



SECOND SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT ON THE
CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS (AEWA)
GERMANY, 25-27 SEPTEMBER 2002

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

1. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Article VI paragraph 7 c of the Agreement the Meeting of the Parties established at its first session (MOP1), which took place in South Africa in 1999, the Technical Committee (TC) by Resolution 1.9. The role and function of this Committee is laid down in Article VII paragraph 3, 4 and 5.

According to Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the TC, the TC shall elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson from the regional representatives of the Parties. After establishment of the TC by MOP1 the Secretariat convened a meeting with those members present at MOP1 to elect a provisional Chairperson. The latter would be involved in the recruitment of the Executive Secretary. The TC members present elected Mr Yousoof Mungroo (Mauritius) as provisional Chairperson until the first meeting of the Technical Committee. Being the alternate for Southern Africa, Mr Mungroo could not continue as Chairman therefore in order to replace him the TC elected during their first meeting Dr Barry Taylor (South Africa). For personal reasons Dr Barry Taylor decided to step down as Chairman and member of the TC by the end of 2001. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure Mr Mungroo automatically replaced Mr Taylor as member. At their third meeting the TC elected Mr Mungroo as Chairman.

Since MOP1 the Technical Committee has met three times. The minutes of these meetings are available at the Agreement website: <http://www.unep-wcmc.org/AEWA/eng/info.htm>. This report will focus on the activities of the TC and/ or its Chairman and on the main points discussed during the TC meetings.

2. Overview of activities and meetings of the Technical Committee

2.1. Activities of the Chairman

As said before the Chairman has been involved in the recruitment of the Executive Secretary. As member of the interview panel he reviewed the short listed candidates for the post and participated at the interview. The Chairman is also involved in the AEWA budget revisions, which are prepared by the Secretariat and need to be approved by the Chairman before they can be submitted to UNON. Furthermore the Chairman has been consulted by the Agreement Secretariat to seek advice regarding some specific problems.

2.2. Meetings of the Technical Committee

2.2.1 General

At each meeting the Technical Committee was informed on:

- progress made in recruitment of new Parties;
- activities of the Secretariat;
- administrative and financial matters;
- implementation of the Agreement;
- development of the African-Eurasian Flyway GEF project.

Furthermore, at each meeting the Technical Committee reviewed the Register on International Projects and the International Implementation Priorities 2000-2004.

2.2.2. First Meeting of the Technical Committee

On the generous offer of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany the first meeting of the TC took place from 23-24 October in Bonn. During this meeting the official election of officers took place as indicated above. Due to the fact that the member representing North & South Western Europe had to stand down and his alternate indicated that he could not replace him, the meeting decided to request Mr Olivier Biber to represent this region as an observer/ quasi representative. For Southwest Asia the position of alternate was vacant and therefore it was decided to request Mr Saulet Sakenov (Kazakhstan) to take up this post.

During this meeting the following issues were reviewed:

- The regions used for the Technical Committee.
Some minor changes were proposed.
- The format for national reports.
It was agreed to make the 'target' section optional.
- Implementation of the International Implementation Priorities 2000-2004 (IIP 2000-2004)
The meeting agreed to re-allocate the unspent sum of the budget for 2000 being US \$ 68,000 for implementation of the IIP 2000-2004 in 2001. The meeting tried to set priorities in IIP 2000-2004.
- Amendment to the Action Plan
*Mr Herby Kalchreuter (CIC), being the Chairman of the Woodcock and Snipe Specialist Group offered to collect data on the Jack Snipe, which was accepted by the TC. The Meeting agreed that Wetlands International would review the conservation status of the *Oxyura maccoa*, *Sarothrura ayresi*, *Crex crex*, *Glareola ocularis*, *Glareola nuchalis* and *Rhynchops flavirostris*.*
- The Conservation Guidelines
The meeting decided to draft a new guideline on international emergency situation.
- Phasing out lead shot in Wetlands
It was decided to organise a workshop in Eastern Europe for policy officers and representatives of national hunters organisations to promote the use of non-toxic shot.
- Establishment of the Dark-bellied Brent Goose Working group
As foreseen in the draft Action Plan for the Dark-bellied Brent Goose the TC decided to establish a working group under the auspices of the TC and appointed Mr Jesper Madsenm being a member of the TC, as Chairman of this working group.

2.2.3. Second Meeting of the Technical Committee

The Secretariat received an offer from the Government of Egypt to hold its second meeting in Zaranik. Unfortunately after the events in the United States on 11 September 2001 there were some concerns regarding holding an international meeting in this area. Therefore, in close cooperation with the Egyptian counterparts, it was decided to stop the preparations for the meeting in Zaranik and to seek for another venue. On short notice the Biological Station "Tour-du-Valat" in France offered to host the TC meeting. This offer was accepted with appreciation.

The main issues discussed were:

- Adoption of the Rules of Procedure
The TC noticed that the Rules of Procedure did not cover problems regarding stepping down of a member and an alternate at the same time. The Secretariat was requested to amend the Rules in accordance with the outcome of the discussion. Another point raised was the concern of the Secretariat regarding growing number of observers from Contracting Parties and the impact this might have on the workload of the Secretariat. In general the TC was in favour to keep meetings of the TC as small as possible. It was decided to draft a Resolution on the TC to be considered at MOP addressing all points discussed.
- The development of a format for Species Action Plan
At TC1 meeting a working group was established to develop a format for species action plans. However, the TC noted that much more work had to be done on this and the Secretariat decided to take the lead.
- Activities regarding non-toxic shot
The representative of FACE reported back to the TC on the workshop on non-toxic shot, organised by FACE and UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, which was held in October 2001 in Romania. Furthermore Wetlands International presented the Update Report 2000: Lead poisoning in Waterbirds.
- Guidelines for the acceptance of contributions in cash and contributions in kind
A first discussion took place during this TC meeting on these guidelines. It was agreed that they should be elaborated more before a proper discussion could take place at the TC.
- Developments on the Global Register of Migratory Species (GROMS)
Mr Klaus Riede, project leader of GROMS, gave a presentation. Afterwards it was decided to establish a working group, which would intersessionally prepare a paper on the added value of GROMS for AEWA.
- Draft proposal regarding Budget 2003-2005
Before discussion the draft budget proposal the question was raised if the TC would be the appropriate subsidiary body of the Agreement to discuss financial and administrative issues. It was felt that dealing with these issues goes beyond the expertise of the TC members. Taking into account that at that moment no other subsidiary body existed, the meeting agreed to proceed. After the budget proposal was introduced by the Secretariat the meeting gave its approval. There was as well as a general consent to set the minimum contribution at 100 USD.
- Development of an Action Plan for the Central Asian-Indian Flyway (CAIF)
The TC was informed about the development of an Action Plan for the CAIF. It was noted that there is quite some overlap geographically and regarding species between CAIF and AEWA. The option to extend the Agreement area and to include the CAIF was discussed. The TC members had different views on this but it was agreed that AEWA should remain involved in the development of CAIF.

2.2.4 Third Meeting of the Technical Committee

The Government of the Tanzania offered to host the third Meeting of the TC. This meeting took place from 27-28 May 2002 in Arusha, Tanzania.

Being the last meeting before the MOP2 most of the time was spent on discussion of draft documents and resolutions to be submitted to the MOP.

Main issues discussed were:

- **Rules of Procedure**
Based on discussions in previous TC meetings the Secretariat amended the Rules of Procedure. During this meeting the Rules of Procedure were thoroughly revised and later on approved by the TC.
- **Report of the Chairman**
Taking into account that the previous Chairman stepped down, the Secretariat offered to write the report of the TC for MOP2.
- **Dark-bellied Brent Goose Working group**
On behalf of the D-b Brent Goose working group the Secretariat reported that the Chairman Mr Jesper Madsen had stepped down. The meeting took note on the progress made so far regarding finalising the draft Action Plan and developing a special poster on the species.
- **GEF project**
The representative of Wetlands International gave an update on the GEF project. One of the discussion points he raised was the establishment of regional offices for implementation of the GEF project and their life beyond the project, as regional offices for AEWA caused a lively discussion. The general feeling was that it is too early to decide if regional offices would be necessary for AEWA in the future. It was agreed to submit the full size project to the MOP2.
- **Draft Meeting Documents and Resolutions**
As follow up on discussions at previous meetings of the TC, the following documents were discussed again and revised:
 - *Background document and Resolution on phasing out lead shot;*
 - *Guidelines on acceptance of contributions in cash and contributions in kind;*
 - *Small Grants Fund;*
 - *Amendments to the Action Plan;*
 - *Conservation Guidelines;*
 - *Technical Committee;*
 - *Establishment of a Standing Committee;*
 - *Draft Budget proposal for 2003-2005;*
 - *Action Plan for Central-Asian Indian Flyway.*
- **Global Register on Migratory Species (GROMS)**
The intersessional working group reported back to the TC that on their view the added value of the current GROMS for AEWA is limited. So far no concrete proposal has been received from the UNEP/ CMS Secretariat that makes clear how the database will be maintained in future. Therefore the TC decided to postpone further discussion on GROMS to the next TC meeting in 2003.

3. Conclusion

Since the establishment of the TC by MOPI the TC has met three times. The working atmosphere in the TC is excellent and discussions were carried out in a friendly and open manner. Also the contact with the Secretariat is perfect and all members received regularly some information regarding ongoing activities of the Secretariat and/ or projects of the International Implementation Priorities 2000-2004. Unfortunately it was noted that the information flow between the regional representatives and their regions needs improvement. In the coming year the TC in close cooperation with the Secretariat will try to tackle this problem.

During the last three years much time has been spent on administrative and financial matters. The TC hopes that if the Meeting of the Parties at its second session adopts the establishment of a Standing Committee more time will be left for dealing with technical and scientific issues. Being aware that some issues have a technical as well as a policy component a close cooperation between the future Standing Committee and the Technical Committee is needed.

Looking back over the triennium, the general feeling is that our Committee could contribute in a positive way in the further development and implementation of the Agreement.