

ANNUAL REPORT 1996

OF THE

INTERIM SECRETARIAT

OF THE

AFRICAN-EURASIAN WATERBIRD AGREEMENT

SECRETARIAT ANNUAL REPORT 1996

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As mentioned in the introduction, a legal instrument is needed to maintain a favourable conservation status for migratory water-birds. Hence, the aim of AEWA is to create a legal basis for concerted conservation and management policy by the Range States for migratory waterbird species. In total 170 species of Waterbird are covered by AEWA (see box 3)

1.2.2. Structure of the Agreement

The African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement has two parts, both of which are legally binding:

- the Agreement text describing the philosophy, legal framework and provisions;
- an Action Plan describing the conservation actions to be taken. The Action Plan is at present restricted to geese, swans, ducks, spoonbills, ibises and storks.

In implementing the Agreement two Fundamental Principles have been agreed on:

1. Parties shall take co-ordinated measures to maintain migratory waterbird species in a favourable conservation status or to restore them to such a status;
2. In implementing the measures of paragraph 1, Parties should take into account the precautionary principle.

Algeria	Greece	Republic of Moldova
Andorra	Guinea	Romania
Angola	Guinea-Bissau	Russian Federation
Armenia	Hungary	Rwanda
Austria	Iceland	Sao Tome and Principe
Azerbaijan	Iran	San Marino
Bahrain	Iraq	Saudi Arabia
Belarus	Ireland	Senegal
Belgium	Israel	Seychelles
Benin	Italy	Sierra Leone
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Jordan	Slovakia
Botswana	Kazakhstan	Slovenia
Bulgaria	Kenya	Somalia
Burkina Faso	Kuwait	Republic of South Africa
Burundi	Latvia	Spain
Cameroon	Lebanon	Sudan
Canada	Lesotho	Swaziland
Cape Verde	Liberia	Sweden
Central African Republic	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Switzerland
Chad	Liechtenstein	Syrian Arab Republic
Comoros	Lithuania	The former Yugoslav
Congo	Luxembourg	Republic of Macedonia
Ivory Coast	Madagascar	Tanzania
Croatia	Malawi	Togo
Cyprus	Mali	Tunisia
Czech Republic	Malta	Turkey
Denmark	Mauritania	Turkmenistan
Djibouti	Mauritius	Uganda
Egypt	Monaco	Ukraine
Equatorial Guinea	Morocco	United Arab Emirates
Eritrea	Mozambique	United Kingdom of
Estonia	Namibia	Great Britain and
Ethiopia	Netherlands	Northern Ireland
Finland	Niger	Uzbekistan
France	Nigeria	Yemen
Gabon	Norway	Yugoslavia
Gambia	Oman	Zaire
Georgia	Poland	Zambia
Germany	Portugal	Zimbabwe
Ghana	Qatar	European Commission

Box 2: List of Range States

1 THE AFRICAN-EURASIAN WATERBIRD AGREEMENT A GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1 Historical Background

1902 At the beginning of this century people became aware that birds in general need a certain kind of protection to avoid the decrease of the populations. The Paris Convention (Convention for the protection of birds useful to agriculture) concluded in 1902 was the first attempt at bird conservation. This convention did not mention migratory birds in particular. Later on, several other international treaties and agreements were concluded, such as the Ramsar Convention (1971), the Directive of the Council of The European Economic Community on the Conservation of Wild Birds (1979) and the Bern Convention (1979), all paying attention to migratory species.

1979 Based on the outcome of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979) was concluded in Bonn (Germany) and came into force in 1983. The goal of this Convention, commonly referred to as the Bonn Convention, is to provide conservation for migratory terrestrial, marine and avian species everywhere in their area of occurrence. The fundamental principle of this Convention is that Parties acknowledge the importance of migratory species being conserved and that they agree to take action to this end. In particular, the Parties:

- shall endeavour to provide immediate protection for migratory species which are included in Appendix I. Appendix I lists migratory species which are endangered.
- shall endeavour to conclude Agreements for migratory species included in Appendix II. Appendix II lists migratory species which have an unfavourable conservation status and require international agreements for their conservation and management, as well as species which have a conservation status which would significantly benefit from the international co-operation that could be achieved by an international agreement.

The latter is the basis for drafting the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement. Agreements are the primary tool for the implementation of the main goal of the Bonn Convention, but at the same time they are more specific than the Convention itself, involving exclusively the Range States of the species to be conserved, and they are easier to put into practice than the Bonn Convention.

1994 After the first Conference of the Parties of the Bonn Convention in 1988, where it was decided to prepare an Agreement for the Western Palearctic Anatidae, the Dutch Government began developing a draft Western Palearctic Waterfowl Agreement, as part of its Western Palearctic Flyway conservation programme. In 1991 a draft agreement, including an Action Plan for ducks, swans and geese and a general Management Plan for all waterfowl, was sent to the European Commission which offered to sponsor the Agreement. However, little progress could be made within the European Commission. Early in 1993, the Bonn Convention secretariat, in close co-operation with the Dutch Government, again took the initiative. The text of the Agreement and related documents was updated, the African component was given more weight and the name was changed into the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA).

The first consultative meeting of Range States of AEWA was held in Nairobi in June 1994. The meeting strongly supported the concluding of AEWA, and consensus could be achieved on almost all matters of substance.

In June 1995, the final negotiation meeting was held in The Hague. At this meeting sixty-four Range States and the European Union were represented. Several Inter Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations attended the negotiation meeting as observers. The Meeting adopted the Agreement by consensus and with appreciation accepted the offer of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to act as Depository and to provide for an Interim Secretariat for the first three years from the date on which the Agreement is opened for signature, and to host the first session of the Meeting of the Parties following entry into force of the Agreement.

The Dutch Government (the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, Department of Nature Management, Division of International Nature Management) per 1 January 1996 established the Interim Secretariat. A full-time secretary was appointed. On 15 August 1996, AEWA was opened for signature at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands at The Hague.

1.2. The Agreement

Aim of the Agreement

The African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement is the first regional Agreement of a vast area of 60 million square kilometres (see Fig 1). It covers the entire continent of Africa and Europe, as well as parts of Asia and a few Arctic islands of North-eastern Canada encompassing about 120 Range States (see Box 2).

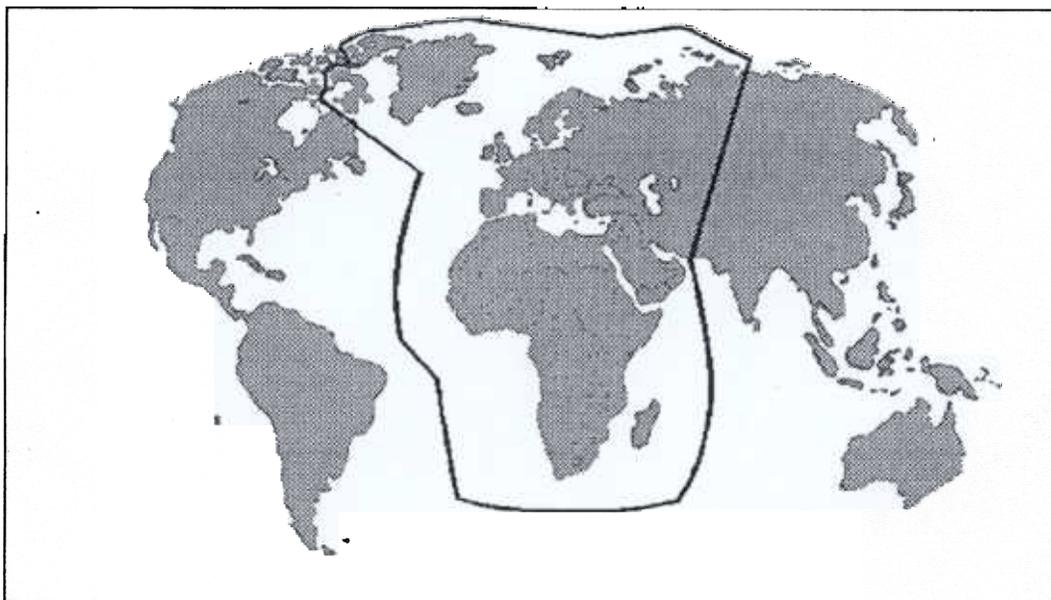


Fig 1: Map of the Agreement Area

1.2.3. Conservation Measures to be taken

Based on the Fundamental Principles, Parties shall take General Conservation Measures. These measures include:

- I. Parties shall take measures to conserve migratory waterbirds giving special attention to endangered species as well as to those with an unfavourable status;
- II. To this end, the Parties shall:
 - protect endangered migratory waterbird species in the Agreement Area by Strict Legal Protection;
 - ensure that any use of migratory waterbirds is based on sustainable use;
 - identify sites and habitats and encourage their protection, management, rehabilitation and restoration;
 - develop and maintain programmes to raise awareness and understanding of migratory waterbird conservation issues;
 - etc., etc.

1.2.4. Action Plan

The second Part of the Agreement is the Action Plan. This Action Plan specifies actions which Parties shall undertake in relation to priority species and issues, under the following headings, consistent with the general conservation measures:

- a) species conservation;
- b) habitat conservation;
- c) management of human activities;
- d) research and monitoring;
- e) education and information; and
- f) implementation.

ad (a). *Species conservation*

The first set of actions is aimed at the conservation of species. It provides for legislation and law enforcement measures to be undertaken by Parties, development of programmes for emergency situations, both natural and caused by human activities, and the development of International Species Conservation Plans for all threatened and vulnerable species of populations of waterbirds.

Gaviidae	Divers	Gruidae	Cranes
Podicipedidae	Grebes	Rallidae	Rails, Crakes, Gallinules and Coots
Pelecanidae	Pelicans	Dromadidae	Crab Plover
Phalacrocoracidae	Cormorants	Recurvirostridae	Stilts and Avocets
Ardeidae	Bitterns, Herons, Egrets	Glareolidae	Coursons and Pratincoilles
Ciconiidae	Storks	Charadriidae	Lapwings and Plovers
Threskiornithidae	Ibises and Spoonbills	Scotopaciidae	Curlews, Sandpipers and Snipes
Phoenicopteridae	Flamingos	Laridae	Gulls and Terns
Anatidae	Whistling Ducks, Swans, Geese and Ducks		

Box 3: List of Species covered by AEWA

the Republic of Tunisia

de la République tunisienne

the Republic of Uganda

de la République de l'Ouganda

Ukraine

Ukraine

the United Kingdom

du Royaume-Uni

the Republic of Uzbekistan

de la République d'Ouzbékistan

the Republic of Zambia

de la République de Zambie

the Republic of Zimbabwe

de la République du Zimbabwe

the Republic of Kenya

de la République du Kenya

the Republic of Latvia

de la République de Lettonie

ad (b). *Habitat conservation*

The second group of activities concerns the conservation of habitats and important sites. Parties shall endeavour to continue establishing protected areas and shall give special protection to wetlands of international importance. Furthermore they will endeavour to make wise and sustainable use of all wetlands, to avoid degradation or to restore or rehabilitate areas that are important to populations.

ad (c) *Management of human activities*

The third group of activities is the management of human activities. One of these activities is hunting. Parties shall co-operate to ensure that their hunting legislation is in accordance with the principle of sustainable use. In order to assess the annual harvest of populations, Parties shall co-operate with a view to developing a reliable and harmonised system for the collection of harvest data.

Eco-tourism is another kind of human activity that may affect waterbird populations. Therefore, Parties shall encourage eco-tourism where appropriate, but not in core areas or protected areas.

ad (d)/ *Research, monitoring, education, information and implementation*

(e) Besides the above-mentioned groups of activities, scientific research and monitoring are important. Scientific research and monitoring of the migratory waterbird population can reveal population trends, point out priorities for protection activities and discover the reasons for unfavourable developments.

(f) Education and information are also vital. Without this kind of activity, there will be no public awareness of the importance of the conservation of migratory birds. In the long run this will hamper acceptance of all the activities mentioned in the AEWA.

The Action Plan shall be reviewed at each ordinary Meeting of the Parties session. The first session shall take place not later than one year after the date of the entry into force of this Agreement. Probably this will be in 1999.

2. SECRETARIAT ANNUAL REPORT 1996

2.1 Establishment of the Interim Secretariat

Organisation of the Interim Secretariat

According to the Final Act of the Negotiation Meeting to adopt the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Water-birds, of June 1995 (see appendix 1), the Dutch Government offered, at its own expenses and for the first three years from the date on which the Agreement is opened for signature, to provide for an Interim Secretariat. This offer was accepted with appreciation by the Meeting of the Parties. This offer was effectuated as per 1 January 1996. The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, Department of Nature Management, Division of International Nature Management appointed Mr Bert Lenten as a full-time Secretary of the Interim Secretariat AEWA. He is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Interim Secretariat, promotion of AEWA, implementation of the Final Act and first Action Plan and the preparatory work towards the first Meeting of the Parties. Apart from the Secretary, also Mr Gerard Boere spent time on AEWA - he had an active part in the preparations and the negotiation process of AEWA. As a senior officer of the Division of International Nature Management, he represents the Netherlands in several international treaties, conventions, international fora and organisations and other flyway initiatives. In relation to the Interim Secretariat he has the role of supervisor.

In 1996, the Interim Secretariat received general administrative support from the Division of International Nature Management and the Ministry itself.

2.1.2. **Financial Arrangement**

Total costs of the establishment of the Interim Secretariat amounted to approximately US \$ 150,000 for 1996. Sixty per cent of the total went to personnel costs. The remaining 40 per cent was used for travel expenses, reporting costs and towards the funding of a number of small projects. The cost of premises, equipment, telephone, fax, postage, etc. are not included in the total costs; they were provided by the Dutch Government.

The Dutch Government also provided project support for AEWA activities as a whole (see the National Report of the Netherlands on the Bonn Convention).

Overview of the activities of the Interim Secretariat

The first three months the secretary used for a general introduction to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, by reading and researching the available information and paying visits to: the Dutch Society for the Protection of Birds, SOVON, the National Reference Centre for Nature Management of the Netherlands (IKC-N), Wetlands International and the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust. To meet the staff of the Bonn Secretariat and to inform himself of the CMS activities, etc. the Secretary visited the Bonn Secretariat from 4 to 7 March.

Administrative work

In 1996 the Interim Secretariat spent nearly 70 per cent of its time on administrative arrangements. The old archives were investigated and rearranged to create a suitable archive for the Interim Secretariat, ready for transfer to the formal Secretariat that is likely to be co-located at the UNEP/CMS Secretariat in Germany pending the Final Act (1995), to be decided upon by the First Meeting of the Parties.

Also, a database was set up with addresses relevant to AEWA. In particular, a database with addresses of national focal points for AEWA in all the 120 Range States (see annex 2) was compiled using information from the AEWA Final Act, files of the Bonn Convention, etc.

For the adoption of AEWA at the Negotiation Meeting (1995) the Agreement text was translated into French and English. During this meeting it was decided to translate the Agreement document also into Arabic and Russian. Translation of the Agreement into these languages seems to be harder than expected. Despite the help the Interim Secretariat received from our Russian counterparts and our focal point in Saudi Arabia, the whole process took almost a year. Partly, the problems were caused by the fact that the Russian computer systems seem to be incompatible with the system in the Netherlands. Finally, the problems could be solved and in the meantime some minor linguistic changes were made to the English and French versions.

2.2.2. Promotion of the Agreement

In order to acquaint the delegates with AEWA, the secretary, Mr Bert Lenten (BL) and Mr. Gerard C. Boere (GB) attended the following international meetings:

- From Research to Action Plans, organised by UNAVI, March 1996, Italy (BL)
- 6th Conference of the Parties of the Ramsar Convention, March 1996, Australia (GB)
- Meeting of the Nordic Hunters Association, April 1996, Denmark (GB)
- European Conference of Birdlife International, June 1996, Finland (GB and BL)
- Meeting of the Working Group for the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna, September 1996, Finland (GB)
- International Symposium on White Storks, September 1996, Germany (BL)
- Ninth Pan African Ornithological Congress, December 1996, Ghana (BL)

To promote the Agreement oral and/or poster presentations were held during all the above-mentioned meetings and hundreds of copies of the text of the Final Act and AEWA were distributed.

Newsletter

The first Newsletter was produced in August. This Newsletter was widely distributed and informed all the addressees about AEWA, activities of the Interim Secretariat, outlines of the work programme 1996-1997 and other AEWA-related matters. The Interim Secretariat had been the sole contributor to the first Newsletter. Although Newsletter No.1 was quite simple, we received a number of positive reactions. It was clear that this Newsletter put across to people that an Interim Secretariat was established and that activities on AEWA are under way.

2.2.4. Activities according to the Final Act 1995

As mentioned in the Final Act, the Meeting invited the Interim Secretariat to prepare, to the extent possible, proposals for submission to the Meeting of the Parties at its first session, concerning:

- a) amendment of the Action Plan with regard to species or families of species listed in Annex 2 to the Agreement;
- b) a review of the conservation status of populations covered by the Action Plan;
- c) criteria related to emergency situations;
- d) the Conservation Guidelines;
- e) a format for reports of the Parties;
- f) a budget, financial rules and any other matters relating to the financial arrangements for the Agreement;
- g) the establishment of a Technical Committee; and
- h) an Agreement logo.

The Interim Secretariat has to prepare the above-mentioned proposals within the three years interim period. Taking into account the time reasonably needed to prepare some of these proposals, the Interim Secretariat drew up a priority list.

- The first priority is to prepare proposals as meant under a, b, c and d. For the preparation of these proposals, the Interim Secretariat has the intention to contract Wetlands International. A draft project proposal was discussed with Wetlands International in August 1996. Due to the moving of the Wetlands International office from Cambridge (UK) to Wageningen (Netherlands), the start of this project was slightly delayed, but Wetlands International is expected to start with the preparations of these projects in the beginning of 1997.
- The second priority was to design a logo and standard design for AEWA documents. The interim Secretariat hired a graphic design company which came up with a logo in mid-1996. The core of this logo is formed by a wing and special typography. Together, the wing, the colours and the typography show that AEWA is involved with migratory water-birds and wetlands. The logo is used for letters, envelopes, and business cards. In the future the logo will also be used on flyers, reports, posters, newsletters, etc.
- The third priority was the preparation of proposals as meant under (e): a format for the reports, (f): a budget and financial rules for the Agreement and (g): the establishment of a Technical Committee. The preparation of these proposals will start in 1997 and will be undertaken by the Interim Secretariat.

2.2.5. Activities based on the Action Plan

Great Cormorant

In Annex 2 of AEWA only two species of Cormorants are mentioned, namely the Pygmy Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*) and the Socotra Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*). The Great Cormorant (*P. carbo*) is one of the species manifesting the success of nature conservation policy and management. Following protection of breeding sites, a shooting ban and a ban on a number of pesticides in the late 1960s and early 1970s, the population began to recover. Nowadays in some parts of the Flyway this species causes

damage to fisheries, mariculture and fish farms. This type of problems demands an international approach and although the Great Cormorant has a favourable conservation status, it was decided to draft such a Management Plan under the Bonn Convention. Denmark and the Netherlands took the lead in drafting an International Management Plan for this species. The Interim Secretariat participated in the workshop "Towards an International Conservation and Management Plan for the Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)" which was held in Lelystad, the Netherlands, from 3-4 October. During the 5th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1997) in Geneva, Switzerland, the outlines of this Management Plan will be discussed.

Dark-bellied Brent Goose

In 1994, during an international workshop on the dark-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*), a first step was made towards an International Management Plan. In conformity with the outcome of this workshop, the 7th Trilateral Governmental Wadden Sea Conference (1994) decided to invite the Secretariat of the Bonn Convention, in co-operation with the Russian Federation and within the framework of AEWA, to develop a conservation plan. The Netherlands offered to act as a lead country to assist the Bonn Convention Secretariat. In 1996 the Interim Secretariat participated in the preparatory meeting for the workshop that will take place in 1997.

The above-mentioned activities are still aimed at Europe. The idea is that activities will be initiated over the whole of the flyway.

2.2.6. Other activities

In 1996, the secretary did two training courses, namely in French and Word for Windows 6.

2.3. Overview of the Parties to AEWA

AEWA was opened for signature on 15 August 1996. Until 31 December, the following Range States signed without or with reservation in respect of ratification, acceptance or approval:

Range State:	Date of signature:	Date of ratification:
The Netherlands	15-08-1996	15-08-1996
Germany	15-08-1996	
Ireland	17-08-1996	
United Kingdom and Northern Ireland	27-09-1996	
Switzerland	15-10-1996	15-10-1996
Sudan	31-12-1996	

3. Outlines for Work programme 1997-1999

For the period 1997-1999 the work programme breaks down as follows:

3.1 Preparatory work for the first Meeting of the Parties (MoP)

→ *Preparation of Final Act Actions*

According to the Final Act, for the first Meeting of the Parties, which probably will take place at the end of 1999, the Interim Secretariat has to prepare for submission proposals concerning the following:

- a) an amendment to the Action Plan with regard to species or families of species listed in Annex 2 to the Agreement;
- b) a review of the conservation status of populations covered by the Action Plan;
- c) criteria related to emergency situations;
- d) Conservation Guidelines;
- e) a format for reports of the Parties;
- f) a budget, financial rules, and any other matters relating to the financial arrangements concerning the Agreement;
- g) the establishment of a Technical Committee.

Actions taken

For items a), b), c) and d) Wetlands International will be contracted in 1997 to prepare the necessary documents in 1997 and 1998. The Interim Secretariat itself will start in 1997 on the preparation of the proposals for e), f) and g).

Time schedule

The above-mentioned proposals have to be ready for submission at the first Meeting of the Parties late 1998/early 1999, but will circulate in advance among Range States for comments or further input. One opportunity for this is the AEWA Workshop at the triennial Wetlands International Meeting in Senegal, November 1998.

→ *Logistic Arrangements for the First MoP*

According to article VI of AEWA the Depository, in consultation with the Convention Secretariat, shall convene a session of the Meeting of the Parties not later than one year after the date of entry into force of AEWA. Based on the information the Interim Secretariat received from the national AEWA focal points, it is expected that AEWA will enter into force in the second part of 1998, when at least fourteen Range States or regional economic integration organizations (at least seven from Africa and seven from Eurasia) have signed and ratified AEWA.

The first Meeting of the Parties is scheduled for late 1999. This is the same period in which the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of CMS is proposed to take place. Recently the two Secretariats have been discussing the possibility of combining the two meetings, because about 80 per cent of the participants is expected to attend both. During

the 5th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (1997) a venue for the combined meeting in 1999 will be chosen.

Actions taken

In close co-operation with the Depository and the Convention Secretariat the Interim Secretariat shall convene the first Meeting of the Parties and, together with the host country, take care of the logistic arrangements. Preparations will start at the end of 1997.

Time schedule

Preparations will start at the end of 1997 and will continue until the first MoP at the end of 1999.

3.2. Promoting activities/materials

→ ***Promoting Activities***

Promoting AEWA is an ongoing process. The Interim Secretariat will participate in several meetings and conferences. During these meetings it will give oral or poster presentations.

The Interim Secretariat will also initiate meetings and workshops to discuss AEWA, e.g. a mini symposium in the Russian Federation. This symposium is meant to inform the decision-makers in the Russian Federation about the consequences of signing the agreement. So far the Russian Federation is reluctant to become a party to AEWA.

Action taken

As mentioned above the promoting of AEWA is an ongoing process and the Interim Secretariat will take actions to use the possibilities of conferences and meetings to highlight AEWA.

For the preparations for the mini symposium on AEWA in the Russian Federation Wetlands International, including some Russian counterparts, will be contracted to prepare a study on the consequences for Russia if it signs AEWA.

Time schedule

The promoting activities will continue. For the preparatory work of the mini symposium the study will start in 1997 and be finalized in the second part of 1997.

→ ***Materials used to promote of AEWA***

Besides oral or poster presentations the Interim Secretariat will prepare:

- a Newsletter
- a Web site on the Internet
- a communications poster
- a flyer
- articles on AEWA.

Actions taken

- The Interim Secretariat has the intention to publish a Newsletter twice a year. The Newsletter is meant to inform the Range States about the latest news on AEWA and

- about the ongoing activities of the Range States as regards implementation as well as to record the activities of the Interim Secretariat.
- The Interim Secretariat will investigate the possibilities of opening a World Wide Web site on the Internet. The idea is to combine information on AEWA with pictures of species mentioned in Annex 2 and maps of important breeding, staging and wintering sites. Because not everybody has access to the Internet, this information should be available on CD-ROM as well.
 - Furthermore the Interim Secretariat will prepare a flyer, a communications poster and an article on AEWA.

Time schedule

The Newsletter will be published twice a year; Newsletter Issue No 2 will be available in April 1997.

The possibilities to open a Web site were recently discussed with the World Conservation and Monitoring Centre (WCMC) at Cambridge. The outcome of this discussion is very promising. It is expected that after some preparatory work by the Interim Secretariat this project will start in 1998 and that the Web site/CD-ROM will be available from 1999 onwards.

In the second half of 1997 the Interim Secretariat will start on the preparations for the flyer, poster and article. At the end of 1997 a short article on AEWA and a draft of the flyer and posters will be available.

Activities based on the Action Plan

The Action Plan describes what kind of actions Parties shall take regarding the populations listed in Table 1 in the Action Plan.

Actions taken

The Interim Secretariat will contact the Range States as from 1997 to discuss the possibilities to take some initiatives according to the Action Plan.

Time Schedule

These activities shall be reported on the first MoP in 1999.

Co-operation between related Secretariats

As mentioned in the Final Act, the Meeting of the Parties welcomed the intention of the UNEP/CMS Secretariat and the Ramsar Bureau to create a formal basis for their future co-operation. The meeting also encouraged co-operation with the Bern Convention. Not only adequate co-operation between related Secretariats but also with Inter-Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations is important to AEWA.

Actions taken

Recently the UNEP/ CMS Secretariat and the Ramsar Bureau signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) This MOU is a first step towards the future co-operation between the two Secretariats, including the Agreement Secretariat set up under the Bonn Convention. Next the Interim Secretariat will implement a schedule to establish closer contacts with related Convention/Agreement Secretariats such as the Ramsar Bureau, Bern Convention,

CAFF Secretariat, Helium Secretariat, and the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat to look for possibilities for future co-operation, concerted actions, exchange of information with the help of a Newsletter etcetera.

The Interim Secretariat will also contact Inter-Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations to discuss possibilities of future co-operation as mentioned above.

Time schedule

In 1997 the Interim Secretariat will implement a schedule to establish the closer contacts as mentioned above. A report of these activities will be available on the MoP 1999.

APPENDIX 1:

**FINAL ACT OF THE NEGOTIATION MEETING
TO ADOPT THE
AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF
AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS**

Final Act
of the Negotiation Meeting
to adopt the
Agreement on the Conservation of
African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds

The representatives of Range State Governments and one regional economic integration organization met in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at The Hague, the Netherlands, from 12 to 16 June 1995 for the purpose of negotiating and adopting an Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, an AGREEMENT pursuant to Article IV, paragraph 3, of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

The Meeting was convened by the UNEP/CMS Secretariat, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the Convention, in collaboration with the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The following sixty-four Range States and one regional economic integration organization were represented:

Angola, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, European Community, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Ireland, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Luxembourg, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malawi, Mauritania, Republic of Moldova, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

The Governments of India and Pakistan attended the Meeting as observers.

Representatives of the following United Nations bodies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended the Meeting as observers:

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention), Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention), Program for the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), BirdLife International, Conseil International de la Chasse et de la Conservation du Gibier (CIC), European Nature Heritage Fund (EURONATUR), Fédération des Associations de Chasseurs de l'Union Européenne (FACE), Fondation Tour du Valat, International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau (IWRB), International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.

The Meeting elected as Chairman Mr. Jean Renault (Belgium), and Mr. Jean Ngog Nje (Cameroon) and Mr. Yaroslav Movchan (Ukraine) as Vice-Chairmen. The Secretary-General of the Meeting was Mr. Arnulf Müller-Helmbrecht (UNEP/CMS Secretariat).

The Meeting adopted, *mutatis mutandis*, the Rules of Procedure of the fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (Nairobi, 1994).

The Meeting established the following Committees and Working Groups:

Credentials Committee: Guinea, Netherlands, Poland, Republic of Moldova, South Africa

Chairman: Mr. Ferdinand von der Assen, Netherlands

Working Group to discuss the Action Plan

Chairman: Mr. Jean Ngog Nje, Cameroon

Drafting Group on the Agreement

Chairman: Mr. Douglas Hykle, UNEP/CMS Secretariat

The Meeting adopted by consensus the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds in the English and French languages, appended as Annex I to this Final Act. The Meeting accepted with appreciation the offer of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to act as Depositary and to provide, at its own expense for the first three years from the date on which the Agreement is opened for signature, an interim Agreement secretariat, and to host the first session of the Meeting of the Parties following entry into force of the Agreement.

The Meeting took note of the provisions of Resolution 4.4, adopted by the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (Nairobi, 1994) which, *inter alia*, resolves that Parties to certain Agreements concluded under the Convention should be invited to consolidate secretariat functions in a unit co-located with the Secretariat of the Convention, and that secretariats for individual Agreements should be financed entirely by their Parties.

The Meeting:

invited the interim Agreement secretariat to prepare, to the extent possible, for submission to the Meeting of the Parties at its first session proposals concerning:

- (a) amendment of the Action Plan with regard to species or families of species listed in Annex 2 to the Agreement;
- (b) a review of the conservation status of populations covered by the Action Plan;
- (c) criteria related to emergency situations;
- (d) the Conservation Guidelines;
- (e) a format for reports of the Parties;
- (f) a budget, financial rules, and any other matters relating to the financial arrangements for the Agreement;
- (g) the establishment of the Technical Committee; and
- (h) a logo for the Agreement;

invited the Meeting of the Parties to consider at its first session the possibility of accepting from a given Party contributions in kind in lieu of contributions in cash to the budget of the Agreement, with the understanding that such contributions in kind from a given Party should be permitted only in exceptional circumstances and that the nature of the contribution must correspond to the needs and objectives of the Agreement;

welcomed the intention of the UNEP/CMS Secretariat and the Ramsar Bureau to create a formal basis for their future co-operation and concerted actions, for the purpose of facilitating implementation of the Agreement, and recommended that the organs of the Agreement, once established, be included in these arrangements;

encouraged co-operation with the Bern Convention, which also deals with migratory species;

recalled the possibility of exceptions to the prohibition of taking, stipulated in Article III, paragraph 5, of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, as they may relate to the protection measures provided for in paragraph 2.1.1 of the Action Plan; and

agreed to interpret the term "eco-tourism", within the context of this Agreement, as "sustainable and environment-friendly tourism".

The Meeting took note of declarations made by the delegations of Belgium, Denmark, France, Switzerland and Zimbabwe, and a joint declaration made by Ethiopia, Namibia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, the texts of which are appended as Annex II to this Final Act

The Meeting expressed a vote of thanks to the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for hosting the Meeting, and to those Governments, organizations and companies which contributed financially to the Meeting.

The Agreement will be open for signature at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands from 16 October 1995.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Representatives have signed this Final Act

Done at The Hague, on the sixteenth day of June in the year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-five.

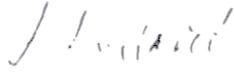
In the name of the delegations of:

the Republic of Chad



de la République du Tchad

the Republic of Croatia



de la République de Croatie

the Czech Republic



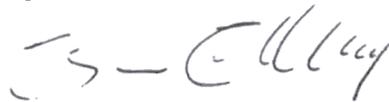
de la République tchèque

the Kingdom of Denmark



du Royaume du Danemark

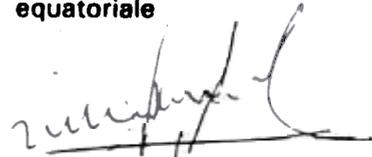
the Arab Republic of Egypt



de la République arabe d'Égypte

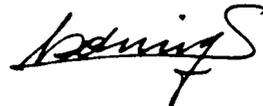
the Republic of Equatorial
Guinea

de la République de Guinée
équatoriale



Ethiopia

d'Éthiopie

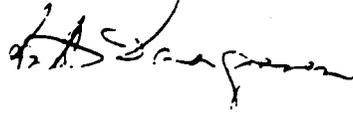


European Community

de la Communauté européenne



the Republic of Finland



de la République de Finlande

the French Republic



the Republic of Gabon

de la République française



de la République gabonaise

the Republic of Georgia



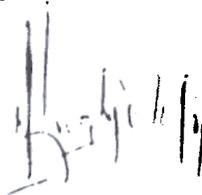
de la République de Géorgie

the Federal Republic of
Germany



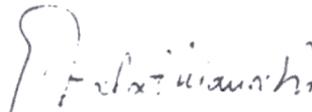
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d'Allemagne

the Republic of Ghana



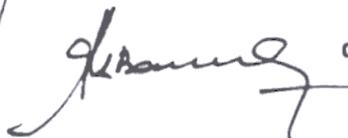
de la République du Ghana

the Republic of Greece



de la République hellénique

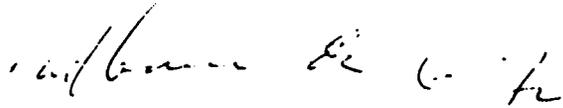
the Republic of Guinea



de la République de Guinée

the Republic of Guinea-Bissau

de la République de Guinée-Bissao



the Republic of Hungary

de la République de Hongrie

the Islamic Republic of Iran

de la République islamique d'Iran



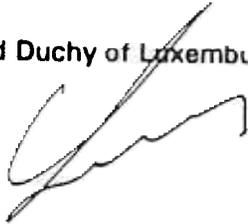
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du Royaume hachémite de
Jordanie



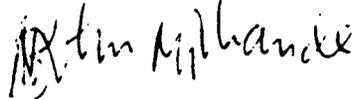
the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg

du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg



the Republic of Malawi

de la République du Malawi



the Islamic Republic of
Mauritania

de la République islamique de
Mauritanie



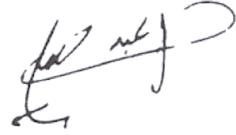
the Republic of Moldova

de la République de Moldova



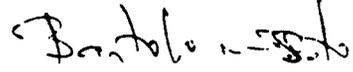
the Kingdom of Morocco

du Royaume du Maroc



the Republic of Mozambique

de la République du Mozambique



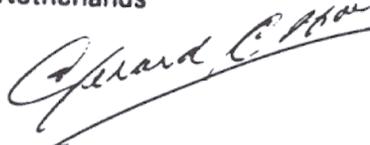
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de la République de Namibie



the Kingdom of the Netherlands

du Royaume des Pays-Bas



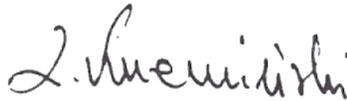
the Kingdom of Norway

du Royaume de Norvège



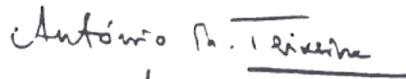
the Republic of Poland

de la République de Pologne



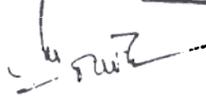
the Portugese Republic

de la République portugaise



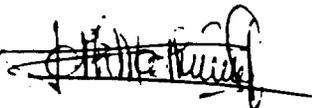
Romania

de la Roumanie

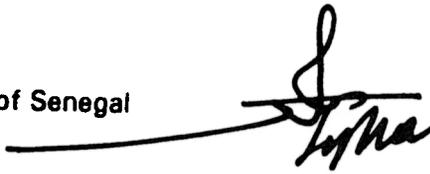


the Republic of Rwanda

de la République rwandaise



the Republic of Senegal



de la République du Sénégal

the Republic of South Africa

de la République d'Afrique du Sud

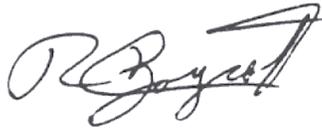
the Republic of Sudan



de la République du Soudan

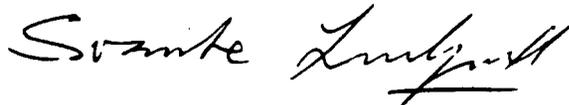
the Kingdom of Swaziland

du Royaume du Swaziland



the Kingdom of Sweden

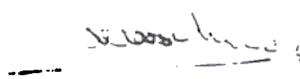
du Royaume de Suède



the Swiss Confederation

de la Confédération suisse

the United Republic of Tanzania



de la République unie de Tanzanie

the Republic of Togo



de la République togolaise

APPENDIX 2:

AEWA

LIST OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS

LISTE DES CORRESPONDANTS NATIONAUX

MARCH 1997