Eradicating Ruddy Ducks in the Western Palaearctic

Progress update 2023





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Recommendation No 209 (2020) of the Standing Committee

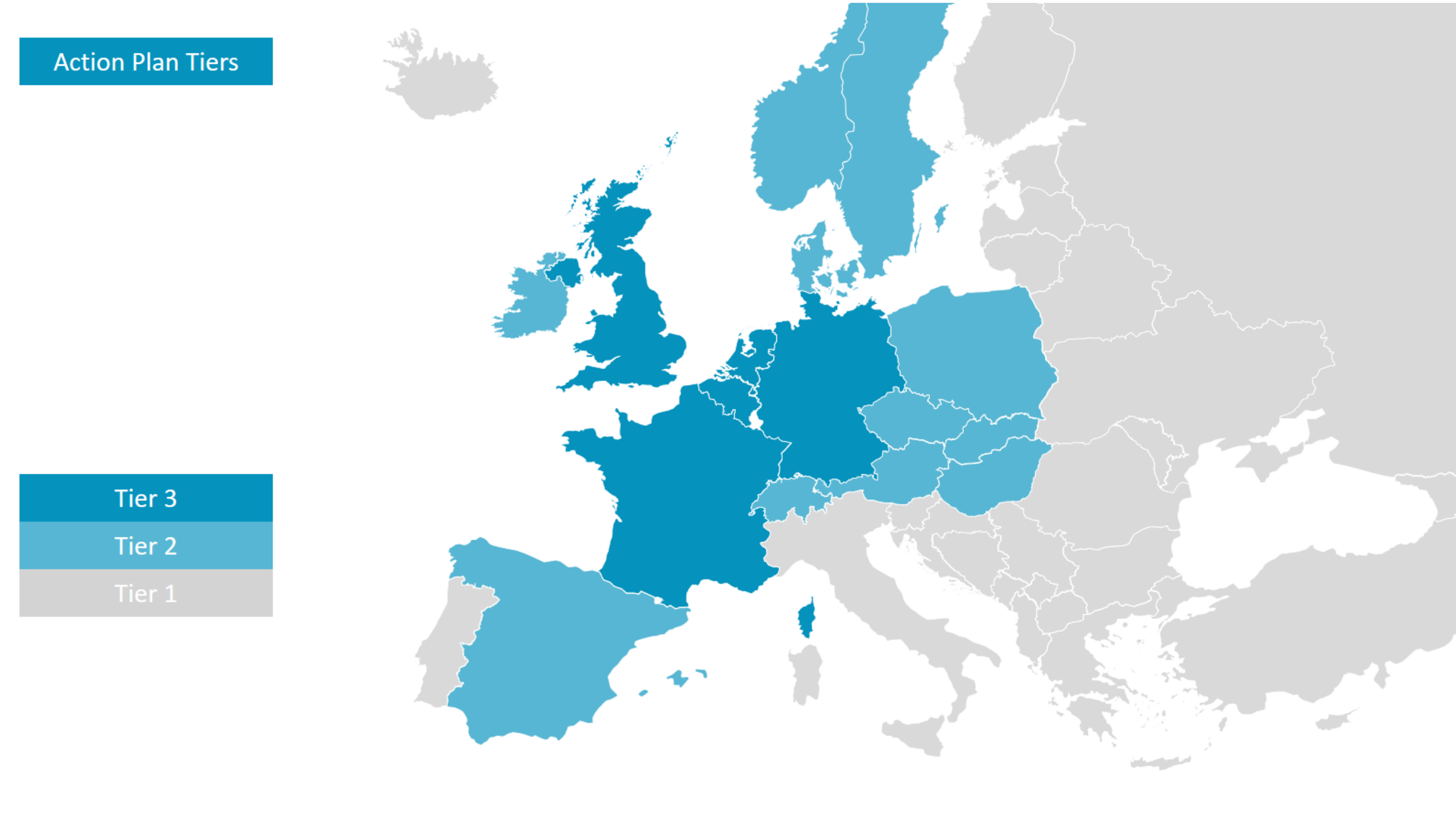
All Contracting Parties to implement without delay the actions specified in the 'Action Plan for the Eradication of the Ruddy Duck, 2021–2025'

Goal – Ruddy Ducks stop being a threat to the White-headed Duck

Outcomes

- Ruddy Duck is functionally extinct in the wild in the Western Palaearctic by 2025
- The risk of accidental introductions of Ruddy Ducks in the Western Palaearctic is understood and minimized
- Contracting Parties coordinate their activities to collectively achieve the plan's outcomes and targets

Action Plan Tiers



Birds in the wild

Tier 3	winter 2019/20	summer 2020	winter 2020/21	summer 2021	winter 2021/22	summer 2022	winter 2022/23	summer 2023
BE	8	8	5	6	10	9	6	7
FR	57	13	14	13	59	21	28	18
DE	13	9	12	5	13	16	c30	8
NL	100–120	80+	100–120	75+	112	75+	108	75+
UK	12	12	14	14	14	14	13	13

Records in other Tiers in winter 2022/23 or summer 2023 –

- Tier 2 – 1 bird found in 1 CP
- Tier 1 – no birds found

Breeding pairs

Tier 3	2020	2021	2022	2023
BE	0	0	0	0
FR	10	2	5	2
DE	1	0	0	0
NL	20+	22+	22+	22+
UK	2	1	1	1

Numbers controlled

Tier 3	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23
BE	2	2	2	3
FR	88	61	10	17
DE	1	0	2	2
NL	33	19	35	89
UK	1	0	1	0

Birds in captivity

Tier 3	2020	2021	2022	2023
BE	? / ?	35/ 7	? / ?	? / ?
FR	40 / 30	40 / 30	40 / 30	16 / 7
DE	19 / 4	14 / 4	12 / 3	26 / 5
NL	? / ?	? / ?	? / ?	? / ?
UK	50 / 20	50 / 20	50 / 20	40 / 15

number of birds / number of premises

Progress towards eradication targets – functional eradication in the wild

Belgium and UK

- Already on the cusp of achieving the target

France

- Continuation of existing control should see target reached in 2–3 years

The Netherlands

- Has measures in place to reach target in 4–5 years with continued / increased effort

Germany

- Could reach this position in 3–4 years if effective control can be established quickly

Progress towards eradication targets – risk of escape understood and minimised

- Progress is patchy
- France has made good progress
- Lack of basic information for several countries remains a concern
- Several escapes known to have occurred in recent years and more suspected

National priorities

Belgium – continue existing and effective reactive control measures

France – continue current proactive control to reduce the population further

Germany – mobilise control activity: ensure need is recognised at state level; ensure practices and solutions to address challenges are known by authorities; and clarify picture regarding birds in captivity and improve the understanding of risk of escape

The Netherlands – continue the newly intensified proactive control in Noord-Holland and Zuid-Holland; deploy control in remaining key areas; and clarify picture regarding birds in captivity and improve the understanding of risk of escape

UK – continue existing and effective reactive control measures

Maintaining momentum

Birds in the wild

- How to ensure effective control is rapidly mobilised in Germany?
- Ensure the Netherlands maintains effort, and increases control in other regions
- How do ensure trapping method used in France is embraced more widely?
- What is needed to ensure sharing of information in border areas?
- Ensure close and regular collaboration and coordination internationally

Captive birds

- Is there effective coordination with EU IAS that would hasten reaching the target?