species and Communities (1997, amended in 2001)</li> <li>• Government Resolution on approval of the National Biodiversity Monitoring Program, 2005-10 (2005, last amended in 2008.)</li> <li>• Government Resolution on approval of the general statutes for pSCIs and SPAs (2004, last amended in 2006)</li> <li>• Law on hunting (2002, amended in 2003)</li> <li>• Rules on hunting (2002, amended in 2003)</li> </ul> <p>Web-links are given to the legal documents.</p>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	<p>The Law on Protection of Nature of January 2004 <a href="http://www.legilux.public.lu/leg/a/archives/2004/0010/a010.pdf#page=2">http://www.legilux.public.lu/leg/a/archives/2004/0010/a010.pdf#page=2</a> was modified in December 2007, <a href="http://www.legilux.public.lu/leg/a/archives/2007/0239/a239.pdf#page=2">http://www.legilux.public.lu/leg/a/archives/2007/0239/a239.pdf#page=2</a></p>
<b>Malta</b>	<p>Main legal acts are the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations (LN79/06) and Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (LN311/06) and their respective amendments and implementation acts (listed but no full texts in the national report).</p>
<b>Netherlands</b>	<p>The species protection part of the Birds Directive is accommodated by the Flora and Fauna Act which was introduced in 2002. There are 12 other decrees in place that are relevant to the Directive. See also <a href="http://wetten.overheid.nl/cgi-bin/deeplink/lawl/title=Flora-%20en%20Faunawet">http://wetten.overheid.nl/cgi-bin/deeplink/lawl/title=Flora-%20en%20Faunawet</a>. The area protection of the Birds Directive is implemented in the revised Nature Protection Act of 1998 that came into force in October 2005.</p>
<b>Poland</b>	<p>The Birds Directive is implemented in the following main national legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nature protection law (Dz. U. z 2004 r, Nr. 92, poz. 880 z późn. Zm.</li> <li>- Regulation on protected wild animal species (Dz.U. Nr. 220, poz. 2237).</li> <li>- SPA Regulation 2004 (Dz.U. Nr 229, poz. 2313).</li> <li>- Hunting Law of 13 October 1995</li> <li>- Regulation by the Minister of Environment on the list of huntable species</li> <li>- Regulation by the Minister of Environment on the list of hunting periods</li> </ul> <p>Relevant parts off the above mentioned texts area annexed to the national report.</p>
<b>Portugal</b>	<p>Main legal acts are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Decree-Law number 49 of November 2005 that regulates the General Law on Hunting, establishing the legal regime for conservation, promotion and exploitation of hunting with view to their sustainable management (see section 3.2), and adaptive Decree Law of the Region of Madeira.</li> <li>• Decrees of the Region of Azores, 9/2005/A, establishing new boundaries for some SPAs and approving a Sectoral Plan of the Natura 2000 Network (see section 2.2).</li> <li>• Regional Regulatory Decree, 10/2005/A, to create seven partial hunting reserves on the island of Faial; with prohibition of the hunting of <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> as well as the practicing of activities that could harm the species.</li> <li>• The national law relative to the transposition of the Habitats and Birds</li> </ul>

	<p>Directive was revised in 2005.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Ordinances that identify, for each hunting season, the species which may be hunted, setting daily limits of killing, hunting seasons, processes and other constraints.</li> </ul> <p>Web-link:  <a href="http://portal.icnb.pt/ICNPortal/vPT2007/O+ICNB/Legislação/Convenções+-+Directivas+-+Outros/">http://portal.icnb.pt/ICNPortal/vPT2007/O+ICNB/Legislação/Convenções+-+Directivas+-+Outros/</a> .</p>
<b>Romania</b>	<p>The legal acts that integrate the Birds Directive provisions are annexed to the national report, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Government Ordinance 57/2007, Annex I</li> <li>- Law 407/2006 modified by Law 197/2007, Annex II</li> </ul>
<b>Slovakia</b>	<p>A table overview on how obligations following from the various articles of the Birds Directive have been transposed into the national legal framework is annexed to the report.</p>
<b>Slovenia</b>	<p>In 2005, the <a href="#">Regulation Amending the Regulation on protected wild animal species</a> was issued.</p>
<b>Spain</b>	<p>The main provision adopted in the Spain communities can be summarised as follows:</p> <p><i>Hunting plan</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aragon: One disposition approving the regional hunting plan published for each year concerned and a decree regulating the capture and keeping of birds of prey</li> <li>Cantabria: Law 12/2006 and one disposition for each year concerned regulating the hunting activities in the region</li> <li>Castilla-La Mancha: Law 3/2006 which modifies the Law 2/1993 on the hunting activities in the region</li> <li>Catalunia: One resolution for each year concerned regulating the hunting periods, species which may be hunted in the region and one resolution regulating the period in which the capture of <i>Fringillidae</i> is allowed for traditional activities</li> <li>Extremadura: One disposition for each year concerned regulating the hunting activities in the region</li> <li>Balearic Islands: Law 6/2006 on Hunting and Fishing</li> <li>La Rioja: One disposition for each year on regulating the hunting activities in the region and one disposition for each year on regulating the capture and/or keeping in captivity of <i>Fringillidae</i>.</li> <li>Basque Country: Regulation (25/10/2007) on the hunting of doves and thrushes</li> <li>Murcia: One disposition for each year on regulating the hunting activities in the region</li> <li>Threatened Species Catalogue produced in Aragon and in the Balearic Islands</li> <li>Law on the Natural Conservation approved in Cantabria (Law 4/2006), Castilla-La Mancha (8/2007), Extremadura (Law 9/2006 modifying the Law 8/1998) and Decree 2/2008 approving the revised law on the Animals Protection.</li> </ul> <p>In the Balearic Islands, through the Decrees 28-29/2006 the SPAs have been identified, and the lists of SCIs and SPAs have been extended. Moreover, a Governmental Agreement (30/03/2008) extended the territories of existing SPAs and created new ones.</p> <p>In different regions, other kinds of dispositions have been approved to regulate financing of plans for sustainable development or to compensate agricultural</p>

	damages, plans and management plans for the protection of particular species, actions to modify the electric facilities or to create feeders.
<b>Sweden</b>	The Birds Directive has been implemented in the national legislation through the Environmental Code, The Hunting Act and various ordinances under these acts. Relevant legislation is listed.
<b>UK</b>	Any changes to legislation have been indicated in previous sections.

## 6. OTHER COMPLEMENTARY INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE CONSERVATION OF WILD BIRDS

<b>Austria</b>	No information provided.
<b>Belgium</b>	No information provided.
<b>Bulgaria</b>	No information provided.
<b>Cyprus</b>	No information provided.
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Information given on the occurrence of species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive, and the monitoring of these species in the SPAs (summarised under Section 1, 2.1 and 2.2).
<b>Denmark</b>	No information provided.
<b>Estonia</b>	No information provided.
<b>Finland</b>	There are 49 RAMSAR sites in Finland; 785,780 ha in total (no change since the previous reporting period).
<b>France</b>	No information provided.
<b>Germany</b>	No information provided.
<b>Greece</b>	No information provided.
<b>Hungary</b>	No information provided.
<b>Ireland</b>	No national report for 2005-07 submitted.
<b>Italy</b>	Information provided under this section in the national report is summarised in Section 4.2.
<b>Latvia</b>	No information provided.
<b>Lithuania</b>	5 RAMSAR sites in the country (also SPAs), 65,723 ha in total.  Some information about activities arranged by the Lithuanian Ornithological Society and reported under this section in the national report are summarised in Section 4.2.
<b>Luxembourg</b>	No information provided.
<b>Malta</b>	No information provided.
<b>Netherlands</b>	No information provided.
<b>Poland</b>	No information provided.
<b>Portugal</b>	No information provided.
<b>Romania</b>	The following SPAs totalling 21.69% of the surface of Romanian designated SPAs, are also RAMSAR sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve – 580,000 ha.</li> <li>- Small Island of Braila (Insula Mica a Brailei) – 17,529 ha.</li> <li>- Mures River Meadow (Lunca Muresului) – 17,166 ha.</li> <li>- Dumbravita Fishery Complex (Complex Piscicol Dumbravita) – 413.5 ha.</li> <li>- Techirghiol Lake – 1,462 ha.</li> </ul>
<b>Slovakia</b>	No information provided.
<b>Slovenia</b>	No information provided.
<b>Spain</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canary Islands: During 2005-07 the region encouraged the promotion of studies on the migratory species.</li> <li>• Ceuta: Noticed that the community does not have its own legislation on the protection of wildlife, nor has it on hunting. It is to apply in this case the national Law 1/1970 on Hunting and Regulations and the Royal Decrees developing the Law 4/1989.</li> </ul>
<b>Sweden</b>	Explicitly noted that no other relevant information is available.
<b>UK</b>	No information provided.