



MOP 5

Proceedings of
the Fifth Session
of the Meeting
of the Parties

La Rochelle, France
14 - 18 May 2012

UNEP / AEWA Secretariat

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

LA ROCHELLE, FRANCE, 14 - 18 MAY 2012



These proceedings were printed with
support from the Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature
Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

Published by
The Secretariat of the Agreement on the
Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds
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FOREWORD

In accordance with Article VI of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, the Agreement Secretariat shall convene ordinary sessions of the Meeting of the Parties, the decision-making organ of the Agreement. The Fifth Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP5) took place from 14-18 May 2012 in La Rochelle, France, at the kind invitation of the Government of France.

“Migratory waterbirds and people – sharing wetlands” was the theme of MOP5, which highlighted the close link between the long-term conservation of waterbirds and their wetland habitats and human development in its various aspects (social, cultural, economic).

The Proceedings of MOP5 include, inter alia, the Report of the Session, the Resolutions adopted by the Meeting of the Parties, statements made during the opening ceremony, statements submitted by Contracting Parties and Non-Party Range States, as well as statements made by the winners of the AEWA Waterbird Conservation Award.

Marco Barbieri
Acting Executive Secretary
UNEP/AEWA Secretariat
Bonn, Germany

PART I

REPORT OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE
MEETING OF THE PARTIES (MOP5)

**REPORT OF THE 5th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES (MOP5)
TO THE AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRD AGREEMENT (AEWA),
14 – 18 MAY 2012, LA ROCHELLE, FRANCE**

Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting

1. The **Master of Ceremonies** introduced welcoming statements by the Deputy Mayor of La Rochelle, the Prefect of Charente-Maritime, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Acting Executive Secretary of AEWA and the French Ambassador for the Environment.
2. The **Deputy Mayor of La Rochelle** (Ms Sabrina Laconi), speaking on behalf of the Mayor, Mr Maxime Bono, welcomed participants to the small Atlantic seaboard town of 80,000 citizens. La Rochelle aimed to be an innovator in the fields of environment and nature protection and the conservation of flora and fauna was high on the local agenda.
3. The **Prefect of the department of Charente-Maritime** (Ms Béatrice Abollivier) highlighted the strategic position of Charente-Maritime on the East Atlantic Flyway, observing that coastal marshes made up one-fifth of the Department's territory. She recalled that the headquarters of the French League for the Protection of Birds (LPO) and the Conservatoire du Littoral (French coastal protection agency) were located in Charente-Maritime and underlined the close cooperation with the Departmental Hunting Federation. Given the Department's increasing human population in coastal areas of high conservation value for waterbirds, the theme of MOP5 was of particular relevance.
4. Addressing the meeting via a pre-recorded video message, the **Executive Director of UNEP** (Mr Achim Steiner), expressed his thanks to the French authorities for hosting MOP5. He recalled the long-standing cooperation between UNEP and AEWA and noted that AEWA had been the first Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) to use the new online reporting format developed in collaboration with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP/WCMC). He stressed the importance, just a few weeks ahead of the Rio+20 Summit, of making the linkages between the conservation of migratory species and sustainable development as clear as possible. In particular, it was important to show the role that multilateral instruments such as AEWA could play in a global environmental governance and cooperation framework. The focus on Africa at MOP5 would serve to underline the linkages between the benefits of biodiversity conservation, species conservation and human wellbeing – a narrative that formed a bridge to Rio+20.
5. The **Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)** (Ms Elizabeth Maruma Mrema), thanked the authorities and people of France for hosting the MOP. She noted that AEWA was an instrument that continued to serve as the main example for international flyway conservation.

The Agreement had come a long way, though the need to protect migratory waterbirds was as pressing as ever, resulting in a packed agenda for the MOP. Among key items would be the Online Reporting System, new Conservation Guidelines and Species Action Plans, reports on issues affecting migratory waterbird species and progressing waterbird conservation along the Central Asian Flyway. **Ms Mrema** particularly highlighted the work undertaken by the African Group of countries during the two days preceding the MOP to finalize a draft Action Plan for the implementation of AEWA in Africa through the Agreement's 'African Initiative' (AI). Thanks were due to the Governments of France, Germany and Switzerland, as well as to the European Union, for their invaluable support for the AI.

6. A second key area for attention was the need to strengthen the knowledge-based approach of AEWA by supporting the International Waterbird Census (IWC). A robust, internationally coordinated scheme with predictable long-term funding was needed; hopefully the Parties would reach a consensus on this.

7. **Ms Mrema** highlighted examples of synergies between AEWA and CMS and updated the MOP on the recruitment of a new Executive Secretary for AEWA. She stressed her commitment to ensuring a thorough and transparent process for recruitment of the new AEWA Executive Secretary and expressed her regret over delays to date, which had been linked to the reclassification of the position at a higher grade within the UN system.

8. Finally, **Ms Mrema** reminded Parties that all new tasks given to the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat would need to be adequately resourced if they were to be implemented effectively.

9. Extending his welcome to all participants, the **Acting Executive Secretary of AEWA** (Mr Marco Barbieri), thanked the French hosts for their outstanding support for the organisation of the meeting, acknowledging in particular, the role of the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing, the Municipality of La Rochelle and the LPO. He also thanked the Government of Germany for making a substantial contribution to MOP5. He extended a special welcome to four new Contracting Parties: Chad, Ethiopia, Montenegro and Zimbabwe, as well as to two future Parties, Gabon and Mauritania, both of which had completed all necessary formalities and would become Parties in just a few weeks' time.

10. **Mr Barbieri** observed that MOP5 was taking place at a crucial time for the future of AEWA, including the first real change in management since the Agreement was founded. At a personal level, he warmly invited all those interested in the position of Executive Secretary to apply. MOP5 also offered a chance for reflection; there were now 66 Contracting Parties and the Agreement covered 255 waterbird species. AEWA had accumulated a wealth of knowledge and policy guidance over the years, including Single Species Action Plans (SSAPs), Conservation Guidelines and Conservation Status Reports. However, the decline of species populations was ongoing; of populations for which trends were known, 38% were declining. The focus therefore needed to shift more strongly to national implementation; the African Initiative was one response to this challenge. By working together over the last 17 years, AEWA stakeholders had stepped up the conservation of migratory waterbirds with very limited resources, but were now confronted by a growing workload at a time of economic difficulties and cuts to national budgets. The Secretariat continued to be ready and willing to support AEWA implementation within the boundaries of its mandate and resources.

11. MOP5 was formally opened by the **French Ambassador for the Environment** (Mr Jean-Pierre Thébault), who reflected on AEWA's role in contributing to fulfilling the ambitious 10-year Action Plan agreed upon by COP10 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Nagoya in 2011, including the Aichi Targets. He was delighted that the MOP was taking place in La Rochelle, which was an iconic location for migratory waterbird conservation. He underlined the importance attached by the Government of France to the work already undertaken on the AEWA African Initiative; it was scarcely possible to over-emphasize the importance of Africa for biodiversity conservation and the draft Plan of Action provided an opportunity to show solidarity with the African continent.

At Rio+20, Africa would gain even greater recognition of its role as a pillar of global biodiversity. In closing, the Ambassador paid tribute to NGOs, which had played a critical role in migratory waterbird conservation efforts to date.

Signing ceremony – Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptor MoU)

12. The **representative of the Interim Coordination Unit for the Raptor MoU** (Mr Nick Williams) invited **Ambassador Thébault** to sign the MoU on behalf of the Government of France. The signature was warmly welcomed by applause from participants.

13. **Mr Williams** invited the **Director General of the Division of Nature Protection and Landscape Development of the Slovak Ministry of Environment** (Mr Rastislav Rybanič) to sign the MoU on behalf of the Government of the Slovak Republic. The signature was warmly welcomed by applause from participants. **Mr Rybanič** thanked the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat for enabling the ceremony to take place and looked forward to the strengthening of conservation measures in his country for migratory species such as Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*.

Signing ceremony – revised Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between CMS and the Ramsar Convention

14. The revised MoC was signed by the **Deputy Executive Secretary of CMS** (Mr Bert Lenten) and the **Deputy Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention** (Mr Nick Davidson).

15. **Mr Davidson** noted that a natural next step would be the development of a joint work plan between Ramsar and AEWA. **Mr Lenten** concurred, recalling that the two instruments had already enjoyed long-term cooperation over several decades.

AEWA Waterbird Conservation Award Presentation Ceremony (Agenda item 8)

16. The **AEWA Technical Officer** (Mr Sergey Dereliev) reminded participants that the AEWA Waterbird Conservation Award had been established by the Standing Committee in 2005 to recognise individuals and organisations having made outstanding contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of migratory waterbirds in the African-Eurasian region. The 2012 Awards consisted of a painting by the noted Belgian artist Yves Fagniaert, complemented by a monetary sum of USD 5,000.

17. The 2012 Awards, presented by the **Chair of the Standing Committee** (Mr Øystein Størkersen, Norway), to applause from participants, were made to:

Individual category

18. The late **Dr Brooks Childress** in recognition of his outstanding research and conservation work for Rift Valley Lake waterbirds, especially Lesser Flamingos (*Phoeniconaias minor*) at Lake Bogoria and Lake Natron, including in his capacity as Chair of the IUCN/SSC/WI International Specialist Group on Flamingos.

19. **Mr Størkersen** asked participants to stand for a moment of remembrance and invited Brooks' wife, **Ms Sandra Childress**, to accept the Award. Thanking AEWA for the honour bestowed on her late husband, Mrs Childress said that Brooks had felt privileged to devote his later life to flamingo conservation, through which he had developed a deep appreciation for both the birds themselves and the people from all walks of life who contributed to their conservation. He would have been thrilled to receive the Award.

Institutional category

20. **International Wader Study Group (IWSG)** in recognition of IWSG's major contribution to the implementation of AEWA, including its development of a strategic approach to flyway conservation in the 1990s and its ongoing research, data synthesis and educational activities.

21. The Award was accepted on behalf of IWSG by **Mr Gregor Scheiffarth**, who recalled that the group had worked for more than 40 years to gather information on populations and movements in support of habitat conservation. Effective conservation could only be achieved through high quality information that was accessible to all stakeholders. The AEWA Award would encourage IWSG members to continue to work enthusiastically towards a common goal.

Keynote presentation

22. **Mr Bart Ebbinge**, Chair of the IUCN/SSC/WI Goose Specialist Group (GSG), made a keynote presentation entitled: '*How to manage increasing goose populations?*' He briefly introduced the GSG and the history of its meetings from Poland in 1995 to Russia in 2011. He then discussed aspects of goose migration, hunting, population dynamics, research methods and conflicts with agriculture, followed by case studies focusing on Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*, and Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*. He concluded that more flexible hunting regulations would be useful, but stressed that management should always be in an international context and that international agreement and monitoring of harvest rates would be required. Parties had not invested sufficiently in research on long-term population dynamics; this shortcoming needed to be corrected.

Commencement of MOP5 business agenda

23. The **Acting Executive Secretary of AEWA** (Mr Marco Barbieri) invited the **Chair of the AEWA Standing Committee** (Mr Øystein Størkersen, Norway) to assume the role of Chair in a temporary capacity, in line with the provisions of the Rules of Procedure, until the Chair of MOP5 was elected.

24. **Mr Størkersen** welcomed participants and thanked France as host country, as well as the Technical Committee and Secretariat for efficient preparation of the meeting. He recalled that the CMS COP10 had taken place in Norway in November 2011 and that several decisions of that meeting would be picked up during MOP5. Reflecting on the task ahead, he felt it was easy to get lost in bureaucracy and the meeting would certainly delve into important administrative matters. However, most participants wanted to see effective conservation on the ground. The African Initiative was possibly the most important item on the agenda. While a lot had been achieved in Europe, much was still lacking in Africa when it came to conservation and proper management of key sites. Other issues of particular interest included the Online Reporting System, the recruitment process for the AEWA Executive Secretary – which the AEWA Standing Committee was following closely – the Central Asian Flyway, the future of the IWC, and proposed revisions to AEWA Appendix III.

Agenda item 2. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

25. The **Acting Executive Secretary of AEWA** (Mr Marco Barbieri) referred to document AEWA/MOP 5.2 *Rules of Procedure* confirming that these were exactly the same Rules of Procedure as adopted at MOP4, with the exception of two amendments:

- Rule 40, paragraph 1: amendment so that this paragraph would be fully aligned with the provisions of Article VI paragraph 2 of the Agreement text. The amended version of Rule 40, paragraph 1 would read: *“The Parties shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters of substance by consensus. If all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted and no agreement reached, the decision shall, as a last resort, be taken by a two-thirds majority of the Parties present and voting, unless otherwise provided by the Agreement such as in the case of:*

the adoption of the budget for the next financial period and any changes to the scale of assessment, which require unanimity (article V);”

- Rule 40, paragraph 2: deletion of the sentence *“If on matters other than elections a vote is equally divided, a second vote shall be taken. If this vote is also equally divided, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.”*

26. The reasons for both amendments were set out in document AEWA/MOP 5.2.

27. In response to a question raised by the **representative of the European Union and its Members States**, **Mr Barbieri** confirmed that it had not been usual practice for AEWA to adopt amendments to the Rules of Procedure through MOP Resolutions, but rather for any such decision to be clearly recorded in the Report of the Meeting.

28. **Uganda**, seconded by **Senegal**, moved that the tabled amendments be adopted.

29. At the invitation of the **Chair of the Standing Committee**, the MOP adopted the amendments by consensus.

Agenda item 3. Election of Officers

30. The **Chair of the Standing Committee** recalled that, in accordance with Rule 21 of the Rules of Procedure, a Chair and one or more Vice-Chairs should be elected. It was established practice for a representative of the host country to Chair Meetings of the Parties, but this would require a formal proposal.

31. **Switzerland**, seconded by **Chad**, proposed that France should be elected as to Chair MOP5.

32. At the invitation of the **Chair of the Standing Committee**, France was elected by acclamation as Chair of MOP5.

33. **Benin**, on behalf of the **Africa Group** and supported by **Ghana, Madagascar, Mali, and Mauritania**, nominated **Kenya** as Vice-Chair of MOP5.

34. The **Chair of the Standing Committee** congratulated France and Kenya and invited **the representative of France** (Mr Paul Delduc) to the podium to assume his responsibilities.

35. **Mr Delduc** thanked Parties for having honoured France by electing it as Chair of MOP5, alongside the Vice-Chair, Kenya; France would do its utmost to ensure the success of the meeting.

Agenda item 4. Adoption of the Agenda and Work Programme

36. The **Chair** introduced documents AEWA/MOP 5.3 Rev.1 *Provisional Agenda* and AEWA/MOP 5.4 *Provisional Annotated Agenda* and invited comments. There being none, both the Agenda and Annotated Agenda were adopted by consensus.

37. In order to facilitate planning, the **Chair** invited any participant wishing to raise items under Any Other Business (Agenda item 33), to make that fact known as soon as possible, though it would naturally also be possible to raise such matters when Agenda item 33 was reached.

Agenda item 5. Establishment of Credentials Committee and Sessional Committees

38. The **Chair** invited nominations for membership of the Credentials Committee.

39. **The representative of the European Union and its Member States**, speaking on behalf of the **European and Central Asian regions**, nominated **Ukraine** and the **United Kingdom**.

40. **Benin**, on behalf of the **Africa Group**, nominated **Togo** and **Kenya**.

41. These nominations were endorsed by consensus and the Credentials Committee was duly constituted.

42. The **Chair** noted that it was proposed there should be two Sessional Working Groups; one dealing with Financial and Administrative matters, the other dealing with Scientific and Technical matters. He invited proposals for additional Working Groups as necessary; no such proposals were forthcoming.

43. **The representative of the European Union and its Members States** nominated **Norway** to Chair the Working Group on Financial and Administrative matters.

44. **Benin**, on behalf of the **Africa Group**, nominated **Algeria** as Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Financial and Administrative matters, with **Uganda** as Alternate Vice-Chair.

45. **Benin**, on behalf of the **Africa Group** nominated **South Africa** as Chair and **Senegal** (African focal point for Scientific and Technical matters) as Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Scientific and Technical matters.

46. The nominations were endorsed by acclamation and the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Working Groups duly elected.

Agenda item 6. Admission of Observers

47. The **Chair** introduced document AEWA/MOP 5.5 *Admission of Observers* and read out the list of Observers registered from non-Party Range States, intergovernmental organisations, international non-governmental organisations and national non-governmental organisations.

48. He invited the meeting to decide on the admission of the countries and organisations named.

49. The meeting decided by consensus to admit as Observers all those countries and organisations listed in document AEWA/MOP 5.5, subject to the inclusion of Saudi Arabia, which had been inadvertently excluded from the list of non-Party Range State Observers.

Agenda item 7. Opening Statements

50. The **Chair** noted that written opening statements from Contracting Parties, IGOs and NGOs would appear in the proceedings of the meeting. States that had become Contracting Parties since MOP4, or non-Party Range States, which were in the process of accession to AEWA, and that wished to take the floor, were invited to make brief oral statements.

51. Statements were made by the following States that had become Contracting Parties since MOP4:

- **Chad**
- **Ethiopia**
- **Zimbabwe**

52. **Gabon** and **Mauritania**, which had recently completed accession formalities also made short statements.

53. The following non-Party Range States expressed their intention of acceding to the Agreement as soon as possible and provided details of the current status of the legal and administrative processes required:

- **Côte d'Ivoire** – currently completing the final stages of accession;
- **Iceland** – the Icelandic Parliament had approved joining AEWA, the process should be complete by the end of 2012;
- **Poland** – the accession procedure had been initiated and should be completed in 2013;
- **Russian Federation** – following formation of the new Government of the Russian Federation, the necessary preliminary consultations, prior to initiating the process of joining AEWA, would be held.

54. **Benin, on behalf of the African Group**, and supported by **Togo** called on all participants to support the draft Plan of Action for Africa (PoAA).

55. The **Chair** was most encouraged to see that many new Parties had either joined the Agreement, or were in the process of joining, at a time when there were many other concerns in the world. This showed conviction that AEWA could make a difference.

Agenda item 8. AEWA Waterbird Conservation Award Presentation Ceremony

56. This Agenda item was incorporated into the Opening of MOP5 (see paragraphs 16–21).

Agenda item 9. Reports

a. Standing Committee

57. The **Chair of the Standing Committee** (Mr Øystein Størkersen, Norway) presented document AEWA/MOP 5.6 *Report of the Standing Committee*.

58. The **Chair of the MOP** congratulated the Chair and members of the Standing Committee (StC) for their work.

59. **Denmark**, speaking on behalf of **the European Union and its Member States**, congratulated the StC for its work during the triennium, including leadership of preparations for MOP5. Thanks were also due to Germany as the host of the Secretariat. A well-functioning StC was vital for an effective Agreement; it was a means for the Secretariat and Technical Committee (TC) to link to the Parties and to manage the Agreement's business between sessions of the MOP. The EU and its Member States would actively seek candidates for the new StC.

b. Technical Committee

60. The **Chair of the TC** (Ms Jelena Kralj) presented document AEWA/MOP 5.7 *Report of the Technical Committee*. MOP4 had given the TC a long list of tasks and the TC had subsequently developed a work plan for 2009-2012 and working groups had been established. The AEWA Technical Committee Workspace, launched in January 2009, had greatly facilitated operation of the working groups.

61. **Ms Kralj** briefly summarised progress on the issues and tasks dealt with by the TC and its working groups in the framework of the 2009-2012 work plan. All work had been completed with the exception of two topics: (a) guidance on hunting and 'look alike' species, and (b) the adequacy of site networks for the protection of migratory waterbirds in relation to climate change impacts. A number of tasks had resulted in the preparation of MOP5 documents and draft resolutions, which would be considered by the relevant MOP5 Working Group. Thanks were due to the Governments of Croatia and Kenya for hosting TC meetings as well as to all TC members and the Secretariat.

62. The **Chair** complimented the TC on the remarkable quality of its work.

63. **Denmark**, speaking on behalf of **the European Union and its Member States**, thanked the Chair and members of the TC for their work and expressed satisfaction that the TC had achieved most of the many tasks that MOP4 had set for it. AEWA would continue to need sound technical documentation and scientific guidance and the EU would continue to support the TC's work during the coming years.

64. The **AEWA Technical Officer** (Mr Sergey Dereliev) noted that that the **Chair of the TC** would be stepping down after MOP5. On behalf of the Secretariat, he thanked Ms Kralj for her work.

c. Depositary

65. **The Netherlands** introduced document AEWA/MOP 5.8 *Report of the Depositary*. There were currently 65 Parties, including Ethiopia, Chad and Montenegro, which had become Parties during the last triennium. None of these new Parties had entered reservations. On 1 June 2012 the Agreement would enter into force for Zimbabwe, making it the 66th Contracting Party. On the opening day of MOP5, participants had received encouraging news from Gabon and Mauritania concerning their imminent adhesion, as well as updates from Côte d'Ivoire, Iceland, Poland, and the Russian Federation with regard to the status of their national preparations. Ratifications were still pending for Greece and Morocco.

d. Secretariat

66. The **Acting Executive Secretary of AEWA** (Mr Marco Barbieri) made a presentation introducing document AEWA/MOP 5.9 *Report of the Secretariat*, summarising activities under the following headings:

- General management;
- Recruitment of new Parties;
- Promotional workshops and meetings;
- Strategic Cooperation with other organisations;

- Information management;
- Websites;
- Print publications;
- Electronic publications;
- Other activities (including *inter alia* World Migratory Bird Day, the Online Reporting System);
- Implementation and compliance (including, *inter alia*, International Implementation Tasks, Wings Over Wetlands, WetCap, Single Species Action Plans, Implementation Review Process); and
- Policy-related developments (including the Central Asian Flyway and the CMS Future Shape process).

67. The **AEWA Information Officer** (Mr Florian Keil) made a presentation introducing document AEWA/MOP 5.10 *AEWA Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Overview*.

68. The **Chair** invited comments on the two presentations made by the Secretariat.

69. In reply to a question from **Egypt**, **Mr Barbieri** reported that it had unfortunately not been possible for the donor concerned to extend its funding for the project on Strengthening waterbird and wetland conservation capacities in North Africa (WetCap), so that project was now closed.

70. **Denmark**, speaking on behalf of **the European Union and its Member States**, considered that the Secretariat had achieved impressive results and thanked the staff for their professional and personal commitment and for the valuable networking carried out. The European Union and its Member States also appreciated the support provided to the Secretariat by a small group of donor countries. The European Union would actively participate in the MOP5 discussions on budget, keeping in mind the need for an effective Secretariat.

71. **Madagascar** was grateful for funding that had been provided to support the implementation of species action plans and noted that a National Action Plan for the Madagascar Pond Heron *Ardeola idae* had been developed to complement the Single Species Action Plan for this species.

72. **Senegal** called for the website portal for Africa to be accessible in French as well as in English. The WOW project had enabled designation of a transboundary protected area by Senegal and Gambia, but support was now needed for implementation of site management.

Agenda item 10. Outcomes of the CMS COP10 and Other Developments of Relevance to AEWA

73. The **Acting Executive Secretary of CMS** (Ms Elizabeth Maruma Mrema) commented on the fact that there were more and more focal points with responsibility for both CMS and AEWA. This showed increasing synergies at national level and meant that many MOP5 participants had also attended CMS COP10 in Norway in November 2011.

74. She highlighted examples of COP10 decisions that were especially relevant for MOP5, many of which were already the subject of active follow-up, including those dealing with:

- Conservation of migratory African-Eurasian landbirds;
- Flyways;
- Migratory birds and power grids;
- Minimising the risk of poisoning of migratory birds;
- Invasive alien species;
- Climate change; and
- The CMS Future Shape process.

75. With regard to CMS - AEWA synergies, **Ms Mrema** noted that in close cooperation with AEWA, the CMS Secretariat had begun organising a meeting of Central-Asian Flyway (CAF) Range States, to be held back-to-back with the Raptors MoU meeting in December 2012. The possible extension of the AEWA Agreement area to include CAF would be among issues for consideration. Other areas of cooperation included the new CMS Family website, and the annual World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD). With regard to the latter, CMS had taken on additional responsibilities for WMBD in 2012, to allow AEWA to focus on preparations for MOP5.

76. The **Chair** invited comments on Ms Mrema's presentation.

77. **Germany**, speaking on behalf of **the European Union and its Member States** expressed appreciation of the strong cooperation between CMS and AEWA, especially with regard to the Future Shape process and development of the CMS Strategic Plan. It would be helpful if AEWA's ongoing involvement in this work could be made explicit by means of a mandate to the Standing Committee to work on follow-up of the Future Shape process and to enhance synergies. The European Union and its Member States would present a proposal for such a mandate under Agenda item 26, dealing with Draft Resolution 5.17.

78. At the invitation of the **Chair**, the meeting indicated its consent for such a proposal to be made.

Agenda item 11. Implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan

79. The **AEWA Technical Officer** (Mr Sergey Dereliev) made a presentation introducing document AEWA/MOP 5.11 *Progress of Implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009 2017*. He recalled that the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009–2017 had been approved by MOP4 in 2008 and that the Standing Committee (StC) had been tasked to monitor implementation and to report to the MOP. Progress towards achieving the overall goal of the Strategic Plan (SP) had been assessed as very insufficient, based on 12 indicators (eight Agreement-wide indicators and four national indicators). The SP had five Objectives with 26 Targets. Overall progress towards achieving the Objectives was assessed as average to insufficient, with most progress recorded under Objective 2 (sustainable use of waterbirds) and least progress under Objective 1 (measures to improve or maintain the conservation status of waterbird species and their populations).

80. **Mr Dereliev** briefly outlined the SP Targets and Indicators that had been reached/achieved.

81. He noted that the Standing Committee had made a number of recommendations for improving implementation, including a shortlist of 12 Targets needing particular attention and strengthening – four of these under Objective 1.

82. Among other recommendations set out in document AEWA/MOP 5.11, it was proposed that ahead of MOP6, the Technical Committee and Secretariat should work on the remaining Targets and Indicators that had not yet been assessed.

83. The **Chair** invited the MOP5 Working Group on Scientific and Technical matters to take up the report's recommendations with a view to their possible incorporation into draft resolutions.

84. **Senegal** reported that many of the recommendations had been taken into account during development of the Plan of Action for Africa.

Agenda item 12. National Reports and Online Reporting Process

85. The **AEWA Technical Officer** (Mr Sergey Dereliev) made a presentation introducing document AEWA/MOP 5.12 *Analysis of AEWA National Reports for the Triennium 2009-2011*. He recalled that national reporting was required under Article V.1(c) of the Agreement. The deadline for submission of National Reports prior to MOP5 had been set at 14 January 2012. The format had been approved by MOP4 and reports were compiled and submitted through the CMS Family Online Reporting System. Only 30% of the reports received had arrived by the deadline, which had therefore been extended by six weeks. Analysis had been carried out by UNEP/WCMC to whom grateful thanks were due for undertaking this work within a very short timeframe.

86. There had been good progress with report submission: 69% for MOP5 versus 24% for MOP2. The gaps were mainly in the African region and the reasons for this had been discussed actively over the past two days.

87. **Mr Dereliev** summarised the progress made on each Strategic Plan Goal/Target and the corresponding indicators, as follows:

- Legal protection (SP Target 1.1) – **limited progress**
- Species status (SP Goal: To maintain or to restore migratory waterbird species and their populations at a favourable conservation status throughout their flyways) – **not achieved/no progress**
- Population trends (SP Goal: To maintain or to restore migratory waterbird species and their populations at a favourable conservation status throughout their flyways) – **limited progress**
- Red list status (SP Goal: To maintain or to restore migratory waterbird species and their populations at a favourable conservation status throughout their flyways) – **not achieved/no progress**
- Single Species Action Plans (SP Target 1.4) – **limited progress**
- Non-native species (SP Target 1.5) – **limited progress**
- Site networks (SP Target 1.2) – **good progress**
- Harvest data collection (SP Target 2.2) – **good progress**
- Lead shot phase out (SP Target 2.1) – **good progress**
- Illegal taking of waterbirds – **good progress**
- Environmental Impact Assessment/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SP Target 1.3) – **good progress**
- Waterbird monitoring (SP Target 3.2) – **significant progress**
- Waterbird research (SP Targets 3.1 & 3.5) – **not assessed/limited progress**
- International Waterbirds Census (SP Target 3.1) – **limited progress**
- Awareness raising (SP Target 4.3) – **Target reached**
- Increasing number of Parties (SP Target 5.1) – **limited progress**
- Small Grants Fund (SP Target 5.4) – **good progress**
- National Coordination Mechanisms – (SP Target 5.7) – **significant progress**

88. On the basis of these findings, UNEP/WCMC had recommended that:

- Parties should focus on implementation of the SP Goal and Targets;
- Financial, logistical and technical support for implementation should be provided to Parties;
- Cooperation between Parties should be enhanced; and
- A number of enhancements should be made to the Online Reporting System (ORS) and reporting format.

89. The **Chair** opened the floor to comments.

90. **Mali** noted that it had not been possible to submit a National Report as a consequence of the very difficult circumstances experienced in his country recently.

91. **Senegal** suggested that it would be useful to constitute a small group to provide feedback to the Secretariat and UNEP/WCMC on the experience of Parties in use of the ORS.

92. **Mr Dereliev** noted that the Secretariat was planning to distribute a short survey to all Parties to provide structured feedback so that the reporting format could be improved in the future.

93. The **Ramsar Convention Secretariat** confirmed that it was already examining the possibility of using the flexible online platform for use in national reporting to Ramsar COP12 in 2015. If that were to happen, the potential for cross-searching and moving towards simplified, more harmonised reporting could be realised.

94. The **AEWA Information Officer** (Mr Florian Keil) made a presentation introducing document AEWA/MOP 5.13 *Report on National Reporting and Online Reporting System* (ORS). He noted that development of the ORS had only been possible through a UNEP Department of Environmental Law and Conventions (DELCO) project funded by the Government of Norway. The system was developed by the UNEP World Conservation and Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and was designed in a very flexible way, meaning that it could be used easily by other Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs). However, still missing were:

- Basic funding for hosting the ORS (long-term maintenance by UNEP/WCMC);
- A web-based analytical tool; and
- Use of the ORS by other MEAs, beginning with the CMS Family.

95. In addition, there was a need to make improvements to the format, and to maximise the use of the information submitted, as well as to invest in training to ensure that Parties were in a position to use the ORS effectively. He also briefly outlined the UNEP Initiative on Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) for MEAs, including InforMEA.

96. **Mr Keil** continued by introducing Draft Resolution 5.1 *National Reporting and Online Reporting System*.

97. The **Chair** opened the floor to comments.

98. **Switzerland** congratulated the Secretariat and UNEP/WCMC on the development of the ORS, but noted two major problems that had been encountered, namely the considerable size of the report file, which made it difficult to circulate widely; and secondly, the difficulty of extracting sections to translate into national languages for website posting. With respect to Draft Resolution 5.1, Switzerland tabled specific amendments to two operative paragraphs.

99. Following further discussion, with contributions from **Denmark, Mali, Senegal** and **Tunisia**, which highlighted a number of difficulties experienced in using the ORS, the **Chair** requested the Scientific and Technical Working Group to take up the issues raised, including possible amendments to the Draft Resolution. A way forward might be to establish an ORS ‘user group’ or similar forum.

Agenda item 13. International Reviews

100. The representative of **Wetlands International** (Mr Szabolcs Nagy) made a presentation introducing document AEWA/MOP 5.14 *Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds in the Agreement Area - 5th Edition (CSR5)*. A number of improvements had been made to both analysis and presentation, the latter focusing on an easier-to-read ‘fact sheet’ format. With regard to quality of population estimates, only 5% of population size estimates were based on a full census or statistically adequate sampling. Trends were

still unknown for 37% of AEWA populations and poor for a further 45%. The quality of population size estimates and trends varied geographically, being worst for Central Asia and the West Asia/East Africa flyway. A total of 40% more populations with known trends were declining rather than increasing. The Central Asia and West Asia/East Africa flyways also had the highest proportion of declining species. In terms of threats and their impacts, climate change, biological resource use and natural system modifications affected the most AEWA species.

101. **Mr Nagy** summarised the findings in relation to AEWA's Strategic Plan Indicators – only two indicators showed good progress. The report's recommendations related to actions for improved monitoring, facilitation of knowledge exchange on climate change adaptation and impact mitigation, reducing impacts of biological resource use, reducing negative impacts of water management activities, taking AEWA requirements into account in external aid policies, supporting water management, agricultural and aquacultural developments, recruitment of additional Parties from Africa and Asia, and the development of more favourable conditions for flyway-level projects.

102. The **Chair** opened the floor to comments.

103. **Algeria** considered that the work carried out to locate Slender-billed Curlew *Numenius tenuirostris* in his country had not yet been sufficient.

104. **Mr Nagy** made a second presentation introducing document AEWA/MOP 5.15 *Preliminary Report on the Site Network for Waterbirds in the Agreement Area – 1st Edition*.

105. He recalled the legal basis and relevance of this work, and outlined the methodology used. He noted that the work had only been possible due to the development of the Critical Site Network (CSN) Tool under the Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) project. Critical Sites had been identified for 68% of AEWA populations in the breeding season and 80% in the non-breeding season, but for only 61% in both seasons, showing that 40% of populations needed conservation measures that were not only site based. Only half of these Critical Sites had >50% of their area designated as protected areas and only 37% were wholly designated. A higher proportion of designated sites were located in EU Member States than elsewhere. Conservation measures were only reported from 14% of all Critical Sites, but data deficiency had probably influenced this finding. Existing protected area networks for many populations were inadequate if compared with the coverage required for the CSN to be fully designated. Among the report's recommendations were those relating to: designation of Critical Sites; development of habitat conservation strategies in Africa and Southwest Asia; implementation of gap-filling surveys in poorly known areas; development and implementation of action plans to fill gaps in site designation and management; the building of site management capacity and understanding of the special requirements of migratory waterbirds; development of a plan of action for Central Asia; assisting the development of a coherent flyway network; consideration of reporting on designation and management as part of the national reporting process; keeping the CSN Tool up-to-date; and implementation of monitoring schemes.

106. The **Chair** opened the floor to comments.

107. **Egypt** stressed the importance of national capacity on the ground.

108. **France** was struck by the apparent gaps in the EU's Natura 2000 network.

109. In response to questions from **Algeria** and **Tunisia**, the **AEWA Technical Officer** (Mr Sergey Dereliev) confirmed that both documents presented by Wetlands International were available on AEWA's website. The site network report was preliminary and would only be finalised by the Technical Committee in

the run-up to MOP6. This would present the opportunity for correcting any errors or omissions, through full consultation with Parties, which had yet to be carried out.

110. **Mr Dereliev** outlined Draft Resolution 5.2 *Addressing gaps in knowledge of and conservation action for Waterbird Populations and sites important for them*. He noted that there was considerable scope for the Scientific and Technical Working Group to develop the draft further and that it might become one of the key decisions of MOP5.

111. The **Chair** opened the floor to comments on the Draft Resolution.

112. **Switzerland** suggested that the emphasis in operative paragraph 9 should be on ‘interoperability’ rather than on harmonisation.

113. **Norway** concurred with the Technical Officer’s comment that this was one of the more important Draft Resolutions before the MOP, which marked the beginning of a new phase of the Agreement, with significant implications for the future.

114. **Senegal** felt that the preamble was too lengthy and raised points concerning several operative paragraphs.

115. The **representative of the European Union and its Member States** indicated that the European Union would be making comments on the Draft Resolution during the Scientific and Technical Working Group.

116. Responding to interventions by **Algeria, Mali** and the **Ramsar Convention Secretariat**, **Mr Nagy** clarified that the criteria for development of the CSN were based on the existing Ramsar criteria relating to globally threatened species, the 1% population threshold, and the 20,000 waterbirds threshold.

Agenda item 14. Implementation Review Process

117. The **AEWA Technical Officer** (Mr Sergey Dereliev) presented document AEWA/MOP 5.16 *Implementation Review Process (IRP) - Report to MOP5*. He recalled that the IRP had been established by MOP4 through Resolution 4.6. He outlined the IRP procedure subsequently developed by the Standing Committee (StC), in consultation with the Technical Committee (TC). Three cases had been brought to the attention of the StC during the last triennium:

- Syrian Arab Republic – illegal hunting of the Critically Endangered Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius*: an IRP case had been opened by the StC in 2009; an IRP mission took place in February 2010; an official report and recommendations had been transmitted to the Syrian Government in August 2010; no official report on the implementation of recommendations had yet been received.
- Montenegro – drainage of the Salina of the Ulcinj for tourism development: an IRP case had been opened by the StC in 2012; the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat was currently preparing a response to information provided by the Government of Montenegro and undertaking consultations for a possible joint mission with the CMS, Ramsar and Bern Convention Secretariats.
- Bulgaria – windfarm project adjacent to Lake Durankulak posing a risk to the globally threatened Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*: in March 2012 the StC had decided to open an IRP case and a letter had been sent to the Bulgarian Government offering an IRP mission; an official response was awaited.

118. The **Chair** acknowledged the quality of the work carried out by the StC, TC and Secretariat. He invited comments from the floor.

119. **Montenegro** noted that AEWA had entered into force in Montenegro in November 2011. At the beginning of 2012 the issue of Ulcinj salina had arisen and was being dealt with in the best possible way. Though the area constituted a significant nesting and wintering place for waterbirds, according to Montenegro's spatial plan to 2020 it had been classified as urban construction land for the development of tourist infrastructure. However, following a new governmental decision taken in April 2012, the area had been reclassified as a designated protected area, in the category 'Monument of Nature', under the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Ulcinj. When developing the Urban Plan of the Municipality of Ulcinj, the Ministry of Tourism and Sustainable Development would take particular account of the obligations of Montenegro according to international agreements concerning the protection of biodiversity in the area of Ulcinj Salina, from which it followed that the area should not be considered as urban building land.

120. **Bulgaria** confirmed that a region of Bulgaria of major importance for migratory waterbirds was also the country's most suitable region for the development of windfarms. There were currently two new windfarm developments proposed for the area. Environmental Impact Assessments for proposed development projects, including windfarms, were dealt with by the Regional Inspectorate for Environment and Water, with any appeals against the decision of the Regional Inspectorate considered by the Ministry of Environment and Water. The Ministry had recently written to the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat requesting clarifications relating to the IRP, including the timing of a possible IRP mission.

121. At the proposal of the **Chair**, the meeting thanked the StC, TC and the Secretariat for their work on the IRP since MOP4 and requested them to continue working on current and future cases.

Agenda item 15. Report on the Implementation and Revision of the AEWA International Implementation Tasks 2009-2016

122. The **AEWA Technical Officer** (Mr Sergey Dereliev) briefly introduced document AEWA/MOP 5.17 Corr. 1 *Report on the Implementation of the International Implementation Tasks (IIT) 2009-2016* and draft resolution AEWA/MOP5 DR3 Corr. 1 *AEWA International Implementation Tasks for [2012–2015] [2012–2016]*. He recalled that the IITs for 2009-2016 had been approved at MOP4 through Resolution 4.10. Special emphasis had been placed on support for implementation of the WOW/African-Eurasian Flyway GEF project. Implementation of the IITs for 2009-2016 had been fully dependent on voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties. Since 2009, €1.44 million had accrued from such contributions and had been partly allocated to IIT implementation. Of 31 tasks listed, 13 had been fully or partly implemented. Full implementation of IITs for the 2009-2012 intersessional period would have required voluntary contributions totalling nearly €12 million. The Draft Resolution set out proposals for IITs in the coming intersessional period.

123. The **Chair** noted that these documents would be considered in detail by the MOP5 Working Group on Scientific and Technical matters, but invited comments of a general nature from the floor.

124. **Norway** drew attention to the huge gap between funding needs and what was actually available. Since the Agreement had limited resources, it could be helpful for the TC to look into prioritisation or ranking of IITs with regard to the budget.

125. The **Chair** noted that priorities identified from a scientific viewpoint might not always be in line with political or diplomatic priorities.

126. **Mr Dereliev** believed that the TC could perform such a prioritisation, though it would be the view of a limited group and would in any case be difficult to undertake at the present meeting. The MOP might mandate the TC to prepare such advice at its next meeting, to be held in August 2012.

127. The **Chair** considered that the suggestion of Norway had been for the TC to provide its advice during MOP5, rather than at a later date.

128. **Switzerland** noted that the TC had regularly discussed prioritisation, but that the task had proved difficult as those Parties ready to provide financial support did not necessarily select the projects prioritized by the TC. It would be useful for there to be regular reminders from the Secretariat of those priority projects for which funding was required, particularly those for which relatively modest funding could make a real difference.

129. The **Chair** requested the TC to indicate a few activities of utmost priority. The MOP could then decide that the Secretariat should contact potential donors with regard to support for these activities. In any case, the MOP5 Working Group on Financial and Administrative matters (WG2) would consider this issue in more detail.

Agenda item 16. Report on the Implementation of the Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) UNEP-GEF African-Eurasian Flyways Project and Post-WOW prospects

130. **Mr Gerard Boere** made a brief presentation introducing the achievements of the WOW Project, which had turned a vision into reality by integrating the flyway approach into thinking and practice, from the Arctic to southern Africa. This included recognising that changes in one part of a flyway could have impacts thousands of kilometres away. WOW had undertaken 11 demonstration projects and developed various tools, including, in particular, the Flyway Training Kit (FTK) and the Critical Site Network (CSN) Tool. An evaluation conducted for GEF concluded that the project had reached almost all of its original goals and targets, though the evaluators had also been critical about the time spent trying to overcome problems in securing sufficient co-funding. Nevertheless, the project had been ranked among the top 20 GEF projects.

131. In terms of follow-up to WOW, a Memorandum of Cooperation had been signed by AEWA, the Ramsar Convention, Wetlands International, and BirdLife International. Other key WOW-related initiatives included the AEWA African Initiative; West African Conservation of Migratory Birds project of Wetlands International and BirdLife International; and important new work by the Wadden Sea countries.

132. In closing, **Mr Boere** thanked the hundreds of people participating in WOW over the last five years. It had been a great pleasure to be involved and though WOW was now formally closed, its philosophy was very much alive.

133. The **AEWA Information Officer** (Mr Florian Keil) presented Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP5 DR4 *Implementation of the Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) UNEP-GEF African-Eurasian Flyways Project and post-WOW prospects*.

134. The representative of **the European Union and its Member States** thanked Gerard Boere and the team responsible for the remarkable success of the WOW project. The European Union had a few amendments to propose to the Draft Resolution and would raise these in the relevant Working Group, notably the need to make a clear linkage with the AEWA African Initiative.

135. **Wetlands International Africa** stressed that the results of WOW had been felt at a global level and had been particularly important for wetland and waterbird conservation in Africa. Efforts had been made to support Africa through capacity building, notably via the FTK, but the latter was only the visible tip of an iceberg.

136. **Mauritania** thanked WOW for supporting the training of 20 eco-guides. There was a need to expand such training to other areas of the country and discussions in this regard were being held with Wetlands International Africa.

Agenda item 17. Report on the Implementation and Revision of the Communication Strategy

137. The **AEWA Information Officer** (Mr Florian Keil) presented document AEWA/MOP 5.18 Corr. 1 *Report on the Implementation and Revision of the Communication Strategy (CS)* and the associated Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP5 DR5 *Implementation and Revision of the Communication Strategy*. He drew particular attention to a new publication, made available to all MOP5 participants, which introduced AEWA in an attractive, straightforward manner. Thanks were due to the Government of Germany for its financial support of this publication.

138. **Mr Keil** outlined the key messages of the CS and the annexed Communication Action Plan (CAP), which had been adopted at MOP3, through Resolution 3.10. Unfortunately, only limited activities had been implemented, owing to a lack of resources, given that implementation of the CS and CAP was entirely dependent on voluntary contributions. Only 10% of the resources required had been secured. The Draft Resolution before MOP5 foresaw revision of the CS, primarily to align it with the AEWA Strategic Plan and Plan of Action for Africa, to integrate newly developed tools, and to make it more realistic.

139. Noting that this item would be taken up by the MOP5 Working Group on Scientific & Technical matters (WG1), the **Chair** invited general comments from participants.

140. **Norway** recommended that the national Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) contacts should not be the national focal points for AEWA, but should be appropriate communications professionals. There was also a need to prioritise key issues to avoid overstretching the capacity of the Secretariat.

141. **Sudan** felt that there was a need for prioritisation not only of activities, but also on the basis of sites.

142. **Senegal, on behalf of the Africa Group**, tabled a number of specific amendments to the Draft Resolution.

143. The **Chair** asked that consideration of these, and any other detailed proposals for amendments, be deferred to WG1.

Agenda item 18. World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD)

144. The **AEWA Information Officer** (Mr Florian Keil) introduced document AEWA/MOP 5.19 *Report on World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) 2006-2012*. His presentation was preceded and followed by short WMBD promotional video. He outlined the development of WMBD since 2006 and summarised the role of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, which included development and shipping of campaign materials, registering WMBD events from around the world, liaising with event organisers, the preparation and distribution of press releases and other media work, including use of social media networking. The major challenge was setting the path for the future of the event and the input of Parties in this regard would be most welcome. The Secretariat's suggestions included:

- Incorporation of WMBD into the AEWA Communications Strategy (foreseen in DR5);
- The possibility of a country volunteering to host WMBD;

- Increasing fundraising efforts;
- Establishing even closer links with related events; and
- Establishing WMBD as an official ‘UN Day’.

145. Following discussion, with contributions by **Libya, Mali, Senegal and Tunisia**, the **Chair** concluded that there was general enthusiasm for the event, but that it would be impossible to select a date for WMBD on which large numbers of migratory birds would be present everywhere along all African-Eurasian flyways. However an even more intensive communications effort for the event was needed.

Agenda item 19. Proposals for Amendments to the Agreement and/or its Annexes, and Guidance for Interpretation of Criteria Used in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan

146. The **AEWA Technical Officer** (Mr Sergey Dereliev) made a presentation introducing document AEWA/MOP 5.20 *Proposals to the 5th Session of the Meeting of the Parties for Amendments to Annex 3 (Action Plan and Table 1) of AEWA*, document AEWA/MOP 5.20 Addendum Rev. 1 *Comments from the Parties to the Proposals for Amendments to Annex 3 (Action Plan and Table 1) of AEWA* and Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP DR6 Rev. 1 *Adoption of amendments to the AEWA Action Plan*. A set of proposals had been submitted by the Government of Kenya on the basis of the work conducted intersessionally by the TC. Comments on these proposals had been received from the European Union within the statutory deadline prior to MOP5.

147. The **Chair** invited general comments.

148. The representative of **the European Union and its Member States** confirmed that the European Union supported the Draft Resolution in general but would table proposed amendments during WG1.

149. **Mr David Stroud** (TC member for North and South-Western Europe) made a brief presentation introducing document AEWA/MOP 5.21 *Proposal for Guidance on Interpretation of the Term “Extreme Fluctuations in Population Size or Trend” Used in the Context of Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan* and the corresponding part of Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP DR7 *Adoption of Amendments and New Guidance for interpretation of terms used in the context of Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan*. He noted that this entailed a small but important change for determining species or population conservation status in the AEWA Action Plan. An existing international definition of “extreme fluctuations” was in use for the IUCN Red List, but this definition was not appropriate for three species listed on AEWA Appendix 1, namely Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*, and certain populations of both Marbled Teal *Marmaronetta angustirostris* and Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, all of which were subject to significant population fluctuations. The TC had therefore proposed changing the criterion from “extreme fluctuations” to “large fluctuations” to be accompanied by a new definition of the latter term, as set out in the Draft Resolution.

150. The representative of **Wetlands International** (Mr Szabolcs Nagy) introduced document AEWA/MOP 5.22 *Proposal for Amendment of the Definition and the Guidance on Interpretation of the Term “Significant Long-Term Decline” Used in the Context of Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan as Approved by Resolution 3.3*, together with the associated Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP DR7 *Adoption of Amendments and New Guidance for interpretation of terms used in the context of Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan*. He summarised the underlying scientific reasons for the proposed amendments, which had been developed by the TC and were presented in Appendix 1 to DR7. The Draft Resolution also set out a revised definition of “significant long-term decline” and guidance for its application.

151. Noting that this item would be taken up in detail by WG1, the **Chair** invited general comments from the floor.

152. The **United Kingdom**, speaking on behalf of **the European Union and its Member States**, was grateful for the presentations made and felt that the new definitions were useful. However, as a number of different definitions had been developed over time, by AEWA and others, it would be useful for such definitions to be compiled in a single document or in one location on the AEWA website.

153. The **Chair** asked the Secretariat to integrate this helpful suggestion into DR7.

Agenda item 20. Adoption of the New Arabic Translation of the Agreement Text

154. The **Acting Executive Secretary of AEWA** (Mr Marco Barbieri) referred to document AEWA/MOP 5.23 *New Arabic Version of the Agreement Text*. He recalled that while there was an existing authentic Arabic version of the AEWA Agreement text, the Secretariat had received advice over a period of years from Arabic-speaking Parties concerning the quality of the Arabic text. It had therefore been decided to revise the Agreement text in Arabic to remove any possible discrepancies between language versions, and a new translation had been commissioned within the framework of the WetCap project. The new translation, which was annexed to document 5.23 had been circulated to the relevant Parties in October 2011. No comments had been received and the StC had therefore approved document 5.23 for forwarding to MOP5.

155. The **Chair** invited interventions from Arabic-speaking Contracting Parties.

156. **Libya**, taking the floor **on behalf of the Arabic-speaking Parties present at MOP5**, thanked the Secretariat for the efforts made and stressed the significance of having an Arabic version of the Agreement text. Having carefully reviewed the new translation, it had been concluded that important further adjustments were still required. This might prove difficult to finalise before the closure of MOP5, especially in relation to the Agreement Annexes. The Arabic-speaking Parties therefore requested the MOP, through the Chair, to mandate the StC to approve the finalised Arabic text at its next meeting, or by correspondence, as appropriate. Mr Mohammad Sulayem, Saudi Arabia, had been nominated to coordinate this process, on behalf of the Parties concerned, with the StC and Secretariat.

157. At the invitation of the **Chair**, the MOP indicated its consent for the StC to be entrusted with finalizing the authentic text of the Agreement in Arabic. The final deadline for all text revisions to be received by the Secretariat would be 31 December 2012.

Agenda item 21. International Single Species Action Plans and Management Plans

158. The **AEWA Technical Officer** (Mr Sergey Dereliev) made a presentation introducing document AEWA/MOP 5.24 *Summary of current Single Species Action Plan and Species Management Plan production and coordination*. There were currently 21 Species Plans adopted or in the pipeline: 15 Single Species Action Plans (SSAPs) adopted by the MOP at its 2nd, 3rd and 4th sessions; four new SSAPs submitted to MOP5; one Species Management Plan (SMP) submitted to MOP5 and one SSAP (Shoebill *Balaeniceps rex*) for which funding from Switzerland had been secured but which would not be developed until after MOP5. An international coordination mechanism for these plans had been established by the TC; to date, AEWA International Species Working Groups (ISWGs), with Terms of Reference approved by the TC, had been convened for seven AEWA SSAPs:

- Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*)
- Sociable Lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*)
- Northern Bald Ibis (*Geronticus eremita*)
- Madagascar Pond-heron (*Ardeola idae*)

- Lesser Flamingo (*Phoeniconaias minor*)
- White-winged Flufftail (*Sarothrura ayresi*)
- Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)

159. Coordinating organisations had been identified for each of these ISWGs and a Memorandum of Cooperation concluded with each coordinating organisation. An ISWG for the Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis* had been convened and a coordinator recruited. A coordinator for the White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* had been recruited, but an ISWG had yet to be convened. Challenges experienced in the operation of the coordination mechanisms were usually associated with insufficient funding, reliance on out-posted, part-time coordinators and the need for additional guidance from the Secretariat.

160. **Mr Dereliev** also introduced the associated Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP5 DR8 *Adoption and implementation of International Single Species Action Plans and Species Management Plans*.

161. In response to a question from **Mauritania**, the **Secretariat** confirmed that the subspecies of Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* endemic to Mauritania was already covered by the relevant SSAP. He invited the representative of Mauritania to liaise with Eurosite to discuss this further.

162. **Denmark**, speaking on behalf of **the European Union and its Member States** supported the SSAPs and SMP tabled and congratulated the expert compilers. Implementation was now the main challenge for both Parties and non-Party Range States. The SMP for the Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* was a new type of plan that would require close monitoring of adaptive management. The European Union would transmit to the Secretariat a few editorial corrections to two SSAPs as well as some minor comments on DR8.

163. **Mr Pete Robertson (United Kingdom)** made a presentation on the United Kingdom's Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) Control Programme. He recalled that the non-native Ruddy Duck, which had established a feral population in several European countries, most likely stemming from introduction to the United Kingdom in the 1940s, posed a threat to the European native White-headed Duck *O. leucocephala* as a result of hybridization. The United Kingdom had commenced control trials in 1999 in response to which the Government of the United Kingdom announced in March 2003 that eradication of the Ruddy Duck from the United Kingdom was its preferred outcome. Further control trials continued, aiming to improve control efficiency and to model the costs of eradication, with a view to developing a proposal for EU LIFE funding. The Ruddy Duck Eradication Programme led by the United Kingdom Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA) commenced in 2005. LIFE funding covered 50% of the costs for eight control officers for five years. By 2011 less than 1% of the United Kingdom Ruddy Duck population (as estimated in 2000) remained, although there were still significant populations in Belgium, France and the Netherlands. Control work in the United Kingdom would continue, but international coordination would be required to achieve eradication of the species from Europe.

Agenda item 22. Plan of Action for the Implementation of the African Initiative

164. The **AEWA Coordinator for the African Initiative** (Ms Evelyn Parh Moloko) made a presentation introducing document AEWA/MOP 5.32 *Report on the implementation of the African Initiative for the period 2009-2012*. She recalled that the African Initiative (AI) had been born in Madagascar during MOP4 in response to negative trends in migratory waterbird population in Africa and the need to enhance AEWA implementation in the African region.

165. She outlined the process that had been followed during the last triennium and the key outputs of the Initiative to date. These included:

- Recruitment of personnel (AI Coordinator and part-time Programme Assistant based at the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat);
- Preparation of the draft *AEWA Plan of Action for Africa*;
- Implementation of the AEWA Small Grants Fund in Africa;
- Initiating and promoting synergies with existing and new partners (e.g. collaboration with the African Crane Conservation Programme, with support from the Swiss Government, was enabling development of an SSAP for Grey-crowned Crane *Balearica regulorum*);
- Provision of advisory services to African Range States;
- Promotion of AEWA implementation in Africa (e.g. SSAP development and implementation, organisation of African regional meetings, and capacity building, including preparation of a French version of the WOW Flyway Training Kit);
- Development of CEPA outputs for the Initiative (e.g. AI web-page development, AI brochure, species stickers);
- Promotion of AEWA accession among non-Party Range States in Africa; and
- Fundraising.

166. In conclusion, Ms Parh Moloko underlined that the AI and associated activities needed to be continued, and a coordination mechanism needed to be defined and duly provided for. The pre-MOP5 workshop had finalised the draft Plan of Action for Africa (PoAA) now before the MOP, which proposed a coordination mechanism based within the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, combined with sub-regional coordination on the ground.

167. **Benin, on behalf of the African Group**, commended all partners involved in the AI for the excellent work carried out. The AI had been the compass that had guided the stakeholders towards the draft PoAA.

168. **South Africa** observed that the purpose of the AI was to coordinate and improve AEWA implementation in Africa, and that the existing gaps in implementation in Africa had far-reaching impacts in other parts of the Agreement area. All AEWA Parties were therefore urged to share ownership of the AI and to demonstrate full support for its implementation. With regard to capacity building, which was crucial for effective implementation, the usual tendency was to think mainly in terms of workshops and training kits. In reality, there was a need to identify the specific skills needed and to address these in a focused manner, with appropriate follow-up to ensure that acquired skills were being implemented. CEPA products also needed to be appropriately customised. Community radio, television and story-telling methods might be more appropriate than websites, stickers and flyers. This needed to be considered when preparing communication strategies for the African region.

169. **Togo** expressed satisfaction that the MOP4 decision to establish the AI had not stayed on the shelf. The seed had sprouted and a young plant was growing. It was hoped that it would continue to flourish and that Africa could fully benefit from the results. Togo was delighted that the pre-MOP workshop had been able to consider the draft PoAA, thanks to the determination and contributions of a number of partners who were strongly encouraged to continue supporting the AI.

170. **Mali** thanked the Government of France for its unfailing support to Africa during the development of the AI. Implementation would require the full political will of all Parties. Some states were facing severe environmental challenges, including climate change. The AI would help to rally Parties and other stakeholders to the cause.

171. The **Chair** appreciated the gratitude expressed to the Government of France, but noted that many other Parties and partners had also contributed to the AI.

172. **Tunisia** called on relevant MEAs and NGOs to maximise cooperation and to avoid duplication.

173. The **Chair** observed that the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat was already working closely with other MEAs, including CMS and the Ramsar Convention.

174. **Ms Parh Moloko** and Mr **Tim Dodman** (consultant to the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat) introduced document AEWA/MOP 5.31 Rev. 1 *Draft Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017(Draft 5)*.

175. **Ms Parh Moloko** described the process for preparing the PoAA and summarised its current status. Following MOP4, the first draft had been posted on the AEWA TC workspace in July 2011 and a revised second draft had been discussed by the TC at its meeting in September 2011. At the TC's recommendation, a questionnaire-based survey of African Parties and other stakeholders had been conducted by the Secretariat. An independent consultant (Mr Tim Dodman) had been appointed to further develop the draft and to assist with preparation of the pre-MOP5 workshop, for which funding had been secured from the European Union. The pre-MOP workshop, which benefited from the input of facilitators from the African region and independent experts working in the region, had finalised the draft PoAA which was now available to all MOP participants in both English and French.

176. **Mr Dodman** summarised the structure of the pre-MOP5 workshop and introduced the content of the final draft PoAA, as approved by the participants, all of whom hoped that the Plan would be duly adopted by MOP5. The PoAA contained the following sections:

- Introduction;
- Methodology;
- Activities and expected results;
- Budget estimate; and
- Implementation.

177. **Mr Dodman** outlined the proposed Targets and Activities under each of the following Objectives:

- Objective 1: To undertake conservation measures so as to improve or maintain the conservation status of waterbird species and their populations;
- Objective 2: To ensure that any use of waterbirds in the Agreement area is sustainable;
- Objective 3: To increase knowledge about species and their populations, flyways and threats to them as a basis for conservation action;
- Objective 4: To improve CEPA about migratory waterbird species, their flyways, their role in alleviating poverty, threats to them and the need for measures to conserve them and their habitats;
- Objective 5: To improve the capacity of the Range States for international cooperation and capacity towards the conservation of waterbird species and their flyways.

178. The total budget for the five Objectives, as well as for coordination and UNEP overheads, was € 9.5 million to 2017. The 'highest priority' activities totalled € 3.4 million, while 'high priority' activities amounted to approximately € 5 million.

179. The new elements resulting from the pre-MOP workshop included a substantial revision of 'sustainable use' actions, greater emphasis on livelihoods and tourism, revised prioritisation, clearer identification of partners and an increased budget.

180. The **Chair** opened the floor to comments.

181. **Denmark**, speaking on behalf of **the European Union and its Member States**, noted that the European Union and its Member States had carefully examined the draft PoAA, as revised by the pre-MOP

workshop, and reiterated their full support for the African Initiative. The European Union considered the effective and concrete implementation of the PoAA as a top priority for the future development of AEWA. The European Union and its Member States wished to congratulate the African Contracting Parties for their commitment and positive contributions to the finalisation of an impressive Plan of Action, and also appreciated the role played by the Secretariat and its consultant. The constructive efforts during the pre-MOP workshop had resulted in a revised draft that better reflected the needs and challenges involved in the conservation and sustainable management of migratory waterbirds in Africa.

182. The European Union and its Member States supported the amendments made to the tables contained in section 6 of the PoAA “*Activities and expected results for achieving an improved conservation status for migratory waterbirds in Africa*”, but had some doubts whether section 5 “*Implementation of the Plan of Action for Africa*” in fact properly reflected the decision of the pre-MOP workshop as orally presented to the EU Presidency by the Chair of that workshop. According to the latter, the pre-MOP workshop had concluded that its favoured option for implementation and coordination of the PoAA was coordination-based in each of the five sub-regions of Africa, supported by coordination in Bonn. This decision of the African Parties seemed not to be reflected in the final draft prepared by the Secretariat.

183. Following internal debate and consultations on this issue between the European Union and its Member States, the EU Presidency was pleased to announce that the Government of France had decided to renew its support to the implementation of the African Initiative. The financial support that France was offering would serve to establish a new position based in France, at Tour du Valat Biological Station, through which a network of experts would be able to provide internationally recognised technical support for wetland and waterbird conservation and management in Africa, including technical assistance to the sub-regional implementation coordinators within Africa. The new position would therefore enable alleviation of the Secretariat’s workload.

184. The European Union and its Member States looked forward to consideration of the coordination role of the Secretariat in Bonn, including the general obligation to dedicate appropriate time to fundraising for, and development of, the AI as a top priority.

185. The European Union and its Member States looked forward to discussion of the Draft Resolution on the AI and suggested that all other draft resolutions relevant to implementation of AEWA in Africa be amended to contain references to the AI, where appropriate.

186. The **Chair** clarified that the offer of technical support made by the Government of France was not intended to replace or supplant the Secretariat. There would need to be an *ad hoc* Working Group to finalize the Draft Resolution and to take on board the comments of the European Union.

187. **Benin**, speaking on behalf of **the African Group**, thanked the European Union for its clear and strong commitment to the PoAA. It was hoped that other Parties would also support its implementation.

188. **Senegal** thanked the European Union and France and hoped that Germany and Switzerland would also continue their active support for the AI.

189. At the request of the **Chair**, **Ms Parh Moloko** introduced Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP DR9 Rev. 1 *Implementation of the African Initiative for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in Africa*.

190. **Switzerland** considered that the AI deserved the highest attention and support, and recommended adoption of the Draft Resolution and the PoAA. It was an excellent initiative to bring on board all countries in the African region. Switzerland also tabled an amendment to operative paragraph 5 of the Draft Resolution.

191. Following a request by the **Chair**, the **EU Presidency, France, Kenya, Mauritania, Senegal, and South Africa** volunteered to constitute an *ad hoc* group to work with the Secretariat to finalise the Draft Resolution for resubmission to Plenary in due course.

Agenda item 23. Conservation Guidelines

192. This item was considered by the MOP5 Working Group on Scientific & Technical matters (see paragraphs 245 & 246 under agenda item 29 for the report of that Working Group's deliberations).

Agenda item 24. Issues Affecting the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds in the AEWA Region

193. This item was considered by the MOP5 Working Group on Scientific & Technical matters (see paragraphs 245 & 246 under agenda item 29 for the report of that Working Group's deliberations).

Agenda item 25. Central Asian Flyway

194. The **Deputy Executive Secretary of the CMS** (Mr Bert Lenten) made a presentation introducing document AEWA/MOP 5.39 *Developing a Legal and Institutional Framework for the Central Asian Flyway*, as well as the associated information papers AEWA/MOP Inf. 5.6, AEWA/MOP Inf. 5.7 and AEWA/MOP Inf. 5.8. He outlined the background to date, noting that CAF had been discussed at AEWA MOP3 and MOP4, as well as at many CMS meetings. The CAF Action Plan had been endorsed by a meeting of CAF Range States held in New Delhi in 2005, but this meeting had not finalised the legal and institutional framework. Options for such a framework included: (a) extending the AEWA Agreement Area, or (b) a separate CMS Agreement, or (c) a stand-alone framework, within CMS, such as a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

195. **Mr Lenten** recalled that the CMS COP10 decisions on the 'Future Shape' process had stressed that development of new CMS Agreements should be avoided. This had left options (a) or (c) remaining. There were already numerous CMS MoUs with minimal or no funding for implementation, making the prospects for any new MoU on CAF very limited. Furthermore, there were few countries in the CAF region likely to be in a position to assist with funding for implementation. As the AEWA and CAF regions already overlapped substantially, and countries in the 'overlap zone' had shown little enthusiasm for joining two separate instruments for migratory waterbird conservation, the most practical solution therefore appeared to be extension of the AEWA Agreement Area to include CAF. A CMS CAF negotiation meeting, to be held in Abu Dhabi in December 2012, would examine the issues in more detail and hopefully come to an agreement on the way forward. MOP5 was invited to note the activities undertaken by the UNEP/CMS Secretariat with regard to the development of an institutional framework for the CAF Action Plan, and to consider the next steps to be undertaken by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, and by the AEWA Technical Committee and Standing Committee, prior to MOP6 in the event that the meeting in December 2012 were to decide that incorporation of CAF into AEWA was the preferred option.

196. The **Chair** opened the floor to comments.

197. **Kazakhstan** stated its support for extending the AEWA Agreement Area to include the CAF region.

198. **Denmark**, speaking on behalf of **the European Union and its Member States**, made the following statement:

“The EU and its Member States welcome conservation efforts for the Central Asian Flyway and are grateful to the Standing Committee for taking this issue forward. The development of a Central Asian Flyway Action Plan under the auspices of CMS is an important step forward and we look forward to the CAF negotiation meeting in December 2012, which will build on the discussions in Tashkent and New Delhi.

There is considerable overlap of the species and issues discussed under the CAF and AEWA, and we understand that a number of states that are within both the AEWA range and that of the CAF have already expressed an understandable desire to avoid separate, overlapping agreements.

We have already discussed the CMS Future Shape process under AEWA MOP5 Agenda item 10. The process was established after the Range States of CAF adopted the Action Plan and started to consider the legal and institutional framework for it. The Future Shape process is about increasing efficiency and enhancing synergies of the CMS and its Family to adequately serve migratory species worldwide in times of limited resources. The EU and its Member States have proposed an amendment to AEWA MOP5 Draft Resolution 17 to secure involvement of AEWA in this process, in particular to contribute to coordinated strategic plans for the CMS Family.

We are of the view that these coordinated strategic plans of the CMS and the CMS Family should address requests of CAF Range States to join CMS or AEWA. There are also ongoing initiatives for other migratory species in the CAF Region. For example, the Palearctic/Paleotropical flyways, including the CAF and East-Asian flyways, are already included within the Raptor MoU.

If the CAF Range States at their meeting in December 2012 express the wish to extend the AEWA geographical area to include the entire CAF and incorporate the CAF Waterbird Action Plan under AEWA, the Standing Committee, as part of its contribution to the coordinated strategic plans, should discuss with the Secretariat and with the Secretariat of CMS how to take such a request forward in line with the CMS Future Shape process, and with a view to presenting a proposal to the AEWA Meeting of the Parties for decision, bearing in mind that the final decision on expansion of the geographical scope of AEWA of course rests with the AEWA Parties, who would have to consider any such proposal at a future Meeting of the Parties.”

199. At the invitation of the **Chair**, the meeting indicated its broad agreement with the European Union’s statement, including the proposed amendment to DR17, which would be considered under Agenda item 26a.

200. The **Asia-Pacific Shorebird Network** welcomed and strongly encouraged AEWA involvement with CAF, but called for consultation with the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) – the geographical scope of which also overlapped with the CAF region.

Agenda item 26. Institutional Arrangements

a. Standing Committee

201. During the Plenary Session held on 15 May, the **Acting Executive Secretary of AEWA** (Mr Marco Barbieri) briefly introduced Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP DR17 *Institutional Arrangements: Standing Committee* which would record the composition, term and operational arrangements for the StC during the next intersessional period. There was one current vacancy on the StC, namely for a member from the Europe and Central Asia region.

202. **Denmark**, speaking on behalf of **the European Union its Member States**, stated that the European Union would nominate a candidate to fill this vacancy in due course, but wished first to consult with other European and Central Asian countries.

203. During the plenary session held on 18 May, the **Chair** invited the meeting to consider Draft Resolution DR17 *Institutional Arrangements: Standing Committee* Rev. 2 drawing attention to the proposed amendments shown for two operative paragraphs.

204. **Denmark**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union and its Member States**, nominated Croatia as the Alternate Representative to France for the Europe and Central Asian region.

205. **Benin** speaking on behalf of the **African Group**, and seconded by **Togo** and **Mali**, nominated Ghana as the Representative and Chad as Alternate Representative for the Western and Central Africa region.

206. **Algeria**, nominated Libya as the Alternate for the Middle East and Northern Africa region.

207. At the invitation of the **Chair**, the meeting approved DR17 Rev. 2, as amended by the additional nominations tabled by Algeria, Benin and the European Union, confirming membership of the Standing Committee for the next intersessional period as follows:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Regional Representative</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Europe and Central Asia (1)	Norway	Ukraine
Europe and Central Asia (2)	France	Croatia
Middle East and Northern Africa	Algeria	Libya
Western and Central Africa	Ghana	Chad
Eastern and Southern Africa	Uganda	South Africa

208. The **Acting Executive Secretary of AEWA** (Mr Marco Barbieri) recalled that there would be a brief meeting of the new StC, together with the representative of the Depositary, immediately after the closure of MOP5.

b. Technical Committee

209. The **AEWA Technical Officer** (Mr Sergey Dereliev) briefly introduced Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP DR18 Rev.1 *Institutional arrangements: Technical Committee* which proposed two amendments to the Modus Operandi of the TC and appointed the members and alternate members for the next intersessional period. The Draft Resolution also instructed the Chair of the TC to identify and appoint a CEPA expert. Mr Dereliev informed the meeting of the nominations that had been received and the candidates duly recommended by the TC Advisory Group for approval by the MOP:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Regional Representative</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
North and Southwestern Europe	Mr David Stroud (UK)	vacant
Central Europe	Mr Lorenzo Serra (Italy)	Mr Darko Savelijc (Montenegro)
Eastern Europe	Mr Saulius Svazas (Lithuania)	Mr Gleb Gavrys (Ukraine)
Southwestern Asia	Mr Sharif Jbour (Jordan)	vacant
Northern Africa	Mr Hichem Azafzaf (Tunisia)	vacant
Western Africa	Mr Erasmus Owusu (Ghana)	vacant
Central Africa	vacant	vacant
Eastern Africa	Mr Muchai S. Muchane (Kenya)	vacant
Southern Africa	Mr Mark Brown (South Africa)	vacant

210. Discussion, which included contributions from **Chad, Mali, Senegal and Uganda**, focused on whether or not the TC Modus Operandi should be amended so that the shortlist of TC candidates submitted to future MOPs would be accompanied by brief summaries of candidates' CVs.

211. The **Secretariat** clarified that the current Modus Operandi provided for detailed consideration of candidates' CVs by a six-person Advisory Group, headed by the TC Chair.

212. The **Chair** ruled that any Party wishing to make a specific proposal for an amendment to the Draft Resolution concerning the TC Modus Operandi should do so in writing.

213. **The TC Thematic Expert on Environmental Law** (Ms Melissa Lewis) questioned whether operative paragraph 3 of the Draft Resolution was fully in conformity with Article 7 of the Agreement text.

214. The **Secretariat** suggested that the two were conceptually different and that there was no conflict in practice.

215. **Ms Lewis** concurred, but noted that there might be a need to revisit this issue in the future.

c. Cooperation with Other Bodies and Processes

216. The representative of **the European Union and its Member States** introduced Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP5 DR19 *Encouragement of Further Joint Implementation of AEWA and the Ramsar Convention*.

217. The **Chair** opened the floor to comments.

218. Amendments were tabled by **Senegal**, on behalf of **the African Region**, and by the **Ramsar Convention Secretariat**.

219. The **Chair** requested the Secretariat to prepare a revised version of DR19.

220. **France**, speaking on behalf of **the European Union and its Member States**, introduced AEWA/MOP5 DR20 *Promote Twinning Schemes between the Natural Sites Covered by the AEWA and the Network of Sites Listed under the Ramsar Convention*.

221. The **Chair** opened the floor to comments.

222. Proposed amendments were tabled by **Norway, Senegal**, on behalf of **the African Region**, and by the **Ramsar Convention Secretariat**.

223. In response to the proposals made by Senegal, the **Chair** invited Senegal and the EU Presidency to coordinate to agree a mutually acceptable amendment that could be submitted for consideration by Plenary on 18 May.

Agenda item 27 Financial and administrative matters

224. The **Acting Executive Secretary of AEWA** (Mr Marco Barbieri) introduced document 5.40 Rev.1 *Report of the Secretariat on Finance and Administrative Issues 2009–2012*, under the headings of:

- Staffing;

- Core budget 2009-2011 – overview of income and expenditure (noting that Ireland, Mauritius, Israel, Slovak Republic, Denmark and Croatia had paid dues since March 2012); and
- Voluntary contributions 2009-2011 – clear downward trend, no doubt related to the economic situation affecting several of AEWA's traditional donor Parties.

225. In relation to staffing issues, the **Chair** invited the **Deputy Executive Secretary of CMS** (Mr Bert Lenten) to provide complementary information concerning the recruitment process for the new AEWA Executive Secretary. **Mr Lenten** recalled the comments made by the **Acting Executive Secretary of CMS** (Ms Elizabeth Mrema) during the Opening Ceremony of MOP5. The decision on grading of the position as P4 or P5 had to be taken by the MOP. The Director of UNEP did not wish to pre-empt the decision of the MOP by advertising the vacancy prior to the MOP. If the MOP decided to keep the position at P4 level, the grading process would have to be reopened.

226. The **Chair** ruled that discussion should be deferred to the Working Group on Financial & Administrative matters.

AEWA budget for the next intersessional period

227. The **Acting Executive Secretary of AEWA** (Mr Marco Barbieri) introduced document AEWA/MOP 5.41 Rev.1 *Draft Budget Proposal 2013-2015/2016* and summarised the principles set out by the StC that informed the process for preparing the budget proposal, namely:

- Preparation of scenarios for both three- and four-year cycles;
- A range of budget increases from 0% to 10%;
- Provision within all proposals for a withdrawal of a certain amount from the Trust Fund based on past savings.

228. Six scenarios had been prepared, as detailed in the document AEWA/MOP 5.41, with allocations under each scenario shown under the headings of *General management*, *Implementation of the African Initiative*, *Servicing the MOP*, *Servicing the TC*, *Servicing the StC*, and *UNEP overhead costs*. The implications of each scenario for each Party's assessed contributions were also shown, using the same scale of contributions as adopted by MOP4. Possible savings and the implications of the budget proposal for human resources were also detailed in the document.

International Waterbird Population Monitoring

229. The **AEWA Technical Officer** (Mr Sergey Dereliev) and the representative of **Wetlands International** (Mr Szabolcs Nagy) presented document AEWA/MOP 5.42 Rev. 1 *Strategic Development of the Waterbird Monitoring in the African-Eurasian Flyways*.

230. **Mr Dereliev** summarized the various requirements of the AEWA Agreement text, Strategic Plan and Action Plan that could not be met without effective waterbird monitoring, as well as past decisions of the MOP regarding the need to strengthen and further develop the international framework for waterbird monitoring.

231. **Mr Nagy** outlined the process for developing a strategic plan for waterbird monitoring in the AEWA region, including the establishment in June 2011 of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership. He stressed that the International Waterbird Census (IWC) underpinned the information services that led to policy relevant analyses. It was proposed that the future of the IWC should be based on flyway-level coordination, combined with modest capacity building.

The budgetary implications consisted of € 353K for annually recurring costs, plus periodic costs of € 290K, of which only € 130K annually was being sought from AEWA Parties.

232. **Mr Dereliev** presented five possible scenarios for future structural funding of the IWC, setting out AEWA's potential participation, as well as Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP DR22 *Establishing a Long-Term Basic Structural Funding Regime for International Waterbird Census in the African-Eurasian Region*. The operational paragraphs of the Draft Resolution were divided into two alternative clusters. He stressed that the amounts under discussion greatly under-estimated the true cost of the IWC which depended on the efforts made by thousands of committed volunteers.

Periodicity of Meetings of the AEWA Parties

233. The **Acting Executive Secretary of AEWA** (Mr Marco Barbieri) introduced document AEWA/MOP 5.43 *Considerations about the Future Periodicity of Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties*, as well as the corresponding Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP DR23 *Periodicity of Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties*. Document 5.43, which had been prepared by the Secretariat, in consultation with the StC, set out the possible advantages and disadvantages of shifting to a four-year intersessional period, rather than the current three-year cycle. The Draft Resolution set out four possible options, taking into account these advantages and disadvantages.

Discussion

234. **Switzerland** observed that the documents considered under Agenda item 19 were at the heart of MOP5. The Agreement was evolving in an intelligent manner and responding to new developments and emerging needs. It was both understandable and justified that the AEWA budget should be growing. Switzerland recommended either budget scenario 3 or 6, i.e. an increase of 2% per year to compensate for inflation, plus an additional 3%. Switzerland also favoured allocating an amount for Waterbird Population Monitoring within AEWA's budget. Finally, it was suggested that the visibility of AEWA should be raised significantly in the context of the Joint Programme of Work between CMS and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

235. **Algeria**, speaking on behalf of **the African Group**, supported the position of Switzerland and confirmed that the Group was in favour of budget option 3.

Agenda item 28. Other Draft Resolutions

236. **Mr David Stroud** (TC Member for South & Northwest Europe) introduced Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP5 DR24 *AEWA's contribution to delivering the Aichi 2020 biodiversity targets*. He noted that the Annex to the Draft Resolution set out AEWA's past and future contributions to each of the Aichi Targets.

237. Noting that DR24 would be considered by WG1, the **Chair** opened the floor to general comments, but none was forthcoming.

238. **France**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union and its Member States**, introduced AEWA/MOP5 DR25 *Clarifications on the Definition of Disturbance, Useful for Appropriate Implementation of the Action Plan*.

239. Noting that DR25 would be considered by WG1, the **Chair** opened the floor to general comments.

240. The **Chair** asked that comments made by **Algeria** and by **Senegal, on behalf of the African Group**, be taken forward during WG1.

241. **Denmark, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States** introduced AEWA/MOP5 DR26 *Support for Reinforcing Capacities with a View to Improving Laws and Policies in Favour of Waterbirds*.

242. Noting that DR26 would be considered by WG1, the **Chair** opened the floor to general comments.

243. At the invitation of the **Chair**, the MOP adopted DR26 by consensus, subject to the incorporation of an editorial correction to the French text, as requested by **Senegal**.

Agenda item 29. Reports of the Credentials Committee and Sessional Committees

244. The **Chair of the Credentials Committee**, the United Kingdom (represented by Ms Clare Hamilton) presented the Committee's final report on 18 May (an interim report having been presented to Plenary on 15 May). Of the 44 Parties present at MOP5, 39 had provided satisfactory credentials. Three had not submitted credentials, while, in the view of the Committee, the Credentials of two Parties did not fulfil the criteria specified in Article 18 of the Rules of Procedure (one had not been translated into one of the official languages of the Agreement (English and French); the other had not been signed by a competent authority).

245. The **Chair of the Working Group on Scientific & Technical matters** (WG1), South Africa (represented by Ms Malta Qwathekana), reported that WG1 had met on four occasions between 15 & 18 May. The WG had received a number of presentations and reviewed in detail the following Draft Resolutions (as well as the corresponding MOP5 documents, where appropriate):

- DR1 *National Reporting and Online Reporting System.*
- DR2 *Addressing Gaps in Knowledge of and Conservation Action for Waterbird Populations and Sites Important for Them.*
- DR3 *AEWA International Implementation Tasks for [2012–2015] [2012–2016].*
- DR4 *Implementation of the Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) UNEP-GEF African-Eurasian Flyways Project and Post-WOW Prospects.*
- DR5 *Implementation and Revision of the Communication Strategy.*
- DR6 Rev.1 *Adoption of Amendments to the AEWA Action Plan.*
- DR7 *Adoption of Amendments and New Guidance for Interpretation of Terms Used in the Context of Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan.*
- DR8 *Adoption and Implementation of International Single Species Action Plans and Species Management Plans.*
- DR10 *Revision and Adoption of Conservation Guidelines and the associated document AEWA/MOP 5.34 Draft Revised Conservation Guideline No. 10: Guidelines on Avoidance of Introductions of Non-Native Waterbird Species.*
- DR11 *Power Lines and Migratory Waterbirds.*
- DR12 *Adverse Effects of Agrochemicals on Migratory Waterbirds in Africa.*
- DR13 *Climate Change and Adaptation Measures for Waterbirds.*
- DR14 Rev.1 *Waterbirds, Wetlands and the Impacts of Extractive Industries.*
- DR15 *Impact of Invasive Alien Aquatic Weeds on Waterbird Habitats in Africa.*
- DR16 *Renewable Energy and Migratory Waterbirds.*
- DR18 Rev.1 *Institutional Arrangements: Technical Committee.*
- DR24 *AEWA's Contribution to Delivering the Aichi 2020 Biodiversity Targets.*
- DR25 *Clarifications on the Definition of Disturbance, Useful for Appropriate Implementation of the Action Plan.*

246. Revised drafts, in both official languages, with the proposed amendments agreed by WG1 shown as tracked changes, were now being presented to Plenary for final review and adoption. **Ms** Qwathekana thanked the WG participants, the TC for its expert advice, the interpreters (especially for working until the

end of two consecutive night sessions), the Secretariat, and all those who had contributed to successful outputs from WG1.

247. The **Chair of the Working Group on Financial & Administrative matters** (WG2), Norway (represented by Mr Øystein Størkersen), thanked members of WG2 for conducting their work in good spirit. Several breakout sessions had been held and all resulting documents had either been distributed or would be distributed very shortly. WG2 had considered the following four draft Resolutions:

DR17 Institutional Arrangements: Standing Committee.

248. Note that Plenary consideration of the revised DR took place under Agenda item 26 a (see paragraphs 201–207).

DR21 Financial and Administrative Matters.

249. **Mr Størkersen** reported that under the WG's proposal for DR21, a zero growth budget in terms of assessed contributions to be paid by the Parties was recommended, based on adaptation of scenario four in the original documentation. Nevertheless, the proposal represented an approximately 10% increase in AEWA's overall budget as a consequence of a draw-down from the Trust Fund. He outlined the other key points contained in the revised DR, noting in particular that the MOP had heard repeated calls for more action on the ground, especially in Africa. WG2 was therefore recommending establishment of a new African Initiative position for the Secretariat in Bonn and a significantly strengthened budget line for the AI.

250. Final Plenary consideration of the revised DR took place under Agenda item 30 (see paragraphs 292–307).

DR22 Establishing a Long-Term Basic Structural Funding Regime for the International Waterbird Census in the African-Eurasian region.

251. **Mr Størkersen** reported that a lengthy debate in the WG had resulted in a proposed budget that did not include a budget line for the International Waterbird Census. The options before the WG had been to delete DR22 as redundant or to retain it, but with modifications to the operative part. The preferred option of WG2 had been deletion. He suggested that the Chair of MOP5 should invite Switzerland, as the original proponent of DR22 to comment on this outcome.

252. **Denmark**, speaking on behalf of **the European Union and its Members States**, apologised to the Chair of WG2 since the EU coordination group, which had met earlier in the day, had agreed to suggest amendments to DR22 instead of its deletion. The EU's proposed amendments had been transmitted to Switzerland.

253. **Switzerland** expressed great disappointment at the outcome of WG2's discussions on DR22 and considerable surprise at the new amendments being tabled by the EU.

254. The **Chair of MOP5** ruled that further discussion of this item be deferred to Agenda item 30, to enable Switzerland to consider the EU's proposed amendments.

DR23 Periodicity of the Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA.

255. **Mr Størkersen** reported that WG2 was recommending retention of the existing three-year cycle and that DR23 should therefore be withdrawn.

Agenda item 30. Adoption of the Resolutions and Amendments to the Annexes of the Agreement

(Editorial note: The Correction (Corr.) and revision (Rev.) numbers of the text considered for final adoption by Plenary are indicated, where applicable, for each draft resolution.)

DR1 Rev. 2 *National Reporting and Online Reporting System*

256. The **Chair** noted that this Draft Resolution had been reviewed by WG1 and he invited comments from the floor. There being no such comments, and at the further invitation of the Chair, DR1 Rev. 2 was adopted by consensus without further amendment.

DR2 Rev. 2 *Addressing Gaps in Knowledge of and Conservation Action for Waterbird Populations and Sites Important for Them*

257. The **Chair** noted that this Draft Resolution had been reviewed by WG1 and he invited comments from the floor. There being no such comments, and at the further invitation of the Chair, DR2 Rev. 2 was adopted by consensus without further amendment.

DR3 Corr. 1 Rev. 2 *AEWA International Implementation Tasks for [2012–2015] [2012–2016]*

258. The **Chair** noted that this Draft Resolution had been reviewed by WG1. He confirmed that the title could now be finalised as applying to 2012-2015 because DR23 (on MOP periodicity) had been withdrawn and a three-year intersessional cycle retained. He invited comments from the floor. There being no such comments, and at the further invitation of the Chair, DR3 Corr. 1 Rev. 2 was adopted by consensus subject to finalisation of the title, as indicated.

DR4 Rev. 3 *Implementation of the Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) UNEP-GEF African-Eurasian Flyways Project and post-WOW prospects*

259. The **Chair** noted that this Draft Resolution had been reviewed by WG1 and he invited comments from the floor. There being no such comments, and at the further invitation of the Chair, DR4 Rev. 3 was adopted by consensus without further amendment.

DR5 Rev. 2 *Implementation and Revision of the Communication Strategy*

260. The **Chair** noted that this Draft Resolution had been reviewed by WG1 and he invited comments from the floor. There being no such comments, and at the further invitation of the Chair, DR5 Rev. 2 was adopted by consensus without further amendment.

DR6 Rev. 4 *Adoption of Amendments to the AEWA Action Plan*

261. The **Chair** noted that this Draft Resolution had been reviewed by WG1. He invited comments from the floor.

262. The **United Kingdom**, speaking on behalf of **the European Union and its Member States**, tabled amendments to the final paragraph of the preamble and to operative paragraph 4 to insert “Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*,” immediately before “Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*”.

263. The **European Commission**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union and its Member States**, made the following statement for the record:

“The EU fully supports the amendments to the status of the populations of migratory waterbirds in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan. In accordance with these amendments the populations of Anser fabalis fabalis and Larus fuscus fuscus will be uplisted and require protection as provided for in the AEWA Action Plan.

These species are listed as huntable species under the EU Birds Directive. At this stage, a perfect alignment of EU legislation with international commitments is a complex EU internal process.

Therefore, we would like to indicate that, as regards these two populations, there might be a need to enter a reservation for the EU during the period of ninety days after MOP5 as provided for in paragraph 6 of Article X of the Agreement. In such case, this reservation would be lifted once all the arrangements would be concluded.”

264. Referring to paragraph 2.1.2 (b) of the Action Plan annexed to DR6 Rev. 4, the representative of the **European Commission**, speaking on behalf of **the European Union and its Member States**, made the following additional statement for the record:

“The EU and its Member States have expressed certain concerns in relation to the paragraph on exemption from prohibitions to the modes of taking to accommodate use for livelihood purposes. The mechanism of exemptions that is being established appears to provide many possibilities for use, even if it may only be applied where sustainable. We would have preferred to have some other wording, but, having discussed different options with other Parties, we are ready to accept the consensus on the current proposal. The text of this paragraph ends with the words “where sustainable” without further addition. Nevertheless we believe that Parties should carefully assess to which extent they will avail of this possibility so that it does not lead to a general use of the listed methods.”

265. **The Chair of the Technical Committee** (Ms Jelena Kralj) drew attention to a minor editorial correction required in the first line of section 2.1.3 of the Action Plan.

266. There being no further comments, and at the invitation of the Chair, the meeting approved DR6 Rev. 4, subject to incorporation of the amendments tabled by the UK (on behalf of the EU and its Member States) and taking note of the statements made by the representative of the European Commission (on behalf of the EU and its Member States).

DR7 Rev. 3 Adoption of Amendments and New Guidance for Interpretation of Terms Used in the Context of Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan

267. The **Chair** noted that this Draft Resolution had been reviewed by WG1 and he invited comments from the floor. There being no such comments, and at the further invitation of the Chair, DR7 Rev. 3 was adopted by consensus without further amendment.

DR8 Rev. 1 Adoption and Implementation of International Single Species Action Plans and Species Management Plans

268. The **Chair** noted that this Draft Resolution had been reviewed by WG1 and he invited comments from the floor.

269. The **United Kingdom**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union and its Member States**, tabled amendments to delete the final operative paragraph and to insert “at its first meeting” after the request to the TC contained in operative paragraph 9.

270. **Zimbabwe** recommended adoption of DR8 Rev. 1, as amended by the United Kingdom, and with the caveat that Zimbabwe would submit to the Secretariat information on the sites to be included in the Annex relating to the SSAP for Slaty Egret *Egretta vinaceigula*.

271. There being no further comments, and at the invitation of the **Chair**, the meeting approved DR8 Rev. 1, subject to incorporation of the amendments tabled by the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Union and its Member States) and taking note of the statement made by Zimbabwe.

DR9 Rev. 2 Implementation of the African Initiative for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and Their Habitats in Africa

272. The **Chair** noted that the African Initiative had been discussed extensively during the MOP, resulting in the addition of a number of amendments to the Draft Resolution. He invited comments from the floor.

273. There followed a lengthy debate – involving contributions from **Benin** (speaking on behalf of **the African Group**), **France** (speaking on behalf of **the European Union and its Member States**), **Mali**, **Senegal** (speaking on behalf of **the African Group**), and **Uganda** – concerning the respective roles and responsibilities, with regard to coordination and implementation of the African Initiative and Plan of Action for Africa, of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat in Bonn, sub-regional focal points in Africa, and the arrangement for technical support to be funded by France and based at Tour du Valat Biological Station.

274. During discussion it was emphasized that implementation of the PoAA should be led from within the region itself. The offer of France to fund technical support was warmly welcomed by Parties and the role of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat to date, and especially the contribution of the AI Coordinator, in bringing the PoAA to fruition, was also commended.

275. **Denmark**, speaking on behalf of **the European Union and its Member States**, pointed out the need to harmonise the text of the PoAA where it made reference to the phasing out of lead shot, with what had been agreed in WG1 for DR24 concerning the Aichi Targets. Therefore Chapter 6, Table 5, Target 2.1, Result 2.1.1, Action a) should be amended to read: “...by 2017 as laid down in the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009–2017”.

276. **Senegal**, speaking on behalf of the **African Group**, proposed amending Action b) of the same table; awareness raising should not only be for North Africa but for the whole of Africa.

277. The **Chair** summarised the specific amendments to be made as a consequence of the discussion:

- In the first preambular paragraph of the French version, amend “value of maintaining” to “benefit of maintaining”.
- Preambular paragraph 3, at the end, after “each sub-region”, amend to read: “who will guide implementation at the sub-regional level”.
- In operative paragraph 2, amend the sentence at the end of the paragraph to read: “who will guide implementation at the sub-regional level and who will receive technical support from the arrangement offered by France”.
- Operative paragraph 3 should be moved to become the last paragraph of the preamble as it did not address operative issues.

- Operative paragraph 6 add: after “the European Union: “the arrangements made for technical support”.
- The amendments to Table 5 of the PoAA requested by Denmark and Senegal.

278. There being no further comments, and at the invitation of the **Chair**, DR9 Rev. 2 was adopted by consensus, subject to incorporation of the amendments summarized by the Chair and the amendments to Table 5 of the Plan of Action for Africa tabled by Denmark and Senegal.

DR10 Rev. 2 *Revision and Adoption of Conservation Guidelines and modification to doc 5.34*

279. The **Chair** noted that this Draft Resolution had been reviewed by WG1 and he invited comments from the floor. There being no such comments, and at the further invitation of the Chair, DR10 Rev. 2 was adopted by consensus without further amendment.

DR11 Rev. 2 *Power Lines and Migratory Waterbirds*

280. The **Chair** noted that this Draft Resolution had been reviewed by WG1 and he invited comments from the floor. There being no such comments, and at the further invitation of the Chair, DR11 Rev. 2 was adopted by consensus without further amendment.

DR12 Rev. 2 *Adverse Effects of Agrochemicals on Migratory Waterbirds in Africa*

281. The **Chair** noted that this Draft Resolution had been reviewed by WG1 and he invited comments from the floor. There being no such comments, and at the further invitation of the Chair, DR12 Rev. 2 was adopted by consensus without further amendment.

DR13 Rev. 1 *Climate Change and Adaptation Measures for Waterbirds*

282. The **Chair** noted that this Draft Resolution had been reviewed by WG1 and he invited comments from the floor. There being no such comments, and at the further invitation of the Chair, DR13 Rev. 1 was adopted by consensus without further amendment.

DR14 Rev. 3 *Waterbirds, Wetlands and the Impacts of Extractive Industries*

283. The **Chair** noted that this Draft Resolution had been reviewed by WG1 and he invited comments from the floor. There being no such comments, and at the further invitation of the Chair, DR14 Rev. 3 was adopted by consensus without further amendment.

DR15 Rev. 2 *Impact of Invasive Alien Aquatic Weeds on Waterbird Habitats in Africa*

284. The **Chair** noted that this Draft Resolution had been reviewed by WG1. He invited comments from the floor.

285. The **representative of the European Union and its Member States** tabled an amendment to the 5th paragraph of the preamble, namely to add: “travel, trade” after “dam developments”.

286. There being no further comments, and at the invitation of the **Chair**, the meeting approved DR15 Rev. 2, subject to incorporation of the amendment tabled by the EU.

DR16 Rev. 2 *Renewable Energy and Migratory Waterbirds*

287. The **Chair** noted that this Draft Resolution had been reviewed by WG1. The *Explanatory Note* had been removed and a number of other amendments introduced for the consideration of plenary. He invited comments from the floor. There being no such comments, and at the further invitation of the Chair, DR16 Rev. 2 was adopted by consensus without further amendment.

DR17 Rev. 2 *Institutional Arrangements: Standing Committee*

288. This Draft Resolution was considered and adopted under Agenda item 26 a (see paragraphs 201–207).

DR18 Rev. 3 *Institutional Arrangements: Technical Committee*

289. The **Chair** noted that this Draft Resolution had been reviewed by WG1 and he invited comments from the floor. There being no such comments, and at the further invitation of the Chair, DR18 Rev. 3 was adopted by consensus without further amendment.

DR19 Rev. 1 *Encouragement of Further Joint Implementation of AEWA and the Ramsar Convention*

290. The **Chair** recalled that this Draft Resolution had not been reviewed by either of the Working Groups, but that the Secretariat had nevertheless prepared a revised text including a number of amendments drawn to its attention. He invited comments on these amendments. There being no such comments, and at the further invitation of the Chair, DR19 Rev. 1 was adopted by consensus without further amendment.

DR20 Rev. 1 *Promote Twinning Schemes between the Natural Sites Covered by AEWA and the Network of Sites Listed under the Ramsar Convention*

291. The **Chair** recalled that this Draft Resolution had not been reviewed by either of the Working Groups, but that the Secretariat had nevertheless prepared a revised text including a number of amendments drawn to its attention. He invited comments on these amendments. There being no such comments, and at the further invitation of the Chair, DR20 Rev. 1 was adopted by consensus without further amendment.

DR21 Rev. 2 *Financial and Administrative Matters*

292. The **Chair** noted that this Draft Resolution had been reviewed by WG2 and presented by the Chair of WG2 under Agenda item 29. He invited comments from the floor.

293. The **United Kingdom**, speaking on behalf of **the European Union and its Member States**, thanked the Chair of WG2 for his skilful conduct of the WG's discussions, as well as the Secretariat for its support. The European Union and its Member States wished to table the following amendments, to reflect the WG's conclusions at its final meeting:

- Operative paragraph 17, line 2: after “beyond 50%”, delete “and to consider types of appointment other than the fixed-term appointment”.
- Move operative paragraph 18, beginning “Takes note with appreciation...”, to the preamble.
- Operative paragraph 19: after “African Initiative”, add: “before voluntary contributions are sought for this post”.

294. In response to a question from **Uganda**, the **Chair** confirmed that the text remaining in operative paragraph 17 would still permit the Secretariat to seek funding beyond 50%.

295. **Algeria** felt strongly that instead of merely seeking additional funding, the Secretariat should be guaranteeing such funding; this would better reflect the priority given by the African Parties to the AI.
296. The **Chair** suggested a compromise that would read “Instructs the Secretariat to find additional funding...”, since the Secretariat was not in a position to guarantee doing so.
297. **The representative of the European Commission**, speaking on behalf of **the European Union and its Member States** pointed out that Appendix 4 and the scale of contributions should be corrected to make reference to the “European Union”, not the “European Community”.
298. The representative of **Switzerland** recalled that, in common with other single-person delegations, he had been unable to attend all of the negotiating sessions of WG2. He therefore wished to make a general comment regarding the AI and PoAA. Thanks were due to the Chair and members of WG2 for the efforts made to reach consensus, but Switzerland was nevertheless disappointed that the PoAA did not command greater attention and did not receive additional resources for implementation. It was a Plan of Action with relevance for the whole AEWA region; as such it was both key to the Agreement and extremely worthwhile. Switzerland was therefore making an urgent call to all Contracting Parties, including the wealthier countries, to support the AI.
299. The **Chair** expressed the hope that Parties that were potential donors all shared the view of Switzerland with regard to supporting the AI and PoAA.
300. **Denmark**, speaking on behalf of **the European Union and its Member States**, appreciated very much that WG2 had recommended including money directed at Africa in the core budget for the first time. There was also the generous offer of France to consider. These were both promising signs for the AI and PoAA.
301. **Mali** very much appreciated the comment of Switzerland. The AI was like a ‘compass’ or ‘Global Positioning System (GPS)’ for AEWA’s efforts to conserve migratory waterbirds. The Parties gathered at MOP5 needed to work together; thanks were due to donors for their efforts to date and it was the hope of African Parties that such support would be continued.
302. **Tunisia** endorsed the intervention made by Switzerland.
303. **Uganda** also expressed wholehearted support for the statement of Switzerland and suggested strengthening operative paragraph 14 of the Draft Resolution to read: “Urges CPs, to make an increased effort in providing voluntary...”.
304. **Norway**, speaking as Chair of WG2, apologised for having omitted, during the report of the WG’s deliberations under Agenda item 29, to thank the Government of France for its generous offer of technical support for the PoAA. Speaking on behalf of Norway, it should be appreciated that the AI was a first for the Agreement and that the Parties had done the best they could in the circumstances. Norway would certainly join efforts to encourage more support for the AI in future; this was just the beginning.
305. **The Chair** reiterated the amendments tabled by the European Commission (on behalf of the European Union and its Member States), Uganda, and the UK (on behalf of the European Union and its Member States). He invited additional comments or proposals.
306. **Uganda** moved adoption of the Draft Resolution as amended.

307. There being no further requests for the floor and at the invitation of the **Chair**, the meeting approved DR21 Rev. 2 subject to inclusion of the amendments tabled by the European Commission, Uganda and United Kingdom.

DR22 original text *Establishing a Long-Term Basic Structural Funding Regime for the International Waterbird Census in the African-Eurasian Region*

308. The **Chair** invited Switzerland to report on the outcome of its bilateral discussions with the EU, following earlier consideration of this Draft Resolution under Agenda item 29.

309. **Switzerland** confirmed that discussions had been held with the EU to find a compromise and that Switzerland was now in a position to table revised operative text for consideration of the Plenary, not withdrawal of the Draft Resolution. The new operative paragraphs, to replace the existing operative paragraphs, would read as follows:

- Operative paragraph 1: *“Invites the Technical Committee to work with the Waterbird Monitoring Partnership to make progress towards the monitoring-related targets of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 and to report to the 6th Meeting of Parties and, if required, to propose this issue to be revisited at MOP6 with the aim to secure a long-term sustainable solution for international waterbird monitoring”*.
- Operative paragraph 2: *“Urges Contracting Parties to consider making voluntary contributions to support the collection and collation of data for the production of the triennial AEWA Conservation Status Report and the Global Waterbird Population Estimates.”*
- Operative paragraph 3: *“Invites the non-Contracting Parties, international organisations, and other stakeholders, to support the collection and collation of data for the production of the triennial AEWA Conservation Status Report and the Global Waterbird Population Estimates through voluntary contributions.”*

310. **Switzerland** would have preferred a stronger text but had moved significantly towards the view of the European Union in the interests of consensus. However, the consequence of this decision would be continued reliance, during the next intersessional period, on the budget of Wetlands International and voluntary contributions. The International Waterbird Census (IWC) would therefore remain in a relatively weak situation in the short term and the signal being sent by the AEWA Parties to COP11 of the Ramsar Convention, to be held in July 2012, was very negative. Ramsar could have been one of the financial contributors to a strengthened IWC and might now consider not stepping in because AEWA chose not to do so. Switzerland nevertheless hoped that the compromise text would be acceptable. The whole of the preamble to the Draft Resolution remained unchanged.

311. In response to a suggestion made by the **Chair**, **Switzerland** confirmed that the title of the Draft Resolution should remain unchanged.

312. There being no further comments, and at the invitation of the **Chair**, DR22 (original text) was adopted, subject to inclusion of the amendments to the operative paragraphs tabled by Switzerland.

DR23 *Periodicity of the Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA*

313. This Draft Resolution was withdrawn, upon the recommendation of WG2, as reported under Agenda item 29.

DR24 Rev. 2 *AEWA's Contribution to Delivering the Aichi 2020 Biodiversity Targets*

314. The **Chair** noted that this Draft Resolution had been reviewed by WG1 and he invited comments from the floor. There being no such comments, and at the further invitation of the Chair, DR24 Rev. 2 was adopted by consensus without further amendment.

DR25 original text *Clarifications on the Definition of Disturbance, Useful for Appropriate Implementation of the Action Plan*

315. The **Chair** noted that this Draft Resolution had been reviewed by WG1 and he invited comments from the floor. There being no such comments, and at the further invitation of the Chair, DR25 (original text) was adopted by consensus without further amendment.

DR26 original text *Support for Reinforcing Capacities with a View to Improving Laws and Policies in Favour of Waterbirds*

316. The **Chair** noted that the original text of this Draft Resolution had been reviewed in plenary, that no proposals for amendments had been received, and that the original text was therefore tabled for comment. There being no such comments, and at the further invitation of the Chair, DR26 (original text) was adopted by consensus without amendment.

DR27 original text *Tribute to the Organisers*

317. This Draft Resolution was considered under Agenda item 34 (see paragraph 331).

DR28 original text *Date, Venue and Funding of the 6th Meeting of the Parties*

318. This Draft Resolution was considered under Agenda item 31 (see paragraphs 325 & 326). In concluding this Agenda item, the **Chair** confirmed that the adopted resolutions would be re-numbered to take account of the withdrawal of DR23.

Agenda item 31. Date and Venue of the Sixth Meeting of the Parties

319. The **Chair** noted that Parties had been invited in advance to consider hosting the 6th Session of the Meeting of Parties (now confirmed for 2015, following the withdrawal of DR23) and to announce any expression of interest prior to or during MOP5. He invited statements from the floor.

320. **Israel** invited MOP6 to meet in Israel. Since birds knew no political boundaries, all Parties would be welcomed. In case the offer was not accepted, any future meeting of the Technical Committee would also be warmly welcomed in Israel.

321. **Algeria, Egypt, Kuwait, Libya and Mauritania** all indicated that while AEWA did not deal with political concerns, holding MOP6 in Israel would make it difficult or impossible for many Arab countries to attend.

322. The **Chair** noted that all participants were aware of the concerns involved, though it was regrettable, since such issues extended well beyond the competence of AEWA.

323. **Mauritania** reported that it had hoped to make an offer to host MOP6 but was not yet in a position to issue an official invitation.

324. **South Africa** welcomed Israel's expression of interest to host MOP6 and indicated that Southern African countries might also consider developing an expression of interest to host a future MOP.

325. In the absence of an offer enjoying consensus support, the **Chair** suggested modifying DR28 as follows:

- Paragraph 2 of preamble to be deleted.
- New operative paragraph 1: “*Invites* interested Parties to communicate to the Secretariat within six months their interest in hosting the 6th Session of the Meeting of the Parties.”
- New operative paragraph 2: “*Requests* the Standing Committee to decide on behalf of the Meeting of the Parties, the venue of the 6th Session of the Meeting of the Parties taking into account the expressions of interest received from Parties”.

326. There being no further comments, and at the invitation of the **Chair**, DR28 was adopted by consensus subject to incorporation of the amendments tabled by the Chair.

Agenda item 32. Adoption of the Report of the Meeting

327. The **Chair** invited participants to review the three draft daily reports for the Plenary sessions held on 14, 15 and 16 May, and proposed that the Secretariat and MOP5 Chair should be entrusted with drafting a report for the Plenary sessions held on 18 May. He requested that minor drafting errors or other corrections to the three reports circulated so far should be brought to the attention of the Secretariat directly, but that any proposals for more substantive amendments should be made from the floor.

328. Referring to paragraph 45 of the daily reports, **Senegal** requested the inclusion, after “Senegal”, of: “(African focal point for scientific and technical matters)”.

329. In the absence of any further interventions, and at the invitation of the **Chair**, the meeting adopted the draft daily reports for 14, 15 & 16 May and authorised the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair of MOP5, to prepare the report for 18 May.

Agenda item 33. Other Matters

330. There being no requests for the floor, the **Chair** announced that MOP5 had completed its substantive agenda.

Agenda item 34. Closure of the Meeting

331. In support of DR27 *Tribute to the Organisers*, which was adopted by consensus, statements of thanks were made by **Denmark** on behalf of **the European Union and its Member States**, and by **Benin** on behalf of **the African Group**, as well as by **Mali, South Sudan and Tunisia**.

332. Particular thanks were due to the hosts – the Government of France (notably the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing), the Prefecture of Charente-Maritime, and the Municipality of La Rochelle - as well as to the Espace Encan conference centre, French governmental bodies (particularly ONCFS) and NGOs (especially LPO and OMPO), the Chair of the MOP and the Chairs of the Credentials Committee and two Working Groups, the Government of Germany for its generous support (notably of sponsored delegate travel), and to those other donors who had supported AEWA's work. Thanks were also extended to the interpreters, rapporteur, technical staff, security staff and all members of the Secretariat.

333. The **Chair**, thanked participants on behalf of **France** for the honour of being appointed to chair the MOP. In addition to adding his personal thanks to those institutions and organisations already acknowledged by participants, he thanked AEWA's Acting Executive Secretary (Mr Marco Barbieri) and Technical Officer (Mr Sergey Dereliev), as well as the Programme Assistant (Ms Birgit Drerup) who had led logistical planning on behalf of the Secretariat. Special thanks went to all members of the French Organising Committee and in particular to Ms Marianne Courouble and Mr Olivier Monteau. He felt sure that participants would be taking away a general feeling of enthusiasm; that in spite of current economic difficulties, AEWA was planning for the long term. During the next intersessional period, all stakeholders needed to work to translate words into action in each region and each country of the Agreement Area.

334. The **Acting Executive Secretary of AEWA** (Mr Marco Barbieri) thanked the Chair and hosts of MOP5. The MOP had enjoyed excellent working conditions and would certainly be remembered as a stepping stone for the Agreement, but potentially also as a milestone; depending on what happened next in terms of implementation – especially with regard to the African Initiative. He reiterated his thanks to all those previously acknowledged and wished all participants a safe journey home.

ANNEX 1

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY MOP5

RESOLUTION 5.1

NATIONAL REPORTING AND ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM

Recalling Resolution 1.3 on establishment of a triennial national report format,

Noting that the 6th Meeting of the Technical Committee recommended the development of an online reporting facility as a tool for better harmonisation of the AEWA reporting templates,

Recalling Resolution 3.5, which instructed the Secretariat to develop an online national report format in close cooperation with the Technical Committee and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Secretariat, while seeking to advance the harmonisation of reporting with other international biodiversity agreements, and to submit it for approval to MOP4,

Recalling Resolution 4.7, which adopted and approved the use of the online national report format for reporting by the Contracting Parties to future MOPs and urged Contracting Parties to utilise the online national reporting facility to report to each MOP as thoroughly as possible, as well as to provide feedback on the lessons learned as a result of the use of the online reporting,

Further recalling Resolution 4.7, which requested UNEP to continue with the implementation of its project on “*Strengthening the Implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions through the Strategic Use of Information: Knowledge Management among MEAs*” with additional initiatives, which *inter alia* would assist in the development of analytical and synthesis tools for information provided via the online national reporting facility and which requested the donor community to provide financial resources to enable the Secretariat to continue working in collaboration with UNEP and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to implement activities intended to strengthen the online format for national reporting,

Reaffirming that a versatile online national reporting facility would ease the reporting burden for the Contracting Parties and should therefore increase the rate of submission of national reports, as well as provide a basis for assessment and monitoring of national and international implementation and for identifying gaps,

Acknowledging the work carried out by the Secretariat, the Technical Committee and the UNEP-WCMC in both revising and enhancing the national report format for online application and in developing the Online Reporting System (ORS) in the context of the *UNEP DELC Knowledge Management Project*, which was the web-based electronic platform used for reporting to MOP5, while *also acknowledging* the ongoing work of the UNEP Initiative on *Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)* in facilitating the knowledge-sharing and collaboration on the topic of online national reporting amongst MEAs, including exploring technical options for common reporting and analytical tools for national reporting to MEAs,

Noting that 13 national reports (21% of due reports) were submitted to MOP5 using the ORS by the official deadline of 14 January 2012 and 30 were submitted after the official deadline, but by the cut-off date of 23 February 2012 for inclusion into the group of reports for analysis, and, that in total, 69 % of due

national reports were submitted in time through the ORS to be included in the analysis of national reports prepared by UNEP-WCMC as detailed in document AEWA/MOP 5.13,

Aware of the predominantly late submission of national reports in this, as well as in previous reporting cycles, which poses a challenge regarding the timely production and submission to the MOP of the analysis and summary of information provided by Contracting Parties through their national reports.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Congratulates* the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre and the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat for developing the Online Reporting System (ORS) as a generic web-based electronic platform for online national reporting for MEAs under the UNEP-led “*Knowledge Management project for MEAs*”;
2. *Recognises* that the reporting process to the AEWA MOP5 was the first use of the Online Reporting System (ORS) developed by UNEP-WCMC and that further resources are needed to develop the analytical component of the system as well as to maintain the ORS and to provide training for national respondents for future reporting cycles;
3. *Recommends* that the use of the ORS as a tool for online national reporting is considered for adoption by the Secretariats of CMS, its other instruments and potentially other MEAs, in order to provide a strong basis for harmonisation and enable future cost-sharing, both in terms of the maintenance and further development of the ORS as well as with regard to training and capacity-building measures associated with online reporting amongst MEAs;
4. *Requests* UNEP to build on the successful outcomes of projects such as the “*Strengthening the Implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions through the Strategic Use of Information: Knowledge Management among MEAs*” with additional initiatives to support online national reporting, which would assist in the development of analytical and synthesis tools for information provided via the Online Reporting System (ORS);
5. *Further encourages* the donor community to provide financial resources to enable the Secretariat to continue working in collaboration with UNEP and UNEP-WCMC to implement activities intended to strengthen the online format for national reporting, such as developing the analytical tool component of the ORS;
6. *Further requests* the Secretariat to seek to work with UNEP-WCMC to advance the further development of the ORS and to enhance the inter-operability of the ORS with systems used for national reporting of other relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements;
7. *Instructs* the Secretariat to report progress on this activity to each meeting of the Standing Committee;
8. *Decides* that the deadline for submission of national reports by Contracting Parties to the 6th Session of the Meeting of the Parties shall be 180 days before the opening date of MOP6.

RESOLUTION 5.2

**ADDRESSING GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE OF AND CONSERVATION ACTION FOR
WATERBIRD POPULATIONS AND SITES IMPORTANT FOR THEM**

Recalling Resolution 4.2 “*Responding to the need to improve knowledge of the status of and factors causing declines of some waterbird populations*”,

Taking full account of documents AEWA/MOP 5.14 “*Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds in the Agreement Area – 5th edition*” (aka CSR5) and AEWA/MOP 5.15 preliminary “*Report on the Site Network for Waterbirds in the Agreement Area – 1st edition*”,

Aware that no improvement of the knowledge of population sizes, neither with regard to quantity nor quality, has been achieved since the 4th edition of the CSR (CSR4), with 2% of populations still lacking size estimates, only 5% of size estimates based on census data, and the remaining being either “best guess” (20%) or expert opinion (73%),

Further aware that the assessment of population trends using the methodology developed by the International Wader Study Group has resulted in 37% of populations lacking any trend estimates, the majority of the available estimates being poor (45%), only 11% reasonable and just 7% of good quality,

Concerned that a high proportion (38%) of populations with known trends continue to show declines compared to the 27% of populations which are increasing,

Noting that the International Waterbird Census (IWC) and the related schemes could provide a good basis for estimating population size and trends for 32% and 52% of the waterbird populations in the Agreement area respectively, provided that the coverage of these schemes is improved,

Further noting that the population size and trends estimates could be based on colonial breeding bird schemes in the Agreement area in the case of 32% and 27% of the populations, provided a comprehensive scheme covering the region existed,

Noting that the species with the least exhaustive or non-existent population size and trend estimates are usually those which cannot be covered by generic monitoring schemes, such as the IWC,

Further noting that the West and Central Asian regions, alongside the Afrotropical region, have the least exhaustive population size estimates, population trend estimates and highest proportion of declining populations,

Acknowledging that in CSR5, the increase of populations whose status is assessed on the basis of regular monitoring data is only 5% compared to CSR4, as opposed to the Strategic Plan target of 50%,

Recalling that the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 aims to undertake conservation measures so as to improve or maintain the conservation status of waterbird species and their populations through, *inter alia*, a comprehensive and coherent flyway network of protected and managed sites, and other adequately managed sites, of international and national importance for waterbirds, which are established and maintained, while taking into account the existing networks and climate change,

Recalling the Ramsar Convention's *Strategic Framework and Guidelines for the Development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance*, which urges its Parties to undertake a strategic approach to the identification and designation of a national network of protected wetlands, *inter alia* for waterbird conservation, and which provides guidance and targets to that end,

Aware that in 2012, half of the critical sites, as defined by the Critical Site Network Tool, for migratory waterbirds in the Agreement area have only some, little or none of their area covered by protected areas (international and/or national) or their protection status is unknown, despite the fact that these sites all meet either Criterion 2 or Criterion 6 for identifying Wetlands of International Importance which are both internationally accepted criteria of importance mentioned in the context of Paragraph 3.2.2 of the AEWA Action Plan,

Also aware that, according to the available information, only 3% of the critical sites have comprehensive and appropriate management plans that aim to maintain or improve the populations of qualifying species, a further 5% have some plan but it is out of date or not comprehensive and in the case of 2%, it has been reported that the management planning has started, while for the remaining 90% of the sites there is either no management plan or there is no information available concerning management planning,

Further aware that comprehensive and effective implementation of conservation measures at critical sites were reported in the preliminary Site Network Report for 1% of them; in 5% of the sites, it was reported that substantive conservation measures were being implemented and for another 5% some limited conservation measures were reported, however for the majority (89%) there is either very little conservation action or it has not been reported,

Noting that the average estimated size of the AEWA populations covered by protected area networks is only 55% of the coverage provided by the Critical Site Network,

Also noting that 19 populations (4% of all AEWA populations reflected in the CSN Tool), covered by the Critical Site Network in significant numbers (i.e. over 10% of their populations), are not covered by the existing protected area network,

Noting that for only 61% of the AEWA populations, internationally important sites, both in breeding and non-breeding seasons have been identified because many of the populations are not sufficiently congregatory throughout the year,

Noting that the regions with the most significant gaps in site designation and management are West and Central Asia,

Further noting that only five Range States in West and Central Asia have acceded to the Agreement,

Also noting the low reporting rate by Contracting Parties during the process of elaboration of document AEWA/MOP 5.15 "*Report on the Site Network for Waterbirds in the Agreement Area*" and that the report is largely based on information collected by NGOs rather than official data provided by Parties,

Mindful that the most frequently recorded threats to species are climate change, albeit with unknown impacts at population level, unsustainable biological resource use, such as hunting, trapping, logging and harvesting of aquatic resources, as well as natural system modifications, including various water management activities, such as dam construction and water abstraction, while agriculture and aquaculture affect fewer species, but their impacts tend to be stronger,

Further noting the lack of international seabird- and colonial breeding bird colony databases and monitoring schemes at appropriate scale in large parts of the flyway,

Taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the Standing Committee report to MOP5 on the progress of implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 (AEWA/MOP 5.11).

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Calls upon* Parties to ensure that all AEWA populations are covered by international monitoring schemes which are appropriate both in their scopes and methods to produce reliable international population size and trend estimates;
2. *Requests* the Secretariat and the Technical Committee, in collaboration with the relevant international organisations, to provide additional guidance to the Parties in this respect, by MOP6, including monitoring of seabirds and colonial breeding waterbirds;
3. *Urges* Parties to develop individual monitoring programmes which are appropriate in their scope and methods to obtain reliable estimates of population sizes and trends of waterbird populations breeding or wintering in their territories while striving towards a harmonised methodology in line with the new AEWA conservation guidelines to be developed by the Technical Committee;
4. *Requests* the Technical Committee to identify priorities for the systematic development of waterbird monitoring, in order to reach the target of a 50% increase by 2017 in the number of populations whose status is assessed on the basis of regular monitoring data, as per the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017, taking into account the conservation status of the populations, their geographic representativeness and other factors;
5. *Invites* Parties with more technical and financial capacity to support other Parties and Range States, particularly in West and Central Asia and in the Afrotropical region in the framework of the African Initiative, in designing appropriate monitoring schemes and developing their capacity to collect reliable data;
6. *Encourages* Parties, Range States and other stakeholders to use the AEWA Conservation Guidelines and the monitoring training programme developed under the Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) UNEP-GEF African-Eurasian Flyways Project¹;
7. *Invites* the Secretariat and *Calls on* Parties to increase their activities in order to recruit more Parties in West and Central Asia;
8. *Instructs* the Secretariat, funding permitting, to coordinate the development of a Plan of Action for the implementation of AEWA in West and Central Asia in collaboration with the Parties and the Technical Committee, building on the experience of the Plan of Action for Africa process;
9. *Requests* the Secretariat and the Technical Committee to develop a module for the national report format on the designation and management of important sites to be used for informing the next editions of the *Report on the Site Network for Waterbirds in the Agreement Area*;
10. *Requests* the Technical Committee, working closely with Contracting Parties, to continue to develop the “*Report on the Site Network for Waterbirds in the Agreement area*” so as to better reflect information on the management and conservation status of key sites, to further develop ways of summarising this information accessibly, and to bring a revised and updated version of this report to the 6th Meeting of the Parties;
11. *Urges* Parties to develop and implement national action plans for filling gaps in designation and/or management of internationally and nationally important sites to establish a comprehensive and coherent flyway network by 2017, building as appropriate on the prioritised country profiles presented in Annex 2 of the *Report on the Site Network for Waterbirds in the Agreement Area*, the Critical Site Network Tool,

¹ <http://www.wingsoverwetlands.org/>

available wetland inventories, and other appropriate resources and to provide a report on progress to this end to MOP6;

12. *Encourages* Parties, Range States and other stakeholders to conduct gap-filling surveys in poorly known areas, in particular those identified during the sub-regional consultations conducted under the Wings Over Wetlands and WetCap projects, in order to assess their international importance;

13. *Instructs* the Secretariat, funding permitting, to coordinate the development of habitat action plans in Africa and West and Central Asia to address the conservation requirements of AEWA populations during those life cycle stages when site-based approaches to conservation are ineffective, requiring management of their habitats in the wider countryside;

14. *Urges* Parties to take more effective measures to reduce the impacts of various forms of unsustainable biological resource use by quantifying their population level impacts and developing mitigation measures; furthermore it urges Parties to coordinate the sustainable use of shared populations especially the ones with declining trends *inter alia* through developing coordinated harvest management schemes;

15. *Calls upon* Parties to take more concerted actions to reduce the impacts of water management activities in accordance with paragraph 3.2 of the AEWA Action Plan;

16. *Urges* Parties, acting as donors in international development cooperation, to take into consideration the AEWA requirements in the implementation of their external aid policies to address the negative impacts of water management, agriculture and aquaculture developments, hunting tourism and fishing and to provide assistance to the establishment of a comprehensive and coherent flyway network of protected and managed sites and other adequately managed sites that fulfil the joint objectives of AEWA, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and other international treaties;

17. *Requests* the Secretariat, *urges* the Parties and *invites* the Secretariats of other MEAs, such as the Convention on Migratory Species and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and other stakeholders to promote more favourable conditions for flyway-scale, multi-country projects for migratory species by international biodiversity funding mechanisms, such as the Global Environmental Facility² and LIFE+³, through adopting conducive eligibility criteria and funding allocations to multi-country projects;

18. *Urges* Parties, the Standing and Technical Committees, and the Secretariat to provide for the implementation of the recommendations of the Standing Committee report to MOP5 on the “*Progress of implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017*” (AEWA/MOP 5.11), as necessary.

² <http://www.thegef.org/gef/>

³ <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus.htm>

RESOLUTION 5.3

AEWA INTERNATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TASKS FOR 2012-2015

Recalling Resolution 4.10 on International Implementation Tasks (IITs) for the Agreement for the period 2009-2016,

Acknowledging the significant contribution of the Wings over Wetlands (WOW) Project to the waterbird conservation within the Agreement area and the matching funding raised for the implementation of WOW through IIT 2009-2016 projects,

Appreciating the support provided by Contracting Parties, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations for the implementation of the International Implementation Tasks 2009-2016,

Expressing concern about the low level of implementation of International Implementation Tasks in the last triennium and quadrennium since 2006,

Noting the conclusions of the *Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds within the Agreement Area – 5th Edition* (document AEWA/MOP 5.14), the preliminary draft of the first edition of the *Report on the Site Network for Waterbirds in the Agreement Area* (document AEWA/MOP 5.15), as well as some other reviews submitted to MOP5, such as the *Review on the Conflict between Migratory Birds and Electricity Power Grids in the African-Eurasian Region* (document AEWA/MOP 5.38), the *Report on Adverse Effects of Agrochemicals on Migratory Waterbirds in Africa* (document AEWA/MOP Inf. 5.5) and the *Summary, Synthesis and Report of Project Coordination: Rehabilitation of Important Migratory Waterbird Sites Which Have Been Degraded by Invasive Aquatic Weeds* (document AEWA/MOP Inf. 5.4),

Noting also the contribution these International Implementation Tasks will make to the objectives of AEWA's Strategic Plan,

Taking into account the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa developed over the past quadrennium and adopted by Resolution 5.9,

Recalling the need for proactive and targeted conservation measures in order to achieve the CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2020,

Reaffirming the particular importance of:

- (a) the contribution that conservation of migratory waterbirds and the wise use of their wetland habitats can make to sustainable development, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
- (b) the need to identify functional networks of key sites through an understanding of the migratory flyways of populations covered by the Agreement; and

- (c) the need to support the maintenance of the International Waterbird Census in Europe and its further development in Africa, the Middle East, East and Central Asia as the basis of assessing the international status and trends of waterbird populations and thus the effective implementation of the Agreement.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Adopts* the International Implementation Tasks for 2012-2015 appended to this Resolution, which are updated and amended on the basis of the International Implementation Tasks adopted for 2009-2016 as the medium-term priorities for international cooperation activities for implementation of the Agreement;
2. *Urges* Contracting Parties and specialised international organisations to support ongoing projects and, where appropriate, to develop new international cooperation projects for the implementation of the Agreement, according to the priorities outlined in the Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa, to keep the Agreement Secretariat fully informed of progress, and to report conclusions at future Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties;
3. *Further urges* Contracting Parties, *instructs* the Agreement Secretariat and *invites* specialised international organisations to seek innovative mechanisms and partnerships to enable implementation of the priorities listed in the Appendix, including joint ventures, twinning arrangements, secondments and exchange programmes, corporate sector sponsorships and species adoption programmes;
4. *Requests* bilateral and multilateral donors to provide financial assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the implementation of the Agreement, by supporting implementation of the priorities listed in the Appendix;
5. *Instructs* the Agreement Secretariat to disseminate the International Implementation Tasks for 2012-2015, to coordinate closely with related conventions and international organisations for their implementation, and to seek appropriate donors.

AEWA INTERNATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TASKS (IIT) FOR 2012-2015

Introduction

1. The following list of priority activities has been established to assist Contracting Parties, donors and other stakeholders to further the international implementation of the Action Plan of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds during the period 2012-2015.
2. Since the first Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Agreement, which took place in November 1999 in Cape Town (South Africa), when the International Implementation Priorities (IIP) for 2000-2004 were adopted in Resolution 1.4, priorities have been revised and updated by each MOP. The current proposal for IIT 2012-2015 represents a revised list of activities based on the MOP4-approved IITs 2009-2016.

Implementation Priorities 2009-2016 as the basis

3. In a separate document (AEWA/MOP 5.17) the implementation status of the tasks over the period 2009-2011 is presented, focussing on actions undertaken or in progress within the AEWA framework (more may have been undertaken by individual countries or other agencies in other contexts). Document AEWA/MOP 5.17 shows that there has been some progress in implementing some projects, particularly projects related to the Wings Over Wetlands Project (WOW) / African-Eurasian Flyways GEF project (which concluded in 2010) and Single Species Action Plan preparation and coordination, however, funding has been lacking for a number of projects.

Revision

4. In order to identify necessary changes and additions that were needed to the existing implementation tasks, the IIT list was thoroughly reviewed and amended by the Technical Committee. The entire list underwent a comprehensive revision. The WOW-related projects which were implemented were deleted and the non-implemented ones which were still considered to be a priority were revised. Several previous projects were considered low priority and therefore removed from the updated list, while a number of new project concepts were added. The remaining non-implemented projects were also all revised and updated.

Order and format of presentation

5. As in the previous versions, the presentation of the tasks in the present document follows the headings of the Action Plan to the Agreement. The number(s) in parentheses after each task title refer(s) to the relevant paragraph of the Agreement's Action Plan.
6. The order of presentation does not reflect any order of priority.
7. For each task, an indicative budget and timescale is presented for guidance, along with the types of activity involved. It should be noted that the budgets are only indicative. Detailed project proposals and budgets to meet each task will be required at a later stage and should be the basis for the final fund-raising.

Discussion

8. The tasks include only those requiring international cooperation, and are not intended to reflect national implementation priorities, which must be determined by each Contracting Party and could include more on-the-ground conservation activities. A number of the proposals underlined the importance of such activities. Five types of international cooperation will be appropriate in addressing these priorities:

- (a) Exchange/transfer of information;
- (b) Research, surveys and monitoring;
- (c) Exchange/transfer of expertise;
- (d) Financial assistance; and
- (e) Transboundary drafting and implementation of action plans.

Collaboration

9. A number of Implementation Tasks, especially where these relate to reviews of data and information and for the production of guidance, could and should be undertaken collaboratively with other relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). In particular, these could include the Ramsar Convention (and its Scientific and Technical Review Panel) and the Convention on Migratory Species (and its Scientific Council). The benefits of such joint working include potential cost-sharing, wider inputs to technical work and greater outreach to a wider range of interested parties and stakeholders. In planning the implementation of each IIT, active collaboration with other relevant MEAs will be sought as appropriate and possible.

A. Species Conservation

1. Implement existing international single species action plans (AP 2.2.1, 7.4)

Prior to the entry into force of the Agreement, a number of international single species action plans relevant to Paragraph 2.2.1 of the Agreement's Action Plan had already been developed (by BirdLife International, Wetlands International and the International Crane Foundation). These include action plans for: *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, *Pelecanus crispus*, *Botaurus stellaris*, *Marmaronetta angustirostris*, *Polysticta stellerii*, *Grus leucogeranus*, *Fulica cristata*, *Numenius tenuirostris*, *Larus audouinii*, and *Sterna dougallii*. (NB: Several of these action plans cover the European part of the range of the species only, and a priority is to extend them to cover their full range within the Agreement area (see next item)). A number of international single species action plans were also adopted by the last four MOPs, namely for *Vanellus gregarius*, *Glareola nordmanni*, *Gallinago media*, *Oxyura leucocephala*, *Crex crex*, *Aythya nyroca*, *Geronticus eremita*, *Branta bernicla hrota* (East Canadian High Arctic population), *Phoeniconaias minor*, *Ardeola idae*, *Platalea leucorodia*, *Anser erythropus*, *Oxyura maccoa*, *Limosa limosa*, *Sarothrura ayresi*, *Egretta vinaceigula*, *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* (W Siberia & NE Europe/NW Europe population), *Anser albifrons flavirostris* and *Branta ruficollis*, as well as a Species Management Plan for *Anser brachyrhynchus* (Svalbard population) and a number of action plans are under preparation. Whilst many of the actions identified for these species will have to be undertaken and financed at national or local level, a budget is required for international coordination and promotion, and to provide small grants for national and local initiatives.

Indicative budget:	€ 60,000 min./species/year (for coordination/grants)
Duration:	Annual, ongoing
Activities:	Coordination, small grants, evaluation, reporting

2. Develop new International Single Species Action Plans (AP 2.2.1, 7.4)

New International Single Species Action Plans need to be developed as a priority for the populations listed in category 1, column A, Table 1 to the Agreement Action Plan, and for those species listed with an asterisk in column A of Table 1. Production and format of the action plans should follow the recommendations given in the MOP-approved guidelines. As soon as the new action plans are completed for each species, implementation should begin. In view of the large number of action plans to be prepared, it is strongly recommended that the most urgent attention be given to globally threatened species. Furthermore, it is recommended that individual Range States agree to take the lead on development of individual action plans (as an in-kind contribution to the Agreement), in close cooperation with the other Range States of each species (coordination of plan development including workshops, drafting, consultation and publication of each plan). Plans should be submitted to the Technical Committee in draft form for consultation, to ensure harmonisation and quality control.

Indicative budget:	€ 50,000 max. /per species for action plan preparation
Duration:	12 months per plan
Activities:	Coordination, workshop, planning, publication

B. Habitat Conservation

3. **Maintain overview of the sites of international importance for AEWA species (AP 3.1.2, 7.4)**

A vital piece of information for the conservation of any migratory species is an understanding of the network of key sites required to sustain their populations throughout the year. The Critical Site Network Tool web-portal, developed under the framework of the Wings Over Wetlands – African-Eurasian Flyway Project, has brought together the already existing information concerning key sites for migratory waterbirds that meet recognised criteria of being internationally important building primarily on the data collected through the International Waterbird Census of Wetlands International and through the Important Bird Areas programme of BirdLife International. The web-portal already provides access to information on site networks by species and populations and highlights the internationally important populations of any internationally important sites. The members of the WOW Partnership (i.e. the AEWA and Ramsar Secretariat, BirdLife International, Wetlands International and the UNEP-WCMC) have committed themselves to continue updating the parent datasets and making the information accessible through the CSN Tool. However, maintenance of the interoperability between individual datasets and reassessing the international importance of sites require some annually recurring work.

Indicative budget:	€ 50,000
Duration:	1 year
Activities:	Maintenance of database interoperability, web site maintenance

4. **Identification of important sites vulnerable to climate change (AP 3.2, 7.4)**

Climate change vulnerability is an important element of the assessment of the sufficiency of the international network of sites for the protection of migratory waterbirds. While the first edition of the AEWA International Site Review, as required by the AEWA Action Plan paragraph 7.4, submitted to MOP5 have assessed the protection and management status of the internationally important sites identified by the Critical Site Network Tool, the climate change vulnerability of the network has not been estimated. Undertaking such an assessment through an integrated flyway-scale approach will be complex and expensive, will take longer and require the involvement of research institutions. A simpler and less expensive approach, based on the available CSN data and other existing information, can overlay spatial data to identify the vulnerability of individual sites. Despite its limitations, such an exercise will be a useful guidance on the priority sites for climate adaptation action.

Such a project can be undertaken in two modules based on the estimated funding required for each of them:

Module 1 – assessing the risk to important sites for species/populations considered to be sensitive to climate change, sites on the poleward edge of any landmass and sites vulnerable to sea-level rise.

Indicative budget:	€ 6,000
Duration:	1 year
Activities:	Desk study

Module 2 – assessing the risk to important sites located at high altitude, sites vulnerable to changes in water-level as a result of changes in rainfall and evaporation and sites vulnerable to changes in human land-use induced by climate change.

Indicative budget:	€ 70,000
Duration:	1 year
Activities:	Desk study

5. Habitat Priorities for waterbirds in Africa (AP 3.2, 3.3)

The BirdLife International project Habitats for Birds in Europe has made an important contribution to defining habitat conservation priorities for birds in Europe. This now needs to be further elaborated also in other parts of the flyway such as Africa and thus assisting the further development of the Plan of Action for Africa. The project should result in a series of habitat action plans containing prioritised recommendations and costed projects for each key habitat type. Severely threatened habitats, and habitats of importance to globally threatened species, should be given priority.

Indicative budget: € 250,000

Duration: 3 years

Activities: Desk study, review, workshops, publication, project proposals

6. Habitat Priorities for waterbirds in West and Central Asia (AP 3.2, 3.3)

The BirdLife International project Habitats for Birds in Europe has made an important contribution to defining habitat conservation priorities for birds in Europe. This now needs to be further elaborated also in other parts of the flyway such as West and Central Asia. The project should result in a series of habitat action plans containing prioritised recommendations and costed projects for each key habitat type. Severely threatened habitats, and habitats of importance to globally threatened species, should be given priority.

Indicative budget: € 150,000

Duration: 3 years

Activities: Desk study, review, workshops, publication, project proposals

C. Management of Human Activities

7. Increase the knowledge on waterbird harvests in the Agreement area (AP 4.1, 5.7)

Waterbirds are harvested widely throughout the Agreement area for recreation, trade and livelihoods. Little is known of the scale of such harvesting, nor of the impacts that such harvesting has on waterbird populations. The development of a programme aiming at accurately evaluating the harvest of waterbirds at the scale of the AEWA range is a huge task that would require a consequent amount of financial resources and would not necessarily bring results directly useful for management, as estimates of population size are also uncertain. It is therefore proposed to build up a programme aiming at progressively developing our knowledge on the use of waterbirds and focussing mainly on trends rather than absolute values. A “sustainable use officer” position should be created within the UNEP/AEWA secretariat. This officer should be in charge of:

- gathering existing information on hunting data within the AEWA range;
- liaising with organisations producing this type of information;
- analysing this information and evaluating the possibility of detecting trends in the catch;
- organising a technical forum or working group of partners interested in this topic; and
- suggesting a methodology aiming at evaluating the trends in numbers harvested and the catching effort and, if possible, implementing it.

Indicative budget: € 230,000 (can be split into 4-5 sub-projects on a regional basis)
Duration: 3 years
Activities: Reviews, research, survey, publications

8. Community based natural resource management (CBNRM) of waterbirds and wetlands

In recognition of the strong linkages between livelihoods and conservation, particularly in the African Region, there is a need to develop and implement five pilot projects that both improve local livelihoods and provide incentives for conservation at key sites. This should be done in line with contemporary understanding and best practice CBNRM. The projects should focus on waterbirds and the wetlands upon which they depend. The experiences should be collated and used to provide strategic advice on further promoting appropriate CBNRM of waterbirds and wetlands to improve livelihoods and conservation.

Indicative budget: € 1,250,000 (to be split into 5 sub-projects on a regional basis)
Duration: 5 years
Activities: Pilot Projects, Reviews, Publications

9. Evaluation of socio-economic values of waterbirds (AP 4.2.2)

In line with the developments brought about through the process of the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) process there is a need to evaluate the consumptive and non-consumptive use of waterbirds. These values have the potential to contribute substantially to sustainable rural development throughout the Agreement area. Yet very little is known of these values in different regions and their potential contribution to species and habitat conservation. Given the enormous scope of this work and the need for generating resource efficiency, it is proposed that this work is conducted through offering placements to students studying for masters or PhD degrees, supported by an active TC expert on rural development and economics. The results of the theses should be presented as case studies at appropriate workshops (e.g. IUGB, EAERE etc.) and published to advise future sustainable rural development initiatives. The work should be conducted in line with methodologies developed by the TEEB process and thus feed into policy decisions.

Indicative budget: € 20,000 p/a
Duration: Ongoing
Activities: Research, socio-economic surveys, workshop, publication

10. Evaluation of waterbirds as agricultural pests in Africa (AP 4.3.2, 4.3.3)

A number of migratory waterbird species covered by the Agreement are known to consume and potentially damage agricultural crops or commercial fish stocks (including those at fish-farms). Although the subject is relatively well studied in Europe, where geese, cormorants and herons are implicated, the situation in Africa is less well known. Here, populations of ducks and waders are reported as pests of rice and other crops. This project will work with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to review the extent, the species involved, and the location of this problem. The project will involve a review of existing knowledge, and a workshop of experts, culminating in a review publication and recommendations on crop protection measures. The need to develop specific action plans for any of the species concerned will also be considered.

Indicative budget: € 125,000
Duration: 2 years
Activities: Review, workshop, publication

11. Developing guidance to avoid or mitigate the impacts of extractive industries on habitats of importance for waterbirds (AP 4.3.1)

A major increase in market prices of metals and other geological commodities has led to a recent upsurge of activity by extractive industries. This has had, or has the potential to have, major impacts on habitats, particularly wetlands, of international importance for waterbirds.

A three-phase project is being undertaken which will lead to technical guidance for Contracting Parties and others on addressing these issues.

The first phase (undertaken jointly with Ramsar's STRP from 2009-2011) has been the development of a methodology to identify sites/areas, especially wetlands, likely to be vulnerable to the impacts of the extraction of minerals and other geological products. This methodology allows the identification of mineral resource hotspots, in the context of catchments important for migratory waterbirds. A second phase has been to review existing technical guidance for the exploration, production, closure and post-closure management of mines, as an aid to managing impacts on waterbird habitats.

A currently unfunded final phase would be to review emerging mining technologies and extraction techniques likely to be in use in the near future and the possible implications of these for habitats, especially wetlands, and their associated waterbirds.

Indicative budget: € 40,000
Duration: 1 year
Activities: Report on future implications jointly with Ramsar

12. Developing guidance to avoid or mitigate the impacts of wind energy developments on waterbirds and their habitats (AP 4.3.1.)

Tackling climate change requires the employment of non-polluting renewable energy sources, such as wind. The wind energy sector has been receiving strong support and a number of countries within the AEWA region are champions in the use of wind energy. It is projected that wind energy development will accelerate and expand geographically in future.

Besides its clear advantages for the environment, however, wind energy may pose a threat to biodiversity in terrestrial and marine ecosystems. With regard to waterbirds, the potential hazards may be summarised as follows:

- disturbance leading to displacement or exclusion, including barriers to movement;
- collision mortality;
- loss of, or damage to, habitat resulting from wind turbines and associated infrastructure.

Despite a number of resolutions and recommendations approved by the governing bodies of other MEAs, wind farms are still being built or planned in biodiversity-sensitive areas, especially migration corridors for birds. A wide range of statutory or industry guidance already exists to avoid or mitigate the impacts. The project would work with the Technical Committee, in liaison with relevant industry bodies and other interested parties, to identify key knowledge gaps and/or deficiencies in guidance related to the impact of renewable energy production and migratory waterbirds, and make proposals as to how these might most effectively be filled. This desk study will serve as a basis for conservation guidelines on avoidance or mitigation of wind farm development.

Indicative budget: € 75,000
Duration: 1 year
Activities: Desk study, conservation guidelines

13. Evaluation of threats to waterbirds and their habitats emerging from the development of renewable energy sources (AP 4.3.1)

Besides wind, a number of other renewable energy sources are being promoted as alleviation to the climate change, amongst them biofuels, solar and hydro-power. While having a positive role, aspects of some, notably biofuels production, have been subject to criticism (e.g. Ramsar Resolution X.25 Wetlands and “biofuels” http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/res/key_res_x_25_e.pdf). The Ramsar Convention’s Scientific and Technical Review Panel has recently undertaken a review of current impacts of the energy sector on wetlands, together with horizon-scanning in relation to possible future developments.

The hazards to waterbirds and their habitats posed by the development of renewable energy sources are not yet clearly and thoroughly understood although the Ramsar review provides a starting point for such an assessment. Therefore under this project a review (jointly undertaken with Ramsar) will summarise knowledge on the potential impacts of the development of renewable sources of energy (other than wind farms) on waterbirds and their wetland habitats within the Agreement area. It will take a strategic approach in identifying those energy sectors that are likely to have most significant impacts on waterbird status, and make recommendations as to the types of intervention that AEWA might make to minimise these potential impacts. Such interventions, for example, include partnerships with particular energy sectors or development of guidance targeted at certain regions or disseminated in specific languages appropriate to those regions.

Indicative budget: € 50,000
Duration: 1 year
Activities: Desk study

D. Research and Monitoring

Integrated Waterbird Monitoring

14. **International Waterbird Census – regional coordination and support surveys in developing countries** (AP 5.2, 5.3, 7.4)

The International Waterbird Census, organised by Wetlands International, and conducted in most countries within the Agreement area, is one of the key tools for monitoring the conservation status of the populations covered by AEWA. It is based on annual non-breeding season surveys at a sample of sites, by an extensive network of, mainly, volunteer counters. Unfortunately, the financial and technical capacity to coordinate and to implement the national surveys is very unevenly distributed across the Agreement area. Experience shows that most developing countries in the Agreement area are not able to regularly cover the key sites without some basic support to cover travel costs, which presents a major limitation to the understanding of the conservation status of the AEWA populations.

Indicative budget: € 66,000 p.a. regional coordination + € 80,000 p.a. for January counts
Duration: Annual
Activities: Coordination, field surveys, publication of national totals annually

15. **Special non-breeding waterbird counts** (AP 5.2, 5.3, 7.4)

Although the International Waterbird Census can cover a significant proportion of the waterbird populations, the adequate monitoring of certain species would require special counts to cover their specific habitats which are usually not well covered during the regular IWC counts. These groups include geese and swans, seaducks, non-wetland waders and the poorly covered large tidal wetlands in Africa and South-west Asia.

Indicative budget: Goose and swan counts: € 50,000 p.a.
Seaduck counts: € 14,000 p.a. + € 85,000 p. 3 years to cover the Black Sea and Caspian Sea
Tidal wetlands in Africa and South-west Asia: € 93,000 p. 3 years
Non-wetland waders: € 10,000 p. 3 years
Duration: 3 years with annual activities
Activities: Coordination, field surveys, publication of results

16. **Monitoring of colonial waterbirds** (AP 3.1.2, 3.2, 4.2, 5)

A large proportion of the migratory water- and seabird species covered by the Agreement nest in colonies (particularly of the families: *Spheniscidae*, *Phaethontidae*, *Pelecanidae*, *Sulidae*, *Phalacrocoracidae*, *Fregatidae*, *Ardeidae*, *Ciconiidae*, *Threskiornithidae*, *Phoenicopteridae*, *Laridae*, *Sternidae*, *Alcidae*). Colonial waterbirds can be best monitored during the breeding season because a very significant proportion of the population of a species may be concentrating on a few localities at one time. In the meantime, many of these species are not adequately covered by the existing International Waterbird Census, which is based on non-breeding season surveys partly because they are widely distributed in areas that are difficult to access such as open sea. Good information about the colonies is also fundamental to identify and address factors that may threaten their populations. Although some national programmes already exist and even some international coordination takes place in certain subregions of the Agreement area, the Conservation Status Report has highlighted the need for more adequate international coordination of the monitoring of colonial water- and seabirds. Therefore, a desk study shall produce an overview of on-going initiatives, explore options, priorities and costing for coordinated international monitoring of colonial waterbirds during the breeding season.

Indicative budget: € 25,000 (monitoring study)
Duration: 2 years
Activities: Review, analysis, consultation, recommendations

17. Pilot demographic monitoring of waterbird populations (AP 3.1.2, 3.2, 4.2, 5)

Demographic monitoring (changes in vital rates) may provide an early warning of long-term changes and inform conservation and/or management actions more timely than simple counts. It is particularly important in the management framework of long-lived quarry species with a low reproduction rate such as geese. Vital rates can be estimated from observed age and sex ratios, re-sightings of individually marked birds and by other methods. The pilot project focusing on geese aims to demonstrate such a system by establishing collaboration amongst the key stakeholders that coordinate the collection of data relevant for monitoring changes in vital rates, establish sampling protocols, develop data collection and reporting system, integrated with other schemes such as the International Waterbird Census as much as possible, and develop costed plans for the future expansion of demographic monitoring to other AEWA populations.

Indicative budget: € 50,000
Duration: per year
Activities: Review, analysis, consultation, publication

Research

18. Survey work in poorly-known areas (AP 5.1)

Many gaps remain in knowledge of the importance and utilisation of even some very large wetlands by migratory waterbirds, particularly in Africa and South-West Asia. Regional workshops organised under the Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) / African-Eurasian Flyways GEF project have identified knowledge gaps and prioritised gap-filling actions. It is recommended that grants (and expertise, if necessary) be made available for locally organised surveys or expeditions, to assess the importance of lesser-known areas. Such surveys, if conducted by visiting teams of experts, should involve a high component of training (and equipping) of local experts, and should result in a summary publication. These activities will be closely linked to those required for the next priority (19).

Indicative budget: € 50,000 p.a. (€ 2-10,000 per survey depending on location, size, accessibility)
Duration: Ongoing
Activities: Field survey, training, publication.

19. Publication of flyway atlases for different groups of species (AP 5.4, 7.4)

A first flyway atlas has been produced for *Anatidae* (1996) and the Wader Atlas in 2009. These initiatives have been received with great enthusiasm because they provide the basis for the flyway approach to the conservation of these species. However, other waterbird families still lack their atlases. The new generation of flyway atlases should use the results of ringing and other marking-resighting schemes more explicitly.

Indicative budget: € 400,000 for each of the following groups: (1) *Gaviidae*, *Podicipedidae*, *Pelecanidae*, *Phalacrocoracidae*, *Ardeidae*, *Ciconiidae*, *Balaenicipitidae*, *Threskiornithidae*, *Phoenicopteridae*, *Gruidae*, *Rallidae* – 75 species; (2) *Stercorariidae*, *Laridae*, *Sternidae*, *Rynchopidae* – 54 species; (3) *Anatidae* – 51 species; (4) *Spheniscidae*, *Phaethontidae*, *Sulidae*, *Fregatidae*, *Alcidae* – 15 species.
Duration: 3 years each
Activities: Coordination, review, data analysis, drafting and editing text, production of graphs, publication

20. Developing of coordinated marking schemes in Africa (AP 5.4)

Ringling and other marking studies have contributed greatly to our current understanding of waterbird migration and ecology. Whereas in Europe, the European Union for Bird Ringing has provided international coordination between the various national ringing schemes, no equivalent coordination mechanism exists for Africa or South-west Asia. It is proposed to continue the support for the development of a Pan-African ringing scheme (AFRING) to coordinate efforts to study the movements of intra-African migratory waterbirds. The project has a five-year timetable of which three annual phases have already been financed and implemented.

Indicative budget:	€ 70,000 per annum
Duration:	2 years
Activities:	Coordination, ringing programmes, review, publication

E. Education and Information

21. Improving survey and monitoring capacity for migratory waterbirds (AP 6.2)

There is an urgent need for enhancing survey and monitoring capacity for migratory waterbirds and the sites they use through training and by providing equipment. During the WOW Project, the geographic coverage and the quality of the network for data gathering on waterbirds and the sites they use was assessed for each sub-region within the AEWA region and identified the capacity-building needs of each country. Depending on the need of the specific sub-region, training workshops and training surveys will be performed to enhance the capacity of local observers either by more experienced local observers or by external trainers. In addition, in areas where the economic conditions prevent observers buying their own essential optical equipment, technical resources to support the network of volunteers will be provided. Twinning is a potential implementation mechanism whereby countries with higher capacity adopt countries with less well-developed schemes.

Indicative budget: € 40,000 p.a. for small grants to support national capacity building schemes
Duration: 5 years in total, 2-3 years per country, depending on the needs
Activities: Fieldwork, training, supply of equipment (first year)

22. Regional training programmes in Africa for implementation of the Agreement (AP 6.1, 6.2)

In numerous forums training has been identified as one of the key elements for advancing the implementation of the Agreement, particularly in Africa. Access to modern planning, assessment and management techniques relevant to local situations will greatly help under-resourced agencies use their resources most effectively. The regional training programmes in West Africa, organised by Wetlands International and the Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage (France) provide a useful model from which new programmes can be developed. It makes use of the recently updated ONCFS training module for waterbird identification and counts in Africa (currently available in English, French and Arabic) and is destined for training of trainers and used to complement the WOW Flyway Training Kit. It is strongly recommended that this type of training programme be extended throughout Africa while also noting the availability of other relevant training resources. Cost-effectiveness will be greatest if courses are based on groups of neighbouring countries, and if local expertise can be used for the majority of the training. Courses should target specific groups of professionals and include the following subjects, as appropriate: a general introduction to the work of the Agreement; waterbird identification, assessment and monitoring; waterbird ecology; habitat management for waterbirds; managing human activities; and public awareness.

Indicative budget: € 175,000 per year, per regional programme
Duration: 5 years
Activities: Coordination, training courses, materials, follow-up

23. Training programme for National Implementation Agencies for AEWA in the Contracting Parties (AP 6.1, 6.2)

From the international reviews compiled during the previous triennium (2006-2008) e.g. on hunting and trade legislation, it became evident that implementation of the Agreement by Contracting Parties is still insufficient. It has been suggested that more assistance is necessary for Parties to guide them in the implementation of AEWA and more precisely in the requirements arising from the accession to the Agreement. Therefore in addition to the regional training to be provided to target groups of professionals in Africa, as described in the previous project above, specific training for the National Implementation Agencies for AEWA in the Contracting Parties across the Agreement area is to be organised. This training will provide insight, amongst others, into the interpretation of provisions laid down in the Agreement and/or the Action Plan, the planning and implementation of the Agreement at national level, coordination of implementation, national reporting, roles and participation in the official meetings of the Agreement. This training could be linked to the regional training in Africa and further expanded to Eurasia. An additional specific training module has to be developed to pair with the ones developed under the WOW project.

Indicative budget: € 150,000 for the development of the training module (bi-lingual)
 € 100,000 for training per workshop (2 workshops in Africa and two in Eurasia)
 Duration: 5 years
 Activities: Training module development, coordination, training courses, materials, follow-up

24. Training course on the flyway approach to the conservation and wide use of waterbirds and wetlands (AP 6.1)

It is proposed to organise 10 day training courses for 10-15 representatives of institutions and organisations of certain subregions (e.g. CIS countries) using the Flyway Training Kit developed under the Wings Over Wetlands Project. The course consists of two technical modules focusing on understanding the ecological basis of the flyway concept and how to apply it in practice. In addition, the course includes a third module on communicating the flyway concept which aims to prepare the trainees for training others and to effectively advocate the flyway approach. The course will work with subregional groups, because training needs and social and cultural background are most likely to be similar within these groups. The courses are expected to contribute not only to an increased understanding of the flyway approach, but also to the establishment of closer cooperation among the different experts of different countries and institutions, and the strengthening of subregional cooperation.

Indicative budget: € 35,000 per group (average)
 Duration: 1 year
 Activities: Training

25. Regional workshops for the promotion of the Agreement (AP 6.3)

In order to promote the Agreement and encourage membership throughout the Agreement area, a number of promotional workshops should be arranged for specific subregions. The priority regions identified so far would be, in order: (i) the Central Asian Republics; (ii) the Arab states; (iii) Central and Southern Africa. These workshops should aim to gather appropriate decision makers, research biologists, conservation professionals and donors, in order to raise awareness of the Agreement, promote membership, debate regional priorities, stimulate international cooperation and develop project initiatives. Where possible, the workshops should be linked with those of other relevant CMS or partner-Convention/organisation activities, so as to increase synergy and maximize cost-effectiveness.

Indicative budget: € 75,000 per regional workshop
 Duration: 1 per year
 Activities: Regional workshop and follow-up

26. Regional AEWA Information Centres (AP 6.3)

In order to make the AEWA guidelines more accessible to conservation practitioners in the Agreement area, it is proposed to create a network of regional information centres building on the network of Regional Centres established under the WOW project. Each centre would maintain a translated catalogue of relevant AEWA technical resolutions and guideline documents in the regional languages (i.e. Arabic, Russian and French) and would use the majority of its budget to translate the documents most in demanded by conservation practitioners and making them available through the Internet.

Indicative budget: € 10,000 p.a. per subregion
 Duration: ongoing
 Activities: Translation of documents

27. Linking of wetland visitor centres at internationally important wetlands along the East Atlantic Flyway, under the Migratory Birds for People (MBP) programme (AP 6.3)

Wetland centres perform a vital role in raising awareness of the importance and beauty of wetlands, supporting local people to visit, learn and take action. Every year, human wetland centre visitors witness avian visitors passing through, or spending the season there. Like many habitats, wetlands have become increasingly fragmented, but one thing that links them, very obviously, is migratory birds. The MBP programme (Migratory Birds for People) aims to help wetland centre staff to improve awareness raising of their visitors about the importance of their local wetland as part of an international life support system for birds, as well as being part of a wider wetland resource that provides many benefits to humans and wildlife. Through information sharing, professional staff exchanges, training, project development and better communication, MBP aims to deliver great opportunities for raising public awareness of why wetlands matter, as well as some practical outcomes for monitoring, planning and project delivery for migratory birds. The centres also provide an excellent public forum for sharing knowledge already generated, such as through the Critical Sites Network tool and other national and international sources of scientific data. Through the MBP, these resources can be disseminated to visitors and local stakeholders, such as farmers and tourist boards, in a publicly-accessible format. A focus on citizen science could also provide information generated in and around the centres.

Indicative budget:	€ 10,000 plus match funding from within partnership.
Duration:	Ongoing. Initial work programme for 5 years.
Activities:	Education and public engagement on site; sharing of information and exchange visits; development of new engagement and communication tools; capacity building for centre staff; fund-raising and project development.

F. Implementation

28. **Supporting the development of national AEWA implementation working groups, especially in Africa** (AP 7)

A potentially powerful mechanism for enhancing the implementation of AEWA is the establishment and ongoing operation of national implementation working groups. Useful synergies can result from such implementation working groups also covering related MEAs, especially CMS and Ramsar National Committees. To ensure the establishment of effective national implementation working groups of this sort, it would be desirable to have a staff member located at the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat or equivalent. Their remit could include facilitating initial preparatory workshops in each priority country involving all relevant stakeholders, training personnel in a) identification of national priorities for AEWA implementation b) incorporation of AEWA objectives into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and other relevant policies and c) dissemination of resources, such as guidelines, to key decision makers, managers etc. to assist in implementation. It may make sense for such an officer also to be co-funded by CMS and Ramsar so that the agendas of each MEA can be promoted in a coordinated, synergistic way. A list of priority Parties for such support should be drawn up.

Indicative budget: € 175,000 per year, per regional programme
Duration: 5 years
Activities: Coordination, workshops/training courses, materials, follow-up

29. **Revising Guidelines on the preparation of National Single Species Action Plans (SSAP) for migratory waterbirds** (AP 7.3)

Since the development of the original guidelines 2005, there have been advances based on the experience of the production and implementation of national single species action plan and the development of further guidance on the production and implementation of SSAPs, especially through the use of Species Working Groups of International Single Species Action Plans. Therefore the guidelines should be revised and updated. The update must include, among others:

- An account of the value of national SSAPs compared to international SSAPs;
- The addition of a new step: '*Hold a workshop involving key experts and stakeholders*', which is in line with other guidance on SSAP production and experience;
- Harmonisation of guidelines with the ToR for working groups to implement SSAPs and with The Revised Format for the AEWA International Single Species Action Plan;
- Examples from the SSAPs implementation report;
- An update of the Appendices.

Indicative budget: € 30,000 (plus translation and printing)
Duration: 1 year
Activities: Desk study, conservation guidelines

30. **Revising the Conservation Guidelines on Sustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds** (AP 7.3)

Waterbirds are harvested widely throughout the Agreement area for any number of reasons, which may include recreation, trade, livelihoods and even for medicinal or other purposes. The existing Conservation Guidelines focus largely on recreational hunting and do not adequately address other motivations for harvesting waterbirds.

It is therefore proposed that these Guidelines should be completely rewritten to take into account the varying motivations for and methods of harvesting of waterbirds, this may involve developing separate Guidelines. In general the guidance should draw upon the Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, whilst focusing on the discourse related to bushmeat for use associated with livelihoods and the Council of Europe Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity for use associated with recreational hunting.

The results should be presented as new Conservation guidelines.

Indicative budget:	€ 150,000
Duration:	2 years
Activities:	Reviews, workshops, translations, publications

RESOLUTION 5.4

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WINGS OVER WETLANDS (WOW) UNEP-GEF AFRICAN-EURASIAN FLYWAYS PROJECT AND POST-WOW PROSPECTS

Recalling Resolution 2.4, in which Contracting Parties expressed their appreciation for the support provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) towards the development of a project proposal for “*Enhancing Conservation of the Critical Network of Wetlands Required by Migratory Waterbirds on the African-Eurasian Flyways*”,

Further recalling Resolutions 3.11 and 4.10 which urged Contracting Parties, the Agreement Secretariat and specialised international organisations to provide matching funds to the *Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) UNEP-GEF African-Eurasian Flyways Project* (hereafter referred to as the *WOW Project*) as well as to give highest priority for funding to those International Implementation Task (IIT) activities and projects specifically linked to the *WOW Project*,

Noting with appreciation previous decisions related to flyway conservation of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), most notably CMS Resolution 9.2, which set up a Working Group on Flyways and CMS Resolution 10.10, which acknowledged the *WOW Project* as the largest initiative to date in the African-Eurasian region for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats, and in particular its associated Critical Site Network (CSN) Tool,

Noting the previous decisions of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands relating to flyway conservation, in particular Resolution X.22, which welcomed the *WOW Project*, including the demonstration projects, capacity-building activities and the CSN Tool,

Recalling the priorities for waterbird conservation highlighted in 2004 at the “Waterbirds around the World” international conference and its concluding statement, the *Edinburgh Declaration*, which strongly encourages countries to make use of available resources including the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in order to finance action required under the *Declaration*,

Taking note of *The Hague Action Statement* issued on the occasion of the 15th Anniversary of AEWA in June 2010, in which participants acknowledged the innovative tools developed by the *WOW Project* to assist in the implementation of AEWA and in which participants urged the GEF to continue to support international flyway-scale projects in the future,

Noting with satisfaction that the *WOW Project* was one of the top twenty projects selected by UNEP in 2011 to showcase twenty years of its engagement in the GEF, and that the *WOW Project's* Critical Site Network (CSN) Tool won the first prize of the ESRI/SCGIS International Conservation Mapping Competition in the category “Best Interactive Web Map” in June 2011,

Welcoming the commitment of the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, BirdLife International and Wetlands International to consolidate and progress a programmatic partnership based on the *WOW Project*, for flyway-scale conservation of migratory waterbirds and the wise use of wetlands as outlined in the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on the “*Partnership for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats (Wings Over Wetlands)*”, signed by all the partners during the AEWA 15th Anniversary Symposium in The Hague, the Netherlands, on 14 June 2010,

Congratulating the main *WOW Project* partners, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNEP, Wetlands International, BirdLife International, the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the UNEP World Conservation and Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) as well as a range of other local partners in Africa and Eurasia for the successful implementation of the *WOW Project*,

Noting with appreciation the generous support to the *WOW Project* through the numerous donations made at the international, national and local levels, most notably by GEF and the Government of Germany, but also the European Union and the Governments of Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland and others who provided matching funding to the *WOW Project* through the Agreement Secretariat, the provision of a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) by Germany to support the implementation of the *WOW Project*, as well as the significant co-financing provided by the individual *WOW Partners* and the *WOW Demonstration Project* countries: Estonia, the Gambia, Hungary, Lithuania, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Turkey, the United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen,

Recognising that the “African Initiative” (Resolution 5.9), offers a convenient frame for the further follow-up of the *WOW Project*. This also applies to the current Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative as well as the Conservation of Migratory Birds Project of Wetlands International and BirdLife International.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the results of the multi-partner *WOW Project*, most notably the development of the Critical Site Network (CSN) Tool, the Flyway Training Kit (FTK) and the numerous national and site-level achievements through Demonstration Projects;
2. *Urges* Contracting Parties to make greater use of the *WOW Project's* outputs, in particular the CSN Tool and the Flyway Training Kit, to support migratory waterbird conservation, training and capacity building efforts across the African-Eurasian region, and to communicate any specific needs in relation to the use of these products to the Secretariat;
3. *Invites* relevant Regional and sub-Regional Institutions and Forums such as *inter alia* the African Union, Forum of the Regional Programme of Marine and Coastal Conservation in West Africa, and the Regional Network of Protected Marine Areas in West Africa, to consider making use of the CSN Tool as a means of integrating flyway-scale waterbird conservation with regional and sub-regional level planning and decision making;
4. *Strongly urges* GEF to continue to recognise the importance of flyway-scale initiatives such as the *WOW Project*, and to strive to fund and support further international flyway-scale initiatives both within and beyond the AEWA region;
5. *Urges* Contracting Parties, donors and private sector sponsors to provide financial support to maintain and improve the CSN Tool, make greater use of the FTK and enable the development and implementation of new flyway-scale projects and initiatives, which would build on the tools and outcomes of the *WOW Project*;
6. *Instructs* the Agreement Secretariat to participate actively in the “Partnership for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats (Wings Over Wetlands)”, working with its partners to continue to advance, promote the use and further improve the main tools developed in the context of the *WOW Project*, and *invites* the Partnership to elaborate a joint work plan to support the implementation of its own objectives harmonising them with the related resolutions of the MOP;
7. *Underlines* the mutual benefits of integrating the follow up activities of the *WOW Project* with the framework of the African Initiative to deal with the relevant issues within a joint process;
8. *Instructs* the Agreement Secretariat to report progress on this activity to each Meeting of the Parties.

RESOLUTION 5.5

IMPLEMENTATION AND REVISION OF THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Aware of the importance of communication as a central and cross-cutting element for implementing the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds,

Recalling Resolution 3.10 which adopted the Communication Strategy as an instrument to effectively address the conservation of waterbirds on the flyway level,

Further recalling that Resolution 3.10 instructed the Secretariat to implement the Communication Strategy to the extent possible taking into account resources available, to review and report on its effectiveness on a regular basis and to undertake fundraising efforts to support the implementation of the Communication Strategy,

Noting that the Communication Strategy, adopted through Resolution 3.10, contained an annexed Communication Action Plan for the period 2006-2009, which contains activities to be funded through voluntary contributions, and that only a limited number of those activities could be undertaken due to lack of resources,

Further recalling that Resolution 3.10 invites all Parties, Range States and other stakeholders along the African-Eurasian Flyway to support the implementation of the Communication Strategy at the global, regional, national or local levels, as appropriate, with the expertise, networks, skills and resources they have at their disposal, and *urges* Contracting Parties, donors and private sector sponsors to provide supplementary financial support to enable the Secretariat to realise all identified activities of the Strategy,

Aware that Article III of the AEWA Agreement Text states that in order to conserve migratory waterbirds, the Parties shall “*develop and maintain programmes to raise awareness and understanding of migratory waterbird conservation issues in general and of the particular objectives and provisions of this Agreement*”,

Also aware that according to chapter 6 of the AEWA Action Plan, Parties shall (1) where necessary, arrange for training programmes to ensure that personnel responsible for the implementation of the Action Plan have an adequate knowledge to implement it effectively; (2) cooperate with each other and the Agreement Secretariat with a view to developing training programmes and exchanging resource materials; (3) endeavor to develop programmes, information materials and mechanisms to improve the level of awareness of the general public with regard to the objectives, provisions and contents of the Action Plan giving particular attention to those people living in and around important wetlands, to users of these wetlands (hunters, fishermen, tourists, etc.) and to local authorities and other decision makers; (4) endeavor to undertake specific public awareness campaigns for the conservation of the populations listed in Table 1,

Recognising the contribution which the *Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) UNEP-GEF African-Eurasian Flyways Project* has made towards the implementation of the Communication Strategy from 2006 to 2010, in particular with regard to developing training materials, such as the Flyway Training Kit (FTK), which, subject to available resources, could be used to support capacity-building measures identified in the Communication Strategy,

Further recognising the importance of World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) as the key international public awareness-raising campaign for the Agreement, presenting an opportunity for Parties, partner organisations, and local stakeholders to celebrate achievements and highlight continuing challenges in migratory waterbird and wetland conservation, as well as *noting with satisfaction* the central role played by the Secretariat in the organisation of the campaign since 2006,

Reiterating the role of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat as a process facilitator in bringing partners together to cooperate effectively towards the common goal of waterbird conservation along the African-Eurasian Flyways and *recognising* the role the “*Partnership for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats (Wings Over Wetlands)*” and the World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) campaign can play in implementing the Communication Strategy,

Noting the importance of revising the Communication Strategy so as to align it with the objectives and activities of the *Strategic Plan 2009 – 2017* as adopted by Resolution 4.7, the *Plan of Action for Africa* (as adopted by Resolution 5.9), and integrate and take full advantage of existing initiatives and tools such as the World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) campaign and the communication and capacity building-related outputs of the *Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) UNEP-GEF African-Eurasian Flyways Project*,

Further recalling the importance of the goals of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Future Structure and Strategies of the CMS and CMS Family, as set out in CMS COP10 Resolution 10.9, when revising the Communication Strategy,

Aware of the need to carefully consider the existing capacity for communication in terms of available human and financial resources and technical expertise at the Secretariat when identifying activities to be implemented by the Secretariat in the context of the Communication Strategy,

Also noting the adoption of Resolution 5.19 on Encouragement of further joint implementation of AEWA and the Ramsar Convention.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Governments of France, Germany, Luxembourg, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom for having generously contributed to the implementation of the Communication Strategy through providing voluntary funding towards activities outlined in the Communication Strategy and for the development of outreach and awareness-raising materials;
2. *Further expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Germany for providing a Junior Professional Officer from 2006 to 2009 to support the implementation of the Communication Strategy;
3. *Welcomes* the growing celebration of World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) in a large number of countries and the central role of AEWA in this campaign, and *urges* Contracting Parties and partner organisations to continue, or to begin, to use World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) as an occasion to bring attention to their achievements and continuing challenges in migratory waterbird and wetland conservation;
4. *Instructs* the Secretariat to continue to implement the Communication Strategy as adopted by Resolution 3.10 in so far as still applicable and within the limits of available resources, giving priority to the Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA)-related activities listed under Objective 4 in the Strategic Plan 2009 – 2017, until a new Communication Strategy is adopted;
5. *Further instructs* the Secretariat, taking into account CMS COP10 Resolution 10.9, to prepare a full revision of the Communication Strategy for adoption by the sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties, which would be based on a wide consultation process involving Contracting Parties, Range States, the Technical Committee, Partners as well as CEPA experts;
6. *Requests* the Technical Committee to involve a CEPA expert in the Committee and to establish an expert working group on CEPA to support both the ongoing implementation and revision process for the Communication Strategy;

7. *Invites* all Contracting Parties to nominate, by 31 December 2012, a suitable National Focal Point for Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA), either from the governmental or non-governmental sector, to coordinate national and regional implementation of the Communication Strategy, as well as to support its revision process;
8. *Encourages* those Contracting Parties to AEWA which are at the same time Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention to ensure close cooperation between their appointed AEWA CEPA Focal Point and Ramsar CEPA Focal Point (governmental and non-governmental) where these are not identical;
9. *Encourages* the Secretariat to continue to play a central role in the organisation of the World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) campaign, and to work with the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), UNEP, BirdLife International, Wetlands International, the Partnership for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAFP), the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) and other partners to continue to strengthen the international campaign;
10. *Invites* Contracting Parties, donors and private sector sponsors to provide supplementary financial support to enable the Secretariat to realise all identified activities of the Communication Strategy and to provide resources to support a coordinated revision process;
11. *Invites* all Parties, Range States and other stakeholders along the African-Eurasian Flyway to continue supporting the implementation and revision of the Communication Strategy at the global, regional, national or local levels, as appropriate, with the expertise, networks, skills and resources they have at their disposal.

RESOLUTION 5.6

ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE AEWA ACTION PLAN

Recalling Article X of the Agreement concerning the procedures for amendments to the Agreement and its annexes,

Further recalling Resolution 4.1 which, *inter alia*, requested the Technical Committee to examine, as far as waterbird species covered by the Agreement are concerned, any potential problems from the use of lead fishing weights,

Taking into account the recommendations of the *Literature Review on effects of the use of lead fishing weights on waterbirds and wetlands*, which was prepared by the Secretariat intersessionally, on request of the Technical Committee (document AEWA/MOP Inf. 5.2),

Recalling Resolution 4.3 which, *inter alia*, requested the Technical Committee to review and to provide guidance on the interpretation and implications of the Action Plan's provisions related to hunting and trade as specified in Annex 1 to the same Resolution,

Recalling also Resolution 4.11 which, *inter alia*, requested the Technical Committee to review ornithological data on the Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) for a better delineation of the Mediterranean populations taking into account the relevant information concerning the Italian breeding population and to draft a consequent proposal for amendments to Table 1, as appropriate, to be presented to the 5th Session of the Meeting of the Parties; to review the definitions of geographical terms used in range descriptions of populations in Table 1 and to draft a consequent proposal for amendments to Table 1, as appropriate, to be presented to the 5th Session of the Meeting of the Parties; to review, in the light of the development of terminology used by IUCN for Red Data Lists, as a matter of priority, the applicability of the threat criteria, especially the Near Threatened IUCN Category, to the listing of populations in Table 1 and to present options for the amendment of Table 1 to be considered at the 5th Session of the Meeting of the Parties; and to draft a proposal for amendments to the AEWA Action Plan to deal with tackling the effects of aquatic invasive non-native species on waterbird habitats to be presented to the 5th Session of the Meeting of the Parties,

Further recalling Resolution 4.12 which, *inter alia*, requested the Technical Committee, using external assistance as necessary and appropriate, and resources permitting, to develop guidance for interpretation of the term “*extreme fluctuations in population size or trend*” used in Table 1 of the Action Plan,

Recognising the work of the Technical Committee over the past four years to address these requests,

Taking into account the findings of the fifth edition of the Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds in the Agreement Area (document AEWA/MOP 5.14),

Acknowledging the proposals for amendments to Annex 3 (Action Plan and Table 1) submitted by Kenya and the comments received from Contracting Parties concerning these proposals, all of which are presented in the Addendum Rev.1 to document AEWA/MOP 5.20,

Acknowledging the recent global Red Listing of the Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*), the Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) and the Velvet Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*) and *noting* the importance of considering the implications of this change in listings for MOP6.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Decides* to amend the Action Plan in Annex 3 to the Agreement as set out in the Appendices to this Resolution;
2. *Decides*, in particular, to:
 - 2.1. amend the current paragraphs 2.1, 2.5, 3.3, 4.1 and 4.3 of the Action Plan with the text set out in Appendix I to this Resolution,
 - 2.2. replace the current Table 1 of the Action Plan and the associated explanatory text with the Table and explanatory text set out in Appendix II to this Resolution,
 - 2.3. amend the scientific name of the Lesser Flamingo to *Phoeniconaias minor*; the scientific name of the Terek Sandpiper to *Xenus cinereus*; and the scientific name of the Common Sandpiper to *Actitis hypoleucos* in Annex 2 to the Agreement;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat to monitor the implementation of the amendments;
4. *Urges* Contracting Parties to support coordinated monitoring, research and conservation actions, including adaptive management measures and to support the development of single species action plans for the Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*), the Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) and the Velvet Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*), with prioritisation of the Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) during the next inter-sessional period;
5. *Requests* the Technical Committee to explore how these multi-species and regional-scale declines might be addressed through a combination of appropriate national and international measures;
6. *Requests* the Technical Committee to develop simple guidance that will allow Contracting Parties to report back to MOP6 on national knowledge concerning lead fishing weights and waterbirds and the phasing out of lead.

APPENDIX I

Annex 3

ACTION PLAN

[...]

2. Species Conservation

2.1 Legal measures

2.1.1 Parties with populations listed in Column A of Table 1 shall provide protection to those populations listed in accordance with Article III, paragraph 2(a), of this Agreement. Such Parties shall in particular and subject to paragraph 2.1.3 below:

- (a) prohibit the taking of birds and eggs of those populations occurring in their territory;
- (b) prohibit deliberate disturbance in so far as such disturbance would be significant for the conservation of the population concerned; and
- (c) prohibit the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds or eggs of those populations which have been taken in contravention of the prohibitions laid down pursuant to subparagraph (a) above, as well as the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, any readily recognizable parts or derivatives of such birds and their eggs.

By way of exception for those populations listed in Categories 2 and 3 in Column A and which are marked by an asterisk, and those populations listed in Category 4 in Column A, hunting may continue on a sustainable use basis¹. This sustainable use shall be conducted within the framework of an international species action plan, through which Parties will endeavour to implement the principles of adaptive harvest management.² Such use shall, as a minimum, be subject to the same legal measures as the taking of birds from populations listed in Column B of Table 1, as required in paragraph 2.1.2 below.

2.1.2 Parties with populations listed in Table 1 shall regulate the taking of birds and eggs of all populations listed in Column B of Table 1. The object of such legal measures shall be to maintain or contribute to the restoration of those populations to a favourable conservation status and to ensure, on the basis of the best available knowledge of population dynamics, that any taking or other use is sustainable. Such legal measures, subject to paragraph 2.1.3 below, shall in particular:

- (a) prohibit the taking of birds belonging to the populations concerned during their various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned;
- (b) regulate the modes of taking, and in particular prohibit the use of all indiscriminate means of taking and the use of all means capable of causing mass destructions, as well as local disappearance of, or serious disturbance to, populations of a species, including:
 - snares,
 - limes,
 - hooks,
 - live birds which are blind or mutilated used as decoys,
 - tape recorders and other electronic devices,

¹ "Sustainable use" means the use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.

² Adaptive Harvest Management is the periodic process of setting hunting regulations based on a system of population and habitat monitoring, harvest level recording, data analysis and defining regulatory options.

- electrocuting devices,
- artificial light sources,
- mirrors and other dazzling devices,
- devices for illuminating targets,
- sighting devices for night shooting comprising an electronic image magnifier or image converter,
- explosives,
- nets,
- traps,
- poison,
- poisoned or anaesthetic baits,
- semi-automatic or automatic weapons with a magazine capable of holding more than two rounds of ammunition,
- hunting from aircraft, motor vehicles, or boats driven at a speed exceeding 5km p/h (18km p/h on the open sea).

Parties may grant exemptions from the prohibitions laid down in paragraph 2.1.2 (b) to accommodate use for livelihood purposes, where sustainable;

- (c) establish limits on taking, where appropriate, and provide adequate controls to ensure that these limits are observed; and
- (d) prohibit the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds and eggs of the populations which have been taken in contravention of any prohibition laid down pursuant to the provisions of this paragraph, as well as the possession or utilization of, and trade in, any readily recognizable parts or derivatives of such birds and their eggs.

2.1.3 Parties may grant exemptions to the prohibitions laid down in paragraphs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2, irrespective of the provisions of Article III, paragraph 5, of the Convention, where there is no other satisfactory solution, for the following purposes:

- (a) to prevent serious damage to crops, water and fisheries;
- (b) in the interests of air safety, public health and public safety, or for other imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance to the environment;
- (c) for the purpose of research and education, of re-establishment and for the breeding necessary for these purposes;
- (d) to permit under strictly supervised conditions, on a selective basis and to a limited extent, the taking and keeping or other judicious use of certain birds in small numbers; and
- (e) for the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the populations concerned.

Such exemptions shall be precise as to content and limited in space and time and shall not operate to the detriment of the populations listed in Table 1. Parties shall, as soon as possible, inform the Agreement secretariat of any exemptions granted pursuant to this provision.

[...]

2.5 **Introductions**

2.5.1 Parties shall prohibit the introduction into the environment of non-native species of animals and plants which may be detrimental to the populations listed in Table 1.

2.5.2 Parties shall require the taking of appropriate precautions to avoid the accidental escape of captive animals belonging to non-native species, which may be detrimental to the populations listed in Table 1.

- 2.5.3 Parties shall take measures to the extent feasible and appropriate, including taking, to ensure that when non-native species or hybrids thereof have already been introduced into their territory, those species or their hybrids do not pose a potential hazard to the populations listed in Table 1.

[...]

3. Habitat Conservation

3.3 Rehabilitation and Restoration

Parties shall endeavour to rehabilitate or restore, where feasible and appropriate, areas which were previously important for the populations listed in Table 1, including areas that suffer degradation as a result of the impacts of factors such as climate change, hydrological change, agriculture, spread of aquatic invasive non-native species, natural succession, uncontrolled fires, unsustainable use, eutrophication and pollution.

[...]

4. Management of Human Activities

4.1 Hunting

- 4.1.1 Parties shall cooperate to ensure that their hunting legislation implements the principle of sustainable use as envisaged in this Action Plan, taking into account the full geographical range of the waterbird populations concerned and their life history characteristics.

- 4.1.2 The Agreement secretariat shall be kept informed by the Parties of their legislation relating to the hunting of populations listed in Table 1.

- 4.1.3 Parties shall cooperate with a view to developing a reliable and harmonised system for the collection of harvest data in order to assess the annual harvest of populations listed in Table 1. They shall provide the Agreement secretariat with estimates of the total annual take for each population, when available.

- 4.1.4 Parties shall endeavour to phase out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands as soon as possible in accordance with self-imposed and published timetables.

- 4.1.5. ...

- 4.1.6 Parties shall develop and implement measures to reduce, and as far as possible eliminate, illegal taking.

- 4.1.7 Where appropriate, Parties shall encourage hunters, at local, national and international levels, to form clubs or organisations to coordinate their activities and to help ensure sustainability.

- 4.1.8 Parties shall, where appropriate, promote the requirement of a proficiency test for hunters, including among other things, bird identification.

[...]

4.3 Other Human Activities

[...]

- 4.3.4 Parties shall cooperate with a view to developing single species management plans for populations which cause significant damage, in particular to crops and to fisheries. The Agreement secretariat shall coordinate the development and harmonization of such plans.

[...]

- 4.3.12 Parties, the Agreement secretariat and the Technical Committee will, as appropriate, work together to provide further documentation on the nature and scale of the effects of lead fishing weights on waterbirds and to consider that documentation, noting that lead in general poses a threat to the environment with harmful effects on waterbirds. Parties will, as appropriate, seek alternatives to lead fishing weights, taking into consideration the impact on waterbirds and water quality.

APPENDIX II

Table 1 ^{a/}

STATUS OF THE POPULATIONS OF MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

KEY TO CLASSIFICATION

The following key to Table 1 is a basis for implementation of the Action Plan:

Column A

- Category 1: (a) Species, which are included in Appendix I to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory species of Wild Animals;
(b) Species, which are listed as threatened on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, as reported in the most recent summary by BirdLife International; or
(c) Populations, which number less than around 10,000 individuals.
- Category 2: Populations numbering between around 10,000 and around 25,000 individuals.
- Category 3: Populations numbering between around 25,000 and around 100,000 individuals and considered to be at risk as a result of:
- (a) Concentration onto a small number of sites at any stage of their annual cycle;
 - (b) Dependence on a habitat type, which is under severe threat;
 - (c) Showing significant long-term decline; or
 - (d) Showing large fluctuations in population size or trend.
- Category 4: Species, which are listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List of Threatened species, as reported in the most recent summary by BirdLife International, but do not fulfil the conditions in respect of Category 1, 2 or 3, as described above, and which are pertinent for international action.

For species listed in Categories 2, 3 and 4 above, see paragraph 2.1.1 of the Action Plan contained in Annex 3 to the Agreement.

Column B

- Category 1: Populations numbering between around 25,000 and around 100,000 individuals and which do not fulfil the conditions in respect of Column A, as described above.
- Category 2: Populations numbering more than around 100,000 individuals and considered to be in need of special attention as a result of:
- (a) Concentration onto a small number of sites at any stage of their annual cycle;
 - (b) Dependence on a habitat type, which is under severe threat;
 - (c) Showing significant long-term decline; or
 - (d) Showing large fluctuations in population size or trend.

Column C

- Category 1: Populations numbering more than around 100,000 individuals which could significantly benefit from international cooperation and which do not fulfil the conditions in respect of either Column A or Column B, above.

^{a/}Table 1, "Status of the populations of migratory waterbirds" forms part of the Action Plan contained in Annex 3 to the Agreement.

REVIEW OF TABLE 1

The Table shall be:

- (a) Reviewed regularly by the Technical Committee in accordance with article VII, paragraph 3(b), of the Agreement; and
- (b) Amended as necessary by the Meeting of the Parties, in accordance with article VI, paragraph 9(d) of the Agreement, in light of the conclusions of such reviews.

DEFINITION OF GEOGRAPHICAL TERMS USED IN RANGE DESCRIPTIONS

Note that waterbird ranges respect biological, not political, boundaries and that precise alignment of biological and political entities is extremely unusual. The range descriptions used have no political significance and are for general guidance only, and for concise, mapped summaries of waterbird ranges, practitioners should consult the Critical Site Network Tool internet portal:

<http://www.wetlands.org/informationflyway/criticalsiteworktool/tabid/1349/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

North Africa	Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia.
West Africa	Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo.
Eastern Africa	Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania.
North-west Africa	Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia.
North-east Africa	Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan.
Southern Africa	Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
Central Africa	Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe.
Sub-Saharan Africa	All African states south of the Sahara.
Tropical Africa	Sub-Saharan Africa excluding Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland.
Western Palearctic	As defined in <i>Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa</i> (Cramp & Simmons 1977).
North-west Europe	Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
Western Europe	North-west Europe with Portugal and Spain.
North-east Europe	The northern part of the Russian Federation west of the Urals.
North Europe	North-west Europe and North-east Europe, as defined above.
Eastern Europe	Belarus, the Russian Federation west of the Urals, Ukraine.

Central Europe	Austria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Poland, the Russian Federation around the Gulf of Finland and Kaliningrad, Slovakia, Switzerland.
South-west Europe	Mediterranean France, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Portugal, San Marino, Spain.
South-east Europe	Albania, Armenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.
South Europe	South-west Europe and South-east Europe, as defined above.
North Atlantic	Faroes, Greenland, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, the north-west coast of the Russian Federation, Svalbard, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
East Atlantic	Atlantic seaboard of Europe and North Africa from northern Norway to Morocco.
Western Siberia	The Russian Federation east of the Urals to the Yenisey River and south to the Kazakhstan border.
Central Siberia	The Russian Federation from the Yenisey River to the eastern boundary of the Taimyr Peninsula and south to the Altai Mountains.
West Mediterranean	Algeria, France, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Tunisia.
East Mediterranean	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia, the Syrian Arab Republic, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey.
Black Sea	Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine.
Caspian	Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, South-west Russia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.
South-west Asia	Bahrain, Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, eastern Turkey, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Yemen.
Gulf	the Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman and Arabian Sea west to the Gulf of Aden.
Western Asia	Western parts of the Russian Federation east of the Urals and the Caspian countries.
Central Asia	Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.
Southern Asia	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.
Indian Ocean	Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles.

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

bre:	breeding	win:	wintering
N:	Northern	E:	Eastern
S:	Southern	W:	Western
NE:	North-eastern	NW:	North-western
SE:	South-eastern	SW:	South-western

() Population status unknown. Conservation status estimated.

* By way of exception for those populations listed in Categories 2 and 3 in Column A and which are marked by an asterisk, hunting may continue to be conducted on a sustainable use basis. This sustainable use shall be conducted within the framework of special provisions of an international species action plan, which shall seek to implement the principles of adaptive harvest management (see paragraph 2.1.2 of Annex 3 to the Agreement).

NOTES

1. The population data used to compile Table 1 as far as possible correspond to the number of individuals in the potential breeding stock in the Agreement area. The status is based on the best available published population estimates.
2. Suffixes (bre) or (win) in population listings are solely aids to population identification. They do not indicate seasonal restrictions to actions in respect of these populations under the Agreement and Action Plan.
3. The brief descriptions used to identify the populations are based on the descriptions used in the most recently published edition of *Waterbird Population Estimates*.
4. Slash signs (/) are used to separate breeding areas from wintering areas.
5. Where a species' population is listed in Table 1 with multiple categorisation, the obligations of the Action Plan relate to the strictest category listed.

	A	B	C
SPHENISCIDAE			
<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>			
- Southern Africa	1b	2a 2c	
GAVIIDAE			
<i>Gavia stellata</i>			
- North-west Europe (win)		2c	
- Caspian, Black Sea & East Mediterranean (win)	1c		
<i>Gavia arctica arctica</i>			
- Northern Europe & Western Siberia/Europe		2c	
<i>Gavia arctica suschkini</i>			
- Central Siberia/Caspian			(1)
<i>Gavia immer</i>			
- Europe (win)	1c		
<i>Gavia adamsii</i>			
- Northern Europe (win)	1c		
PODICIPEDIDAE			
<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis ruficollis</i>			
- Europe & North-west Africa			1
<i>Podiceps cristatus cristatus</i>			
- North-west & Western Europe		2c	
- Black Sea & Mediterranean (win)		2c	
- Caspian & South-west Asia (win)	2		
<i>Podiceps cristatus infuscatus</i>			
- Eastern Africa (Ethiopia to N Zambia)	1c		
- Southern Africa	1c		
<i>Podiceps grisegena grisegena</i>			
- North-west Europe (win)	3c		
- Black Sea & Mediterranean (win)	3c		
- Caspian (win)	2		
<i>Podiceps auritus auritus</i>			
- North-west Europe (large-billed)	1c		
- North-east Europe (small-billed)	2		
- Caspian & South Asia (win)	2		
<i>Podiceps nigricollis nigricollis</i>			
- Europe/South & West Europe & North Africa		2c	
- Western Asia/South-west & South Asia		1	
<i>Podiceps nigricollis gurneyi</i>			
- Southern Africa	2		
PHAETHONTIDAE			
<i>Phaethon aetherus aetherus</i>			
- South Atlantic	1c		
<i>Phaethon aetherus indicus</i>			
- Persian Gulf, Gulf of Aden, Red Sea	1c		
<i>Phaethon rubricauda rubricauda</i>			
- Indian Ocean	2		
<i>Phaethon lepturus lepturus</i>			
- W Indian Ocean	2		
PELECANIDAE			
<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>			

	A	B	C
- Southern Africa		1	
- West Africa		1	
- Eastern Africa			1
- Europe & Western Asia (bre)	1a 3c		
<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>			
- Tropical Africa & SW Arabia		1	
<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>			
- Black Sea & Mediterranean (win)	1a 1b 1c		
- South-west Asia & South Asia (win)	1a 1b 1c		
SULIDAE			
<i>Sula (Morus) bassana</i>			1
<i>Sula (Morus) capensis</i>			
- Southern Africa	1b	2a 2c	
<i>Sula dactylatra melanops</i>			
- W Indian Ocean	2		
PHALACROCORACIDAE			
<i>Phalacrocorax coronatus</i>			
- Coastal South-west Africa	1c		
<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>			
- Black Sea & Mediterranean		1	
- South-west Asia		1	
<i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i>			
- Coastal South-west Africa	1b 2		
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo carbo</i>			
- North-west Europe			1
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>			
- Northern & Central Europe			1
- Black Sea & Mediterranean			1
- West & South-west Asia			(1)
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo lucidus</i>			
- Coastal West Africa		1	
- Central & Eastern Africa			1
- Coastal Southern Africa	2		
<i>Phalacrocorax nigrogularis</i>			
- Arabian Coast	1b	2a 2c	
- Gulf of Aden, Socotra, Arabian Sea	1b	1	
<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>			
- Coastal Southern Africa	4		
FREGATIDAE			
<i>Fregata minor aldabrensis</i>			
- W Indian Ocean	2		
<i>Fregata ariel iredalei</i>			
- W Indian Ocean	2		
ARDEIDAE			
<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>			
- Sub-Saharan Africa		1	
<i>Egretta vinaceigula</i>			
- Central Southern Africa	1b 1c		
<i>Egretta garzetta garzetta</i>			

	A	B	C
- Sub-Saharan Africa			(1)
- Western Europe, NW Africa			1
- Central & E Europe, Black Sea, E Mediterranean		1	
- Western Asia/SW Asia, NE & Eastern Africa		(1)	
<i>Egretta gularis gularis</i>			
- West Africa		(1)	
<i>Egretta gularis schistacea</i>			
- North-east Africa & Red Sea		(1)	
- South-west Asia & South Asia	2		
<i>Egretta dimorpha</i>			
- Coastal Eastern Africa	2		
<i>Ardea cinerea cinerea</i>			
- Sub-Saharan Africa			1
- Northern & Western Europe			1
- Central & Eastern Europe			1
- West & South-west Asia (bre)			(1)
<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>			
- Sub-Saharan Africa			(1)
<i>Ardea purpurea purpurea</i>			
- Tropical Africa		1	
- West Europe & West Mediterranean/West Africa	2		
- East Europe, Black Sea & Mediterranean/Sub-Saharan Africa		(2c)	
<i>Casmerodius albus albus</i>			
- W, C & SE Europe/Black Sea & Mediterranean		1	
- Western Asia/South-west Asia		(1)	
<i>Casmerodius albus melanorhynchos</i>			
- Sub-Saharan Africa & Madagascar			(1)
<i>Mesophoyx intermedia brachyrhyncha</i>			
- Sub-Saharan Africa		1	
<i>Bubulcus ibis ibis</i>			
- Southern Africa			1
- Tropical Africa			1
- South-west Europe			1
- North-west Africa			1
- East Mediterranean & South-west Asia		1	
<i>Ardeola ralloides ralloides</i>			
- SW Europe, NW Africa (bre)	1c		
- C & E Europe, Black Sea & E Mediterranean (bre)		1	
- West & South-west Asia/Sub-Saharan Africa		(1)	
<i>Ardeola ralloides paludivaga</i>			
- Sub-Saharan Africa & Madagascar			(1)
<i>Ardeola idae</i>			
- Madagascar & Aldabra/Central & Eastern Africa	1b 1c		
<i>Ardeola rufiventris</i>			
- Central, Eastern & Southern Africa		(1)	
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax</i>			
- Sub-Saharan Africa & Madagascar			1
- W Europe, NW Africa (bre)	3c		
- C & E Europe/Black Sea & E Mediterranean (bre)		2c	
- Western Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa		(1)	
<i>Ixobrychus minutus minutus</i>			
- W Europe, NW Africa/ Sub-Saharan Africa	2		
- C & E Europe, Black Sea & E Mediterranean/Sub-Saharan Africa		2c	

	A	B	C
- West & South-west Asia/Sub-Saharan Africa		(1)	
<i>Ixobrychus minutus payesii</i>			
- Sub-Saharan Africa		(1)	
<i>Ixobrychus sturmii</i>			
- Sub-Saharan Africa		(1)	
<i>Botaurus stellaris stellaris</i>			
W Europe, NW Africa (bre)	1c		
C & E Europe, Black Sea & E Mediterranean (bre)		2c	
- South-west Asia (win)		1	
<i>Botaurus stellaris capensis</i>			
- Southern Africa	1c		
CICONIIDAE			
<i>Mycteria ibis</i>			
- Sub-Saharan Africa (excluding Madagascar)		1	
<i>Anastomus lamelligerus lamelligerus</i>			
- Sub-Saharan Africa			1
<i>Ciconia nigra</i>			
- Southern Africa	1c		
- South-west Europe/West Africa	1c		
- Central & Eastern Europe/Sub-Saharan Africa	2		
<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>			
- Sub-Saharan Africa & SW Arabia		(2c)	
<i>Ciconia episcopus microscelis</i>			
- Sub-Saharan Africa		(1)	
<i>Ciconia ciconia ciconia</i>			
- Southern Africa	1c		
-W Europe & North-west Africa/Sub-Saharan Africa	3b		
- Central & Eastern Europe/Sub-Saharan Africa			1
- Western Asia/South-west Asia	2		
<i>Leptoptilos crumeniferus</i>			
- Sub-Saharan Africa			1
BALAENICIPITIDAE			
<i>Balaeniceps rex</i>			
- Central Tropical Africa	1b 1c		
THRESKIORNITHIDAE			
<i>Plegadis falcinellus falcinellus</i>			
- Sub-Saharan Africa (bre)			1
- Black Sea & Mediterranean/West Africa	3c		
- South-west Asia/Eastern Africa		(1)	
<i>Geronticus eremita</i>			
- Morocco	1a 1b 1c		
- South-west Asia	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus aethiopicus</i>			
- Sub-Saharan Africa			1
- Iraq & Iran	1c		
<i>Platalea leucorodia leucorodia</i>			
- West Europe/West Mediterranean & West Africa	2		
- Cent. & SE Europe/Mediterranean & Tropical Africa	2		
<i>Platalea leucorodia archeri</i>			
- Red Sea & Somalia	1c		

	A	B	C
<i>Platalea leucorodia balsaci</i>			
- Coastal West Africa (Mauritania)	1c		
<i>Platalea leucorodia major</i>			
- Western Asia/South-west & South Asia	2		
<i>Platalea alba</i>			
- Sub-Saharan Africa		1	
PHOENICOPTERIDAE			
<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>			
- West Africa	3a		
- Eastern Africa	3a		
- Southern Africa (to Madagascar)	3a		
- West Mediterranean		2a	
- East Mediterranean	3a		
- South-west & South Asia		2a	
<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>			
- West Africa	2		
- Eastern Africa	4		
- Southern Africa (to Madagascar)	3a		
ANATIDAE			
<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>			
- West Africa (Senegal to Chad)	2		
- Eastern & Southern Africa			(1)
<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>			
- West Africa (Senegal to Chad)			1
- Eastern & Southern Africa			1
<i>Thalassornis leuconotus leuconotus</i>			
- West Africa	1c		
- Eastern & Southern Africa	2*		
<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>			
- West Mediterranean (Spain & Morocco)	1a 1b 1c		
- Algeria & Tunisia	1a 1b 1c		
- East Mediterranean, Turkey & South-west Asia	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>			
- Eastern Africa	1c		
- Southern Africa	1c		
<i>Cygnus olor</i>			
- North-west Mainland & Central Europe			1
- Black Sea		1	
- West & Central Asia/Caspian		2a 2d	
<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>			
- Iceland/UK & Ireland	2		
- North-west Mainland Europe		1	
- N Europe & W Siberia/Black Sea & E Mediterranean	2		
- West & Central Siberia/Caspian	2		
<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>			
- Western Siberia & NE Europe/North-west Europe	2		
- Northern Siberia/Caspian	1c		
<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>			
- East Greenland & Iceland/UK		2a	
- Svalbard/North-west Europe		1	
<i>Anser fabalis fabalis</i>			

	A	B	C
- North-east Europe/North-west Europe	3c*		
- West & Central Siberia/Turkmenistan to W China	1c		
<i>Anser fabalis rossicus</i>			
- West & Central Siberia/NE & SW Europe			(1)
<i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i>			
- NW Siberia & NE Europe/North-west Europe			1
- Western Siberia/Central Europe			1
- Western Siberia/Black Sea & Turkey			1
- Northern Siberia/Caspian & Iraq	2		
<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>			
- Greenland/Ireland & UK	2*		
<i>Anser erythropus</i>			
- NE Europe & W Siberia/Black Sea & Caspian	1a 1b 2		
- Fennoscandia	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Anser anser anser</i>			
- Iceland/UK & Ireland		1	
- NW Europe/South-west Europe			1
- Central Europe/North Africa		1	
<i>Anser anser rubrirostris</i>			
- Black Sea & Turkey		1	
- Western Siberia/Caspian & Iraq			1
<i>Branta leucopsis</i>			
- East Greenland/Scotland & Ireland		1	
- Svalbard/South-west Scotland	3a		
- Russia/Germany & Netherlands			1
<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>			
- Western Siberia/Western Europe		2b	
<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>			
- Svalbard/Denmark & UK	1c		
- Canada & Greenland/Ireland	3a		
<i>Branta ruficollis</i>			
- Northern Siberia/Black Sea & Caspian	1a 1b 3a 3c		
<i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>			
- West Africa	1c		
- Eastern & Southern Africa			1
<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>			
- North-west Africa	1c		
- East Mediterranean & Black Sea/North-east Africa	2		
- Western Asia & Caspian/Iran & Iraq		1	
<i>Tadorna cana</i>			
- Southern Africa	3c		
<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>			
- North-west Europe		2a	
- Black Sea & Mediterranean			1
- Western Asia/Caspian & Middle East		1	
<i>Plectropterus gambensis gambensis</i>			
- West Africa		1	
- Eastern Africa (Sudan to Zambia)			1
<i>Plectropterus gambensis niger</i>			
- Southern Africa		1	
<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos melanotos</i>			
- West Africa		1	
- Southern & Eastern Africa			1

	A	B	C
<i>Nettapus auritus</i>			
- West Africa	1c		
- Southern & Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Anas capensis</i>			
- Eastern Africa (Rift Valley)	1c		
- Lake Chad basin ²	1c		
- Southern Africa (N to Angola & Zambia)			1
<i>Anas strepera strepera</i>			
- North-west Europe		1	
- North-east Europe/Black Sea & Mediterranean			1
- Western Siberia/SW Asia & NE Africa			(1)
<i>Anas penelope</i>			
- Western Siberia & NE Europe/NW Europe			1
- W Siberia & NE Europe/Black Sea & Mediterranean			1
- Western Siberia/SW Asia & NE Africa		2c	
<i>Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos</i>			
- North-west Europe			1
- Northern Europe/West Mediterranean			1
- Eastern Europe/Black Sea & East Mediterranean		2c	
- Western Siberia/South-west Asia			(1)
<i>Anas undulata undulata</i>			
- Southern Africa			1
<i>Anas clypeata</i>			
- North-west & Central Europe (win)		1	
- W Siberia, NE & E Europe/S Europe & West Africa			1
- W Siberia/SW Asia, NE & Eastern Africa		2c	
<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>			
- Southern Africa			1
- Eastern Africa			1
- Madagascar	2		
<i>Anas acuta</i>			
- North-west Europe		1	
- W Siberia, NE & E Europe/S Europe & West Africa			1
- Western Siberia/SW Asia & Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Anas querquedula</i>			
- Western Siberia & Europe/West Africa		2c	
- Western Siberia/SW Asia, NE & Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Anas crecca crecca</i>			
- North-west Europe			1
- W Siberia & NE Europe/Black Sea & Mediterranean			1
- Western Siberia/SW Asia & NE Africa		2c	
<i>Anas hottentota</i>			
- Lake Chad Basin	1c		
- Eastern Africa (south to N Zambia)		1	
- Southern Africa (north to S Zambia)		1	
<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>			
- West Mediterranean/West Medit. & West Africa	1a 1b 1c		
- East Mediterranean	1a 1b 1c		
- South-west Asia	1a 1b 2		
<i>Netta rufina</i>			
- South-west & Central Europe/West Mediterranean		1	
- Black Sea & East Mediterranean	3c		
- Western & Central Asia/South-west Asia			1

	A	B	C
<i>Netta erythrophthalma brunnea</i>			
- Southern & Eastern Africa		1	
<i>Aythya ferina</i>			
- North-east Europe/North-west Europe		2c	
- Central & NE Europe/Black Sea & Mediterranean		2c	
- Western Siberia/South-west Asia		2c	
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>			
- West Mediterranean/North & West Africa	1a 1c		
- Eastern Europe/E Mediterranean & Sahelian Africa	1a 3c		
- Western Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa	1a 3c		
<i>Aythya fuligula</i>			
- North-west Europe (win)			1
- Central Europe, Black Sea & Mediterranean (win)		2c	
- Western Siberia/SW Asia & NE Africa			(1)
<i>Aythya marila marila</i>			
- Northern Europe/Western Europe		2c	
- Western Siberia/Black Sea & Caspian			1
<i>Somateria mollissima mollissima</i>			
- Baltic, Denmark & Netherlands		2d	
- Norway & Russia			1
<i>Somateria mollissima borealis</i>			
- Svalbard & Franz Joseph (bre)		1	
<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>			
- East Greenland, NE Europe & Western Siberia			1
<i>Polysticta stelleri</i>			
- Western Siberia/North-east Europe	1a 1b 2		
<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>			
- Iceland & Greenland			1
- Western Siberia/North Europe		2c	
<i>Melanitta nigra nigra</i>			
- W Siberia & N Europe/W Europe & NW Africa		2a 2c	
<i>Melanitta fusca fusca</i>			
- Western Siberia & Northern Europe/NW Europe		2a 2c	
- Black Sea & Caspian	1c		
<i>Bucephala clangula clangula</i>			
- North-west & Central Europe (win)			1
- North-east Europe/Adriatic			1
- Western Siberia & North-east Europe/Black Sea		1	
- Western Siberia/Caspian			1
<i>Mergellus albellus</i>			
- North-west & Central Europe (win)	3a		
- North-east Europe/Black Sea & East Mediterranean		1	
- Western Siberia/South-west Asia		1	
<i>Mergus serrator serrator</i>			
- North-west & Central Europe (win)			1
- North-east Europe/Black Sea & Mediterranean		1	
- Western Siberia/South-west & Central Asia	1c		
<i>Mergus merganser merganser</i>			
- North-west & Central Europe (win)			1
- North-east Europe/Black Sea	1c		
- Western Siberia/Caspian	2		

	A	B	C
GRUIDAE			
<i>Balearica pavonina pavonina</i>			
- West Africa (Senegal to Chad)	1b 1c		
<i>Balearica pavonina ceciliae</i>			
- Eastern Africa (Sudan to Uganda)	1b 3c		
<i>Balearica regulorum regulorum</i>			
- Southern Africa (N to Angola & S Zimbabwe)	1b 1c		
<i>Balearica regulorum gibbericeps</i>			
- Eastern Africa (Kenya to Mozambique)	1b 3c		
<i>Grus leucogeranus</i>			
- Iran (win)	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Grus virgo</i>			
- Black Sea (Ukraine)/North-east Africa	1c		
- Turkey (bre)	1c		
- Kalmykia/North-east Africa		1	
<i>Grus paradisea</i>			
- Extreme Southern Africa	1b	1	
<i>Grus carunculatus</i>			
- Central & Southern Africa	1b 1c		
<i>Grus grus</i>			
- North-west Europe/Iberia & Morocco			1
- North-east & Central Europe/North Africa		1	
- Eastern Europe/Turkey, Middle East & NE Africa	3c		
- Turkey & Georgia (bre)	1c		
- Western Siberia/South Asia		(1)	
RALLIDAE			
<i>Sarothrura elegans elegans</i>			
- NE, Eastern & Southern Africa			(1)
<i>Sarothrura elegans reichenovi</i>			
- S West Africa to Central Africa			(1)
<i>Sarothrura boehmi</i>			
- Central Africa	1c		
<i>Sarothrura ayresi</i>			
- Ethiopia	1a 1b 1c		
- Southern Africa	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Rallus aquaticus aquaticus</i>			
- Europe & North Africa		2c	
<i>Rallus aquaticus korejewi</i>			
- Western Siberia/South-west Asia			(1)
<i>Rallus caerulescens</i>			
- Southern & Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Crecopsis egregia</i>			
- Sub-Saharan Africa			(1)
<i>Crex crex</i>			
- Europe & Western Asia/Sub-Saharan Africa			1
<i>Amaurornis flavirostris</i>			
- Sub-Saharan Africa			1
<i>Porzana parva parva</i>			
- Western Eurasia/Africa		2c	
<i>Porzana pusilla intermedia</i>			
- Europe (bre)	1c		
<i>Porzana porzana</i>			

	A	B	C
- Europe/Africa		2d	
<i>Aenigmatolimnas marginalis</i>			
- Sub-Saharan Africa	(2)		
<i>Porphyrio alleni</i>			
- Sub-Saharan Africa			(1)
<i>Gallinula chloropus chloropus</i>			
- Europe & North Africa			1
- West & South-west Asia			(1)
<i>Gallinula angulata</i>			
- Sub-Saharan Africa			(1)
<i>Fulica cristata</i>			
- Sub-Saharan Africa			1
- Spain & Morocco	1c		
<i>Fulica atra atra</i>			
- North-west Europe (win)			1
- Black Sea & Mediterranean (win)			1
- South-west Asia (win)			(1)
DROMADIDAE			
<i>Dromas ardeola</i>			
- North-west Indian Ocean, Red Sea & Gulf		1	
HAEMATOPODIDAE			
<i>Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus</i>			
- Europe/South & West Europe & NW Africa		2c	
<i>Haematopus ostralegus longipes</i>			
- SE Eur & W Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa		2c	
<i>Haematopus moquini</i>			
- Coastal Southern Africa	1c		
RECURVIROSTRIDAE			
<i>Himantopus himantopus himantopus</i>			
- Sub-Saharan Africa (excluding south)			(1)
- Southern Africa (' <i>meridionalis</i> ')	2		
- SW Europe & North-west Africa/West Africa		1	
- Central Europe & E Mediterranean/N-Central Africa		1	
- W, C & SW Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa		(1)	
<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>			
- Southern Africa	2		
- Eastern Africa		(1)	
- Western Europe & North-west Africa (bre)		1	
- South-east Europe, Black Sea & Turkey (bre)	(3c)		
- West & South-west Asia/Eastern Africa	2		
BURHINIDAE			
<i>Burhinus senegalensis senegalensis</i>			
- West Africa		1	
<i>Burhinus senegalensis inornatus</i>			
- North-east & Eastern Africa		1	
GLAREOLIDAE			
<i>Pluvianus aegyptius aegyptius</i>			

	A	B	C
- West Africa		(1)	
- Eastern Africa	(2)		
- Lower Congo Basin	2		
<i>Glareola pratincola pratincola</i>			
- Western Europe & NW Africa/West Africa	2		
- Black Sea & E Mediterranean/Eastern Sahel zone	2		
- SW Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa		(1)	
<i>Glareola nordmanni</i>			
- SE Europe & Western Asia/Southern Africa	4		
<i>Glareola ocularis</i>			
- Madagascar/East Africa	1c		
<i>Glareola nuchalis nuchalis</i>			
- Eastern & Central Africa		(1)	
<i>Glareola nuchalis liberiae</i>			
- West Africa			1
<i>Glareola cinerea cinerea</i>			
- SE West Africa & Central Africa	(2)		
CHARADRIIDAE			
<i>Pluvialis apricaria apricaria</i>			
- Britain, Ireland, Denmark, Germany & Baltic (bre)		2c	
<i>Pluvialis apricaria altifrons</i>			
- Iceland & Faroes/East Atlantic coast			1
- Northern Europe/Western Europe & NW Africa			1
- Northern Siberia/Caspian & Asia Minor		(1)	
<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>			
- North-central Siberia/South & SW Asia, NE Africa		(1)	
<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>			
- W Siberia & Canada/W Europe & W Africa			1
- C & E Siberia/SW Asia, Eastern & Southern Africa		1	
<i>Charadrius hiaticula hiaticula</i>			
- Northern Europe/Europe & North Africa		1	
<i>Charadrius hiaticula psammmodroma</i>			
- Canada, Greenland & Iceland/W & S Africa		(2c)	
<i>Charadrius hiaticula tundrae</i>			
- NE Europe & Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa			(1)
<i>Charadrius dubius curonicus</i>			
- Europe & North-west Africa/West Africa			1
- West & South-west Asia/Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Charadrius pecuarius pecuarius</i>			
- Southern & Eastern Africa			(1)
- West Africa		(1)	
<i>Charadrius tricollaris tricollaris</i>			
- Southern & Eastern Africa			1
<i>Charadrius forbesi</i>			
- Western & Central Africa		(1)	
<i>Charadrius pallidus pallidus</i>			
- Southern Africa	2		
<i>Charadrius pallidus venustus</i>			
- Eastern Africa	1c		
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus</i>			
- West Europe & West Mediterranean/West Africa	3c		
- Black Sea & East Mediterranean/Eastern Sahel	3c		

	A	B	C
- SW & Central Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa		(1)	
<i>Charadrius marginatus mehowi</i>			
- <i>mehowi/tenellus</i> Inland East & Central Africa	2		
- Coastal E Africa	2		
- West Africa	2		
<i>Charadrius mongolus pamirensis</i>			
- West-central Asia/SW Asia & Eastern Africa			1
<i>Charadrius leschenaultii columbinus</i>			
- Turkey & SW Asia/E. Mediterranean & Red Sea	1c		
<i>Charadrius leschenaultii crassirostris</i>			
- Caspian & SW Asia/Arabia & NE Africa		(1)	
<i>Charadrius leschenaultii leschenaultii</i>			
- Central Asia/Eastern & Southern Africa		(1)	
<i>Charadrius asiaticus</i>			
- SE Europe & West Asia/E & Central Southern Africa	3c		
<i>Eudromias morinellus</i>			
- Europe/North-west Africa	(3c)		
- Asia/Middle East		(1)	
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>			
- Europe, W Asia/Europe, N Africa & SW Asia			1
<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>			
- Black Sea & Mediterranean (bre)		1	
<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>			
- West & Central Africa		(1)	
<i>Vanellus senegallus senegallus</i>			
- West Africa		(1)	
<i>Vanellus senegallus solitaneus</i>			
- South-west Africa		(1)	
<i>Vanellus senegallus lateralis</i>			
- Eastern & South-east Africa		1	
<i>Vanellus lugubris</i>			
- Southern West Africa	2		
- Central & Eastern Africa	3c		
<i>Vanellus melanopterus minor</i>			
- Southern Africa	1c		
<i>Vanellus coronatus coronatus</i>			
- Eastern & Southern Africa			1
- Central Africa	(2)		
<i>Vanellus coronatus xerophilus</i>			
- South-west Africa		(1)	
<i>Vanellus superciliosus</i>			
- West & Central Africa	(2)		
<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>			
- SE Europe & Western Asia/North-east Africa	1a 1b 2		
- Central Asian Republics/NW India	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>			
- SW Asia/SW Asia & North-east Africa	2		
- Central Asian Republics/South Asia		(1)	
SCOLOPACIDAE			
<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>			
- Europe/South & West Europe & North Africa			1
- Western Siberia/South-west Asia (Caspian)			(1)

	A	B	C
<i>Gallinago stenura</i>			
- Northern Siberia/South Asia & Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Gallinago media</i>			
- Scandinavia/probably West Africa	4		
- Western Siberia & NE Europe/South-east Africa	4		
<i>Gallinago gallinago gallinago</i>			
- Europe/South & West Europe & NW Africa		2c	
- Western Siberia/South-west Asia & Africa			1
<i>Gallinago gallinago faeroeensis</i>			
- Iceland, Faroes & Northern Scotland/Ireland			1
<i>Lymnocyrtus minimus</i>			
- Northern Europe/S & W Europe & West Africa		2b	
- Western Siberia/SW Asia & NE Africa			1
<i>Limosa limosa limosa</i>			
- Western Europe/NW & West Africa	4		
- Eastern Europe/Central & Eastern Africa	4		
- West-central Asia/SW Asia & Eastern Africa	4		
<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>			
- Iceland/Western Europe	4		
<i>Limosa lapponica lapponica</i>			
- Northern Europe/Western Europe		2a	
<i>Limosa lapponica taymyrensis</i>			
- Western Siberia/West & South-west Africa		2a 2c	
<i>Limosa lapponica menzbieri</i>			
- Central Siberia/South & SW Asia & Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Numenius phaeopus phaeopus</i>			
- Northern Europe/West Africa			(1)
- West Siberia/Southern & Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Numenius phaeopus islandicus</i>			
- Iceland, Faroes & Scotland/West Africa			1
<i>Numenius phaeopus alboaxillaris</i>			
- South-west Asia/Eastern Africa	1c		
<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>			
- Central Siberia/Mediterranean & SW Asia	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Numenius arquata arquata</i>			
- Europe/Europe, North & West Africa	4		
<i>Numenius arquata orientalis</i>			
- Western Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa	3c		
<i>Numenius arquata suschkini</i>			
- South-east Europe & South-west Asia (bre)	1c		
<i>Tringa erythropus</i>			
- N Europe/Southern Europe, North & West Africa			(1)
- Western Siberia/SW Asia, NE & Eastern Africa		(1)	
<i>Tringa totanus totanus</i>			
- Northern Europe (breeding)			1
- Central & East Europe (breeding)		2c	
<i>Tringa totanus britannica</i>			
- Britain & Ireland/Britain, Ireland, France		2c	
<i>Tringa totanus ussuriensis</i>			
- Western Asia/SW Asia, NE & Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Tringa totanus robusta</i>			
- Iceland & Faroes/Western Europe			1
<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>			

	A	B	C
- Eastern Europe/West & Central Africa		(1)	
- Western Asia/SW Asia, Eastern & Southern Africa		(1)	
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			
- Northern Europe/SW Europe, NW & West Africa			1
- Western Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa			(1)
<i>Tringa ochropus</i>			
- Northern Europe/S & W Europe, West Africa			1
- Western Siberia/SW Asia, NE & Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Tringa glareola</i>			
- North-west Europe/West Africa			1
- NE Europe & W Siberia/Eastern & Southern Africa			(1)
<i>Xenus cinereus</i>			
- NE Europe & W Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa			1
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			
- West & Central Europe/West Africa			1
- E Europe & W Siberia/Central, E & S Africa			(1)
<i>Arenaria interpres interpres</i>			
- NE Canada & Greenland/W Europe & NW Africa			1
- Northern Europe/West Africa			1
- West & Central Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa			(1)
<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>			
- Eastern Siberia/SW Asia & W Southern Asia	1b 1c		
<i>Calidris canutus canutus</i>			
- Northern Siberia/West & Southern Africa		2a 2c	
<i>Calidris canutus islandica</i>			
- NE Canada & Greenland/Western Europe		2a	
<i>Calidris alba</i>			
- East Atlantic Europe, West & Southern Africa (win)			1
- South-west Asia, Eastern & Southern Africa (win)			1
<i>Calidris minuta</i>			
- N Europe/S Europe, North & West Africa		(2c)	
- Western Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa			(1)
<i>Calidris temminckii</i>			
- Fennoscandia/North & West Africa		(1)	
- NE Europe & W Siberia/SW Asia & Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Calidris maritima maritima</i>			
- N Europe & W Siberia (breeding)		1	
- NE Canada & N Greenland (breeding)	3c		
<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>			
- NE Europe & NW Siberia/W Europe & NW Africa			1
<i>Calidris alpina centralis</i>			
- Central Siberia/SW Asia & NE Africa			(1)
<i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i>			
- Iceland & Greenland/NW and West Africa			1
- Britain & Ireland/SW Europe & NW Africa	2		
- Baltic/SW Europe & NW Africa	1c		
<i>Calidris alpina arctica</i>			
- NE Greenland/West Africa	3a		
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>			
- Western Siberia/West Africa			1
- Central Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa			1
<i>Limicola falcinellus falcinellus</i>			
- Northern Europe/SW Asia & Africa	3c		

	A	B	C
<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>			
- Northern Europe & Western Siberia/West Africa		2c	
- Northern Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa		(2c)	
<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>			
- Western Eurasia/Arabian Sea			1
<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>			
- Canada & Greenland/Atlantic coast of Africa		2c	
STERCORARIIDAE			
<i>Catharacta skua</i>		1	
<i>Stercorarius longicaudus longicaudus</i>			1
LARIDAE			
<i>Larus leucophthalmus</i>			
- Red Sea & nearby coasts	1a	1	
<i>Larus hemprichii</i>			
- Red Sea, Gulf, Arabia & Eastern Africa			1
<i>Larus canus canus</i>			
- NW & Cent. Europe/Atlantic coast & Mediterranean		2c	
<i>Larus canus heinei</i>			
- NE Europe & Western Siberia/Black Sea & Caspian			1
<i>Larus audouinii</i>			
- Mediterranean/N & W coasts of Africa	1a 3a		
<i>Larus marinus</i>			
- North & West Europe			1
<i>Larus dominicanus vetula</i>			
- Coastal Southern Africa		1	
<i>Larus hyperboreus hyperboreus</i>			
- Svalbard & N Russia (bre)			(1)
<i>Larus hyperboreus leuceteres</i>			
- Canada, Greenland & Iceland (bre)			(1)
<i>Larus glaucoides glaucoides</i>			
- Greenland/Iceland & North-west Europe			1
<i>Larus argentatus argentatus</i>			
- North & North-west Europe			1
<i>Larus argentatus argenteus</i>			
- Iceland & Western Europe		2c	
<i>Larus heuglini</i>			
- NE Europe & W Siberia/SW Asia & NE Africa			(1)
<i>Larus (heuglini) barabensis</i>			
- South-west Siberia/South-west Asia			(1)
<i>Larus armenicus</i>			
- Armenia, Eastern Turkey & NW Iran	3a		
<i>Larus cachinnans cachinnans</i>			
- Black Sea & Western Asia/SW Asia, NE Africa			1
<i>Larus cachinnans michahellis</i>			
- Mediterranean, Iberia & Morocco			1
<i>Larus fuscus fuscus</i>			
- NE Europe/Black Sea, SW Asia & Eastern Africa	3c		
<i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>			
- Western Europe/Mediterranean & West Africa			1
<i>Larus fuscus intermedius</i>			
- S Scandinavia, Netherlands, Ebro Delta, Spain			1

	A	B	C
<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>			
- Black Sea & Caspian/South-west Asia	3a		
<i>Larus cirrocephalus poiocephalus</i>			
- West Africa		(1)	
- Central & Eastern Africa			(1)
- Coastal Southern Africa (excluding Madagascar)		(1)	
<i>Larus hartlaubii</i>			
- Coastal South-west Africa		1	
<i>Larus ridibundus</i>			
- W Europe/W Europe, W Mediterranean, West Africa			1
- East Europe/Black Sea & East Mediterranean			1
- West Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa			(1)
<i>Larus genei</i>			
- West Africa (bre)	2		
- Black Sea & Mediterranean (bre)		2a	
- West, South-west & South Asia (bre)			1
<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>			
- W Europe, Mediterranean & NW Africa		2a	
<i>Larus minutus</i>			
- Central & E Europe/SW Europe & W Mediterranean			1
- W Asia/E Mediterranean, Black Sea & Caspian		(1)	
<i>Xema sabini sabini</i>	(a)		
- Canada & Greenland/SE Atlantic			(1)
<i>Rissa tridactyla tridactyla</i>		2c	
STERNIDAE			
<i>Sterna nilotica nilotica</i>			
- Western Europe/West Africa	2		
- Black Sea & East Mediterranean/Eastern Africa	3c		
- West & Central Asia/South-west Asia	2		
<i>Sterna caspia caspia</i>			
- Southern Africa (bre)	1c		
- West Africa (bre)		1	
- Baltic (bre)	1c		
- Black Sea (bre)	1c		
- Caspian (bre)	2		
<i>Sterna maxima albidorsalis</i>			
- West Africa (bre)		2a	
<i>Sterna bengalensis bengalensis</i>			
- Gulf/Southern Asia			1
<i>Sterna bengalensis par</i>			
- Red Sea/Eastern Africa		1	
<i>Sterna bengalensis emigrata</i>			
- S Mediterranean/NW & West Africa coasts	1c		
<i>Sterna bergii bergii</i>			
- Southern Africa (Angola – Mozambique)	2		
<i>Sterna bergii enigma</i>			
- Madagascar & Mozambique/Southern Africa	1c		
<i>Sterna bergii thalassina</i>			
- Eastern Africa & Seychelles	1c		
<i>Sterna bergii velox</i>			
- Red Sea & North-east Africa	2		
<i>Sterna sandvicensis sandvicensis</i>			

	A	B	C
- Western Europe/West Africa			1
- Black Sea & Mediterranean (bre)		2a	
- West & Central Asia/South-west & South Asia			1
<i>Sterna dougallii dougallii</i>			
- Southern Africa	1c		
- East Africa	3a		
- Europe (bre)	1c		
<i>Sterna dougallii arideensis</i>			
- Madagascar, Seychelles & Mascarenes	2		
<i>Sterna dougallii bangsi</i>			
- North Arabian Sea (Oman)	1c		
<i>Sterna vittata vittata</i>			
- P.Edward, Marion, Crozet & Kerguelen/South Africa	1c		
<i>Sterna vittata tristanensis</i>			
- Tristan da Cunha & Gough/South Africa	1c		
<i>Sterna hirundo hirundo</i>			
- Southern & Western Europe (bre)			1
- Northern & Eastern Europe (bre)			1
- Western Asia (bre)			(1)
<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>			
- Western Eurasia (bre)			1
<i>Sterna albifrons albifrons</i>			
- Europe north of Mediterranean (bre)	2		
- West Mediterranean / W Africa (bre)	3b		
- Black Sea & East Mediterranean (bre)	3b 3c		
- Caspian (bre)	2		
<i>Sterna albifrons guineae</i>			
- West Africa (bre)	1c		
<i>Sterna saundersi</i>			
- W South Asia, Red Sea, Gulf & Eastern Africa		(1)	
<i>Sterna balaenarum</i>			
- Namibia & South Africa/Atlantic coast to Ghana	2		
<i>Sterna repressa</i>			
- W South Asia, Red Sea, Gulf & Eastern Africa		2c	
<i>Sterna anaethetus melanopterus</i>			
- W Africa	1c		
<i>Sterna anaethetus fuligula</i>			
- Red Sea, E Africa, Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea to W India			1
<i>Sterna anaethetus antarctica</i>			
- W Indian Ocean	2		
<i>Sterna fuscata nubilosa</i>			
- Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, E to Pacific		2a	
<i>Chlidonias hybridus hybridus</i>			
- Western Europe & North-west Africa (bre)		1	
- Black Sea & East Mediterranean (bre)			(1)
- Caspian (bre)		(1)	
<i>Chlidonias hybridus sclateri</i>			
- Eastern Africa (Kenya & Tanzania)	2		
- Southern Africa (Malawi & Zambia to South Africa)	(2)		
<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>			
- Eastern Europe & Western Asia/Africa			(1)
<i>Chlidonias niger niger</i>			
- Europe & Western Asia/Atlantic coast of Africa		2c	

	A	B	C
<i>Anous stolidus plumbeigularis</i>			
- Red Sea & Gulf of Aden		1	
<i>Anous tenuirostris tenuirostris</i>			
- Indian Ocean Islands to E Africa			1
RYNCHOPIDAE			
<i>Rynchops flavirostris</i>			
- Coastal West Africa & Central Africa	2		
- Eastern & Southern Africa	2		
ALCIDAE			
<i>Alle alle alle</i>			
- High Arctic, Baffin Is – Novaya Zemlya			1
<i>Uria aalge aalge</i>			
- E North America, Greenland, Iceland, Faeroes, Scotland, S Norway, Baltic		2c	
<i>Uria aalge albionis</i>			
- Ireland, S Britain, France, Iberia, Helgoland			1
<i>Uria aalge hyperborea</i>			
- Svalbard, N Norway to Novaya Zemlya			1
<i>Uria lomvia lomvia</i>			
- E North America, Greenland, E to Severnaya Zemlya		2c	
<i>Alca torda torda</i>			
- E North America, Greenland, E to Baltic & White Seas			1
<i>Alca torda islandica</i>			
- Iceland, Faeroes, Britain, Ireland, Helgoland, NW France			1
<i>Cepphus grylle grylle</i>			
- Baltic Sea		1	
<i>Cepphus grylle mandtii</i>			
- Arctic E North America to Greenland, Jan Mayen & Svalbard E through Siberia to Alaska		1	
<i>Cepphus grylle arcticus</i>			
- N America, S Greenland, Britain, Ireland, Scandinavia, White Sea			1
<i>Cepphus grylle islandicus</i>			
- Iceland	3c		
<i>Cepphus grylle faeroeensis</i>			
- Faeroes	1c		
<i>Fratercula arctica arctica</i>			
- Hudson bay & Maine E to S Greenland, Iceland, Bear Is, Norway to S Novaya Zemlya			1
<i>Fratercula arctica naumanni</i>			
- NE Canada, N Greenland, to Jan Mayen, Svalbard, N Novaya Zemlya	3a		
<i>Fratercula arctica grabae</i>			
- Faeroes, S Norway & Sweden, Britain, Ireland, NW France			1

RESOLUTION 5.7

ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS AND NEW GUIDANCE FOR INTERPRETATION OF TERMS USED IN THE CONTEXT OF TABLE 1 OF THE AEWA ACTION PLAN

Recalling Resolution 3.3 that adopted guidance on the interpretation of the term “*significant long-term decline*” in the context of Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan and the call of the Meeting of the Parties to the Technical Committee to develop guidance for the interpretation of the other three criteria used in Table 1,

Recalling Resolution 4.12 that adopted definitions of criteria used in the context of Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan related to *concentration onto a small number of sites at any stage of its annual cycle and dependence (of a waterbird population) on a habitat type which is under severe threat* and requested the Technical Committee to develop guidance for interpretation of the term “*extreme fluctuations in population size or trend*”,

Thanking the Technical Committee for its work over the past quadrennium on developing guidance on the interpretation of the term “*extreme fluctuations in population size or trend*” and on revisiting the earlier adopted guidance on the interpretation of the term “*significant long-term decline*”,

Referring to the proposed amendments and new definition presented in documents AEWA/MOP 5.21 and AEWA/MOP 5.22, respectively,

Noting the amendment of the wording of the term “*extreme fluctuations*” to “*large fluctuations*” used in the context of Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan (categories A3d and B2d) as approved by Resolution 5.6,

Recognising the benefits of ensuring that definitions adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA to aid interpretation of the Agreement are easily accessible to all.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Adopts* the following definition of the term “*large fluctuations in population size or trend*” used in the context of Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan:

Large fluctuations can be said to occur where population size or distribution area varies widely, rapidly and frequently, typically with a variation greater than a factor of two (i.e., doubling or halving) within a short period of time (typically three years or one generation, whichever is longer);

2. *Adopts* the definition of and guidance for interpretation of the term “*significant long-term decline*” as set out in Appendix 1 to this resolution to replace the definition and guidance previously adopted by Resolution 3.3;

3. *Requests* the Secretariat to compile into a single document all definitions adopted by the Meeting of the Parties since its first Session in Cape Town in 1999 and to make this available on the AEWA website.

Definition of and Guidance for interpretation of the term “*significant long-term decline*” of waterbird populations

Definition

A population in 'significant long-term decline' is one where the best available data, information or assessments indicate that it has declined by at least 25% in numbers or range over a period of 25 years or 7.5 generations, whichever is the longer or when similar decline can be predicted based on at least 10 years of the most recent data.

Guidance for the application of this definition

1. Where there are only poor quantitative assessments of trends at the international scale, international trends should be assessed on the basis of best expert knowledge and other available information bearing in mind the scale of decline indicated in the definition above.
2. Where one biogeographical population shows different trends in different countries, a decline of at least 25% in numbers or range over a period of 25 years or 7.5 generations in over half the countries for which information is available; this indicates that the population is in significant long-term decline. If for certain populations information is available for a period of more than 25 years, this would be preferred.
3. Trend information for biogeographical populations at international scales is not always available over 25 year periods or 7.5 generations. In such situations, equivalent rates of decline may be used over shorter periods, but not shorter than 11 years, and based on a sustained decline at an annual rate that would produce 25% decline over the above mentioned period.
4. The delimitation of decline rates resulting from natural fluctuations should be based on the best expert knowledge, including information on the availability of suitable habitats.
5. Care is needed in applying this definition to monitoring data uncritically. There may be instances where a change of a population's range or distribution results in a decrease in numbers of a population counted, as a consequence of a greater proportion of the population now occurring in areas where there is less monitoring. Lower thresholds may be appropriate for decreasing range where it is accompanied by population decrease. Raw count data will always need expert interpretation.
6. The geometric mean of population size ranges should generally be taken as the basis of population trend calculations. Following IUCN Red List criteria definitions, generation length is the average generation length of parents of the current population. Each significant long-term decline revealed by the above-mentioned calculations will be examined, analysed and approved by the Technical Committee.

Where the size of a population is known to be low (<100,000), expert judgments as to trend status should be undertaken on a precautionary basis. This is especially important given recent findings of a low genetic variation of a number of waterbird populations - the implication being that the effective population size is much (possibly by a factor of 10) smaller than the observed population size. In these cases, a population may become unviable in the long-term (owing to vulnerability to changing environmental events) at a higher population size than previously thought.

RESOLUTION 5.8

ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLANS AND SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLANS

Recalling that paragraph 2.2.1 of the Action Plan of the Agreement which states that the Parties shall cooperate with a view to developing and implementing International Single Species Action Plans (SSAPs), as a priority for those populations in Category 1 on Column A of Table 1 and those marked with asterisk,

Noting that in accordance with target 1.4 of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017, SSAPs shall be developed and implemented for most threatened species listed in category 1 and categories 2 and 3, marked with an asterisk on Column A of Table 1,

Referring to the priority list of species/populations for elaboration of new SSAPs and the list of species for revision of SSAPs endorsed by Resolution 4.4, while taking into account the new Category 4 of Column A of AEWA Table 1 added to the AEWA Action Plan under Resolution 5.6,

Further recalling paragraph 4.3.4 of the Action Plan of the Agreement whereby Parties shall cooperate with a view to developing action plans for populations which cause significant damage, in particular to crops and to fisheries,

Further noting that in accordance with target 2.5 of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017, international harvest management plans should be developed and implemented for at least two quarry populations,

Following the positive recommendations from both the Technical and Standing Committees concerning the need to approve and implement a further four new SSAPs, a revised SSAP and the first AEWA Species Management Plan for a waterbird population,

Further recalling Resolution 3.12, operative paragraphs 4 and 5, and *noting* that the Standing Committee has approved all these five SSAPs and the Species Management Plan on an interim basis at its 6th Meeting,

Recognising the progress made in establishing AEWA International Species Working Groups to coordinate the implementation of SSAPs and the increased implementation of SSAPs as a result of the operations of such International Species Working Groups,

Thanking all Parties for the funding provided towards the development of these SSAPs and the Species Management Plan as well as the operations of AEWA International Species Working Groups and implementation of SSAPs,

Further thanking all governmental and non-governmental organisations which provided support to the coordination and implementation of SSAPs.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Adopts* the International Single Species Action Plans for the following species/populations:
 - a) Slaty Egret *Egretta vinaceigula* (document AEWA/MOP 5.25),
 - b) Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* (W Siberian & NE/NW European population) (document AEWA/MOP 5.26),
 - c) Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris* (document AEWA/MOP 5.27),
 - d) Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis* (document AEWA/MOP 5.28),
 - e) Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius* (revision of the 2002 SSAP) (document AEWA/MOP 5.29);
2. *Adopts* the International Species Management Plan for the Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* (Svalbard/NW European population) (document AEWA/MOP 5.30);
3. *Calls on* Parties to implement these and previously adopted Single Species Action Plans and the Species Management Plan pursuant to paragraph 2.2.1 of the Agreement's Action Plan;
4. *Encourages* Range States that are not yet Contracting Parties to the Agreement to also implement these as well as previously adopted Single Species Action Plans;
5. *Instructs* the Secretariat to convene, as a priority, AEWA Species Working Groups to coordinate the implementation of SSAPs for globally threatened and Near Threatened species and the Species Management Plan;
6. *Invites* Contracting Parties, other Range States and international partner organisations to set up coordination mechanisms to facilitate implementation of action plans for species which are not globally threatened or Near Threatened;
7. *Calls upon* all Range States, relevant governmental and non-governmental organisations and bilateral and multilateral donors to provide assistance for the coordination and implementation of International Species Actions Plans and the Species Management Plan that have been adopted, in particular through active participation in and funding to AEWA Species Working Groups;
8. *Instructs* the Secretariat to disseminate these International Single Species Action Plans and the Species Management Plan to relevant Parties and organisations, to monitor their implementation, and to report to the Meeting of the Parties as specified in paragraph 7.4 of the Agreement's Action Plan and through the international review on the stage of preparation and implementation of single species action plans;
9. *Requests* the Technical Committee to revise the priority list for SSAPs at its first meeting after each Meeting of the Parties in the light of approved changes to Table 1.

RESOLUTION 5.9

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN INITIATIVE FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS AND THEIR HABITATS IN AFRICA**

Recognising the positive results from the implementation of the African Initiative during the period of 2009-2012, as reported to the 6th and 7th Meetings of the AEWA Standing Committee^{1,2} and to the 5th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (document AEWA/MOP 5.32) and therefore the value of maintaining this initiative and further sustaining its effective operation,

Pleased with the outcome of the African preparatory workshop for the AEWA MOP5, which took place from 12-13 May 2012 and which adopted a final *draft Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017 - A guide to the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 in the African Region* to be presented to MOP5,

Equally pleased with the outcome of the African preparatory workshop for MOP5, during which the African Parties agreed on a coordination mechanism to support the implementation of the Plan of Action for Africa, based at the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and strengthened by sub-regional Focal Point Coordinators to be identified among the AEWA National Focal Points in each sub-region, who will guide implementation at the sub-regional level,

Acknowledging the strong commitment from the African Contracting Parties and other Range States in fostering the implementation of the African Initiative,

Expressing appreciation to the Government of France for generously providing substantial voluntary contributions to fund the position of a Coordinator for the African Initiative from 2009 to 2011, as well as the implementation of activities under this initiative,

Equally expressing appreciation to the Government of Switzerland and the Government of Germany for providing voluntary contributions to fund activities conducted under the African Initiative over the period of 2009-2012,

Further acknowledging the collaboration and support to the African Initiative from the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and other partner Multilateral Environmental Agreements, particularly the Ramsar Convention, as well as other partners such as BirdLife International, Wetlands International, Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage (ONCFS), Oiseaux Migrateurs du Paléarctique Occidental (OMPO), Tour du Valat, the African Crane Conservation Programme, and the European Union ENRTP³ Strategic Cooperation Agreement between the European Commission – Directorate General for the Environment and UNEP,

Also acknowledging the efforts made by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and Contracting Parties for the recruitment of new member states to AEWA, especially from the African region,

¹ Report to StC6 on the African Initiative: http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/stc_meetings/stc6docs/pdf/stc6_10_report_african_initiative.pdf

² Secretariat report to StC7 including the African Initiative: http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/stc_meetings/stc7docs/pdf/stc7_6_report_secretariat.pdf

³ ENRTP: Thematic Programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy

Deeply concerned by the conclusions of the 5th Edition of the Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds in the Agreement Area, whereby the state of migratory waterbirds continues to be particularly bad in the Afro-tropical region, which shows particularly poor or worse population trend estimates compared to the assessments in the 4th edition of this report prepared in 2008, and continues to hold the largest numbers and proportion of globally threatened AEWA populations belonging to species on the IUCN Red List,

Further concerned that climate change is one of the most often recorded threats to AEWA populations despite the limited knowledge of its impact at the species level, closely followed by unsustainable use of biological resources (including hunting, trapping, logging and harvesting of aquatic resources) and natural system modifications (including various water management activities such as dam construction and water abstraction), as well as agriculture and aquaculture, which tend to have a stronger impact though affecting fewer species,

Also concerned about the widespread illegal hunting of waterbirds in Africa compared with other regions within the AEWA range, with nearly all (96%) of the African countries having participated in the survey concluded in the 2007 for the *International Review on Hunting and Trade Legislation in the AEWA Area*,

Recognising the need to mobilise additional resources for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in Africa, and particularly for the implementation of the Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017,

Thanking the Secretariat, the Technical Committee, the Contracting Parties, the other Range States, the organisations and the individual contributors involved in the elaboration of the Plan of Action for the Implementation of AEWA in Africa 2012-2017,

Expressing appreciation for the generous offer from the Government of France to support implementation of the Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017 on the ground, by providing technical support to be based in the Tour du Valat Research Centre in France.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Adopts* the Plan of Action for the Implementation of AEWA in Africa 2012-2017 as appended to the present resolution;
2. *Decides to* support the implementation of the African Initiative, particularly the Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017, through the continued coordination of the African Initiative based at the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat in Bonn, strengthened by sub-regional Focal Point Coordinators to be identified among the AEWA National Focal Points in each sub-region, who will guide implementation at the sub-regional level and who will receive technical support from the arrangement offered by France, and to make the necessary provision in the AEWA core budget 2013-2015 to support this coordination mechanism;
3. *Instructs* the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and the Standing Committee to establish the terms of reference for the management of the above coordination mechanism and the technical support;
4. *Instructs* the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat to make every endeavour to secure the necessary financial and other resources for the implementation of the Plan of Action for Africa, with focus on the highest priority activities;
5. *Also instructs* the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat to collaborate closely with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, relevant AEWA Parties, including the European Union, the arrangements made for technical support and partner organisations active in Africa, as well as with the private sector, for the implementation of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017, particularly with regard to capacity building and habitat conservation projects, especially those which are transboundary and/or on a flyway-scale;

6. *Calls upon* the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and Contracting Parties to continue to put emphasis on the African region for the recruitment of new Contracting Parties;
7. *Also calls upon* Contracting Parties in Africa to implement the Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017 at the national level and particularly to allocate the necessary human and financial resources to support its implementation, as well as to ensure the mainstreaming of the Agreement in relevant national legislations, strategies and policies;
8. *Further calls upon* the Contracting Parties in Africa to promote coordinated and sustainable use of shared biological resources and to take more effective measures towards reducing the impact of the various forms of biological resource use and the impacts of water management activities;
9. *Encourages* bilateral and other forms of direct cooperation between Contracting Parties, aimed at the implementation of the Plan of Action for Africa, including towards the design of appropriate monitoring mechanisms and development of capacity for the collection of reliable data on waterbird populations;
10. *Requests* Contracting Parties to provide financial contributions and other in-kind resources to support the implementation of the African Initiative, particularly the activities prioritised in the Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017;
11. *Further requests* the United Nations Environment Programme, the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and other potential donors including development agencies, to provide financial contributions or other in-kind resources to support the African Initiative and the implementation of the Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017 and to take into account AEWA requirements, particularly the flyway approach, in the implementation of their external aid policies.



AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017⁴

A guide to the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 in the African Region

⁴ Adopted by the 5th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA (MOP5), 14 - 18 May 2012, La Rochelle, France

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List of Acronyms

AEWA	African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement
AFRING	African Bird Ringing Scheme
AfWC	African Waterbird Census
AU	African Union
CA	Central Africa
CBNRM	Community based natural resource management
CEMAC	Economic and Monetary Community for Central Africa
CEPA	Communication, Education and Public Awareness
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
CP	Contracting Party
CSN	Critical Sites Network
CT	Complementary Target
EA	Eastern Africa
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EURING	European Union for Bird Ringing
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FTK	Flyway Training Kit
IAIA	International Association for Impact Assessment
IBA	Important Bird Area
IRP	Implementation Review Process
ISR	International Site Review
ISWG	International Species Working Group
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IWC	International Waterbird Census
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MOP	Meeting of the Parties
NA	Northern Africa
NFP	National Focal Point
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NR	National Report
ONCFS	Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage
Ramsar	The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
SA	Southern Africa
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SGF	(AEWA) Small Grants Fund
SGP	(CMS) Small Grants Programme
SPEA	Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves
SSAP	Single Species Action Plan
StC	Standing Committee

TC	Technical Committee
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WA	Western Africa
WHS	World Heritage Site
WLI	Wetland Link International
WMBD	World Migratory Bird Day
WOW	Wings Over Wetlands

1. Introduction

The African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), developed under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)⁵, is an independent intergovernmental treaty which aims to conserve migratory waterbirds across their entire flyways over a range of 119 countries in Europe, parts of Asia and Canada, the Middle East and Africa. The mission of the Agreement is to maintain migratory waterbirds at a favourable conservation status or restore them to such a status throughout their flyways within the AEWA range.

The African region constitutes a significant portion of the AEWA range and supports the highest number of globally threatened species (based on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species) in the AEWA region (34 out of 38) compared with the other AEWA regions (17 in the Agreement area of Asia and 15 in Europe). Moreover, Africa supports the highest proportion of globally threatened migratory waterbird populations covered by AEWA (13% of all AEWA populations occurring in Africa are globally threatened, compared to 11.5% in Asia and 7.3% in Europe). The region has however been lagging behind with regard to effective implementation of the Agreement. Additional efforts are needed for the implementation of AEWA in Africa as a matter of priority. In response to the challenges for conserving migratory waterbirds in Africa, the Parties to AEWA unanimously adopted the African Initiative for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats in Africa (Resolution 4.9⁶ of the 4th Meeting of the Parties to AEWA – MOP4, Madagascar, 2008).

The African Initiative aims to coordinate and improve the implementation of the Agreement in Africa. In particular, the development of a Plan of Action for the Implementation of AEWA in Africa was identified as one of the key activities to be accomplished under the initiative.

2. Methodology

The legally-binding Agreement Text and its three annexes (the Agreement area; the list of waterbird species covered by the Agreement; and the AEWA Action Plan with its Table 1 of the status of the populations of migratory waterbirds covered by the Agreement) set the overall framework, and provide the main guidance to Contracting Parties (CPs) for national implementation. This guidance is supplemented with conservation guidelines addressing specific issues and needs.

The activities for implementation of the Agreement were further prioritised in a Strategic Plan, adopted by AEWA MOP4. This is currently the main operational guideline for the implementation of the Agreement. It identifies five objectives to be achieved over a period of nine years (2009-2017) and sets a series of targets to guide the accomplishment of each objective, together with quantifiable indicators to measure the level of achievement of each target.

This Plan of Action, which aims to provide an operational guideline for implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan in Africa, is structured according to the five objectives of the Strategic Plan. Under each objective, a series of tangible actions are identified, which are associated with an expected result. These in turn are directly linked to AEWA Strategic Plan targets or to Complementary Targets (CTs) - targets specific to Africa which address some key issues in the region not currently considered in detail in the Strategic Plan. The numbering of objectives, their associated targets and expected results maintains numbering sequence in the AEWA Strategic Plan, in order to facilitate follow-up, referencing and subsequent evaluation.

The Plan of Action for Africa is valid for the period 2012-2017, in line with the AEWA Strategic Plan. Time limits are set for each proposed activity as guidance for the timely delivery of results.

⁵ For more information, see: <http://www.cms.int/about/intro.htm>

⁶ Resolution 4.9 : http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop4_docs/final_res_pdf/res4_9_conservation_in_africa_final.pdf

Within the Plan of Action for Africa, the principal body/organisation responsible for leading implementation of each proposed action is identified, whilst the relevance of each action for the different sub-regions in Africa is indicated, as well as any sub-regional priorities for implementation. Whilst different sub-regions may facilitate the organisation and management of some proposed actions, such as workshops and training courses, this does not depict a regionalisation of AEWA implementation. The sub-regional partition used in this Plan of Action is specified below and in figure 1.

Northern Africa (NA):	Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt
Eastern Africa (EA):	Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia, Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania
Southern Africa (SA):	Angola, Zambia, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Swaziland, Lesotho, South Africa, Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles, Comoros
Western Africa (WA):	Mauritania, Senegal, Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, Mali, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Niger
Central Africa (CA):	Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Gabon, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo

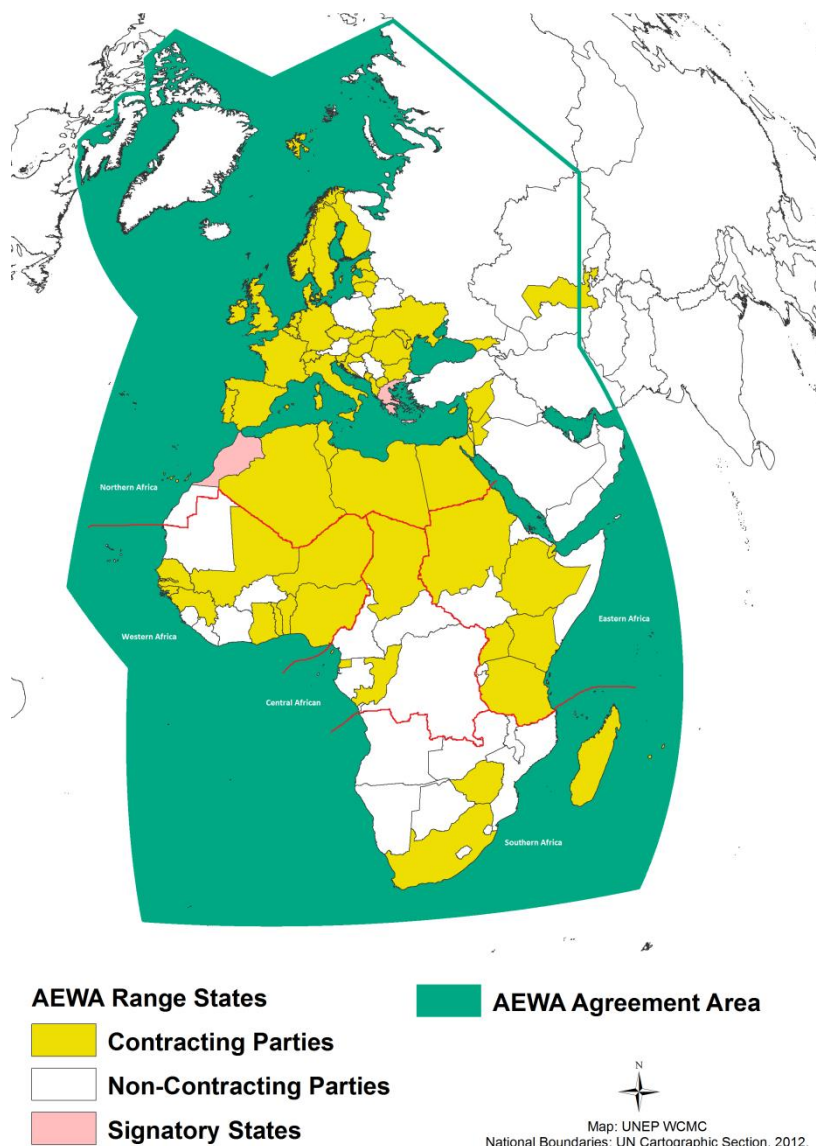


Figure 1: AEWA Range Map showing the African sub-regions (as of 1 June 2012)

This Plan of Action has been developed through a consultative process with CPs and AEWA partners. A first draft was made available in 2011, to which extensive comments were received. This included comments from the AEWA Technical Committee (TC) via the TC workspace and the 10th Meeting of the AEWA TC

(in September 2011, in Naivasha, Kenya), comments resulting from a questionnaire targeting African CPs, some non-African CPs and partner organisations (conducted in November 2011), as well as from another round of consultations with some African CPs and partner organisations conducted in early 2012. The draft plan resulting from these consultations was further reviewed by an AEWA African Preparatory Workshop to the 5th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA, which took place on 12-13 May 2012 in La Rochelle, France. The version of the plan finalized by the workshop was adopted by the 5th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA (La Rochelle, 14-18 May 2012).

3. Activities and Expected Results of the Plan of Action for Africa

A synthesis of issues addressed in the Plan of Action is provided for each objective of the AEWA Strategic Plan, along with an overview of the problems and challenges faced for the achievement of each objective.

Objective 1: To undertake conservation measures so as to improve or maintain the conservation status of waterbird species and their populations

Challenges faced with maintaining/improving the conservation status of migratory waterbirds in Africa

Many migratory waterbird populations occurring in Africa are in decline and subject to a range of threats. However, most countries in Africa do not have comprehensive policies or national programmes focused on the conservation and management of waterbirds. Pursuant to the AEWA Action Plan, CPs are expected to “adopt national legislation protecting all Column A species, to identify all sites of international or national importance for populations listed in Table 1 and to publish national inventories of these habitats”. They are further called upon to use Environmental Impact Assessments and Strategic Environmental Assessments (EIA/SEA) to minimise human-induced impacts on migratory waterbird populations and their habitats. The AEWA Review on Hunting and Trade Legislation (MOP4, Madagascar, 2008) revealed that 25% of CPs in Africa lacked strict protection for hunting and trade of Column A species (of Table 1 of AEWA) whilst for a further 19% only partial strict protection was provided. Faced with this background, it is clear that improving the conservation status of migratory waterbirds presents a significant challenge.

Africa is a changing continent; rapid change in land use practices and widespread unsustainable use place wetlands and other habitats under severe pressure. Some important sites for migratory waterbirds have been identified and designated, e.g. as protected areas, Ramsar sites and IBAs. However, such designations do not always equate to good site management, wise use or protection. Legally protected and well-managed sites can offer a vital refuge for migratory waterbirds and are fundamental for their conservation. Whilst there is reasonable knowledge on important habitats/sites for waterbirds and some protected areas have well-established management plans, most countries only manage a few, if any, sites of importance for AEWA species. Given that all the AEWA CPs in Africa, except Ethiopia, are currently Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, collaboration with Ramsar on the identification, designation and management of international sites of importance for migratory waterbirds should be strengthened. However, a more complete review on the identification and proper management of sites of national and international importance for migratory waterbirds is necessary to have a clearer idea of the situation in all African Parties.

In Africa, many people depend on wetlands and their associated natural resources (including waterbirds). Local uses such as fishing, agriculture and harvesting of reeds are often compatible with nature conservation. However, many wetlands are also targeted by larger-scale developments, for instance for irrigation and the planting of cash crops. In all cases, conservation of wetlands and the waterbirds which depend on them, and addressing the activities which increasingly threaten them, must closely involve the local communities concerned. It is vital to engage with and involve local communities in conservation at every stage, and to also identify with them the potential local benefits of waterbirds. Activities such as ecotourism initiatives and alternative income generation projects are practical ways to build a greater value and appreciation of wetlands and their resources.

Wider issues directly impacting many migratory waterbirds also need to be addressed, including trade (both legal under CITES and illegal), poisoning, and the impacts of large infrastructures such as wind turbines and pylons, whilst it is necessary to take the diverse effects of climatic change into account and the capacity of

migratory waterbirds to adapt to change. It is important to carry out EIA/SEA for projects potentially affecting AEWA populations and their habitats. Whilst this does occur (according to MOP4 NRs), effectiveness of EIAs must improve in order to fully reveal the potentially harmful activities of developments and prevent/mitigate their impacts on waterbirds and their habitats.

At the species conservation level, Single Species Action Plans (SSAPs) are the main conservation tool available to AEWA CPs to guide conservation of some species in a coordinated manner along flyways. The AEWA International Review on the Stage of Preparation and Implementation of SSAPs⁷ and National Reports to MOP4 revealed that the least progress towards the implementation of existing International SSAPs had been made in Africa. The priority list for development of SSAPs in the AEWA region (Table 9 of the AEWA SSAP review) contains a relatively high number of populations occurring in Africa, compared to other AEWA regions. The development of new SSAPs relevant for AEWA populations in Africa will need to focus on those globally threatened populations listed as priority in the SSAP Review. Much more emphasis needs to be placed on the implementation of existing and new SSAPs in Africa.

Expected results

On the basis of the preceding analysis, the following results have been identified to be desirably attained in Africa by 2017:

- 1.1.1: All Contracting Parties have launched a process to adopt appropriate national legislation protecting all Column A species, whilst 50% of Contracting Parties have adopted this legislation;
- 1.2.1: All Contracting Parties have identified and recognised key sites that contribute to a comprehensive network of sites for migratory waterbirds;
- 1.2.2: All Contracting Parties have provided protection status or other designations to the sites within the network;
- 1.2.3: All Contracting Parties have put in place site management plans that cater for the needs of waterbird conservation, and implement them for the key network sites;
- 1.3.1: All Contracting Parties have regulations in place which ensure that independent EIA/SEA is carried out for proposed and new developments, fully considering their environmental and socio-economic cumulative impacts, including on waterbirds;
- 1.3.2: The capacity of AEWA-related government officers in all Contracting Parties to participate in EIA/SEA processes is improved;
- 1.3.3: The AEWA Implementation Review Process (IRP) is used for resolving severe/adverse cases of threats to AEWA populations in African Contracting Parties;
- 1.4.1: All globally threatened and asterisk-marked AEWA species/populations occurring in Africa are subject of an SSAP;
- 1.4.2: All SSAPs have in place established and operational international coordination mechanisms (AEWA International Species Working Groups).

Proposed actions to ensure a favourable conservation status for migratory waterbirds in Africa

The Secretariat will lead a detailed analysis of the current status of national legislation for the protection of Column A species in all African Parties, through NRs to MOP5 and direct inquiries where needed. The identified gaps in national legislation will be communicated to the CPs, alongside specific guidance on proceeding with the development/amendment of national legislation where applicable. This process will take into consideration the dynamic nature of Table 1 of AEWA populations (and thus Column A species).

The preliminary AEWA International Site Network Report (MOP5, 2012) provides information on the current status of the network of sites, protected areas and management coverage for sites of international importance for AEWA species in Africa (based on the Critical Sites Network (CSN) Tool). Additional information will be incorporated for sites of national importance for migratory waterbirds in each African Party. This will be further complemented by sub-regional workshops, in collaboration with Ramsar, with the dual purpose of providing training on the CSN Tool, identifying information gaps and setting priorities for future survey and monitoring. The national implementing agencies in each African Party will be responsible

⁷SSAP Review: http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop4_docs/meeting_docs_pdf/mop4_10_ssap_review.pdf

for updating and/or developing their national network of sites of importance for AEWA species (making use of AEWA guideline No. 3 on the preparation of site inventories for migratory waterbirds). These national inventories will serve as decision-making tools for potential designation of protected areas or other sites (Ramsar Sites, IBAs, World Heritage Sites etc.).

Twinning between key sites in developed and African countries will be encouraged to permit the exchange of knowledge and expertise, further improving site management in the region, and provision of basic tools and materials for conservation action in Africa. Such programmes are usually more successful with low-level support over the long-term than short-term projects.

The status of application of EIA/SEA in AEWA Parties in Africa will be determined from MOP5 NRs and where necessary direct communication with the Parties. Gaps identified will be communicated to each African Party, alongside guidance for developing or amending EIA/SEA regulations and processes, in collaboration with relevant international stakeholders (e.g. the IUCN Environmental Law Centre, the International Association for Impact Assessment - IAIA). Four capacity building sub-regional workshops targeting all AEWA focal points (National Focal Points and Technical Focal Points) in Africa will be conducted in order to improve their effective participation in EIA/SEA processes. Where possible, these workshops will be organised in synergy with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) facing similar EIA/SEA challenges in Africa, and with interested non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

The AEWA Implementation Review Process⁸ (IRP) established at MOP4 aims to assist CPs in addressing threats to AEWA species/populations and their habitats, by providing advisory services from the AEWA Secretariat and other relevant partners and experts. The AEWA implementing agencies in each African Party should report such cases to the AEWA Secretariat in order to permit the organisation of IRP missions where necessary. Given the significant overlap in issues covered by the AEWA IRP and the similar process of Ramsar Advisory Missions (RAMs), collaboration should be maintained and strengthened with the Ramsar Secretariat for their joint implementation in Africa.

New SSAPs will be developed for the nine globally threatened African populations in Table 9 of the AEWA SSAP review (see Table 23 of Annex 2). International Species Working Groups (ISWGs) will be established and maintained by concerned Range States for all African SSAPs, which will delegate government representatives and experts, and establish coordination mechanisms. The AEWA national implementing agencies will designate representatives to these ISWGs as soon as they are established.

An assessment will be conducted to determine whether the White-backed Duck (*Thalassornis leuconotus leuconotus* - classified under category 2, in Column A of AEWA Table 1 and marked with an asterisk) is hunted within its Range States. If hunting does take place, an SSAP will be developed to guide the sustainable use of the species and implement the principle of adaptive harvest management, in accordance with paragraph 2.1.2 of the AEWA Action Plan.

Objective 2: To ensure that any use of waterbirds in the Agreement area is sustainable

Challenges faced with ensuring sustainable use of waterbirds in Africa

International, national and local trade constitutes a significant threat to a range of waterbirds in Africa, such as the Shoebill (*Balaeniceps rex*) and Black Crowned Crane (*Balearica pavonina*). In the AEWA range, the highest peak for illegal trade was recorded in Africa, with 39% of the African countries concerned (and 22% partly concerned), compared with 19% in Eurasia (and 19% partly concerned) and 15% in Europe (with 15% partly concerned). The socio-economic and cultural importance of waterbird trade in the African region significantly contributes to this figure. Waterbirds are also taken or harvested widely across Africa, though methods vary across the region. Hunting and trapping are popular pastimes in Northern Africa, whilst in the Sahel zone many birds are trapped for local consumption and sale in regional centres. In some countries, poisoned bait is used to harvest waterbirds, whilst localised shooting can also be significant.

⁸ AEWA IRP: http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop4_docs/final_res_pdf/res4_6_establishment_irp_final.pdf

The Agreement recommends international coordination for the collection of harvest data to ensure sustainable use of the AEWA populations along their flyways. The AEWA Review on Hunting and Trade Legislation (2007) indicated that 39% of African CPs had a system for the collection of data on harvest of waterbirds (compared to 90% in Europe and 50% in Asia). Moreover, only 50% of African Parties had legally prohibited the use of poisoned baits. Illegal hunting is common in Africa (96% of countries affected), with widespread poaching of waterbirds. Legal provisions to curb illegal hunting and regulate trade of waterbirds and methods for hunting are lacking in most African CPs, as are the technical capacity and means to implement such provisions. Of African Parties, 63% lack any statutory obligation for hunters to join hunting clubs/associations, making it more difficult to regulate the use of waterbirds. Furthermore, the existence of such clubs does not imply that the CPs have the means to control them.

In many African countries, waterbirds form an important source of protein for local people, and have done for centuries. However, with human populations and affluence on the increase across Africa, there is greater pressure on waterbirds than in the past, and often birds are sold in markets and transported to towns and cities, where the demand can be high. It is important to ensure sustainable use, so that the benefits of waterbirds as a local protein source are available for future generations. Measures to promote sustainable use of waterbird populations and their habitats in Africa clearly need to closely involve local communities and comprise a human livelihood component. Where local use of waterbirds is unsustainable, alternative income generation activities and rearing domestic animals as an alternative source of protein may be promoted. Awareness may also be needed to reduce demand, especially in urban centres.

Lead poisoning in waterbirds due to lead shot remains a major challenge in achieving wise use of waterbirds, although this is less of an issue in sub-Saharan Africa. One means to promote this is to ensure that alternative shot is not more expensive or cheaper than lead shot. The AEWA Action Plan (Paragraph 4.1.4) calls on CPs to “*endeavour to phase out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands as soon as possible in accordance with self-imposed and published timetables.*” Resolution 4.1 (MOP4, Madagascar, 2008) further emphasised the need to promote communication and raise awareness within both government authorities and the hunting community about the effects of lead poisoning in waterbirds. However, by 2008, hunting with lead shot in wetlands was still practiced in 79% of African countries. At least 67% of African Parties have yet to introduce measures to phase out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands.

Expected results

Sustainable use of migratory waterbird populations in Africa should therefore address, as priority, minimising illegal trade, hunting, the use of poison baits and other non-selective methods of waterbird taking, together with improving the livelihoods of concerned communities. Phasing out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands, and the international coordination of the collection and compilation of harvest data should be addressed particularly in Northern Africa, where this is a significant issue.

On the basis of the preceding analysis, the following results have been identified to be desirably attained in Africa by 2017 in order to encourage the achievement of objective 2 of the AEWA Strategic Plan in Africa:

- 2.1.1: All African CPs have developed a timeframe for implementing legislation banning the use of lead shot in wetlands;
- 2.2.1: Report on Harvest Regimes in Africa (including proposals for management and monitoring options) which informs the revision and update of the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on sustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds;
- 2.3.1: All CPs have pertinent legislation in place to reduce, and as far as possible, eliminate illegal taking of waterbirds, the use of poisoned baits and other non-selective methods of taking, and illegal trade, which is being fully enforced;
- CT/1.1: Case studies which evaluate the importance of tourism for waterbird conservation are published and disseminated;
- CT/1.2: Revision and update of AEWA Guidelines on the development of ecotourism at wetlands, based on the case studies; and
- CT/2.2: Community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) strategy on wetlands & waterbirds developed, published and disseminated.

Proposed actions towards the sustainable use of migratory waterbird populations in Africa

The Secretariat, in collaboration with partner organisations and development agencies, will develop and implement pilot projects aimed at linking waterbird conservation with support for alternative livelihood opportunities to local communities that closely depend on AEWA populations and their habitats. At least one such project will be implemented per sub-region in Africa.

A comprehensive evaluation of the current status of systems for collection of data on harvest of waterbirds in Africa will be conducted from the MOP5 NRs as well as further inquiries. Countries lacking such systems will be encouraged and guided to design, adopt and implement coherent systems for the collection of harvest data on waterbirds. This issue will only be addressed in Northern Africa under the current Plan of Action, considering the relevance of hunting in this sub-region and relatively good coordination of the hunting systems. The lessons learnt and results achieved may eventually be applied to other sub-regions of Africa, in line with the identified needs in each sub-region. The guidelines on sustainable hunting and codes of practice developed by BirdLife will be useful points of reference to help CPs reduce unsustainable hunting.

Given that shooting as a method of hunting is more relevant in Northern Africa than in other sub-regions, efforts to phase out the use of lead shot will focus on Northern Africa. The Northern African Parties will be encouraged to establish self-imposed deadlines for phasing out the use of lead shot in wetlands, with guidance from the Secretariat, Technical Committee, international hunting associations and through experiences of other Range States⁹. The CPs and AEWA national implementing agencies concerned will ensure the development and adoption of legislation to ban the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands, involving key identified stakeholders.

Objective 3: To increase knowledge about species and their populations, flyways and threats to them as a basis for conservation action

Challenges faced with increasing knowledge on waterbird species and their populations in Africa

Basic regular and coordinated monitoring and survey is lacking for many waterbird populations occurring in Africa. The African Waterbird Census (AfWC) has so far provided valuable information which contributes to assessing the status of AEWA populations and their sites in Africa. However, the AfWC network needs to be further developed and improved as there are many wetlands of importance for AEWA species in Africa for which there is little or no information available due to their inaccessibility, vastness and/or inadequate local capacity to survey/monitor them. As most AfWC counts of key wetlands take place in January and in some cases July, additional monitoring may be needed to adequately gauge the status of some species. For instance, monitoring of breeding colonies, seasonal roosts and stop-over sites at other seasons would add important information to complement the AfWC data.

Given the significant threats facing many wetlands in Africa, monitoring key sites should be widely encouraged, especially through IBA monitoring, which provides information on threats and actions being undertaken. Mechanisms further need to be in place to ensure that the results and documentation of all monitoring is presented to appropriate governmental bodies and used, for example to influence land use planning and policy. The lack of tools and equipment for field surveys and monitoring also needs to be addressed in the region.

There is limited knowledge about many intra-African migrants and their flyways, as well as the movements of some Palearctic migrants within Africa. This is partly linked to the inadequate capacity for research and monitoring within the region which results in dependence on external expertise for waterbird research, survey and monitoring. Ringing of waterbirds and related research are effective tools for studying the biology, ecology, behaviour, movement, breeding productivity and population demography of birds¹⁰ (as described by the European Union for Bird Ringing - EURING). In the case of migratory birds, this can contribute to identifying their migratory routes and staging areas. Bird ringing is still at an embryonic stage in Africa and the African Bird Ringing Scheme (AFRING) established with support from AEWA needs to

⁹ AEWA publication on lead shot: http://www.unep-aewa.org/publications/popular_series/lead-shot-en.pdf

¹⁰ EURING description of bird ringing: http://www.euring.org/about_euring/brochure2007/02what_is_ringing.htm

be strengthened and sustained. The use of more modern technologies also needs to be encouraged, such as colour marking, satellite telemetry, stable isotope techniques and geologgers. The national capacity for developing and maintaining national wetland and waterbird monitoring schemes needs to be improved and sustained throughout the region.

Expected results

An improvement of conservation-relevant knowledge of migratory waterbirds requires effective international coordinated processes for gathering monitoring data and making these data available for appropriate analyses. The establishment and maintenance of national monitoring schemes aimed at assessing the conservation status of waterbirds is also needed, with the establishment of research programmes relevant for AEWA, and sharing information on best practices for waterbird conservation in the region. In order to be effective, monitoring of key sites needs to be a long-term activity with sustainable financing in place, whilst provisions are also needed for exploration in less well-known areas (e.g. gap-filling surveys). In order to improve the relevance of the Strategic Plan for Africa, a complementary target (CT1) has been identified to contribute towards improving the quality and quantity of data on waterbird movements in Africa.

On the basis of the preceding analysis, the following results have been identified to be desirably attained in Africa by 2017 in order to ensure the achievement of objective 3 of the Strategic Plan in Africa:

- 3.1.1: Increased quantity and quality of waterbird population data from Africa is available;
- 3.1.2: Improved data on state, pressures and responses of key sites in Africa through IBA monitoring;
- 3.2.1: Half of the Contracting Parties have year-round (as appropriate) monitoring systems in place that are well integrated into national structures and work plans;
- 3.3.1: New AEWA-linked research programmes are established in Africa that significantly improve knowledge of migratory waterbird populations;
- 3.3.2: Raised scientific capacity in Africa through scholarships/exchange programmes on AEWA issues involving European and African research and education institutions;
- 3.4.1: At least one AEWA-relevant best practice per CP is published in appropriate national or sub-regional journals and in online journals;
- CT/3.1: Pan-African and national capacities for waterbird ringing are strengthened in the framework of AFRING; and
- CT/3.2: Wider use of and increased capacity in Africa of modern technologies for monitoring waterbird movements, including colour marking.

Proposed actions to improve knowledge on migratory waterbird populations and their habitats in Africa

The different international organisations and MEAs directly or indirectly involved with the International Waterbird Census (IWC) are currently developing a strategy to ensure the continuity and sustainability of this programme. In the framework of the IWC, AEWA will support the AfWC with regular annual funding aimed at ensuring the coordination and operation of the AfWC and the provision of basic field materials/equipment to participants in the AfWC network. Governments and civil society involved in IBA monitoring will be encouraged to avail information on trends on the threats facing sites important for AEWA species and the management efforts being undertaken.

African CPs will be guided on addressing priorities for future monitoring and survey in their countries, based on a review of national monitoring schemes (identifying where absent, gaps in ongoing schemes, capacity etc.). The recently updated training module developed by Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage (ONCFS) for the survey of waterbird populations in sub-Saharan Africa will be promoted and adapted where relevant, as a reference module in the framework of AEWA, noting also the availability of other relevant training resources. Twinning will also be encouraged between AEWA Parties through mutually beneficial partnerships between sites, facilitated by the concerned national implementing agencies. This will enable exchange of expertise and knowledge for subsequent establishment of national monitoring schemes in the corresponding African countries. Twinning may also result in the provision of technical resources for survey and monitoring, if such resources are lacking.

Research priorities for migratory waterbird conservation in Africa will be identified, in collaboration with research institutes and national implementing agencies. Funding will be sought to set up at least three AEWA-related research programmes in Africa, based on identified needs. A project concept will be developed for introducing an AEWA-branded scholarship/exchange programme to be run by both African and European universities and targeting African scholars/researchers. This will be done in close collaboration with the AEWA TC. Interested universities in African and Europe will be identified, in which the scholarship/exchange programme will be established and implemented. This approach will contribute significantly to develop and secure waterbird-related expertise in Africa.

Each AEWA Party in Africa will be encouraged to publish at least one article on best practice on migratory waterbird conservation in their country. The value of traditional knowledge, indigenous practices and local innovations which have contributed to migratory waterbird conservation will be emphasised.

The AFRING steering committee will meet to develop and establish an operational and institutional strategy for the Pan-African Bird Ringing Scheme. The AFRING strategy will involve existing ringing schemes (East African Ringing scheme in Nairobi, Ghana Ringing Scheme, Centre d'Étude des Migrations d'Oiseaux – Institut Scientifique de Rabat). Seed funding will be secured to support its initial implementation, and two ringing courses will be organised for francophone African countries. In recent years, new technology has contributed significantly to an improved knowledge of migratory waterbirds, especially satellite telemetry, radio tracking and the use of stable isotopes. These methods are likely to become more affordable and more advanced in years to come, and their use needs to be encouraged.

Objective 4: To improve Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) about migratory waterbird species, their flyways, their role in alleviating poverty, threats to them and the need for measures to conserve them and their habitats

Challenges faced with improving CEPA on migratory waterbird conservation and AEWA issues in Africa

CPs are expected to develop and maintain awareness-raising programmes for migratory waterbird conservation and the Agreement in general (Paragraph 2.j of Article III of the Agreement Text). Effective communication conveys key messages which take into consideration the relevance of migratory waterbirds in the region. The Strategic Plan (2009-2017) puts emphasis on implementing the Communication Strategy (adopted by MOP3, Senegal, 2005) and the Plan of Action for Africa, which should help strengthen the implementation of the Communication Strategy in Africa.

The role, value and perception of migratory waterbirds in Africa, particularly in relation to human livelihoods, should shape the key messages developed for the African region with regard to CEPA on migratory waterbird conservation and AEWA issues. Methods used for CEPA in Africa also need to conform to the communication systems and tools available in the region. In addition to having limited human resources and capacity to implement the Agreement, national implementing agencies are also confronted with shortage of information material for AEWA-related CEPA activities.

The World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) campaign is an AEWA-CMS initiative that, since its launch in 2006, has mainly been coordinated by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat. The WMBD annually diffuses a specific message linked to migratory bird conservation, reaching a wide target group in Africa, where the number of participating organisations and officially registered WMBD events has gradually increased over the years (see Figure 2). With the advantage of reaching out to both CPs and Non-CPs, the WMBD campaign needs to be maintained as an effective AEWA-CMS CEPA tool.

Improving communication on migratory waterbirds and AEWA issues in Africa needs to focus on increasing awareness and understanding at all levels in each CP. The Agreement's CEPA activities in Africa should desirably attain the following results:

- 4.3.1: At least 25% of African Contracting Parties have developed and are implementing programmes for raising awareness and understanding on waterbird conservation and AEWA; and
- 4.3.2: The World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) campaign is celebrated in each Contracting Party.

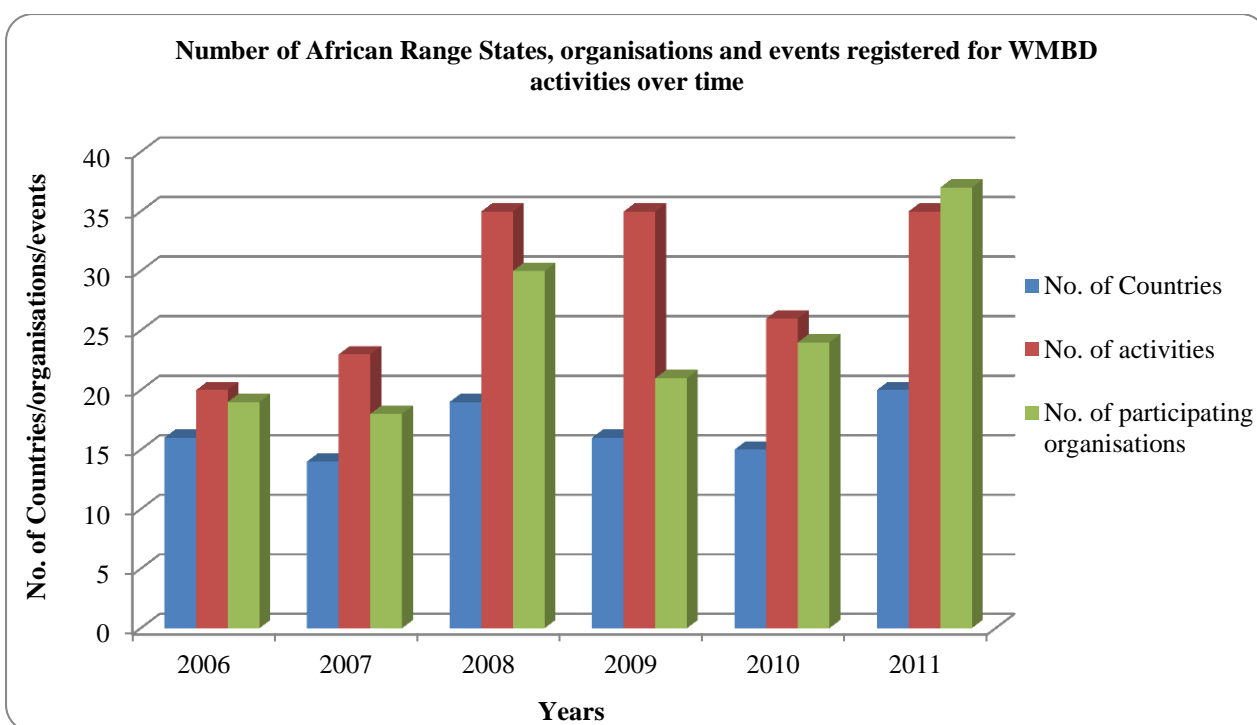


Figure 2: African states/ organisations/ events registered for the WMBD campaign over time

Proposed actions towards improved AEWA-related CEPA activities in Africa:

The AEWA National Focal Points and Technical Focal Points should be competent on addressing the technical aspects of migratory waterbird conservation issues at the national level. To complement this, the use of national correspondents responsible for CEPA (CEPA Focal Points) will be adopted for the African region in order to improve the CEPA capacity of national implementing agencies. AEWA CEPA Focal Points will be officially designated by the respective governments and will preferably be agencies/organisations with some CEPA expertise. This will engage partnerships with Ramsar, IUCN and civil society organisations, many of which have wide CEPA experience, to assist African CPs to develop and implement sound CEPA strategies, which need to be based on quality information.

A communication kit will be developed to equip the CEPA Focal Points with ready-to-use material for their new task. The CEPA kit will be available in English and French and, resources permitting, in Arabic and Portuguese. African Parties will be encouraged to make the kit available in other local languages, where relevant. The AEWA CEPA kit will be accompanied with three training courses convened for the AEWA CEPA Focal Points, to prepare them for their new role and assist them with developing a national CEPA strategy (in collaboration with the AEWA National and Technical Focal Points).

All African CPs will be encouraged to participate in the WMBD campaign by providing them with seed funding to organise some activities at the national level. In addition, the Secretariat (in collaboration with the AEWA National Focal Points and CEPA Focal Points), will organise and participate in one major WMBD event per year, in a different sub-region each year. The implementation of the Plan of Action for Africa should help strengthen and customise the implementation of AEWA-related CEPA activities in Africa and lead to greater coordination and participation of African countries in the annual World Migratory Bird Day campaign. African CPs are also encouraged to identify wetland visitor centres, which could join the Migratory Birds and People visitor centre network coordinated by Wetland Link International (WLI).

Objective 5: To improve the capacity of the Range States for international cooperation and capacity towards the conservation of waterbird species and their flyways

Challenges with improving international cooperation for migratory waterbird conservation in Africa

Of the current AEWA member states, 41% (27 out of 65 Party States) are from Africa (as of 1 June 2012). The rate of recruitment of new African Parties to AEWA has significantly dropped over the years, even though about half the African states are yet to join AEWA (see Figure 3). Non-Contracting Parties to AEWA have no legal obligation towards the conservation of migratory waterbirds and this translates to a gap in the effective implementation of the Agreement in the region. Major gaps in membership are noted in the Southern and Central African sub-regions (see Figure 1 in section 2¹¹). The key steps of the accession process differ in each country, requiring from a few months to many years to accomplish and thereby needing individual follow-up. The African Union and regional economic communities offer some of the main forums for promoting the implementation of global and regional legal international treaties. Membership of the African Union to AEWA needs to be further encouraged in order to promote the engagement of all African countries in migratory waterbird conservation. The accession of new Parties in Africa needs to be pursued in collaboration with the relevant regional economic communities.

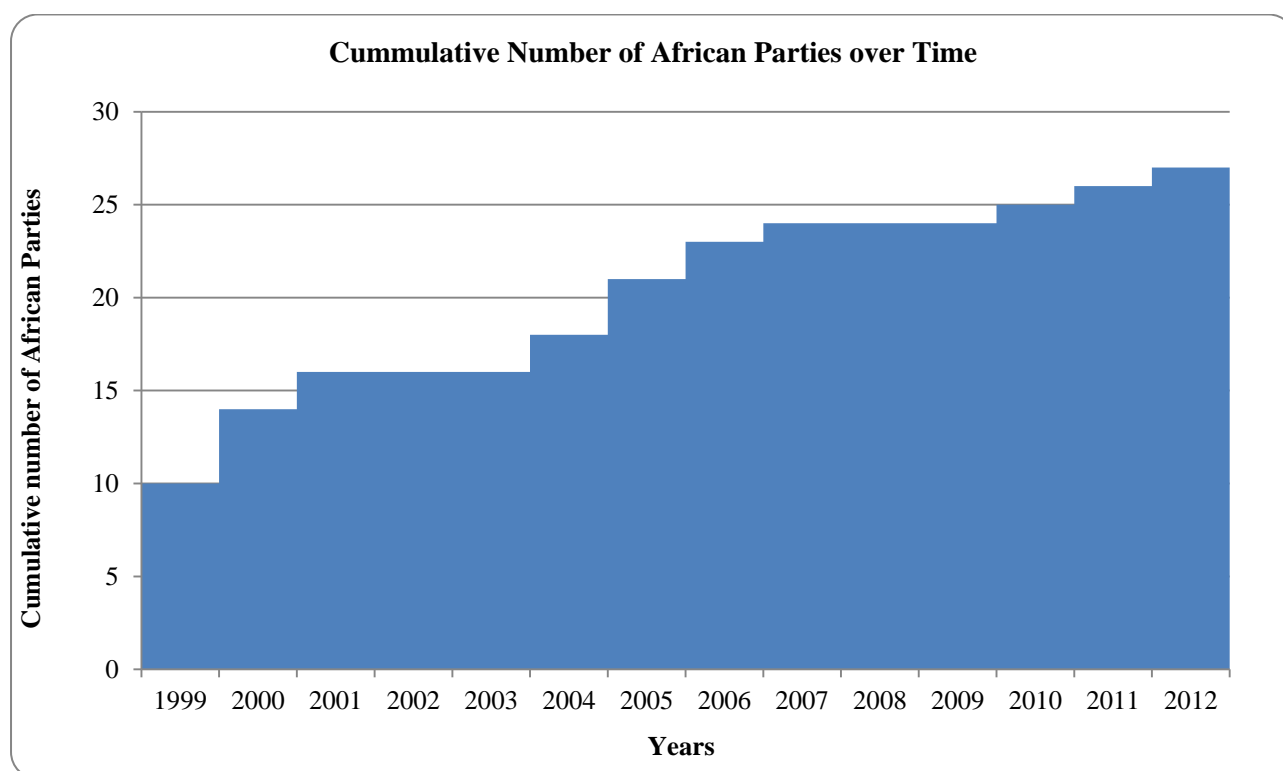


Figure 3: Rate of recruitment of new AEWA Contracting Parties in Africa

The AEWA Small Grants Fund (SGF) programme, established by MOP1 in 1999, became operational in 2010, thanks to the allocation of 20,000 Euros/year in the 2009-2012 AEWA core budget for SGF projects in Africa and a voluntary contribution from the government of France. The AEWA SGF depends largely on voluntary contributions and this may compromise its sustainability. This programme offers a practical tool for boosting the implementation of AEWA in Africa and needs to be continued on an annual basis, at least in the African region. The SGF is complemented by the CMS Small Grants Programme (SGP), which has been supporting grass-roots projects targeting migratory species since 1994. The 2012 calls for proposals for the SGF and SGP were both launched in March 2012 to jointly raise awareness and attract applicants, as well as donors since both programmes are dependent on voluntary contributions.

¹¹ Note that Gabon and Mauritania are considered in this figure, given that they have recently submitted their instruments of accession for transmission to the AEWA Depositary

The proportion of African Parties submitting NRs to the MOP has increased over time with every session of the MOP (see figure 4), with 58% of African CPs submitting NRs at MOP4. However, in order to ensure a complete evaluation of the progress made in implementing the Agreement in Africa, all African CPs should ideally submit their NRs. Additional support is needed to improve the capacity of national implementing agencies in Africa to use the new online system for AEWA NRs, in order to ensure their effective and timely submission to each session of the MOP.

After the recruitment of new AEWA Parties, only limited support is offered to encourage national implementation and compliance with the implementation of the Agreement at the national level. There is also limited information and guidance currently provided to the national implementing agencies on their roles and responsibilities and the resources available to accomplish these. Their participation in AEWA-related processes is therefore restricted.

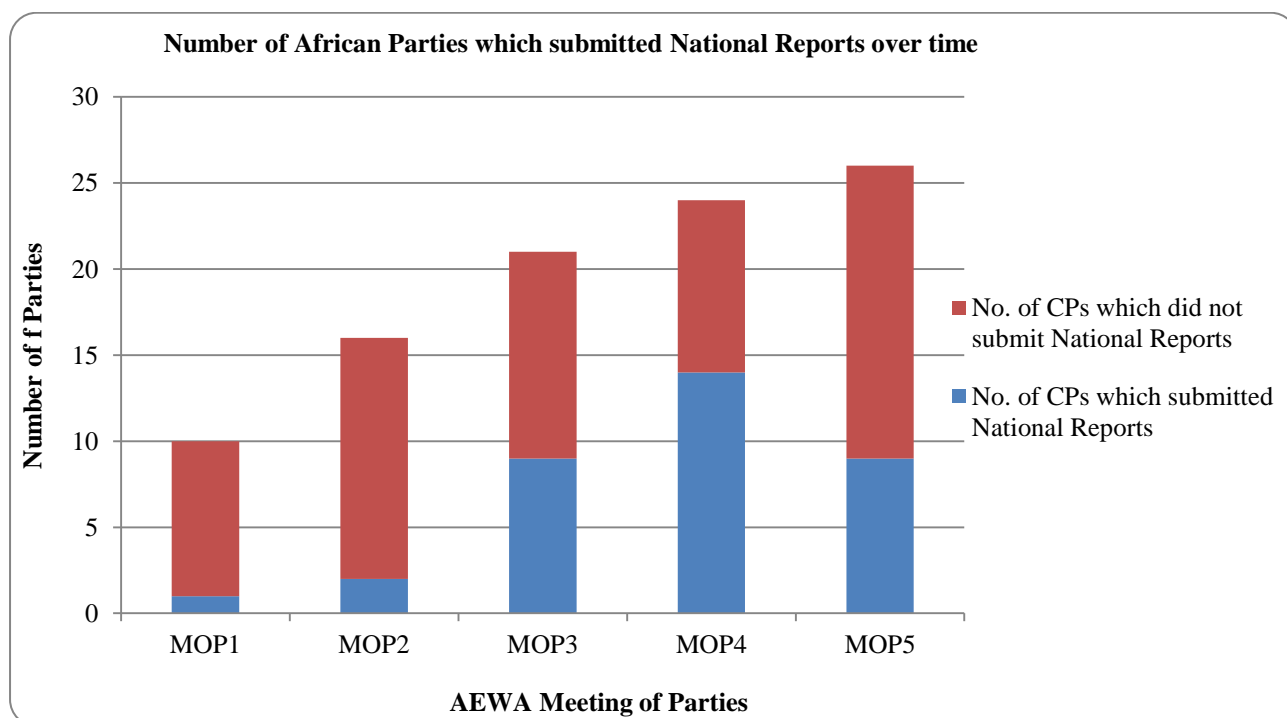


Figure 4: Submission of National Reports to the AEWA MOP by African Contracting Parties

The Flyway Training Kit¹² (FTK), developed under the UNEP/GEF Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) African-Eurasian Flyway Project, provides different modules aimed at improving the implementation of AEWA by different target groups at the national level. The kit strongly advocates the flyway approach to conservation, whereby migratory birds should be conserved at all stages of their life cycle. This kit needs to be used in the African region in particular. The FTK also serves as a pedagogic tool for migratory waterbird conservation and needs to be adopted by the African CPs for use in wildlife-related educational institutions; the Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute (KWSTI) has already adopted the FTK as a training material in its curriculum. However, the FTK has not yet been used systematically in the framework of AEWA, due to limited resources. The use of complementary training tools should also be encouraged, such as the ONCFS *Training Course for Waterbird Identification and Counting – A Toolkit for Trainers* and the FAO *Wild Birds and Influenza Manual*. These and the FTK are available in French, English and Arabic.

Capacity-building is also required at the local level, especially at and around key sites, including the introduction of field skills within local communities, which boosts local engagement in site monitoring and other activities, and fosters local interest and ownership. AEWA should forge close partnerships with other agencies for implementation of capacity-building initiatives, especially international and national NGOs.

¹² WOW FTK:

<http://wow.wetlands.org/CAPACITYBUILDING/TRAININGAWARENESSRAISING/WOWTrainingResources/tabid/1688/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Expected results

On the basis of the previous analysis, the Plan of Action for Africa focuses on increasing the membership to AEWA, maintaining and sustaining the AEWA SGF, increasing the rate of submission of NRs, improving the capacity of national staff to implement AEWA and establishing national coordination mechanisms for implementing the Agreement. Complementary targets (CT2 and CT3) currently not covered in the AEWA Strategic Plan would also be addressed, and include improving the general capacity for the flyway approach to migratory waterbird conservation and strengthening the involvement of African Parties in AEWA processes.

Improved international cooperation for migratory waterbird conservation in Africa is foreseen to yield the following results:

- 5.1.1: By 2017, the number of Contracting Parties in Africa has reached 45, including the African Union;
- 5.4.1: At least 50,000 Euros per year is disbursed to African countries for the implementation of AEWA;
- 5.5.1: All African Contracting Parties regularly submit complete National Reports;
- 5.6.1: All AEWA National Focal Points and Technical Focal Points have received training on AEWA implementation;
- 5.7.1: In at least 50% of African Contracting Parties, AEWA national coordination mechanisms have been established and are operational on a regular basis;
- CT/4.1: At least two trainers in each African Range State have been trained on delivering training through the Flyway Training Kit (FTK);
- CT/4.2: At least one national workshop using the FTK and one field training course has taken place in each Contracting Party;
- CT/4.3: The FTK has been incorporated into the curricula of at least five wildlife training institutions in Africa;
- CT/4.4: FTK training is available through a distant learning course (e-learning) based in an academic institution;
- CT/5.1: An African preparatory meeting for the AEWA MOP has taken place each triennium; and
- CT/5.2: National Focal Points in each Contracting Party have received training on negotiations for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

Proposed actions for achieving international cooperation for migratory waterbird conservation in Africa

The Southern African Non-Contracting Parties recommended approaching their accession to international treaties through the Southern African Development Community (SADC). A sub-regional workshop on promoting accession to AEWA will be organized for the Non-Party SADC states, in collaboration with the SADC Secretariat and other relevant partners concerned with waterbird conservation in the sub-region. A similar workshop will be organized for the Central African Non-Contracting Parties, in collaboration with the Economic and Monetary Community for Central Africa (CEMAC). National AEWA accession workshops will be organized where relevant in Western and Eastern Africa. In collaboration with the BirdLife Partner in Portugal (Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves-SPEA), an accession workshop will be organised for Portuguese speaking countries in Africa¹³.

A high-level meeting, bringing together relevant bodies of the African Union, sub-regional economic committees in Africa and other relevant partners in the region and aimed at promoting the accession of the African Union to AEWA will be convened. The government of Ethiopia (as the host of the African Union Headquarters) and the Government of South Africa (as host of the Pan-African Parliament) will be directly involved in this process.

The AEWA MOP should continue to allocate at least 20,000 Euros per year in the AEWA core budget for the AEWA SGF programme in Africa. In addition, AEWA CPs will need to provide voluntary contributions of at least 30,000 Euros per year towards the AEWA SGF in Africa, to ensure that this programme is effectively implemented in Africa every year.

Two training sessions will be organised for the designated National Respondents and AEWA National Focal Points concerned with completing the online National Report. This will improve their capacity to deal with the new online national reporting system as well as the national reporting process in general.

¹³ Portuguese speaking African countries: Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe

A review of existing national coordination mechanisms for the implementation of AEWA in Africa will be conducted using information from the MOP5 National Reports and direct contact with AEWA NFPs where needed. Where such coordination mechanisms are absent, the AEWA implementing agency will be encouraged to establish one (preferably using the approach of an AEWA committee). New and existing national coordination mechanisms will (as far as possible) be linked to or incorporated within existing MEA coordination mechanisms in the countries. Seed funding will be provided to CPs to support the establishment of national coordination mechanisms where relevant.

At least one Training of Trainers (ToT) course on the flyway approach to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and wetlands will be convened in each sub-region of Africa. Initial funds have been secured by AEWA and CMS for two ToT courses for participants from Eastern and Southern Africa and for Portuguese-speaking African countries, scheduled to take place in mid-2013 (in Kenya and Mozambique), whilst ToTs will also take place in Western Africa under the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative and the BirdLife/MAVA Conservation of Migratory Birds project. With seed funding secured by the Secretariat and other partners, national implementing agencies will be encouraged to conduct national training courses as a follow-up to the sub-regional ToTs. Activities linked to the use of the FTK are expected to be undertaken in the framework of the Post-WOW Partnership.

The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, in collaboration with AEWA national implementing agencies in Africa and the Post-WOW Flyway Partnership will promote the use of the FTK in academic institutions. An academic institution interested in hosting a distant learning course on the flyway approach to the conservation and wise use of waterbirds and wetlands (e-learning FTK course) will be identified and the distant learning course (accessible to all African Range States) would be set up and implemented. This should contribute to improving knowledge on, and expertise on waterbird conservation on the continent.

In order to address capacity building needs, the UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWA Secretariats have established a team to facilitate the development and implementation of joint capacity building activities to promote more efficient and effective implementation of the activities and to strengthen synergies and cooperation between them. The activities aim to build capacity within national institutions responsible for migratory species conservation management, especially in Africa.

As a part of their joint capacity building plan, CMS and AEWA will facilitate the development of a handbook on the roles and responsibilities of National Focal Points of AEWA, CMS and other CMS instruments and an accompanying e-learning tool, through a bottom-up approach (by providing countries with the opportunity to address their actual needs). This will be accompanied by complementary workshops that combine training and skills development, and which will also provide guidance on the new online system for national reporting to both CMS and AEWA. These aim to provide guidance to national focal points on implementation of CMS and AEWA.

An African regional meeting, bringing together AEWA National Focal Points from all African CPs and some national correspondents from non-Contracting Parties in the region will be organised each triennium. This will create a forum for discussing and sharing information on key issues pertinent for the conservation of migratory waterbirds in Africa and enable the African Parties to establish a common position on key issues targeted at the MOP. Such a meeting will also serve for training the NFPs on negotiation skills for MEAs, thereby improving their participation in AEWA and other MEA-related processes.

4. Budget estimate

The estimated budget required to achieve each action (see Table 21 of Annex 1 and Section 6) reflects the funds which should be allocated at the level of the Agreement (AEWA core budget and/or voluntary contributions). They do not take into account resources which need to be allocated by the AEWA national implementing agencies or other stakeholders nationally.

Table 21 of Annex 1 provides an overview of the budget estimates for implementing the actions proposed in the Plan of Action, on the basis of the objectives of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 and the proposed actions, over the two triennia concerned (2012/3-2015 and 2016-2017). Funds will also need to be secured to

implement the three research programmes proposed in Africa (see result 3.3.1) and any relevant Implementation Review Process (see result 1.3.3). These funds will depend on the research priorities determined and the specific project proposals established as well as the number of IRP cases, and are therefore not included in the budget estimate of this Plan of Action.

A provisional total of 9,570,945 Euros will be required to fully implement the Plan of Action during 2013-2017. About 53% of this amount (5,038,677 Euros) is proposed to be secured between 2012 and 2015, while the remaining 47% (4,532,268 Euros) will be sought between 2016 and 2017.

Each expected result and the related activities from the Plan of Action are prioritised based on the urgency for implementation and thus urgency for allocation of available funds. The resulting priority for implementation is indicated in Table 22. Available funds should be directed to achieving results as indicated by relative priorities. Figure 5 illustrates the budget distribution per implementation priority for each triennium and for the entire duration of this Plan of Action.

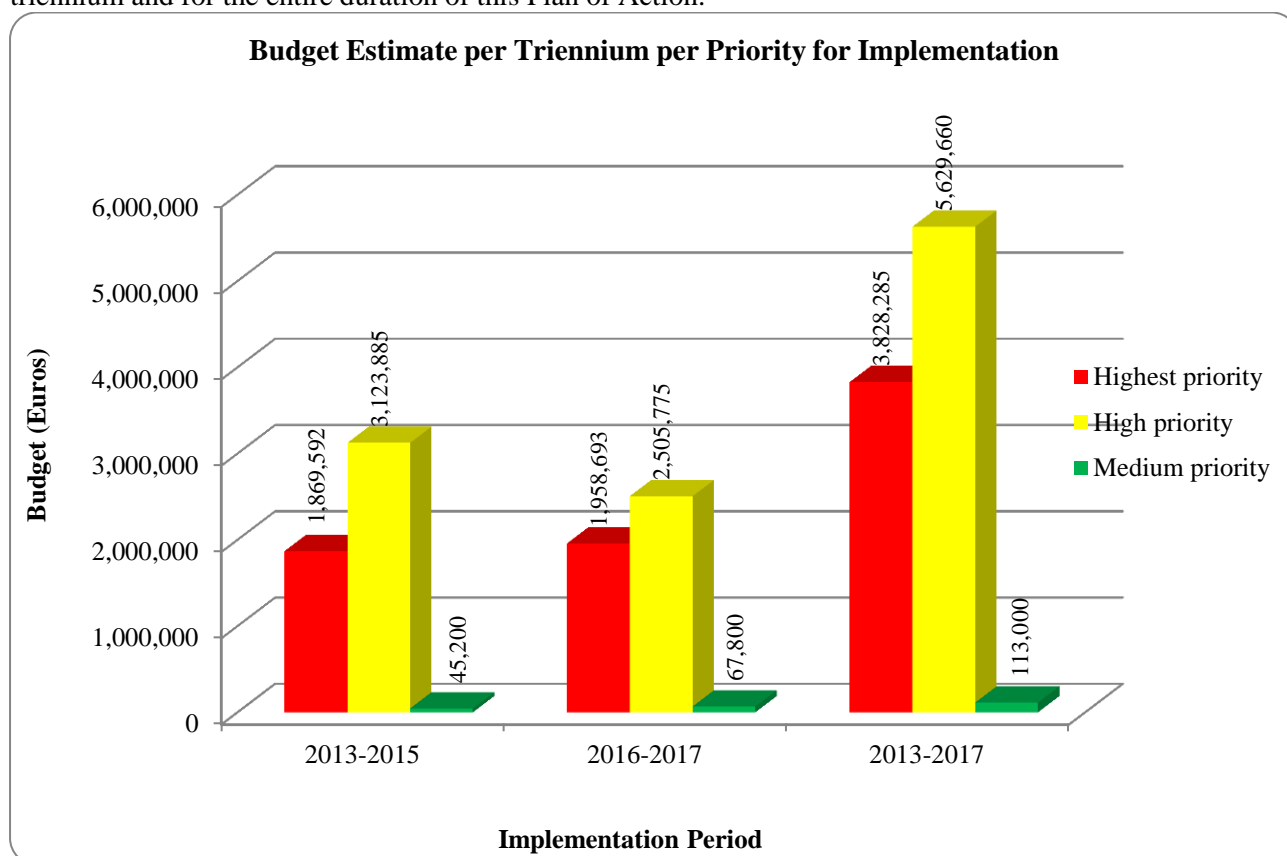


Figure 5: Budget required for implementing the highest, high and medium priority actions for each triennium

5. Implementation of the Plan of Action for Africa

The Plan of Action is intended to be implemented by the African Range States, with the support of the other Ranges States, the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, partner organisations and the private sector. The national implementing agencies, guided by the AEWA National Focal Point, will outline a national work plan per triennium, for national implementation of the Plan of Action. They will equally work towards the allocation of financial and other resources towards the implementation of the Plan of Action at the national level.

The strategies for conducting each proposed action/activity of the Plan of Action will be defined at the time of their implementation and may vary by country/sub-region/available funds. However, for all proposed actions, emphasis will be placed on strengthening collaboration with existing and planned programmes/projects/activities/resources of partner organisations working on migratory waterbird

conservation in Africa. The Post-WOW Flyway Partnership Agreement¹⁴ will be closely involved. The African Range States and the Secretariat will be expected to initiate and maintain collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities¹⁵ in Africa, in order to secure legal backing for the implementation of the Plan of Action. The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat will also be responsible for initiating collaboration with the other AEWA Range States, partner organisations and the private sector, for actions requiring such collaboration.

The Secretariat will play a central role in guiding the implementation of the Plan of Action, through the existing coordination mechanism for the African Initiative. This mechanism will be strengthened by sub-regional Focal Point Coordinators to be identified among the AEWA National Focal Points in each sub-region, who will guide implementation at the sub-regional level and will receive technical support from a support mechanism offered by the Government of France.

Given that the Strategic Plan is the framework for the Plan of Action, the AEWA online NR template could be adapted to serve the dual purpose of reporting on national implementation of AEWA to the MOP as well as implementation of the Plan of Action for Africa during the MOP. In the Secretariat report to the MOP, a specific report on the implementation of the tasks led by the Secretariat will be provided. The Secretariat will also liaise with the various partner organisations leading different tasks, for feedback, and in turn relay this information to the MOP.

¹⁴ Post-WOW Partnership:

<http://wow.wetlands.org/ABOUTWOW/LATESTNEWS/tabid/125/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/2281/Default.aspx>

¹⁵ Regional Economic Communities in Africa: Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS/CEEAC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Southern African Development Community (SADC)

6. Activities and expected results for achieving an improved conservation status for migratory waterbirds in Africa

6.1 Actions for achieving Objective 1 of the AEWA Strategic Plan: To undertake conservation measures so as to improve or maintain the conservation status of waterbird species and their populations

Table 1: Results and actions for implementing target 1.1 of objective 1

Target 1.1: Full legal protection is provided to all Column A species						
Result	Action	Geographic scope	Time frame	Budget (€)	Lead	Comments
1.1.1: All CPs have launched a process to adopt appropriate national legislation protecting all Column A species, whilst 50% of CPs have adopted this legislation ¹⁶	a. Produce Column A species lists per country	All	End 2012	0	Secretariat	
	b. Analyse country lists against national legislation to identify gaps; CPs decide on appropriate action/measures to take for species occurring in their country, using the outcome of the analysis	All	Mid 2013	0	CPs	This action might be linked to capacity building (Objective 5)
	c. Develop and adopt/amend relevant legislation	All	2017	0	AEWA national implementation agencies in each CP	

¹⁶ The list of Column A species is provided in Table 1 of the Agreement Text, available at http://www.unep-aewa.org/documents/agreement_text/agree_main.htm. Appropriate national legislation will vary between countries, and will sometimes already exist; for such cases CPs may not require new legislation as such, but will need to ensure that AEWA Column A species are adequately covered within existing legislation affecting all wildlife.

Table 2: Results and actions for implementing target 1.2 of objective 1

Target 1.2: A comprehensive and coherent flyway network of protected and managed sites, and other adequately managed sites, of international and national importance for waterbirds is established and maintained, while taking into account the existing networks and climate change						
Result	Action	Geographic scope	Time frame	Budget (€)	Lead	Comments
1.2.1: All CPs have identified and recognised key sites that contribute to a comprehensive network of sites for migratory waterbirds	a. Identify, using the Critical Site Network (CSN) tool and other sources, the key network sites in each CP and their current protection designation status	All	2012-2015	50,000	Outsourced in consultation with the CPs	International Site Review (ISR) 2012 will provide information on the internationally important sites
	b. Organise one workshop per sub-region to provide training on CSN Tool use to all National Focal Points and experts in each CP and to plan national gap filling work	All CPs	2016-2017	35,000 per workshop	Post-WOW Partnership	
	c. Fill the gaps in the site network inventory in each CP, including transboundary sites (survey and monitoring work)	All	2016-2017 (and beyond)	Min. 50,000 a year	Post-WOW partnership	Regular provision of funds annually to the waterbird monitoring programme in Africa
1.2.2: All CPs have provided protection status or other designation to the sites within the network	a. Identify, using the CSN tool and other sources, the key network sites in each CP and their current protection status 'on the ground'	All	2012-2015	50,000 (provided for in 1.2.1) ¹⁷	Outsourced in consultation with the CPs	ISR 2012 will provide information on the internationally important sites
	b. Fill gaps in the protection status of sites in each CP, including transboundary sites (designate sites as protected)	All	2012-2017 and beyond	CP resources	Agencies in charge of AEWA implementation in each CP	
	c. Provide protection status to at least 20% of additional sites within the network in each CP from 2012	All	2012-2015	CP resources	Agencies in charge of AEWA implementation in each CP	

¹⁷ Already provided under action 1 in result 1.2.1 above

Target 1.2: A comprehensive and coherent flyway network of protected and managed sites, and other adequately managed sites, of international and national importance for waterbirds is established and maintained, while taking into account the existing networks and climate change						
Result	Action	Geographic scope	Time frame	Budget (€)	Lead	Comments
1.2.3: All CPs have put in place site management plans that cater for the needs of waterbird conservation, and implement them for the key network sites	a. Identify, using the CSN tool and other sources, the current state of management coverage of the network in each CP, and determine the effectiveness of implementation of existing management plans and needs for improved management	All	2012-2015	50,000 (provided for in 1.2.1) ¹⁸	Outsourced in consultation with the CPs	ISR 2012 will provide information on the internationally important sites
	b. Establish and implement at least five north-south site twinning along flyways	All	2012-2017	CP resources	CPs (incl. non-African CPs)	The Secretariat to facilitate and create link for the twinning process
	c. Fill gaps in management coverage of the network of sites (prepare, update, revise and implement management plans)	All	2012-2017 and beyond	CP resources	Agencies in charge of AEWA implementation in each CP	
	d. Develop management plans for at least 5% of the additional network sites for each CP from 2012	All	2013-2017	CP resources	Agencies in charge of AEWA implementation in each CP	

Table 3: Results and actions for implementing target 1.3 of objective 1

Target 1.3: Environmental Impact Assessment & Strategic Environmental Assessments are used to reduce the impact of new developments on waterbird species and populations						
Result	Action	Geographic scope	Time frame	Budget (€)	Lead	Comments
1.3.1: All CPs have regulations in place which ensure that independent EIA/SEA is carried out for proposed and new developments,	a. Analyse national legislation in each CP to identify EIA/SEA gaps in relation to waterbirds	All	2012-2014	0	Secretariat	
	b. Facilitate the development and/or amendment of EIA/SEA regulations as identified by the gap analysis	All identified CPs	2012-2017	CP resources	Agencies in charge of AEWA implementation in each CP	Possible assistance from international stakeholders such as the IUCN Law Centre, IAIA, etc.

¹⁸ Already provided under action 1 in result 1.2.1 above

Target 1.3: Environmental Impact Assessment & Strategic Environmental Assessments are used to reduce the impact of new developments on waterbird species and populations

Result	Action	Geographic scope	Time frame	Budget (€)	Lead	Comments
fully considering their environmental and socio-economic cumulative impacts, including on waterbirds	c. All infrastructure developments such as wind farms and power transmission lines are subject to EIA considering their high potential impact on migratory waterbirds	All concerned CPs	2012-2017	CP resources	Agencies in charge of AEWA implementation in each CP	AEWA focal agencies should ensure EIA is conducted, but are not expected to carry out the EIA. In future, this action may also include EIA/SEA of agro-chemical developments
1.3.2: The capacity of AEWA-related government officers in all CPs to participate in EIA/SEA processes is improved	a. Organise at least four workshops for representatives of governments of all CPs; efforts should also be made to enhance capacity of NGOs, which often need to alert governments to ensure that reports are comprehensive enough and mitigation provisions are sensible	All	2012-2017	60,000 per workshop	Secretariat	Identify options for synergies with other MEAs on this training; Identify expert organisations to deliver the training
1.3.3: The AEWA Implementation Review Process (IRP) is used for resolving severe/adverse cases of threats to AEWA populations in African CPs	a. The Secretariat is informed in a timely manner of all major cases having adverse effects or potential adverse effects on AEWA waterbird populations or their habitats as a result of human activities	All	2012-2017	0	Agencies in charge of AEWA implementation in each CP / other partner organisations	Information is only passed on when relevant from AEWA focal agencies or other partner organisations
	b. Funds are secured and the AEWA IRP is implemented where relevant	All	2012-2017	As needed for each case	Secretariat in close collaboration with the AEWA StC and TC	Where relevant, the IRP will be implemented in close collaboration with other MEAs and partner organisations (e.g. the Ramsar Secretariat, BirdLife International, Wetlands International)

Table 4: Results and actions for implementing target 1.4 of objective 1

Target 1.4: Single Species Action Plans (SSAPs) are developed and implemented for most threatened species listed in category 1 and categories 2 and 3 marked with an asterisk on column A of Table 1						
Result	Action	Geographic scope	Time frame	Budget (€)	Lead	Comments
1.4.1: All globally threatened and asterisk-marked species/populations occurring in Africa are subject of an SSAP	a. Develop SSAPs for the remaining eight globally threatened species/populations without SSAPs; assess the need for an SSAP for the one asterisk- marked population	All applicable countries	2012-2017	40,000 per SSAP	Secretariat	Stakeholders other than CPs and the Secretariat are encouraged to initiate drafting processes for SSAPs , in coordination with the Secretariat
1.4.2: All SSAPs have in place established and operational international coordination mechanisms (AEWA International Species Working Groups)	a. All Range States designate their national representative and national expert to each AEWA ISWG	All Range States	Upon convening of each ISWG	0	Range States	IWSG are convened by the Secretariat
	b. National Working Groups for each SSAP are convened and coordinated by the national representatives and national experts in each Range State	All Range States	Within a year after convening the ISWG	CP resources	National representatives and national experts designated to each AEWA ISWG	
	c. All Range States provide annually sufficient resources to maintain the international coordination mechanism for each SSAP	All Range States	Rolling	10,000 per coordination mechanism	RS in consultation with the Secretariat	Group 2-3 SSAPs under one coordination mechanism
	d. Raise funds for implementation of the SSAPs	Globally	Rolling	Covered by the above budget	IWSG coordinators	At least one project funded per year per SSAP

6.2 Actions for achieving Objective 2 of the AEWA Strategic Plan: To ensure that any use of waterbirds in the Agreement area is sustainable

Table 5: Results and actions for implementing target 2.1 of objective 2

Target 2.1: The use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands is phased out in all Contracting Parties						
Result	Action	Geographic scope	Time frame	Budget (€)	Lead	Comments
2.1.1: All African CPs have developed a timeframe for implementing legislation banning the use of lead shot in wetlands	a. Each African CP develops a timeframe for the development and adoption of legislation / regulations banning the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands by 2017 as laid down in the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017	Africa	2012-2017	CP resources	Agencies in charge of AEWA implementation in each CP	Support provided by the Secretariat and other stakeholders such as the IUCN Law Centre
	b. Raise awareness about the negative impacts of lead shot on wetlands and waterbirds	Africa	2012-2017	CP resources	Agencies in charge of AEWA implementation in each CP	Link to CEPA actions

Table 6: Results and actions for implementing target 2.2 of objective 2

Target 2.2: Internationally coordinated collection of harvest data is developed and implemented						
Result	Action	Geographic scope	Time frame	Budget (€)	Lead	Comments
2.2.1: Report on Harvest Regimes in Africa (including proposals for management and monitoring options) which informs the revision and update of the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on sustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds	Review the motivations and drivers of various harvest regimes including their geographic scope, magnitude and impact, and propose management and monitoring options:	All	2013-2017	Total budget of 460,000, as detailed in the 5 sub-activities below	Tendered out by the Secretariat and/or donors	Link to SSAPs, ecotourism, legislation. Link to bushmeat debate/processes. Link to Waterbird Monitoring Partnership. Link to CBNRM
	a. Develop a common framework for analysing harvest regimes	Africa	2013-2014	50,000	Outsourced by the Secretariat	
	b. Carry out at least three in-depth site/country studies on harvest regimes in each of the three main sub-regions	All (N, W&C, E&S Africa)	2014-2016	225,000	Outsourced by the Secretariat	
	c. Estimate the socio-economic values of the various harvest regimes of waterbirds in the case studies	Africa	2014-2016	45,000	Outsourced by the Secretariat	

Target 2.2: Internationally coordinated collection of harvest data is developed and implemented						
Result	Action	Geographic scope	Time frame	Budget (€)	Lead	Comments
	d. Compile final Report on Harvest Regimes in Africa	Africa	2016-2017	75,000	Outsourced by the Secretariat	
	e. Develop a strategy and tool kit for monitoring waterbird harvest	Africa	2017 & beyond	65,000	Outsourced by the Secretariat	

Table 7: Results and actions for implementing target 2.3 of objective 2

Target 2.3: Measures to reduce, and, as far as possible, eliminate illegal taking of waterbirds, the use of poison baits and non-selective methods of taking, are developed and implemented						
Result	Action	Geographic scope	Time frame	Budget (€)	Lead	Comments
2.3.1: All CPs have pertinent legislation in place to reduce, and as far as possible, eliminate illegal taking of waterbirds, the use of poisoned baits and other non-selective methods of taking, and illegal trade, which is being fully enforced	a. Compile relevant information provided through MOP5 reports and/or other appropriate sources and identify gaps	All	2012	0	Secretariat	Link to CITES
	b. Each CP develops, adopts and enforces legislation based on this review and on the harvest study (results under Target 2.2)	All	2015-2017 and beyond	CP resources	Agencies in charge of AEWA implementation in each CP	Support provided by the Secretariat and other stakeholders such as the IUCN Law Centre and AEWA national reports
	c. Develop and implement pilot projects in each sub-region on providing alternative livelihoods to local communities as a means of ensuring compliance with the legislation	NA, WA, CA, EA, SA	2012-2017	250,000 per sub-region	Secretariat	In collaboration with partner organisations with expertise in the field; funding to be solicited from development agencies

Table 8: Results and actions for implementing complementary target 1 of objective 2

Complementary Target 1: Suitable consumptive and non-consumptive tourism models based on wetlands and waterbirds are developed and built into national strategies and management plans						
Result	Action	Geographic scope	Time frame	Budget (€)	Lead	Comments
CT/1.1: Case studies which evaluate the importance of tourism for waterbird conservation are published and disseminated,	a. Carry out at least three case studies on the development of successful tourism options covering non-consumptive, consumptive & integrated tourism	Africa: case studies in each main sub-region (N, W&C, E&S Africa)	2013-2016	270,000	CPs in countries with selected case studies in partnership with Secretariat and other partners	Link to Ramsar. Include sites where waterbirds are the main attraction for visitors. Consider also CBNRM activities under CT/2.
CT/1.2: Revision and update of AEWA Guidelines on the development of ecotourism at wetlands, based on the case studies	a. Review the various consumptive and non-consumptive tourism options based on wetlands and waterbirds and promote suitable models to be built into national strategies and management plans	Africa	2017	30,000	Tendered out by Secretariat and/or donors	

Table 9: Results and actions for implementing complementary target 2 of objective 2

Complementary Target 2: CBNRM strategies based on wetlands and waterbirds are developed to sustain rural development and improve conservation						
Result	Action	Geographic scope	Time frame	Budget (€)	Lead	Comments
CT/2.1: Community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) of waterbirds and wetlands promoted through five successful projects	a. Develop and implement five pilot projects that both improve local livelihoods and provide incentives for conservation at key sites through CBNRM of waterbirds and wetlands	Africa: one pilot project in each AEWA sub-region	2013-2017	1,200,000	Tendered out by Secretariat and/or donors	Link to harvest strategies & tourism, as well as to Ramsar

Complementary Target 2: CBNRM strategies based on wetlands and waterbirds are developed to sustain rural development and improve conservation						
Result	Action	Geographic scope	Time frame	Budget (€)	Lead	Comments
CT/2.2: CBNRM strategy on wetlands & waterbirds developed, published and disseminated	a. Produce a strategic report on CBNRM of wetlands and waterbirds based on the five pilot projects and other appropriate sources	All	2017	50,000	Secretariat (outsourced)	

6.3 Actions for achieving Objective 3 of the AEWA Strategic Plan: To increase knowledge about species and their populations, flyways and threats to them as a basis for conservation action

Table 10: Results and actions for implementing target 3.1 of objective 3

Target 3.1: Necessary resources are in place to support, on a long-term basis, the international processes for gathering monitoring data for status assessment						
Result	Action	Geographic scope	Time frame	Budget (€)	Lead	Comments
3.1.1: Increased quantity and quality of waterbird population data from Africa is available	a. Secure regular annual funding for support of the waterbird monitoring programme (International Waterbird Census – IWC) coordinated by Wetlands International	All	2012-2017	100,000 per year	CPs in conjunction with the Secretariat; Wetlands International and the Waterbird Monitoring Partnership	This should focus on monitoring the same sites from one year to another using the same methods
	b. Identify options for partners to work together and share resources	All	2012-2017	0	CPs in partnership with Wetlands International and other partners	
	c. Develop guidelines for the support and development of the IWC	All	2012-2017	100,000	CPs in partnership with Wetlands International and other partners	

Target 3.1: Necessary resources are in place to support, on a long-term basis, the international processes for gathering monitoring data for status assessment						
Result	Action	Geographic scope	Time frame	Budget (€)	Lead	Comments
3.1.2: Improved data on state, pressures and responses of key sites in Africa through IBA monitoring	a. Familiarise CPs with IBA monitoring methodologies and initiate this monitoring in at least 20% of CPs	All	2012-2017	50,000	Birdlife International Africa	IBA monitoring provides information on threats and conservation actions, which help explain trends obtained through the IWC, and enable planning relevant actions to safeguard sites and habitats.

Table 11: Results and actions for implementing target 3.2 of objective 3

Target 3.2: Capacity of national monitoring systems to assess the status of the waterbirds is established, maintained and further developed						
Result	Action	Geographic scope	Time frame	Budget (€)	Lead	Comments
3.2.1: Half of the CPs have year-round (as appropriate) monitoring systems in place that are well integrated into national structures and work plans	a. Review status of national monitoring schemes in each CP and outline priorities for future development	All	2012-2017	80,000	Outsourced by the Secretariat	Half of the CPs will be reviewed in 2012-2015, remaining half in 2016-2017
	b. Update, translate and multiply the ONCFS training module on waterbird monitoring in sub-Saharan Africa	Not applicable	2013-2014	80,000	Outsourced by the Secretariat and in close collaboration with the French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy and ONCFS	To be used in the framework of the African Waterbird Census capacity building and the north-south twinning on monitoring schemes
	c. Strengthen capacity of waterbird counters and standardise the use of optical materials	All	2012-2017	CPs	CPs in partnership with Wetlands International and other partners	Link to capacity building targets
	d. Implement north-south twinning projects on strengthening or establishing national monitoring schemes	The CPs reviewed in triennium 2012-2015	2016-2017 and beyond	CP resources	Secretariat; CPs (incl. non-African CPs)	

Table 12: Results and actions for implementing target 3.3 of objective 3

Target 3.3: Nationally responsible state agencies, academic and other wildlife related research institutions are encouraged to establish research programmes to support implementation of waterbird conservation priorities						
Result	Action	Geographic scope	Time frame	Budget (€)	Lead	Comments
3.3.1: New AEWA-linked research programmes are established in Africa that significantly improve knowledge of migratory waterbird populations	a. Identify priorities in research needs for Africa and develop appropriate research proposals	All	2012-2014	40,000	Outsourced by the Secretariat	Joint process involving African and Eurasian research institutions
	b. Raise funds and implement the research proposals	As identified	2015-2017 and beyond	As identified	Research institutions	Joint process involving African and Eurasian research institutions
3.3.2: Raised scientific capacity in Africa through scholarships/ exchange programmes on AEWA issues involving European and African research and education institutions	a. Develop a concept for an AEWA-branded scholarship/exchange programme that includes African research institutions, universities and wildlife colleges	Not applicable	2012-2014	10,000	Outsourced by the Secretariat	In collaboration with the TC
	b. Set up and roll out AEWA-branded scholarship/exchange programme	All	2015-2016	20,000	Outsourced by the Secretariat	In conjunction with universities interested in participating

Table 13: Results and actions for implementing target 3.4 of objective 3

Target 3.4: Best practices, including, in particular, traditional knowledge for waterbird conservation programmes, are collated and incorporated						
Result	Action	Geographic scope	Time frame	Budget (€)	Lead	Comments
3.4.1: At least one AEWA-relevant best practice per CP is published in appropriate national or sub-regional journals and in online journals	a. Promote the publication of best practice articles on waterbird and flyway conservation by conservation practitioners in Africa in appropriate national, sub-regional and online journals	All	2012-2017	0	Secretariat	A potential online journal (in English) is www.conservationevidence.com

Table 14: Results and actions for implementing complementary target 3 under objective 3

Complementary target 3: Quantity and quality of data on waterbird movements is improved						
Result	Action	Geographic scope	Time frame	Budget (€)	Lead	Comments
CT/3.1: Pan-African and national capacities for waterbird ringing is strengthened in the framework of AFRING	a. Institutionalise the AFRING governance and establish AFRING strategy	All	2012-2013	15,000	Secretariat and AFRING coordinator	
	b. Initiate implementation of the AFRING strategy	All	2014-2015	50,000 seed funding	AFRING governing body in cooperation with the Secretariat	
	c. Organise two ringing courses with emphasis on Francophone countries	WA, CA, NA	2014-2016	30,000 per workshop	AFRING coordinator	
CT/3.2: Wider use of and increased capacity in Africa of modern technologies for monitoring waterbird movements, including colour marking	a. Promote and increase the use of modern technologies for monitoring waterbird movements, such as colour marking, satellite telemetry, stable isotope techniques and geologgers	All	2012-2017	100,000	CPs in partnership with appropriate technical organisations	

6.4 Actions for achieving Objective 4 of the AEWA Strategic Plan: To improve Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) about migratory waterbird species, their flyways, their role in alleviating poverty, threats to them and the need for measures to conserve them and their habitats

Table 15: Results and actions for implementing target 4.3 of objective 4

Target 4.3: Awareness and understanding of waterbird conservation issues in general and of AEWA in particular are increased at all levels within the CPs						
Result	Action	Geographic scope	Time frame	Budget (€)	Lead	Comments
4.3.1: At least 25% of African CPs have developed and are implementing programmes for raising awareness and understanding on waterbird conservation and AEWA	a. All CPs have designated and communicated to the Secretariat a National CEPA Focal Point for AEWA	All	2013-2014	0	CPs	According to the need of the CPs. Maximise synergy with Ramsar and task Ramsar CEPA Focal Points with AEWA CEPA roles wherever suitable
	b. Develop and produce a communication kit providing a set of resource materials for awareness raising	Not applicable	2012-2014	100,000	Secretariat	The toolkit to be made available in English and French, funding permitting, also in Arabic and Portuguese. Target audience is general public and sectors not directly involved in nature conservation
	c. Adapt communication kit to national context, translating into local languages where applicable	Africa	2013-2017	100,000	National CEPA Focal Points	
	d. Organise three workshops to provide training to the National CEPA Focal Points	All	2015-2016	35,000 per workshop + 20,000 for a trainer	Outsourced by the Secretariat	
	e. Each CP has set up and is implementing a national CEPA programme	All	2017-(2018)	CP resources	National CEPA Focal Points	

Target 4.3: Awareness and understanding of waterbird conservation issues in general and of AEWA in particular are increased at all levels within the CPs						
Result	Action	Geographic scope	Time frame	Budget (€)	Lead	Comments
4.3.2: The World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is celebrated in each CP	a. Provide seed funding to each CP	All	2013-2017	500 per CP	Secretariat	Option to hold events at other times of year, e.g. linked to World Wetlands Day, when many more migratory birds are in Africa
	b. Organise one large WMBD event in Africa per year, including events coordinated at the sub-regional level and major events involving the AU	All	2013-2017	10,000 per event	National CEPA Focal Points in cooperation with the Secretariat	Each year in a different sub-region. Potential to link to workshops for CEPA Focal Points (4.3.1)

6.5 Actions for achieving Objective 5 of the AEWA Strategic Plan: To improve the capacity of Range States for international cooperation and capacity towards the conservation of migratory waterbird species and their flyways

Table 16: Results and actions for implementing target 5.1 of objective 5

Target 5.1: The membership of the Agreement in Africa is expanded						
Result	Action	Geographic scope	Time frame	Budget (€)	Lead	Comments
5.1.1: By 2017, the number of CPs in Africa has reached 45, including the African Union	a. Organise sub-regional accession workshops for Southern Africa (under SADC), Central Africa (under CEMAC) and Portuguese-speaking African countries ¹⁹	SA, CA and Portuguese NCPs	2012-2016	50,000 per workshop	Secretariat	
	b. Organise at least two national accession workshops, particularly in Western Africa	WA	2012-2015	15,000 per workshop	Secretariat	
	c. CPs in the Standing Committee approach each non-CP in their respective region	All	Rolling	0	CPs in the Standing Committee	

¹⁹ Portuguese speaking African countries: Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe

Target 5.1: The membership of the Agreement in Africa is expanded						
Result	Action	Geographic scope	Time frame	Budget (€)	Lead	Comments
	d. Conduct a high-level meeting involving CPs, relevant AU bodies and the Secretariat	Not applicable	2014	60,000	At least Ethiopia and South Africa, and others as identified	

Table 17: Results and actions for implementing target 5.4 of objective 5

Target 5.4: The Small Grants Fund (SGF) is activated						
Result	Action	Geographic scope	Time frame	Budget (€)	Lead	Comments
5.4.1: At least 50,000 Euros per year is disbursed to African countries for the implementation of AEWA	a. Continue allocating at least 20,000 Euros per year in the AEWA core budget for SGF in Africa	All	Rolling	20,000	CPs	
	b. Donor CPs provide voluntary contributions of at least 30,000 EUR a year for SGF in Africa	Not applicable	Rolling	30,000	Donor CPs	

Table 18: Results and actions for implementing target 5.5 of objective 5

Target 5.5: The rate of submission of National Reports is increased						
Result	Action	Geographic scope	Time frame	Budget (€)	Lead	Comments
5.5.1: All African CPs regularly submit complete National Reports	a. Organise two national reporting training workshops for National Respondents and National Focal Points	All	2013-2014	75,000 per workshop	Secretariat	

Table 19: Results and actions for implementing target 5.6 of objective 5

Target 5.6: Capacity of national staff to implement the Agreement is increased through proper training mechanisms						
Result	Action	Geographic scope	Time frame	Budget (€)	Lead	Comments
5.6.1: All AEWA National Focal Points and Technical Focal Points have received training on AEWA implementation	a. Develop a training module on AEWA implementation for staff of national implementation authorities	Not applicable	2012-2013	150,000	UNEP/AEWA and UNEP/CMS Secretariats (outsource part of the work)	Link to CMS/AEWA joint capacity building activities
	b. Organise two training workshops for National Focal Points and National TC Focal Points	All (workshops may be sub-regional or language-based)	2016-2017	100,000 per workshop	UNEP/AEWA and UNEP/CMS Secretariats (tutoring to be outsourced)	Assess feasibility of organising workshops on geographical or linguistic basis

Table 20: Results and actions for implementing target 5.7 of objective 5

Target 5.7: Appropriate national coordination mechanisms for implementation of AEWA linking to national coordination mechanisms for other biodiversity MEAs are established						
Result	Action	Geographic scope	Time frame	Budget (€)	Lead	Comments
5.7.1: In at least 50% of African CPs, AEWA national coordination mechanisms have been established and are operational on a regular basis	a. Identify on the basis of submitted National Reports which CPs have no established or operational national coordination mechanisms in place	All	2012	0	Secretariat	Assumption: all CPs have submitted thoroughly filled National Reports
	b. Provide guidance to the identified CPs on setting up and/or running a national coordination mechanism	As identified	2013-2017	3,000 per CP	Secretariat	
	c. Strengthen coordination between MEAs, especially between AEWA and Ramsar	All	Rolling	CP resources	MEA Focal Points	

Table 21: Results and actions for implementing complementary target 4 under objective 5

Complementary target 4: General capacity and expertise of range states on the flyway approach to the conservation and wise use of waterbirds and wetlands is increased						
Result	Action	Geographic scope	Time frame	Budget (€)	Lead	Comments
CT/4.1: At least two trainers in each African Range State have been trained on delivering training through the Flyway Training Kit (FTK)	a. Organise one Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop in each sub-region based on the FTK	EA, SA, WA, CA, NA	2013-2017	75,000 per workshop	Post-WOW Partnership	Assess feasibility of organising workshops on geographical or linguistic basis
CT/4.2: At least one national workshop using the FTK and one field training course has taken place in each CP	a. Raise funding for at least one national workshop per sub-region	Not applicable	2012-2017	5,000 per workshop	Post-WOW Partnership	
	b. National trainers in collaboration with the National Focal Points organise national FTK training workshops and field training courses	All CPs	2014-2017	CP resources + the funding raised in the above action	CPs	
CT/4.3: The FTK has been incorporated into the curricula of at least five wildlife training institutions in Africa	a. National Focal Points promote the use of FTK amongst wildlife training institutions	All regions	2013-2017	50,000	AEWA National Focal Points in cooperation with the Secretariat	Include international colleges, such as Garoua (francophone) and Mweka (Anglophone)
CT/4.4: FTK training is available through a distant learning course (e-learning) based in an academic institution	a. Identify an academic institution interested in hosting the FTK distant learning course	Not applicable	2012-2013	0	Post-WOW Partnership in cooperation with Secretariat and CPs	Identify potential institutions, and gauge feasibility/interest
	b. Set up and roll out the FTK distant learning course	Not applicable	2016-2017	60,000	Post-WOW Partnership in cooperation with the identified academic institution	

Table 22: Results and actions for implementing complementary target 5 under objective 5

Complementary target 5: Involvement of African CPs in AEWA processes is strengthened						
Result	Action	Geographic scope	Time frame	Budget (€)	Lead	Comments
CT/5.1: An African preparatory meeting for the AEWA MOP has taken place each triennium	Organise two African pre-MOP meetings	All	2013-2015 and 2016-2017/18)	60,000 per meeting	Secretariat	Potentially linked to the CMS/Ramsar pre-COP meetings
CT/5.2: National Focal Points in each CP have received training on negotiations for MEAs	Organise one training workshop per triennium	All	2013-2017	30,000 per workshop	Secretariat	Linked to the African pre-MOP/MOP meetings

Annex 1

Table 23: Budget Overview (in Euros) for implementation and coordination of the Plan of Action, based on the priorities of the Strategic Plan 2009-2017

Objective/Target/Result	2013 - 2015	2016 - 2017	2013-2017	priority
Objective 1: To undertake conservation measures so as to improve or maintain the conservation status of waterbird species and their populations				
1.1.1 All CPs have launched a process to adopt appropriate national legislation protecting all Column A species, whilst 50% of CPs have adopted this legislation				Highest
a - Produce Column A species lists per country	0	0	0	
b - Analyse country lists against national legislation to identify gaps; CPs decide on appropriate action/measures	0	0	0	
c - Develop and adopt/amend relevant legislation		0	0	
<i>Sub-total 1.1.1:</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	
1.2.1 All CPs have identified and recognised key sites that contribute to a comprehensive network of sites for migratory waterbirds				Highest
a - Identify the key network sites in each CP and their current protection designation status	50,000	0	50,000	
b - Sub-regional workshops for training on the CSN Tool and planning gap-filling work @ 35,000€/workshop	0	175,000	175,000	
c - Survey and monitoring work to fill gaps in national inventories of the site network @ min 50,000€/year	0	100,000	100,000	
<i>Sub-total 1.2.1:</i>	<i>50,000</i>	<i>275,000</i>	<i>325,000</i>	
1.2.2 All CPs have provided protection status or other designation to the sites within the network				Highest
a - Identify the current state of protection of the sites network in each CP	0	0	0	
b - Fill gaps in the protection status of the sites in the network	0	0	0	
c - Provide protection status to at least 20% of additional sites within the network in each CP from 2012	0	0	0	
<i>Sub-total 1.2.2:</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	
1.2.3 All CPs have put in place site management plans that cater for the needs of waterbird conservation, and implement them for the key network sites				Highest
a - Identify the current state, needs and effectiveness of management coverage of the network of sites in each CP	0	0	0	
b - Establish and implement at least five north-south site twinning along flyways	0	0	0	
c - Fill the gaps in management coverage of the network of sites	0	0	0	
d - Develop management plans for additional network sites	0	0	0	
<i>Sub-total 1.2.3:</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	
1.3.1: All CPs have regulations in place which ensure that independent EIA/SEA is carried out for proposed and new developments, fully considering their environmental and socio-economic cumulative impacts, including on waterbirds				High
a - Compile relevant information on national EIA/SEA regulations and identify gaps	0	0	0	
b - Develop and/or amend EIA/SEA regulations as identified by the gap analysis	0	0	0	
c - All infrastructure developments subject to EIA	0	0	0	
<i>Sub-total 1.3.1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	

Objective/Target/Result	2013 - 2015	2016 - 2017	2013-2017	priority
1.3.2: The capacity of AEWA-related governmental officers in all CPs to participate in EIA/SEA processes is improved				High
a - Organise at least four workshops to increase capacity on EIA/SEA @60,000€/workshop	120,000	120,000	240,000	
<i>Sub-total 1.3.2:</i>	<i>120,000</i>	<i>120,000</i>	<i>240,000</i>	
1.3.3: The AEWA Implementation Review Process is used for resolving severe/adverse cases of threats to AEWA populations in African CPs				High
a - The Secretariat is informed of major cases affecting/likely to affect AEWA populations and/or their habitats	0	0	0	
b - Funds are secured to implement the AEWA IRP where relevant	0	0	0	
<i>Sub-total 1.3.3:</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	
1.4.1: All globally threatened and asterisk-marked species/populations occurring in Africa are subject of an SSAP				High
a - Develop SSAPs for 8 globally threatened species/populations @ 40,000€/SSAP	200,000	160,000	360,000	
<i>Sub-total 1.4.1:</i>	<i>200,000</i>	<i>160,000</i>	<i>360,000</i>	
1.4.2: All SSAPs have in place established and operational international coordination mechanisms				High
a - Designation of national representatives and experts to each ISWG	0	0	0	
b - Convening and coordination of national working groups for each SSAP	0	0	0	
c - Range States to each SSAP provide resources for coordination mechanism @ min. 10,000€/SSAP coordination	150,000	200,000	350,000	
d - Fund-raising for the implementation of SSAPs	0	0	0	
<i>Sub-total 1.4.2:</i>	<i>150,000</i>	<i>200,000</i>	<i>350,000</i>	
Sub-total - Objective 1:	520,000	755,000	1,275,000	
Objective 2: To ensure that any use of waterbirds in the Agreement area is sustainable				
2.1.1: All African CPs have developed a timeframe for implementing legislation banning the use of lead shot in wetlands				Medium
a - African CPs develop a timeframe for legislation / regulations banning the use of lead shot in wetlands	0	0	0	
b - Raise awareness about the negative impacts of lead shot on wetlands and waterbirds	0	0	0	
<i>Sub-total 2.1.1:</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	
2.2.1: Report on Harvest Regimes in Africa (including proposals for management and monitoring options) which informs the revision and update of the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on sustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds				Highest
a - Develop a common framework for analysing harvest regimes	50,000	0	50,000	
b - Carry out at least 3 in-depth site/country studies on harvest regimes in each of the three main sub-regions	150,000	75,000	225,000	
c - Estimate the socio-economic values of the various harvest regimes of waterbirds in the case studies	30,000	15,000	45,000	
d - Compile final Report on Harvest Regimes in Africa	0	75,000	75,000	
e - Develop a strategy and tool kit for monitoring waterbird harvest	0	65,000	65,000	
<i>Sub-total 2.2.1:</i>	<i>230,000</i>	<i>230,000</i>	<i>460,000</i>	

Objective/Target/Result	2013 - 2015	2016 - 2017	2013-2017	priority
2.3.1: All CPs have pertinent legislation in place to reduce, and as far as possible, eliminate illegal taking of waterbirds, the use of poisoned baits and other non-selective methods of taking, and illegal trade, which is being fully enforced				High
a - Identify gaps in pertinent national legislation	0	0	0	
b - Each identified CP develops and adopts legislation	0	0	0	
c - Develop and implement alternative livelihood pilot projects @ 250,000€/sub-region	500,000	750,000	1,250,000	
<i>Sub-total 2.3.1:</i>	<i>500,000</i>	<i>750,000</i>	<i>1,250,000</i>	
CT/1.1: Case studies which evaluate the importance of tourism for waterbird conservation are published and disseminated,				High
a - Carry out at least 3 case studies on the development of successful tourism options	180,000	90,000	270,000	
CT/1.2: Revision and update of AEWA Guidelines on the development of ecotourism at wetlands, based on the case studies				High
a - Review the options and promote suitable models to be built into national strategies and management plans	0	30,000	30,000	
<i>Sub-total CT/1.1 & CT/1.2:</i>	<i>180,000</i>	<i>120,000</i>	<i>300,000</i>	
CT/2.1: Community based natural resource management (CBNRM) of waterbirds and wetlands promoted through 5 successful projects				High
a - Develop and implement 5 CBNRM pilot projects	800,000	400,000	1,200,000	
CT/2.2: CBNRM strategy on wetlands & waterbirds developed, published and disseminated				High
a - Produce a strategic report on CBNRM of wetlands and waterbirds	0	50,000	50,000	
<i>Sub-total CT/2.1 & CT/2.2:</i>	<i>800,000</i>	<i>450,000</i>	<i>1,250,000</i>	
Sub-total - Objective 2:	1,710,000	1,550,000	3,260,000	
Objective 3: To increase knowledge about species and their populations, flyways and threats to them as a basis for conservation action				
3.1.1: Increased quantity and quality of waterbird population data from Africa is available				Highest
a - Regular annual funding secured for the IWC coordinated by Wetlands International @ 100,000€/year	300,000	200,000	500,000	
b - Identify options for partners to work together and share resources	0	0	0	
c - Develop guidelines for the support and development of the IWC	80,000	20,000	100,000	
<i>Sub-total 3.1.1:</i>	<i>380,000</i>	<i>220,000</i>	<i>600,000</i>	
3.1.2: Improved data on state, pressures and responses of key sites in Africa through IBA monitoring				High
a - Familiarise CPs with IBA monitoring methodologies and initiate this monitoring in at least 20% of CPs	30,000	20,000	50,000	
<i>Sub-total 3.1.2:</i>	<i>30,000</i>	<i>20,000</i>	<i>50,000</i>	
3.2.1: Half of the CPs have year-round (as appropriate) monitoring systems in place that are well integrated into national structures and work plans				High
a - Review the status of national monitoring schemes in each CP and outline priorities for future development	40,000	40,000	80,000	
b - ONCFS training module on waterbird monitoring in sub-Saharan Africa is updated, translated and multiplied	80,000	0	80,000	
c - Strengthen capacity of waterbird counters and standardise the use of optical materials	0	0	0	
d - North-South twinning projects to strengthen/establish national monitoring schemes implemented	0	0	0	
<i>Sub-total 3.2.1:</i>	<i>120,000</i>	<i>40,000</i>	<i>160,000</i>	

Objective/Target/Result	2013 - 2015	2016 - 2017	2013-2017	priority
3.3.1: New AEWA-linked research programmes are established in Africa that significantly improve knowledge of migratory waterbird populations				Medium
a - Identify priorities in research needs for Africa and develop appropriate research proposals	40,000	0	40,000	
b - Raise funds and implement research proposals	0	0	0	
<i>Sub-total 3.3.1:</i>	<i>40,000</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>40,000</i>	
3.3.2: Raised scientific capacity in Africa through scholarships/exchange programmes on AEWA issues involving European and African research and education institutions				High
a - Develop a concept for an AEWA-branded scholarship/exchange programme	10,000	0	10,000	
b - Set up and roll out the AEWA-branded scholarship/exchange programme	20,000	0	20,000	
<i>Sub-total 3.3.2:</i>	<i>30,000</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>30,000</i>	
3.4.1: At least one AEWA-relevant best practice per CP is published in appropriate national or sub-regional journals and in online journals				Medium
a - Promote the publication of best practice articles on waterbird and flyway conservation	0	0	0	
<i>Sub-total 3.4.1:</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	
CT/3.1: Pan-African and national capacities for waterbird ringing is strengthened in the framework of AFRING				High
a - Institutionalize the Governance of AFRING and establish an AFRING Strategy	15,000	0	15,000	
b - Initiate the implementation of the AFRING Strategy with seed funding	50,000	0	50,000	
c - Organisation of two ringing courses, particularly for Francophone African countries @ 30,000€/course	30,000	30,000	60,000	
CT/3.2: Wider use of and increased capacity in Africa of modern technologies for monitoring waterbird movements, including colour marking				
a - Promote and increase the use of modern technologies for monitoring waterbird movements	60,000	40,000	100,000	
<i>Sub-total CT/3.1 & CT/3.2:</i>	<i>155,000</i>	<i>70,000</i>	<i>225,000</i>	
Sub-total - Objective 3:	755,000	350,000	1,105,000	
Objective 4: To improve CEPA for migratory waterbird species, their flyways, their role in alleviating poverty, threats to them and the need for measures to conserve them and their habitats				
4.3.1: At least 25% of African CPs have developed and are implementing programmes for raising awareness and understanding on waterbird conservation and AEWA				Highest
a - Designation of CEPA Focal Points by all CPs and information communicated to the Secretariat	0	0	0	
b - Develop a communication kit with resource materials for awareness-raising on AEWA	100,000	0	100,000	
c - Adapt communication kit to national context, translating into local languages where applicable	50,000	50,000	100,000	
d - Organise three workshops to train national CEPA Focal Points @ 35,000€/workshop and 20,000€ for trainer	0	125,000	125,000	
e - Each CP sets up and is implementing a national CEPA programme	0	0	0	
<i>Sub-total 4.3.1:</i>	<i>150,000</i>	<i>175,000</i>	<i>325,000</i>	
4.3.2: The World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is celebrated in each CP				High
a - Seed funding provided to each CP to promote the celebration of WMBD @ 500€/CP	6,500	6,500	13,000	
b - One major WMBD event organised per year in Africa	30,000	20,000	50,000	

Objective/Target/Result	2013 - 2015	2016 - 2017	2013-2017	priority
Sub-total 4.3.2:	36,500	26,500	63,000	
Sub-total - Objective 4:	186,500	201,500	388,000	
Objective 5: To improve the capacity of Range States for international cooperation and capacity towards the conservation of migratory waterbird species and their flyways				
5.1.1: By 2017 the number of Contracting Parties in Africa has reached 45, including the African Union				High
a - Two sub-regional (SADC and CEMAC) and one Portuguese accession workshops organized @ 50,000€/workshop	50,000	100,000	150,000	
b - At least two national accession workshops organised, particularly for Western Africa @ 15,000€/workshop	15,000	15,000	30,000	
c - African Standing Committee representatives approach non-CPs in their sub-region to promote accession	0	0	0	
d - A high level meeting to promote the accession of the African Union to AEWA	60,000	0	60,000	
Sub-total 5.1.1:	125,000	115,000	240,000	
5.4.1: At least 50,000 EUR annually is disbursed to African countries as SGFs to implement AEWA				High
a - At least 20,000€/year is allocated in the AEWA core budget for SGFs in Africa	60,000	40,000	100,000	
b - Voluntary contributions of at least 30,000€/year is secured from Donor CPs for SGFs in Africa	90,000	60,000	150,000	
Sub-total 5.4.1:	150,000	100,000	250,000	
5.5.1: All African CPs regularly submit complete national reports				High
a - Organise two workshops to train National Respondents and NFPs on the online national reporting @75,000€/workshop	150,000	0	150,000	
Sub-total 5.5.1:	150,000	0	150,000	
5.6.1: All AEWA National Focal Points and Technical Focal Points have received training on AEWA implementation				Highest
a - Training module developed on the implementation of AEWA, targeting national implementing agencies	150,000	0	150,000	
b - Two training workshops for NFPs and TC Focal Points on implementation of AEWA @100,000€/workshop		200,000	200,000	
Sub-total 5.6.1:	150,000	200,000	350,000	
5.7.1: In at least 50% of the African Contracting Parties AEWA national coordination mechanisms have been established and are operational on regular basis				High
a - Identify CPs which lack/are not operating an AEWA national coordination mechanism	0	0	0	
b - Provide guidance to CPs on setting up and /or operating a national coordination mechanism @3,000€/CP	18,000	21,000	39,000	
c - Strengthen coordination between MEAs, especially between AEWA and Ramsar	0	0	0	
Sub-total 5.7.1:	18,000	21,000	39,000	
CT/4.1: At least two trainers in each African Range State have been trained on delivering training through the Flyway Training Kit (FTK)				Highest
a - At least one Training of Trainers FTK workshop organised in each sub-region @ 75,000€/workshop	150,000	225,000	375,000	
Sub-total CT/4.1:	150,000	225,000	375,000	
CT/4.2: At least one national workshop using the FTK and one field training course has taken place in each CP				High
a - At least one national training workshop with the FTK organised per sub-region @ 5,000€/workshop	0	25,000	25,000	

Objective/Target/Result	2013 - 2015	2016 - 2017	2013-2017	priority
b - National Focal Points and National Trainers organise national FTK workshops	0	0	0	
<i>Sub-total CT/4.2:</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>25,000</i>	<i>25,000</i>	
CT/4.3: The FTK has been incorporated into the curricula of at least five wildlife training institutions in Africa				Highest
a - National Focal Points promote the use of the FTK amongst wildlife training institutions	0	0	0	
<i>Sub-total CT/4.3:</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	
CT/4.4: FTK training is available through a distant learning course (e-learning) based in an academic institution				Medium
a - Identification of an academic institution interested to host a FTK distant learning course	0	0	0	
b - Setting up and roll out FTK distant learning course		60,000	60,000	
<i>Sub-total CT/4.4:</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>60,000</i>	<i>60,000</i>	
CT/5.1: An African preparatory meeting for the AEWA MOP has taken place each triennium				Highest
a - Organisation of two African regional meetings in preparation for the MOP @60,000€/meeting	60,000	60,000	120,000	
<i>Sub-total CT/5.1:</i>	<i>60,000</i>	<i>60,000</i>	<i>120,000</i>	
CT/5.2: National Focal Points in each CP have received training on negotiations for MEAs				Highest
a - Organise two training workshop for NFPs on negotiation skills for MEAs @ 30,000€/workshop	30,000	30,000	60,000	
<i>Sub-total CT/5.2:</i>	<i>30,000</i>	<i>30,000</i>	<i>60,000</i>	
Sub-total - Objective 5:	833,000	836,000	1,669,000	
Coordination of the implementation of the African Initiative				
Post for a Coordinator for the African Initiative	265,337	185,854	451,191	Highest
Post of an Administrative Assistant for the African Initiative	189,169	132,503	321,672	Highest
Sub-total - Coordination:	454,506	318,357	772,863	
Total Objective 1. - 5. and Coordination:	4,459,006	4,010,857	8,469,863	
13 % UNEP overhead:	579,671	521,411	1,101,082	
Grand Total:	5,038,677	4,532,268	9,570,945	

Table 24: Budget estimate (in Euros) for the implementation and coordination of the Plan of Action for Africa based on the priority for implementation

Priority for Funding	2013-2015	2016-2017	2013-2017	Objective
A. Highest Priority Results				
1.1.1: All CPs have launched a process to adopt appropriate national legislation protecting all Column A species, whilst 50% of CPs have adopted this legislation	0	0	0	1
1.2.1: All CPs have identified and recognised key sites that contribute to a comprehensive network of sites for migratory waterbirds	50,000	275,000	325,000	1
1.2.2: All CPs have provided protection status or other designation to the sites within the network	0	0	0	1
1.2.3: All CPs have put in place site management plans that cater for the needs of waterbird conservation, and implement them for the key network sites	0	0	0	1
2.2.1: Report on Harvest Regimes in Africa (including proposals for management and monitoring options) which informs the revision and update of the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on sustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds	230,000	230,000	460,000	2
3.1.1: Increased quantity and quality of waterbird population data from Africa is available	380,000	220,000	600,000	3
4.3.1: At least 25% of African CPs have developed and are implementing programmes for raising awareness and understanding on waterbird conservation and AEWA	150,000	175,000	325,000	4
5.6.1: All AEWA National Focal Points and Technical Focal Points have received training on AEWA implementation	150,000	200,000	350,000	5
CT/4.1: At least two trainers in each African Range State have been trained on delivering training through the FTK	150,000	225,000	375,000	5
CT/4.3: The FTK has been incorporated into the curricula of at least five wildlife training institutions in Africa	0	0	0	5
CT/5.1: An African pre-MOP meeting has taken place each triennium	60,000	60,000	120,000	5
CT/5.2: National Focal Points in each CP have received training in negotiation	30,000	30,000	60,000	5
Post for a Coordinator for the African Initiative	265,337	185,854	451,191	Coordination
Post of an Administrative Assistant for the African Initiative	189,169	132,503	321,672	Coordination
Sub-total - Highest Priority Results:	1,654,506	1,733,357	3,387,863	
B. High Priority Results				
1.3.1: All CPs have regulations in place which ensure that independent EIA/SEA is carried out for proposed and new developments, fully considering their environmental and socio-economic cumulative impacts, including on waterbirds	0	0	0	1
1.3.2: The capacity of AEWA-related governmental officers in all CPs to participate in EIA/SEA processes is improved	120,000	120,000	240,000	1
1.3.3: The AEWA Implementation Review Process is used for resolving severe/adverse cases of threats to AEWA populations in African CPs	0	0	0	1
1.4.1: All globally threatened and asterisk-marked species/populations occurring in Africa are subject of an SSAP	200,000	160,000	360,000	1
1.4.2: All SSAPs have in place established and operational international coordination mechanisms	150,000	200,000	350,000	1
2.3.1: All CPs have pertinent legislation in place to reduce, and as far as possible, eliminate illegal taking of waterbirds, the use of poisoned baits and other non-selective methods of taking, and illegal trade, which is being fully enforced	500,000	750,000	1,250,000	2
CT/1.1: Case studies which evaluate the importance of tourism for waterbird conservation are published and disseminated	180,000	90,000	270,000	2

Priority for Funding	2013-2015	2016-2017	2013-2017	Objective
CT/1.2: Revision and update of AEWA Guidelines on the development of ecotourism at wetlands, based on the case studies	0	30,000	30,000	2
CT/2.1: Community based natural resource management (CBNRM) of waterbirds and wetlands promoted through 5 successful projects	800,000	400,000	1,200,000	2
CT/2.2: CBNRM strategy on wetlands & waterbirds developed, published and disseminated	0	50,000	50,000	2
3.1.2: Improved data on state, pressures and responses of key sites in Africa through IBA monitoring	30,000	20,000	50,000	3
3.2.1: Half of the CPs have year-round (as appropriate) monitoring systems in place	120,000	40,000	160,000	3
3.3.2: Raised scientific capacity in Africa through scholarships/ exchange programmes on AEWA issues involving European and African research and education institutions	30,000	0	30,000	3
CT/3.1: Pan-African and national capacities for waterbird ringing is strengthened in the framework of AFRING	95,000	30,000	125,000	3
CT/3.2: Wider use of and increased capacity in Africa of modern technologies for monitoring waterbird movements, including colour marking	60,000	40,000	100,000	3
4.3.2: World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is celebrated in each CP	36,500	26,500	63,000	4
5.1.1: By 2017 the number of Contracting Parties in Africa has reached 45, including the African Union	125,000	115,000	240,000	5
5.4.1: At least 50,000 EUR annually is disbursed to African countries to implement AEWA	150,000	100,000	250,000	5
5.5.1: All African CPs regularly submit complete national reports	150,000	0	150,000	5
5.7.1: In at least 50% of the African Contracting Parties AEWA national coordination mechanisms have been established and are operational on regular basis	18,000	21,000	39,000	5
CT/4.2: At least one national workshop using the FTK and one field training course has taken place in each CP	0	25,000	25,000	5
Sub-total - High Priority Results:	2,764,500	2,217,500	4,982,000	
C. Medium Priority Results				
2.1.1: All African CPs have developed a timeframe for implementing legislation banning the use of lead shot in wetlands	0	0	0	2
3.3.1: All African CPs have developed a timeframe for implementing legislation banning the use of lead shot in wetlands	40,000	0	40,000	3
3.4.1: At least one AEWA-relevant best practice per CP is published in appropriate national or sub-regional journals and in online journals	0	0	0	3
CT/4.4: FTK training is available through a distant learning course (e-learning) based in an academic institution	0	60,000	60,000	5
Sub-total - High Medium Results:	40,000	60,000	100,000	
Total for Highest, high and medium priority objectives:	4,459,006	4,010,857	8,469,863	
13 % UNEP overhead:	579,671	521,411	1,101,082	
Grand total for highest, high and medium priority objectives:	5,038,677	4,532,268	9,570,945	

Annex 2

Table 25: Priority Species for the development of Single Species Action Plans in Africa²⁰

No	Species	Populations
1	Bank Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i> (EN)	Coastal Southwest Africa
2	Shoebill <i>Balaeniceps rex</i> (VU)	Central Tropical Africa
3	Wattled Crane <i>Grus carunculatus</i> (VU)	Central & Southern Africa
4	Madagascar Pratincole <i>Glareola ocularis</i> (VU)	Madagascar/East Africa
5	African Penguin <i>Spheniscus demersus</i> (VU)	Southern Africa
6	Cape Gannet <i>Sula (Morus) capensis</i> (VU)	Southern Africa
7	Blue Crane <i>Grus paradisea</i> (VU)	Extreme Southern Africa
8	Grey Crowned-crane <i>Balearica regulorum regulorum</i> (VU)	Southern Africa (N to Angola & S Zimbabwe)
9	White-backed Duck <i>Thalassornis leuconotus leuconotus</i>	Eastern & Southern Africa

²⁰ Extracted from the AEWA Priority list for the development of SSAPs : http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop4_docs/meeting_docs_pdf/mop4_10_ssap_review.pdf. Please note that this is a dynamic list, depending on global threat status revisions and decisions by the AEWA MOP relating to population categorization in AEWA Table 1 (Annex 3).

RESOLUTION 5.10

REVISION AND ADOPTION OF CONSERVATION GUIDELINES

Recalling Article IV paragraph 4 of the Agreement, and paragraph 7.3 of the Agreement’s Action Plan, which require the development and review of conservation guidelines in order to assist Contracting Parties with their implementation of the Agreement,

Further recalling Resolutions 1.10, 2.3 and 4.13, which adopted 13 conservation guidelines focusing on various aspects of waterbird conservation practice,

Noting that these conservation guidelines, although legally non-binding, provide a common framework for action, which aids the coherent implementation of the Agreement by the Contracting Parties to the Agreement, as well as other Range States and interested parties,

Noting, however, that in the 17 years since the finalisation of the Agreement text, the internet has enabled rapid access to a wide range of relevant information and guidance, notwithstanding problems of internet access in some areas, *further noting* that a review by the Ramsar Convention of uses of its technical guidance showed widespread awareness amongst Contracting Parties and other stakeholders and *recognising* that AEWA’s Conservation Guidelines are an effective means of disseminating information to Contracting Parties and other stakeholders,

Recognising the work of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and the Technical Committee over the past quadrennium to review previously adopted conservation guidelines and develop additional ones, also in collaboration with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the CMS MoU on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Birds of Prey,

Acknowledging the voluntary contribution by the Government of Switzerland and the funds provided by RWE Rhein-Ruhr Netzservice GmbH which enabled the development of additional guidelines,

Recalling Resolution 4.3 which requested the Technical Committee to review the periods during which huntable bird populations of conservation concern covered by the Agreement return to their breeding grounds and, if needed, to provide further guidance on the implementation of paragraph 2.1.2 (a) AEWA Action Plan,

Recognising the work of the Technical Committee over the past quadrennium, towards developing guidance on the definition of periods of breeding and pre-nuptial migration for migratory African-Eurasian waterbirds (document AEWA/MOP Inf. 5.3).

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Adopts* the following newly developed conservation guidelines:
 - a) Guidelines on how to avoid or mitigate impact of electricity power grids on migratory birds in the African-Eurasian region (document AEWA/MOP 5.37), and
 - b) Guidelines for the translocation of waterbirds for conservation purposes: complementing the IUCN guidelines (document AEWA/MOP 5.36),in accordance with Article IV.4 of the Agreement, as guidance for the Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Agreement and its Action Plan;
2. *Adopts* the revised versions of the following previously adopted conservation guidelines:
 - a) Guidelines on identifying and tackling emergency situations for migratory waterbirds (document AEWA/MOP 5.35),
 - b) Guidelines on regulating trade in migratory waterbirds (document AEWA/MOP 5.33), and
 - c) Guidelines on avoidance of introductions of non-native waterbird species (document AEWA/MOP 5.34 Rev. 1);
3. *Calls upon* Contracting Parties to utilise these guidelines in a practical way that leads to a minimum of additional bureaucracy and that recognises the different social, economic and environmental conditions within the Agreement area;
4. *Instructs* the Secretariat to disseminate these guidelines to all Range States, and relevant international governmental and non-governmental organisations, and to monitor their use to the extent that this is possible;
5. *Encourages* Contracting Parties to utilise the guidance on defining periods of breeding and pre-nuptial migration for migratory African-Eurasian waterbirds with respect to the implementation of paragraph 2.1.2 (a) AEWA Action Plan as annexed to this Resolution;
6. *Requests* the Technical Committee and the Secretariat to integrate this guidance in a future revised version of the Conservation Guidelines on sustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds;
7. *Requests* the Technical Committee, as a matter of priority and in the first part of the next triennium, to undertake a critical review of the style and format of AEWA's Conservation Guidelines, *inter alia* considering the following existing issues:
 - 7.1 the merits or otherwise of shorter information notes that might be easier to translate into local languages;
 - 7.2 the need to target different styles or types of guidance to different audiences (e.g. government policy makers, wetland managers, other relevant stakeholders or user groups);
 - 7.3 the merits or otherwise of regionally specific guidance;
 - 7.4 knowledge of the extent of use of the existing guidelines and implications for the dissemination of guidance; and
 - 7.5 the potential value of a 'guidance to guidance' format as has been developed by the Ramsar Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel;
8. *Further requests* the Technical Committee to make recommendations to the Standing Committee on the basis of the review described in paragraph 7 above, prior to developing further guidance in the current format for consideration by the Sixth Meeting of the Parties;

9. *Requests* the Technical Committee to continue its work to provide relevant information on African species, as mentioned in Appendix 1 of this Resolution, as knowledge of these improves through the implementation of the Action Plan for Africa (Resolution 5.9) and bring elaborated guidance to a future session of the Meeting of the Parties.

APPENDIX 1

DEFINING PERIODS OF BREEDING AND PRE-NUPTIAL MIGRATION FOR MIGRATORY AFRICAN-EURASIAN WATERBIRDS

Introduction

Section 2.1.2 of the AEWa Action Plan states:

- “2.1.2 Parties with populations listed in Table 1 shall regulate the taking of birds and eggs of all populations listed in column B of Table 1. The object of such legal measures shall be to maintain or contribute to the restoration of those populations to a favourable conservation status and to ensure, on the basis of the best available knowledge of population dynamics, that any taking or other use is sustainable. Such legal measures, subject to paragraph 2.1.3 below, shall in particular:
- (a) prohibit the taking of birds belonging to the populations concerned during their various stages of reproduction and rearing and during their return to their breeding grounds if the taking has an unfavourable impact on the conservation status of the population concerned; ... “

In Resolution 4.3, the Meeting of the Parties requested the Technical Committee, *inter alia*:

5. To review the periods during which huntable bird populations of conservation concern covered by the Agreement return to their breeding grounds and, if needed, to provide further guidance on the implementation of paragraph 2.1.2 (a) AEWa Action Plan.

Previous relevant guidance

Article 7(4) of the EU Directive on the conservation of wild birds contains similar provisions:

4. Member States shall ensure that the practice of hunting, including falconry if practised, as carried on in accordance with the national measures in force, complies with the principles of wise use and ecologically balanced control of the species of birds concerned and that this practice is compatible as regards the population of these species, in particular migratory species, with the measures resulting from Article 2. **They shall see in particular that the species to which hunting laws apply are not hunted during the rearing season nor during the various stages of reproduction. In the case of migratory species, they shall see in particular that the species to which hunting regulations apply are not hunted during their period of reproduction or during their return to their rearing grounds.** Member States shall send the Commission all relevant information on the practical application of their hunting regulations. [Emphasis added]

The European Commission, with the Member States have developed guidance on defining periods of breeding and pre-nuptial migration, initially for the EU15 and more recently for all 27 Member States (European Commission 2009). That analysis used the following definition:

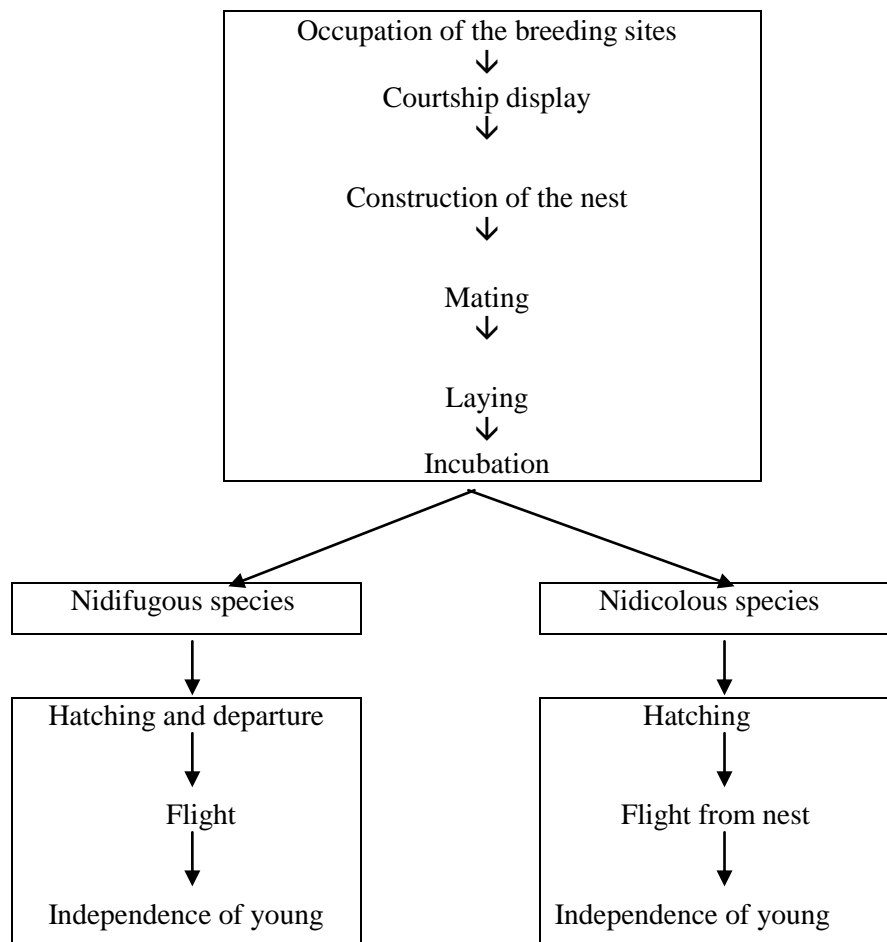
“Period of reproduction”

‘**Breeding season**’¹ was defined using the definition of Cramp & Simmons (1977): “*the breeding season is the period during which a species lays and incubates its eggs and rears its young to the flying stage.*” However, the ‘**reproduction period**’ not only covers the breeding season but also includes the occupation of the breeding areas as well as the period of dependence of young birds after leaving the nest (previously recognised in the 1993 Commission report on the application of the Birds Directive²).

“The following scheme, which deals with the different stages of reproduction, was agreed as an appropriate general scheme for the period of reproduction. The sequence and importance of the elements of this general scheme may vary by species according to differences in breeding biology.”

¹ This term is considered equal and better English than the term 'rearing season' used in Article 7(4).

² COM (93) 572 final. *Second report on the application of Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds.* Brussels, 24 November 1993.



“Criteria used to identify the beginning and end of the period of reproduction”

“In general, for migratory species, the stage of reproduction identifying the start of the period of reproduction is the 'occupation of the breeding sites'. However, the occupation of the breeding sites is generally difficult to use where the species is mainly locally resident or where there is a mixing of locally resident and migratory birds. In these cases, the stage identifying the start of the period of reproduction is the 'construction of the nest'. In those situations where the stage retained is difficult to recognise in the field, a mention is made to the corresponding number of decades counted from the start of egg laying (generally well known for most species).

- “In general, the stage retained to identify the end of the period of reproduction is the 'full flight of young birds', i.e. fledging of all broods including second or third broods for some species (e.g. rails / Rallidae, pigeons / Columbidae, thrushes / Turdidae). Full flight means that young birds are capable of sustained, continuous flight to a similar capacity as adult birds and corresponds to the 'independence of young birds'. Nonetheless, for certain species (e.g. crows / Corvidae) the full flight occurs before 'independence of young birds'. Young birds are independent when the loss of parental care and/or feeding does not significantly lower survival prospects of young. In those situations where the 'full flight/independence of young' is difficult to establish in the field, a mention is made to the corresponding number of decades counted from the end of hatching.”

Migration

The EU adopted the following guidance with respect to determining the timing of migration (or ‘return to the breeding areas’):

“Return to the breeding areas”³

“Return to the breeding areas is an annual displacement, in one of more stages, of birds from their wintering areas back to nesting grounds. The wintering period ends with departure from the wintering areas where migrant birds have been more or less stationary since the end of the post-nuptial (autumn) migration. The return to the breeding areas is commonly called ‘pre-nuptial migration’ or ‘spring migration’.

In Europe, return migration movements are mostly directed north, northeast or northwest. This means that migrants from African winter quarters first cross the Mediterranean, then pass through central Europe on their way to their Northern European breeding areas. This migration normally takes several weeks (including breaks at resting places on the way) but individual birds can complete the journey in one or a few days. The start, end and length of the migration season in a particular country are determined by a number of biological, geographical and methodological factors.

Regarding the beginning of the pre-nuptial migration, all individuals of a species within a same region do not end their wintering period at the same time. Not only are there individual differences, but within a single wintering area, birds of different populations having different annual cycles come together. Birds belonging to northern populations, for example, often start their return flight much later than birds breeding more to the south. An extreme case is the so-called ‘leapfrog’ migration (e.g. in the Redshank): birds breeding in more northern latitudes travel greater distances and move to more southerly wintering areas than those that nest farther south.

The fact that birds leave a wintering area does not necessarily mean that they start their return migration. They can move to other wintering quarters because of changes in the local ecological conditions, exhaustion of food resources, disturbance or changes in climatic conditions. When migratory and sedentary birds of the same species coexist on the same wintering grounds, the situation can be even more complex. Thus, apparent discrepancies may arise among the data for large countries. Major differences between neighbouring regions can reflect ecological differences more than actual differences in migration timing. For example, although the southern parts of Spain (Andalucía) and Italy (Sicilia) are situated on the same latitude (37th) this does not necessarily imply similar arrival dates of migrants because different populations might be involved.

The length of the migration period does not only depend on the north-south extension of the country concerned but also on the availability and the use of resting places. A typical example concerns the Bar-tailed Godwits, which migrate from the African winter quarters to Siberian breeding areas. After a continuous flight from the Banc d'Arguin in Western Africa, they stay several weeks in the Wadden Sea. The migration period length is also determined by the quantity and the geographical range of the birds involved: a small population can pass in a few days while a numerous species with an extensive breeding range can have a prolonged migratory season encompassing several months. Moreover, the migration period can also be extended if a country is passed over by several populations with different time schedules.

Methodological reasons can also account for a short period: the start and end dates of migration are not recorded accurately because it only involves small numbers of birds which are often not noted if few observations are available (low chance of recording). As said before, availability of data differs very much from species to species (behavioural differences) and from country to country (e.g. numbers of observers).

In general, the beginning of the return migration can only be estimated by comparison of data from many different regions of the European Union, analysis of ring recoveries and consideration of arrival dates in the breeding areas.

Information defining the timing of pre-nuptial migration was based on statistics relating to populations rather than individual birds.”

³ "return to breeding areas" is taken as a synonym of "return to the rearing grounds"

“Presentation of data” (on migration and breeding periods⁴)

“To avoid spurious precision and to allow for normal between-year variation in timing of migration and breeding events, the data presentations summarise the data on reproduction and return migration in ‘decades’ or ten-day periods (i.e. 1-10, 11-20, 21 up to 31 in each month).

A number of general principles were adopted in the gathering of data:

- Where there is a range in timing of pre-nuptial migration or breeding (as will occur in most countries of significant size), the data used relate to the earliest periods in each of the Member States concerned. This is generally relating to the southernmost parts or lowest altitudes. Likewise, for the end of the reproduction, the data used refers to the latest dates. This means that regional differences may exist for prenuptial migration and reproduction periods within the territory of one Member State, which may be relevant. ...
- Where significant between-year variation occurs on a regular basis, data from the earliest periods have always been taken.
- Where different populations of the same species migrate through a country at different times, information relating to the earliest migrating population has been used. In some cases, where different populations (i.e. different subspecies or different flyways) are clearly distinguishable in the field, their correspondent timings where given.
- Extreme, outlying and erratic data have been excluded due to their unpredictable nature and falling outside normal patterns of variation between and within years.”

Beyond Europe

In Africa, the definition of breeding seasons and migration periods become increasingly complex as the reproductive cycles of birds relate to different forms of seasonality and environmental predictability. These issues are explored in detail by Dodman & Diagana (2006) who highlighted that, in Africa, there are a range of definitional and other complexities that make the concept of simple latitudinal migration patterns of northern or temperate Eurasia difficult to apply. Such issues include multiple migratory behavioural types, such as:

- Local movers/short distance migrants;
- Rains migrants/ arid zone migrants;
- Nutrition migrants/post-roost dispersers;
- Post-breeding dispersers;
- Nomads;
- Altitudinal migrants; and
- Environmental response migrants.

Further, Dodman & Diagana (2006) stressed that whilst migration in northern climates is strongly determined by seasonal patterns, in tropical regions there are multiple different triggers for waterbird movements, including:

- Sudden availability of productive wetlands;
- Rising water levels/flooding;
- Falling water levels/edge effects; and
- Lack of rain/increasing aridity.

Dodman & Diagana (2006) further highlighted a range of practical problems in relation to defining intra-African migration:

⁴ Note from the compiler.

- Many African flyways are diffuse, and not easy to specify.
- Some sites are only important irregularly, e.g. once every few years, especially temporary wetlands.
- Site networks are not always obvious, and may include large numbers of small wetlands or sites that are not used regularly.
- Several species exploit wetlands at different periods and for different reasons, such that sites cannot be maintained in a constant state; rather it is important to permit natural flooding and other cycles.
- Many waterbirds are nomadic and are not faithful to specific routes or annual seasons.
- It is difficult to monitor intra-African migrants: current procedures under the AfWC focused on coordinated biannual censuses are not effective enough in identifying migratory strategies.
- On a practical level, there are low resources and capacity for conserving intra-African migrants, whilst other issues also influence monitoring, such as inaccessibility and security.

They concluded that “the high diversity of “movement strategies” of African waterbirds and the often limited ability to predict movements render their management and conservation quite difficult. The life cycles and movements of most African waterbirds are not precisely known, and the networks of key sites not well determined.

Recommendations related to section 2 of AEWA’s Action Plan

The Technical Committee recommends that for the purposes of the implementation of the obligations of section 2 of the AEWA Action Plan, one of the following options are pursued as appropriate:

1. The Member States of the European Union should continue to use the definitions (above and Table 1) established previously by European Commission (2009), incorporating any future amendments in these should they be agreed by the EU.
2. Other non-EU European countries, which typically are relatively ‘data-rich’ with respect to ornithological information, should adopt the EU definitions following review to ensure their applicability in the countries concerned.
3. Non-European countries (Africa, Middle East and western Eurasia) should establish definitions appropriate to the country concerned based on knowledge of species’ breeding biology in the appropriate regions. These should be used to determine the timing of the start and end of the breeding period. The following guidance may assist this process:
 - a. Review published knowledge of individual species breeding biology. Particularly valuable sources of information are given in Table 2.
 - b. Review any published knowledge, if this exists, of breeding biology in the country concerned.
 - c. Especially in the absence of published knowledge, consider what is known about the timing of breeding in neighbouring countries, or within the region, bearing in mind their position (north or south) of the country concerned and the implication that may have with respect to climatic/seasonal timing.

General recommendations related to intra-African migrants

As noted previously, intra-African migrants provide a range of problems related to the implementation of section 2 (and other parts) of AEWA’s Action Plan. The Technical Committee highlights the recommendations previously made by Dodman & Diagana (2006). These remain highly relevant to advancing conservation of such species:

1. Improve knowledge of the status of African waterbirds and their migratory patterns through:

- Applied research of weather patterns, site conditions and waterbird seasonality;
 - Extending the African Waterbird Census (AfWC) to other seasons and other areas;
 - Use/analysis of existing AfWC and other data to identify site linkages and migratory patterns;
 - Increased adoption of satellite telemetry;
 - Initial conservation focus on a series of “high profile species”;
 - Monitoring, research and conservation of threatened species;
 - Development of AFRING (African bird ringing scheme).
2. Identify key sites and site networks for intra-African migrants, especially threatened species.
 3. Develop Species Action Plans for African waterbirds.
 4. Promote increased focus on intra-African migrants in the implementation of the AEWA.
 5. Adopt a precautionary principle; it is often necessary to implement conservation action before knowing the full picture.
 6. Enhance awareness of African waterbirds, especially their values and ecological roles.
 7. Highlight the plight and lack of knowledge of threatened African waterbirds.
 8. Mobilise resources for conservation and monitoring of intra-African migrants, especially through development and subsequent implementation of a Conservation Strategy for African Waterbirds.

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Table 1. Definitions for the start end of breeding periods as defined by the EU (European Commission 2009). Only species listed by AEWA are listed here.

Species	Start of breeding period	End of breeding period
<i>ANATIDAE</i>		
<i>Cygnus olor</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites where it is mainly migratory • construction of the nest in all other cases 	full flight of young birds
<i>Anser fabalis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites 	full flight of young birds
<i>Anser anser</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites 	full flight of young birds
<i>Anas penelope</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites 	full flight of young birds
<i>Anas strepera</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites where it is mainly migratory • construction of the nest in all other cases 	full flight of young birds
<i>Anas crecca</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites where it is mainly migratory • construction of the nest in all other cases 	full flight of young birds
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites where it is mainly migratory • construction of the nest in all other cases 	full flight of young birds
<i>Anas acuta</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites 	full flight of young birds
<i>Anas querquedula</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites 	full flight of young birds
<i>Anas clypeata</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites where it is mainly migratory • construction of the nest in all other cases 	full flight of young birds
<i>Netta rufina</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites where it is mainly migratory • construction of the nest in all other cases 	full flight of young birds
<i>Aythya ferina</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites where it is mainly migratory • construction of the nest in all other cases 	full flight of young birds
<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites where it is mainly migratory • construction of the nest in all other cases 	full flight of young birds
<i>Aythya marila</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites 	full flight of young birds
<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites where it is mainly migratory • construction of the nest in all other cases 	full flight of young birds

Species	Start of breeding period	End of breeding period
<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites 	full flight of young birds
<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites 	full flight of young birds
<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites 	full flight of young birds
<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites 	full flight of young birds
<i>Mergus serrator</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites 	full flight of young birds
<i>Mergus merganser</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites where it is mainly migratory • construction of the nest in all other cases 	full flight of young birds
RALLIDAE		
<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites where it is mainly migratory • construction of the nest in all other cases 	full flight of young birds (3 decades ⁴ after hatching)
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites where it is mainly migratory • construction of the nest in all other cases 	full flight of young birds (5 decades after hatching)
<i>Fulica atra</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites where it is mainly migratory • construction of the nest in all other cases 	full flight of young birds (6 decades after hatching)
HAEMATOPODIDAE		
<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites where it is mainly migratory • construction of the nest in all other cases 	full flight of young birds
CHARADRIIDAE		
<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites 	full flight of young birds
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites where it is mainly migratory • construction of the nest in all other cases 	full flight of young birds
SCOLOPACIDAE		
<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites 	full flight of young birds
<i>Lymnocyrtus minimus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites 	full flight of young birds (c. 4 decades after hatching)
<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites with courtship display • construction of the nest in all other cases 	full flight of young birds (c. 4 decades after hatching)
<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites 	full flight of young birds (c. 4 decades after hatching)

⁴ i.e. periods of ten days

Species	Start of breeding period	End of breeding period
	(roding)	decades after hatching)
<i>Limosa limosa</i>	• occupation of the breeding sites	full flight of young birds
<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	• occupation of the breeding sites	full flight of young birds
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	• occupation of the breeding sites	full flight of young birds
<i>Numenius arquata</i>	• occupation of the breeding sites	full flight of young birds
<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	• occupation of the breeding sites	full flight of young birds
<i>Tringa totanus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation of the breeding sites where it is mainly migratory • construction of the nest in all other cases 	full flight of young birds
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	• occupation of the breeding sites	full flight of young birds
LARIDAE		
<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	• courtship display at breeding sites (2 decades before egg laying)	full flight of young birds
<i>Larus canus</i>	• courtship display at breeding sites (2 decades before egg laying)	full flight of young birds
<i>Larus fuscus</i>	• courtship display at breeding sites (3 decades before egg laying)	full flight of young birds
<i>Larus argentatus</i>	• courtship display at breeding sites (3 decades before egg laying)	full flight of young birds
<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	• courtship display at breeding sites (3 decades before egg laying)	full flight of young birds
<i>Larus marinus</i>	• courtship display at breeding sites (3 decades before egg laying)	full flight of young birds

Table 2. Valuable sources of information useful for determining the start and end of breeding seasons and the timing of migration, of African and Eurasian waterbirds.

Waterbird family	Information on breeding seasons	Information on migration periods
<i>Sphenisciformes</i> <i>Spheniscidae</i> Penguins	Africa: Brown <i>et al.</i> (1982); Hockey <i>et al.</i> (2005) All regions: del Hoyo <i>et al.</i> (1992)	Africa: Brown <i>et al.</i> (1982) ; Hockey <i>et al.</i> (2005) All regions: del Hoyo <i>et al.</i> (1992)
<i>Gaviiformes</i> <i>Gaviidae</i> Divers	Western Palearctic: Cramp & Simons (1977) Africa: Brown <i>et al.</i> (1982) ; Hockey <i>et al.</i> (2005) All regions: del Hoyo <i>et al.</i> (1992)	Western Palearctic: Cramp & Simons (1977) Africa: Brown <i>et al.</i> (1982) ; Hockey <i>et al.</i> (2005) All regions: del Hoyo <i>et al.</i> (1992)
<i>Podicipediformes</i> <i>Podicipedidae</i> Grebes	Western Palearctic: Cramp & Simons (1977) Africa: Brown <i>et al.</i> (1982) ; Hockey <i>et al.</i> (2005) All regions: del Hoyo <i>et al.</i> (1992)	Western Palearctic: Cramp & Simons (1977) Africa: Brown <i>et al.</i> (1982) ; Hockey <i>et al.</i> (2005) All regions: del Hoyo <i>et al.</i> (1992)
<i>Pelacaniformes</i> <i>Phaethontidae</i> Tropicbirds <i>Pelecanidae</i> Pelicans <i>Sulidae</i> Gannets and boobies <i>Phalacrocoracidae</i> Cormorants <i>Fregatidae</i> Frigatebirds	Western Palearctic: Cramp & Simons (1977) Africa: Brown <i>et al.</i> (1982) ; Hockey <i>et al.</i> (2005) All regions: del Hoyo <i>et al.</i> (1992)	Western Palearctic: Cramp & Simons (1977) Africa: Brown <i>et al.</i> (1982) ; Hockey <i>et al.</i> (2005) All regions: del Hoyo <i>et al.</i> (1992)
<i>Ciconiiformes</i> <i>Ardeidae</i> Herons and Egrets <i>Ciconiidae</i> Storks <i>Balaenicipitidae</i> Shoebill <i>Threskiornithidae</i> Ibises	Western Palearctic: Cramp & Simons (1977) Africa: Brown <i>et al.</i> (1982) ; Hockey <i>et al.</i> (2005) All regions: del Hoyo <i>et al.</i> (1992); Kushlan & Hancock (2005)	Western Palearctic: Cramp & Simons (1977) Africa: Brown <i>et al.</i> (1982) ; Hockey <i>et al.</i> (2005) All regions: del Hoyo <i>et al.</i> (1992); Kushlan & Hancock (2005)
<i>Phoenicopteriformes</i> <i>Phoenicopteridae</i> Flamingos	Western Palearctic: Cramp & Simons (1977) Africa: Brown <i>et al.</i> (1982) ; Hockey <i>et al.</i> (2005) All regions: del Hoyo <i>et al.</i> (1992)	Western Palearctic: Cramp & Simons (1977) Africa: Brown <i>et al.</i> (1982) ; Hockey <i>et al.</i> (2005) All regions: del Hoyo <i>et al.</i> (1992)
<i>Anseriformes</i> <i>Anatidae</i> Ducks, geese and swans	Western Palearctic: Cramp & Simons (1977) Africa: Brown <i>et al.</i> (1982) ; Hockey <i>et al.</i> (2005); Viljoen (2005) All regions: Bauer & Glutz von	Western Palearctic: Cramp & Simons (1977) Africa: Brown <i>et al.</i> (1982) ; Hockey <i>et al.</i> (2005); Viljoen (2005) All regions: del Hoyo <i>et al.</i>

Waterbird family	Information on breeding seasons	Information on migration periods
	Blotzheim (1963); del Hoyo <i>et al.</i> (1992); Scott & Rose (1996); Kear (2005)	(1992); Scott & Rose (1996); Kear (2005)
<i>Gruiformes</i> <i>Gruidae</i> Cranes <i>Rallidae</i> Rails, flufftails, crakes, gallinules, moorhens and coots	Western Palearctic: Cramp & Simons (1980) Africa: Urban <i>et al.</i> (1986) ; Hockey <i>et al.</i> (2005)); Viljoen (2005) All regions: del Hoyo <i>et al.</i> (1996) Rallidae: Taylor (1998)	Western Palearctic: Cramp & Simons (1980) Africa: Urban <i>et al.</i> (1986) ; Hockey <i>et al.</i> (2005)); Viljoen (2005) All regions: del Hoyo <i>et al.</i> (1996) Rallidae: Taylor (1998)
<i>Charadriiformes</i> <i>Dromadidae</i> Crab Plover <i>Haematopodidae</i> Oystercatchers <i>Recurvirostridae</i> Stilts and avocets <i>Burhinidae</i> Thick-knees <i>Glareolidae</i> Practincoles <i>Charadriidae</i> Plovers <i>Scolopacidae</i> Snipes, curlews and sandpipers <i>Stercorariidae</i> Skuas <i>Laridae</i> Gulls <i>Sternidae</i> Terns <i>Rynchopidae</i> Skimmers <i>Alcidae</i> Auks	Western Palearctic: Cramp & Simmons (1983); Cramp (1985) Africa: Urban <i>et al.</i> (1986) ; Hockey <i>et al.</i> (2005) All regions: del Hoyo <i>et al.</i> (1996)	Western Palearctic: Cramp & Simmons (1983); Cramp (1985) Africa: Urban <i>et al.</i> (1986) ; Hockey <i>et al.</i> (2005) All regions: del Hoyo <i>et al.</i> (1996) All regions for waders: Delany <i>et al.</i> (2009)

RESOLUTION 5.11

POWER LINES AND MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

Recalling Article III 2(e) of the Agreement which requires Parties to “investigate problems that are posed or are likely to be posed by human activities and endeavour to implement remedial measures...”,

Further recalling Resolution 7.4 of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) on the electrocution of migratory birds, which encourages Parties to take appropriate measures to reduce and avoid the electrocution of migratory birds from medium voltage transmission lines by implementing a number of mitigation measures as well as the “Suggested Practices for Bird Protection on Power Lines” (UNEP/CMS/Inf.7.21),

Referring to CMS Resolution 10.11 on power lines and migratory birds to which this AEWA Resolution is closely related,

Noting with satisfaction Recommendation No.110, which was adopted in 2004 by the Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) on minimising the adverse effects of above-ground electricity transmission facilities (power lines) on birds,

Welcoming the Report by the Governments on the implementation of Recommendation No. 110/2004 (T-PVS/Files (2010) 11), as presented to the 30th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention and describing valuable measures taken by Parties to reduce the adverse effects of power lines,

Further welcoming the “Position Statement on Birds and Power Lines: On the risks to birds from electricity transmission facilities and how to minimise any such adverse effects”, adopted in 2007 by the BirdLife International Birds and Habitats Directives Task Force, calling for appropriate technical measures to reduce the adverse effects of power lines,

Highlighting the need to collect data on bird distribution, population size and movements as an essential part of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), prior to and/or during the planning phase of a power line, and the need to regularly monitor the mortality caused by electrocution and collision with existing power lines,

Welcoming the “Budapest Declaration on bird protection and power lines”, as adopted on 13 April 2011 by the Conference on “Power lines and bird mortality in Europe” which calls for, *inter alia*, an international programme consisting of groups of national experts on bird safety and power lines, wider dissemination of knowledge, and improved planning of power lines in relation to bird distribution data,

Recalling the AEWA Guidelines on how to avoid, minimise or mitigate impact of infrastructural developments and related disturbance affecting waterbirds (Conservation Guidelines No. 11), which contain a number of relevant recommendations,

Recognising the importance for society of maintaining a stable energy supply and that electrocutions, in particular, sometimes cause outages or disruption and that appropriate location of power lines and mitigation measures applied to power lines provide a win-win situation for birds and stability of power provision,

Noting the “Review of the Conflict between Migratory Birds and Electricity Power Grids in the African-Eurasian region” (document AEWA/MOP 5.38), and *concerned* that within the African-Eurasian region tens of millions of migratory birds are killed annually as a result of electrocution and collision, including storks, cranes, many other waterbird species, birds of prey, bustards and grouse,

Noting that many of the birds killed by electrocution and/or collision are internationally protected, including under AEWA, CMS and other CMS instruments,

Concerned that further research and monitoring on birds and power lines are urgently required, that only few studies are currently available which are sufficiently well-designed to assist in guiding policy, and that there is a serious geographical bias in research that needs to be addressed,

Recognising the conclusions and recommendations concerning birds and power lines presented in document AEWA/MOP 5.38 which, *inter alia*, highlight that the number of birds killed can be substantially reduced if mitigation measures are applied during the planning and construction of power lines,

Welcoming the “Guidelines on How to Avoid or Mitigate the Impact of Electricity Power Grids on Migratory Birds in the African-Eurasian Region” (document AEWA/MOP 5.37), which provide extensive practical guidance on, *inter alia*, mitigation measures, bird surveys and monitoring as well as the technical design of power lines,

Acknowledging that a number of Range States are already applying mitigation measures, for example, during planning of the location and route of new power lines,

Noting that the scale and significance of waterbird mortality as a result of collisions or electrocution with power lines and associated structures varies significantly between (and within) Contracting Parties, and accordingly, response measures need to be proportionate to risk,

Noting with satisfaction also the UNDP/GEF 'Migratory Soaring Birds Project', which is being implemented by BirdLife International, and which aims to ensure that the conservation needs of migratory soaring birds are addressed by industry, including the energy sector, along the Red Sea/Rift Valley Flyway, and the potential this project has to promote the implementation of this resolution and the above-mentioned guidelines at national and local levels,

Acknowledging with thanks the generous financial support provided by RWE Rhein-Ruhr Netzservice GmbH towards the development and production of the above-mentioned review (document AEWA/MOP 5.38) and conservation guidelines (document AEWA/MOP 5.37).

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Calls upon* the Parties and *encourages* the non-Contracting Parties to implement, as appropriate, the Guidelines on how to avoid or mitigate the impact of electricity power grids on migratory birds in the African-Eurasian region, adopted by Resolution 5.10, and to:

- 1.1 *apply* as far as possible the AEWA Conservation Guidelines No. 11 on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedures regarding the development of power lines;
- 1.2 *consult* regularly relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, scientific bodies, non-governmental organisations and the energy sector, in order to monitor jointly the impacts of power lines on waterbirds and to agree on a common policy of action;
- 1.3 *establish* a baseline of waterbird distribution, population sizes, migrations and movements, including those between breeding, resting and feeding areas, as early as possible in the planning of any power line project, over a period of at least five years, and with particular

emphasis on those species known to be vulnerable to electrocution or collision and if such studies identify any risks, to make every effort to ensure these are avoided;

- 1.4 *design* the location, route and direction of power lines on the basis of national zoning maps and avoid, wherever possible, construction along major migration flyways and in habitats of conservation importance¹, where there is a likelihood of significant effects on waterbirds;
- 1.5 *promote the* use of bird-safe designs in the construction of new power infrastructure, including the measures designed to reduce electrocution and collisions outlined in the Guidelines in document AEWA/MOP 5.37;
- 1.6 *identify* those sections of existing power lines that are causing relatively high levels of waterbird injury and/or mortality due to electrocution and/or collision, and modify these as a matter of priority by applying the techniques recommended by the Guidelines in document AEWA/MOP 5.37; and
- 1.7 *regularly* monitor and evaluate the impact of power lines on waterbird populations at the national scale, as well as the effectiveness of mitigation measures put in place to minimise the impact of power lines on waterbird populations;

2. *Urges* Parties and *invites* non-Contracting Parties, inter-governmental organisations and other relevant institutions, as appropriate, to include the measures contained in this Resolution in their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and relevant legislation, if applicable, in order to ensure that the impact of power lines on waterbird populations is minimised, and *calls on* Parties to report progress in implementing this Resolution to each Meeting of the Parties as part of their National Reports;

3. *Encourages* electricity companies to disseminate the Guidelines widely within their networks;

4. *Requests* the Technical Committee, resources permitting, to monitor the implementation of this Resolution in consultation with the CMS Scientific Council which is in charge of monitoring the CMS Resolution 10.11 and to provide further guidance when relevant new developments on reducing the impact of power lines on birds become available, such as improved mitigation techniques;

5. *Instructs* the Secretariat, in close cooperation with the CMS Secretariat, to consult the Secretariat of the Bern Convention in order to regularly update the examples of possible mitigation measures adopted as an appendix to Recommendation No. 110 of 2004, as appropriate, and to disseminate these to their respective Parties;

6. *Urges* Parties and *invites* UNEP and other relevant international organisations, as well as the energy sector, to financially support the implementation of this Resolution.

¹ such as Special Protection Areas under the EU Birds Directive, Important Bird Areas, protected areas, Ramsar sites, the West/Central Asian Site Network for Siberian Crane and other waterbirds and other critical sites as identified by the Critical Site Network (CSN) Tool for the African-Eurasian region.

RESOLUTION 5.12

**ADVERSE EFFECTS OF AGROCHEMICALS ON
MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS IN AFRICA**

Acknowledging the importance of fertilisation and pest control for agriculture and that the ongoing rise in global population will, particularly in developing countries, be coupled with a growing demand for food, and that crop loss and failure represent a real threat to human well-being and physical survival in Africa,

Noting that agricultural expansion including the increased use of agrochemicals in Africa is thought to be one of the factors contributing to the decline of some migratory waterbirds populations in the AEWA region, and that the application of pesticides that have been proven to have an adverse effect on birds is rising in Africa,

Also noting that an estimated 30% of the pesticides marketed in Sub-Saharan Africa do not meet internationally accepted quality standards, have been banned in developed countries and are known to pose a particular threat to human health and the environment as highlighted in the report *Adverse Effects of Agrochemicals on Migratory Waterbirds in Africa* (document AEWA/MOP Inf. 5.5),

Further noting that avicides are still being used in Africa to control large populations of seed eating birds, killing target and non-target birds alike as they are inhaled or orally digested,

Acknowledging further findings outlined in the report *Adverse Effects of Agrochemicals on Migratory Waterbirds in Africa* (document AEWA/MOP Inf. 5.5), which summarises the many direct and indirect negative effects that agrochemicals can have on birds, *inter alia* through poisoning, by reducing breeding success, altering natural behaviour, destroying habitats and by reducing or even eliminating food resources,

Recognising that many low-income farmers applying agrochemicals in Africa are often dependent on the illegal trade of agrochemicals, having no access to regulated pesticides, and can be unaware of the correct use of agrochemicals as well as the possible risks to human health and the environment,

Recalling that, for waterbird populations listed in Table 1, Paragraphs 3.2.3 (a) and (b) of AEWA's Action Plan require Contracting Parties *inter alia* to endeavour to ensure that, where practicable, statutory controls in accordance with international norms are in place relating to the use of agricultural chemicals and pest control procedures for the purpose of minimising their adverse impacts on these populations as well as to prepare and distribute information materials, in appropriate languages, describing such regulations, standards and control measures in force and their benefits to people and wildlife,

Noting that all but three African countries are Contracting Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants which seeks to regulate the production, use, trade, releases and storage of dangerous, long-lasting chemicals many of which have been used in agriculture,

Referring to Resolution 10.26 on “Minimising the risk of poisoning to migratory birds” adopted by the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species in November 2011.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Invites* Contracting Parties and other Range States in Africa, to implement a regulatory system for agrochemicals in all African countries in order to ensure that illegal trade is diminished, use is controlled, and users are trained with a view to decreasing the use of agrochemicals which are known to have direct or indirect adverse effects on birds, and in particular to:
 - 1.1 encourage relevant government authorities to develop and implement regulations on the application of such agro-chemicals and to monitor their implementation, and in particular to ensure appropriate quality control;
 - 1.2 regulate the use of such agrochemicals in the vicinity of nationally and internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds, particularly in wetlands, also taking into account run-offs from agriculture effecting aquatic ecosystems;
 - 1.3 control and where feasible reduce the use of avicides in areas frequented by populations listed in Table 1 of the Agreement;
 - 1.4 undertake measures to ease the access of farmers to good quality agro-chemical products while reducing their potential negative impacts on the environment and human health and to undermine the illicit trade of uncontrolled pesticides;
 - 1.5 enhance education and training on the proper use of agrochemicals as well as on possible adverse effects to waterbirds involving existing agricultural extension services;
2. *Encourages* Contracting Parties to support Range States in minimising the negative impact of agrochemicals on migratory waterbirds in Africa, *inter alia* by exchanging knowledge and best practice on identifying and mitigating adverse effects of agrochemicals and by encouraging further research on alternative and indigenous crops as well as alternative fertilisation methods suitable for Africa;
3. *Invites* relevant intergovernmental organisations, in particular the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, other relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation to cooperate with the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat in efforts to strengthen the capacity of African countries to control/manage the use of agrochemicals so as to minimise possible negative impacts on human health and the environment, and;
4. *Requests* the Technical Committee and the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat to collaborate with the CMS Scientific Council Working Group on poisoning of migratory birds, on issues of mutual concern.

RESOLUTION 5.13

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION MEASURES FOR WATERBIRDS

Recalling Resolutions 3.17 on *Climate change and migratory waterbirds* and 4.14 on *The effects of climate change on migratory waterbirds* complementing this resolution and the request in the latter for the Technical Committee to identify further research priorities to inform future adaptation measures, and also to assess whether existing international networks of sites are sufficient to sustain migratory waterbird populations, including the projected climate change effects, and, in the light of this work, to propose to MOP5 which additional complementary approaches - if necessary - should be taken,

Recalling also the endorsement by MOP4 of *AEWA Guidelines on measures needed to help waterbirds to adapt to climate change* as guidance for the Contracting Parties,

Noting the need, expressed in Article III of the Agreement, for Contracting Parties to identify networks of sites and habitats for migratory waterbirds, and to protect, manage, rehabilitate and restore these as essential actions to maintain the favourable conservation status of species,

Aware of the Ramsar Convention's Resolution X.24 (2008) on *Climate change and wetlands* which *inter alia*, urged or encouraged Ramsar Parties to:

- manage wetlands wisely to reduce the multiple pressures they face and thereby increase their resilience to climate change and to take advantage of the significant opportunities to use wetlands wisely as a response option to reduce the impacts of climate change,
- promote the restoration of river, lake and aquifer basins and their wetlands as an important aspect of policy related to climate change, and to
- promote integrated coordination in developing and implementing national policies related to water management, agriculture, energy production, poverty reduction, and human health, in order to ensure that sectoral objectives are mutually supportive in addressing the likely negative impacts of climate change and that such objectives are consistent with the need to protect the ecological character of wetlands and maintain wetland services,

Aware also of Resolutions 9.7 (2008) on *Climate change impacts on migratory species* and 10.19 (2011) on *Migratory species conservation in the light of climate change* of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), which *inter alia*, called on CMS Parties and others to:

- identify and carry out research on the interactions of climate change and migratory species, including the impact on habitats and local communities dependent on the ecosystem services provided by these species,
- to develop and implement monitoring regimes that are adequate for distinguishing true declines in populations from transboundary range shifts and for analysing the impact of climate change on migratory species, *inter alia*, through the following measures,

- a. ensuring that monitoring is maintained in the long term, using comparative methodologies, and
 - b. communicating and sharing monitoring results regularly with neighbouring and other Range States,
- to improve the resilience of migratory species and their habitats to climate change by reducing other threats in order to maintain or increase population size and genetic diversity as well as to achieve the following objectives among others,
 - a. to ensure that individual sites are sufficiently large, holding a variety of habitats and topography;
 - b. to strengthen the physical and ecological connectivity between sites, aiding species dispersal and colonisation when species distributions shift, and
 - c. to consider the designation of seasonal protected areas in areas where migratory species occur at critical stages in their lifecycle and would benefit from extra protection,

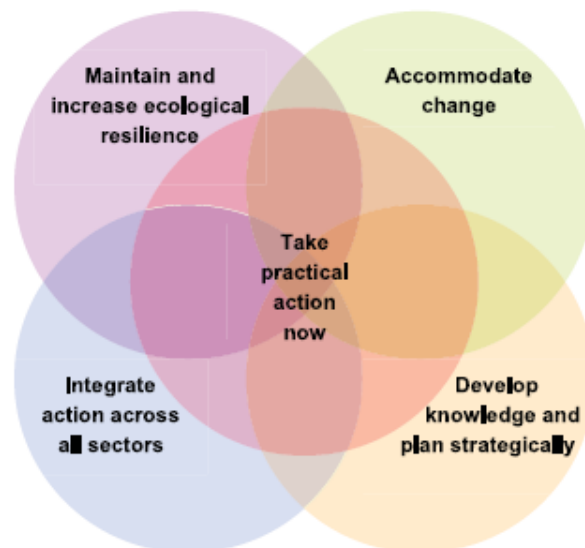
Aware also of assessments by some Contracting Parties of the modelled changes in future distributions of migratory waterbirds consequent on changed climate, and the implications such changes have for national, and hence international networks of protected areas.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Adopts* the framework annexed to this Resolution as further guidance for actions related to national adaptation measures related to the conservation of waterbirds and their wetland and other habitats; and *urges* Contracting Parties to implement these principles in their implementation of the Agreement;
2. *Encourages* Contracting Parties to complete the identification of relevant areas and build national networks of protected areas and other adequately managed areas; to undertake national assessments of the resilience of these sites both individually and collectively; and to report such assessments to future Meetings of the Parties;
3. *Urges* Contracting Parties to report to the Sixth Meeting of the Parties to AEWA (MOP6) on adaptation measures relevant to migratory waterbirds which have either been undertaken or are planned, and *instructs* the Secretariat - working inter-sessionally with the Technical and Standing Committees - to develop simple but informative reporting frameworks to this end and implement this for MOP6;
4. *Urges* Contracting Parties and others to make full use of existing guidance from the Ramsar Convention on the wise use of wetlands (available in Ramsar's *Handbooks for the Wise Use of Wetlands*), much of which is applicable to many of the threats and impacts to wetlands arising from climate change, in developing their policies and adaptations to climate change impacts on wetlands;
5. *Requests* the Technical Committee to review and summarise relevant studies and policies related to climate change and migratory waterbird conservation and management, especially with respect to the creation and management of networks of protected and managed sites and other adequately managed sites, and to bring such an overview to MOP6;
6. *Further requests* the Technical Committee in future to work collaboratively with both the Ramsar Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and the Scientific Council of CMS, on issues of common concern related to impacts of climate change on wetlands and their dependent migratory waterbirds so as to develop common guidance for the Contracting Parties whenever possible; and
7. *Urges* National Focal Points for Technical Committee matters to engage in, and contribute to, work by the Technical Committee in order to contribute national and regional issues and expertise from their in-country networks of waterbird scientists and other experts.

ANNEX I: An AEWA guidance framework for climate change adaptation¹

Five main adaptation principles are fundamental to conserving biodiversity in a time of rapid climate change:



The precautionary principle should underpin all of these.

Many elements of these principles are neither new nor specific to climate change adaptation; they underpin existing policy and practice in nature conservation. However, climate change creates a new imperative to understand and work with the dynamics of natural systems. The complex interactions between people and their natural environment must be managed to maintain the services and benefits that society derives from biodiversity and ecosystems. These will be increasingly important and threatened as the climate changes.

	Existing relevant AEWA and other guidance
Principle 1: Take practical action now	
The speed and scale of climate change require action <u>now</u> . We cannot know exactly how the climate will change or how it will impact directly or indirectly on species, habitats and ecosystems, particularly at a local scale. We cannot wait until the evidence demonstrates greater certainty, as delay will result in more severe impacts, fewer available options for action and increased costs of damage and intervention. This is because of the length of time it will take to implement adaptation action and for biodiversity to respond. Existing conservation efforts are insufficient and there is a need to act now with greater vigour to:	

¹ This framework is developed, with acknowledgement, from Smithers, R.J., Cowan, C., Harley, M., Hopkins, J.J., Pontier, H. & Watts, O. 2008. *England Biodiversity Strategy: Climate Change Adaptation Principles. Conserving biodiversity in a changing climate*. DEFRA, UK.
<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/documents/ebs-ccap.pdf>

	Existing relevant AEWA and other guidance
Conserve existing biodiversity The richness of future biodiversity, even in a changing world, will depend largely upon the biodiversity we conserve today.	
Conserve protected areas and all other high quality habitats These areas will remain important because they have characteristics that will continue to favour high levels of biodiversity. They are key ecological components of wider terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems.	Paragraph 3.2 of AEWA Action Plan on conservation of areas Ramsar Handbook for the wise-use of wetlands no. 17: <i>Designating Ramsar Sites</i> Ramsar Handbook for the wise-use of wetlands no. 18: <i>Managing wetlands</i> Ramsar Handbook for the wise-use of wetlands no. 19: <i>Addressing change in wetland ecological character</i>
Reduce sources of harm not linked to climate Climate change is one of many threats to biodiversity. By reducing other sources of harm we will help natural systems maintain their biodiversity in the face of climate change.	
Use existing biodiversity legislation and international agreements Existing legal and policy frameworks should be used to enable effective action now while working with policy-makers to remedy any potential shortcomings.	Ramsar Handbook for the wise-use of wetlands no. 20: <i>International cooperation</i>
Principle 2: Maintain and increase ecological resilience	
Increasing the resilience of ecosystems to the impacts of climate change, will help the widest range of biodiversity to survive and adapt. Ecological resilience ‘depends on a dynamic relationship within species, among species and between species and their abiotic environment, as well as the physical and chemical interactions within the environment’ (Convention on Biological Diversity, 2000). It is vital to continue and extend current efforts to:	

	Existing relevant AEWA and other guidance
<p>Conserve range and ecological variability of habitats and species</p> <p>It is impossible to predict which localities will continue to have climatic conditions suitable for a given species or habitat. Diversity of terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, in terms of physical features and habitats, should be maintained. This will increase the chances that species whose current habitat becomes inhospitable will be able to spread locally into newly favourable habitat.</p>	
<p>Maintain existing ecological networks</p> <p>Further habitat fragmentation and isolation should be avoided by maintaining sympathetic management of terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems and implementing appropriate spatial planning.</p>	<p>Ramsar Handbook for the wise-use of wetlands no. 17: <i>Designating Ramsar Sites</i></p> <p>AEWA Strategic Plan 2009 – 2017 (Objective 1 Target 1.2)</p>
<p>Create buffer zones around high quality habitats</p> <p>High quality habitats can be buffered from potential negative edge effects by reducing the occurrence of damaging activities in their immediate vicinity. For example, this may be achieved on land by creating the same or complementary habitats adjacent to them.</p>	<p>Paragraph 3.3 of AEWA Action Plan on rehabilitation and restoration</p>
<p>Take prompt action to control spread of invasive species</p> <p>The establishment of invasive species known to cause significant habitat degradation or loss of other species should be prevented where action can be sustained.</p>	<p>AEWA Guidelines on Avoidance of Introductions of non-native Waterbird Species</p>
<p>Principle 3: Accommodate change</p>	
<p>Climate change brings into sharp focus the need to manage for the future and adopt an increasingly dynamic approach to conservation. Both gradual change and extreme weather events will shape the places where species occur. Species populations will change and move, affecting other species and habitats. The past will not provide a guide to the future due to the rate and magnitude of change expected.</p> <p>There is a need to:</p>	

	Existing relevant AEWA and other guidance
<p>Understand that change is inevitable</p> <p>The structure and composition of habitats has never been static. Species will respond individualistically to climate change and we should seek to work with the grain of change and natural processes.</p>	
<p>Make space for the natural development of rivers and coasts</p> <p>Changing rainfall patterns and rising sea levels will affect our rivers and coasts. By recognising the role of erosion and deposition in shaping the environment, we can increase the potential for species and habitats to adapt naturally to these changes.</p>	
<p>Establish ecological networks through habitat restoration and creation</p> <p>Some species will need to move some distance from their current locality if they are to survive climate change. The success of species dispersal can be promoted by enhancing protected areas and creating new habitat, restoring degraded habitat, and sympathetically managing areas between existing habitats in the wider environment.</p>	<p>Paragraph 3.3 of AEWA Action Plan on rehabilitation and restoration</p> <p>AEWA Strategic Plan 2009 – 2017 (Objective 1 Target 1.2)</p>
<p>Aid gene flow</p> <p>The ability of a species to adapt to change is correlated with genetic diversity and population size, so conservation should seek to maintain or create large populations. Gene flow between populations is desirable but care may be required where small populations have been isolated for a long period and local genetic variation may be swamped.</p>	
<p>Consider the role of species translocation and ex-situ conservation</p> <p>Translocation (introduction, reintroduction and restocking) and captive-breeding programmes may be used to conserve some species, as appropriate. Large-scale translocations may be impractical.</p>	<p>AEWA Recommended best practice for the conservation of threatened waterbirds through action planning and re-establishment (Resolution 4.4) which was based on Review of waterbird re-establishment projects</p> <p>AEWA Guidelines for the Translocation of Waterbirds for Conservation Purposes: Complementing the IUCN Guidelines</p>

	Existing relevant AEWA and other guidance
<p>Develop the capacity of institutions and administrative arrangements to cope with change and learn from experience</p> <p>We must learn to be effective in a changing and uncertain world. This will require a cultural shift to work positively towards a future of potentially different circumstances, learning from experience, and sharing information more widely within and between organisations, whilst retaining consistent objectives.</p>	<p>AEWA Guideline series</p> <p>African Initiative for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in Africa (Resolution 4. 9)</p>
<p>Respond to changing conservation priorities</p> <p>Conservation targets need to be regularly reviewed to ensure resources are directed towards conservation priorities as some species increase, others decline and habitats change in character.</p>	<p>Ramsar Handbook for the wise-use of wetlands no. 3: <i>Laws and institutions</i></p>
Principle 4: Integrate action across partners and sectors	
<p>Adaptation policy across all sectors needs to be built on a foundation of healthy and resilient ecosystems. Different sectors of society view biodiversity and ecosystems in terms of their own economic, cultural and societal needs. Biodiversity is critical both for its intrinsic value and because of the key role it plays in providing the ecosystem and other services upon which we all ultimately depend. Yet competing economic uses of land, water resources and the marine environment usually undervalue biodiversity and natural systems, sometimes with widespread incentives and subsidies that lead to damage to the environment. The scale of adaptation required demands that biodiversity conservation is integrated with economic activities on land and at sea.</p> <p>There is a need to:</p>	
<p>Integrate adaptation and mitigation measures</p> <p>Biodiversity conservation can contribute to carbon management; for example, as a result of peatland restoration or native woodland creation. Mitigation should not harm biodiversity and should recognise opportunities for biodiversity, thereby contributing to adaptation.</p>	
<p>Integrate policy and practice across relevant economic sectors</p>	<p>Ramsar Handbook for the wise-use of wetlands no. 5:</p>

	Existing relevant AEWA and other guidance
Adaptation measures for biodiversity should be explicitly linked with the wider benefits that they bring. Governments should ensure that planning for national adaptation is integrated across different sectors and that adequate environmental safeguards are built into adaptation responses across all policy sectors. Projected needs of migratory species should be integrated within all relevant policies especially National Biodiversity and Species Action Plans, Protected Area policy and management plans, and National Adaptation Policies and plans. Conservation organisations can assist in demonstrating and catalysing action for biodiversity across all relevant economic sectors. In this way, conservation can be interwoven with other activities for effective delivery of ecosystem goods and services.	<i>Partnerships</i>
Build and strengthen partnerships Partnerships between the public and private sectors should form a fundamental part of the process of developing climate change adaptation strategies from the outset. Engagement with stakeholders and local communities is crucial to developing adaptation actions that will work best on the ground.	Ramsar Handbook for the wise-use of wetlands no. 5: <i>Partnerships</i> Ramsar Handbook for the wise-use of wetlands no. 7: <i>Participatory skills</i>
Raise awareness of benefits of the natural environment to society and adopt an ecosystem approach to conservation Wider appreciation that adaptation for biodiversity is in the interests of individuals, communities and businesses will lead to demand and support for implementation. This should build on recognition of environmental services provided by biodiversity and ecosystems and an appreciation that safeguarding ecosystems supporting migratory birds can reduce vulnerability and enhance adaptive capacity of people to climate change.	AEWA Communications Strategy Ramsar Handbook for the wise-use of wetlands no. 6: <i>Wetland CEPA</i>
Principle 5: Develop knowledge and plan strategically	
We cannot know exactly how the climate will change or its precise impacts on biodiversity but we do know the general trends and some specific species responses. We have to plan for the future with available information, developing techniques that will enable us to move forward with actions that we will not regret whatever the future may bring. Simultaneously, we must strive to learn more about the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystems and to monitor the effectiveness of adaptation.	
Undertake vulnerability assessments of biodiversity and associated ecosystem goods and services without delay Vulnerability to climate change is 'the degree to which a system	

	Existing relevant AEWA and other guidance
is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes' (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2007). Assessing vulnerability will help to identify priorities and develop appropriate actions.	
Undertake scenario planning and implement no regrets actions There is a need to make strategic decisions by embracing uncertainty and addressing the full range of likely variation in projected changes and their impacts. It is important to avoid selection of one preferred future in the hope that it will become true.	
Pilot new approaches and monitor New approaches to conservation management need to be piloted and monitored at a large scale and within a time period commensurate with the challenge.	
Identify potential win-win solutions and ensure cross-sectoral knowledge transfer Win-win solutions are policies and measures that deliver several adaptation measures at once or that also bring other social and economic benefits.	
Monitor actual impacts and research likely future impacts Gaining knowledge of actual and projected impacts of climate change on biodiversity is essential to help shape and adapt conservation action.	
Improve understanding of the role of biodiversity in ecosystem services Implementing an ecosystems approach requires a better understanding of the benefits provided by biodiversity and ways in which ecosystem services will be affected by climate change.	
Research knowledge gaps with stakeholder participation Climate change adaptation has cross-sectoral implications. Ensuring stakeholders have a common understanding of and commitment to new evidence is essential to develop policy and practice.	

RESOLUTION 5.14

WATERBIRDS, WETLANDS AND THE IMPACTS OF EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

Recalling Articles II and III of the Agreement which, *inter alia*, make provision in respect of:

- the taking into account of the precautionary principle;
- the identification of sites important for migratory waterbirds;
- the encouragement of the protection, management, rehabilitation and restoration of these; and
- the investigation of problems that are posed by human activities,

Also recalling the Action Plan of the Agreement which, *inter alia*:

- gives special protection to areas internationally important for waterbirds;
- endeavours to make wise and sustainable use of all wetlands in their territory;
- endeavours to develop strategies, according to the ecosystem approach, for the conservation of waterbird habitats; and which
- requires Parties to assess the impact of proposed projects likely to lead to conflicts between human interests at important waterbird sites and to make these publicly available,

Recognising the significance of the guidance and decisions adopted by the Ramsar Convention in relation to the conservation and wise use of those wetlands important for African-Eurasian migratory waterbirds, and the call within Resolution 5.19 *Encouragement of Further Joint Implementation of AEWA and the Ramsar Convention* for greater coherency in the national implementation of AEWA and the Ramsar Convention; and *noting* that all but one of the Contracting Parties to AEWA are also Ramsar Contracting Parties,

Aware of the Ramsar Convention's Resolution X.26 (2008) on *Wetlands and Extractive Industries*,

Conscious of the need, in implementing policies for the wise use of all wetlands important for waterbirds and in a context of objectives for sustainable development, to avoid, minimise or mitigate the negative impacts of economic development on the ecological character of these important habitats,

Recognising the increasing global demand for resources, including *inter alia* non-renewable resources such as oil and gas, precious and base minerals, coal, sand and gravel, industrial minerals and peat, and some renewable resources such as salt and soda ash, and *noting* the resulting increase in industrial activities related to exploration for, and extraction of, these resources including through artisanal, small-scale and large-scale projects,

Aware of the potential for certain activities related to extractive industries, if not appropriately managed and regulated, to have direct and indirect negative impacts on the waterbirds through changes to the ecological character of their wetland habitats, and *recognising* the particular vulnerability of wetlands to the impacts of extractive industries, given the potential for impacts to be transferred both upstream and downstream within a river basin,

Also aware that recent global and regional initiatives, including those by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN), to improve corporate social responsibility and governance in the extractive industries sector, offer opportunities to strengthen the conservation and wise use of wetlands, while still realising economic benefits from the development of extractive industries,

Recognising the value of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) approaches in supporting decision-making that reflects the wise use of wetlands, and *noting* that SEA approaches can be particularly helpful for planning and prioritisation of collection of baseline information for inventories of important sites for migratory waterbirds,

Acknowledging that migratory waterbirds depend on multiple sites along their flyways, and that accordingly flyway-scale contexts are critical in assessing impacts through Environmental Impact Assessment and SEA processes, especially consideration of cumulative impacts of multiple wetland losses along a waterbird's flyway, and *noting* that the Critical Site Network Tool (CSN)¹ provides helpful data and information in this regard,

Also recognising the importance of adequate inventory information on wetlands important for waterbirds in supporting decision-making and permitting procedures related to extractive industries, and *emphasising* the importance of early notification of proposed exploration and extraction activities in providing sufficient time for collection of inventory and baseline information in wetlands important for waterbirds potentially affected by these proposed activities,

Conscious of the need for government officers and others within Contracting Parties responsible for the conservation and management of important wetlands for waterbirds to understand and have access to best practice guidance related to extractive industry processes so as to aid good decision-making,

Thanking the Ramsar Convention's Scientific & Technical Review Panel (STRP) and the AEWA Technical Committee, for their joint work to collate and summarise available technical guidance on assessing, avoiding, minimising and mitigating the direct and indirect impacts of extractive industries on wetlands in the exploration, development, operation, closure and post-closure phases; the production of a guide to this guidance; and the development of a low-cost methodology to identify potential conflict 'hotspots' where extraction of commodities may impact on wetlands of importance for migratory waterbirds, and *noting* the value of the Critical Site Network Tool (CSN) as the source of waterbird distribution data layers for applying this methodology.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Urges* Contracting Parties to emphasise the importance of Strategic Environmental Assessment, particularly in relation to the extractive industries sector, and to apply the SEA guidance adopted in Ramsar's Resolution X.17 on *Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment: updated scientific and technical guidance*, adapting that guidance as appropriate in order to address specific issues associated with direct and indirect impacts of extractive industries on wetlands important for waterbirds;
2. *Encourages* Contracting Parties to also apply the guidance on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) adopted by the same Ramsar Resolution, adapting the EIA guidance where appropriate in order to ensure that it adequately addresses direct and indirect impacts on wetlands of the exploration, development, operation, closure and post-closure phases of extractive industrial activities, and *further encourages* Contracting Parties to ensure that in applying the EIA guidance and other necessary measures, they adequately address the impacts on wetlands important for migratory waterbirds of the full spectrum of activities associated with extractive industries;
3. *Encourages* Contracting Parties to ensure that, in SEA and EIA studies related to extractive industries, potential upstream and downstream impacts in river basins are fully considered through ecosystem approaches (including *inter alia* that of the Convention on Biological Diversity), and in doing so

¹ <http://csntool.wingsoverwetlands.org/csn/default.html#>

to apply the guidance on River Basin Management as adopted in Ramsar Resolution X.19 on *Wetlands and river basin management: consolidated scientific and technical guidance*;

4. *Also encourages* Contracting Parties to undertake appropriate Communication, Education and Public Awareness activities in order to ensure that all relevant public and private sector bodies associated with extractive industries are aware of the significance of wetlands of importance for migratory waterbirds in the context of national implementation of the Agreement;

5. *Urges* Contracting Parties to apply, as appropriate, the guidance adopted through Ramsar Resolution X.16 and included in Ramsar COP10 DOC. 27 when extractive industrial activities may directly or indirectly impact Ramsar sites; to consider a precautionary approach when the SEA or EIA predicts any substantial or irreversible loss of wetland ecosystem services important to waterbirds through appropriate mitigation measures to prevent or reduce such impacts and, as a last resort, to consider compensation in accordance with national legislation, Ramsar Resolution VII.24 *Compensation for lost wetland habitats and other functions* (1999) and Ramsar Resolution VIII.20 *General guidance for interpreting “urgent national interest” under Article 2.5 of the Convention and considering compensation under Article 4* (2002);

6. *Requests* the Technical Committee to work with Ramsar’s STRP and other interested parties to develop guidance for assessing the significance of cumulative impacts of multiple wetland losses along species’ flyways, and the implications for EIA, SEA and other assessment processes;

7. *Requests* the Technical Committee working with Ramsar’s STRP to finalise their *Guide to Guidance on Extractive Industries* and to disseminate this to Contracting Parties such that government officers and other environmental managers can use this to better contribute to well-informed, balanced decision-making regarding short-term and long-term costs and benefits of extractive industries and their effects on wetland habitats of migratory waterbirds;

8. *Also urges* Contracting Parties to complete national inventories of wetlands important to migratory waterbirds and make that information publically available in order to strengthen and support SEA and EIA processes, especially in those areas that are potentially the focus of exploration and development of new extractive industrial projects;

9. *Encourages* Contracting Parties to consider the creation of new wetlands or the improvement of existing wetlands of significance for migratory waterbirds in the post-closure phases of extractive industrial activities, through well-planned mining and quarrying activities and well-developed site restoration programmes;

10. *Further encourages* AEWA Administrative Authorities to establish or strengthen regular cooperation with Focal Points of the Global Environment Facility, considering that many GEF projects are addressing issues associated with extractive industrial activities, and also to liaise with their national development agencies given the significance of funded projects to contribute to relevant good decision making;

11. *Requests* the Technical Committee to continue to collaborate with Ramsar’s STRP on these issues, in particular jointly working with other interested organisations to further develop geospatial analytical tools for identifying those areas where potential conflicts may arise regarding impacts of extractive industry processes on wetlands of importance for migratory waterbirds.

RESOLUTION 5.15

**IMPACT OF INVASIVE ALIEN AQUATIC WEEDS ON
WATERBIRD HABITATS IN AFRICA**

Aware that invasive alien plant species are increasingly altering natural habitats and that one of the effects of global climate change is expected to be the accelerated distributional spread of alien species into new areas,

Recalling that, for waterbird populations listed in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan, Paragraphs 2.5.1 and 2.5.3 of AEWA's Action Plan provide that Contracting Parties shall, if they consider it necessary, prohibit the introduction of non-native species of animals and plants which may be detrimental to these populations, and that they shall take measures, to the extent feasible and appropriate, including to ensure that when non-native species or hybrids thereof have already been introduced into their territory, those species or their hybrids do not pose a potential hazard to the populations listed in Table 1,

Also recalling that, for waterbird populations listed in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan, Paragraph 4.3.11 of AEWA's Action Plan requires Contracting Parties *inter alia* to establish appropriate measures to tackle threats to migratory waterbirds from aquaculture, including the environmental assessment of developments that threaten wetlands of importance for waterbirds, especially when dealing with, *inter alia*, non-native and potentially invasive species,

Further recalling Resolution VIII.18 on invasive species and wetlands of the Ramsar Convention, which highlights, among other things, that invasive species continue to pose a major threat to the ecological character of wetlands and wetland species worldwide,

Noting the negative impact of invasive alien aquatic weeds on waterbird habitats in Africa, and that the proliferation of invasive weeds is, in part, due to the growing human population, agricultural development and water regulation, such as dam developments causing the lack of normal flooding, travel, trade and the over-exploitation of wildlife and fisheries,

Aware that many African countries lack the resources and capacity to combat invasive alien aquatic weeds independently,

Acknowledging the findings outlined in the report *Rehabilitation of Important Migratory Waterbird Sites, Which Have Been Degraded by Invasive Aquatic Weeds* (document AEWA/MOP Inf. 5.4), which outlines the potential negative effects that invasive weeds can have on birds, *inter alia* through loss of nesting and feeding sites, displacement, loss of cover and increased exposure to predation as well as breeding failure.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Calls upon* Contracting Parties and other Range States in Africa, to enhance efforts towards the recognition, prevention, eradication and control of invasive aquatic weeds in order to avoid adverse effects on migratory waterbirds, and in particular to:
 - 1.1 encourage relevant government authorities to strengthen or develop and implement regulations on integrated prevention, management and control of invasive alien aquatic weeds and to monitor the affected areas, such as the instalment of a monitoring system for weed eradication activities, including an evaluation *inter alia* of the implementation of alien weed control and the impact on waterbird habitats in areas used by waterbird populations listed in Table 1;
 - 1.2 prevent invasive aliens from spreading and establishing in new wetland and waterbird habitats by taking adequate measures and analysing the pathways of invasive aliens further as well as taking climate change into account;
 - 1.3 consider to restore wetlands acknowledging the effect of restoration on preventing secondary invasions;
 - 1.4 minimise the negative effects of human activities, such as agriculture and water regulation, on natural habitats, in order to limit the spread of invasive alien aquatic weeds, particularly in and around key sites used by waterbird populations listed in Table 1;
 - 1.5 provide adequate training for site managers, encourage community involvement and raise public awareness on the threats posed by alien aquatic weeds to habitats and species;
2. *Encourages* all Contracting Parties to support the African Range States in minimising the negative impact of invasive alien aquatic weeds on migratory waterbirds in Africa, among other things, by exchanging knowledge and best practice;
3. *Further encourages* Contracting Parties and other Range States to make use of available international guidance on the elimination of invasive alien species such as the IUCN Guidelines for the prevention of biodiversity loss due to biological invasion;
4. *Invites* relevant international organisations such as the Ramsar Convention, and IUCN, as well as the European Commission, to cooperate with the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat in efforts to strengthen the capacity of African countries in minimising the impact of invasive aquatic weeds on waterbird habitats, while taking note of the AEWA African Plan of Action and the importance of its implementation in this respect.

RESOLUTION 5.16

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

Recognising the beneficial role of renewable energies in both mitigating and adapting to climate change and the significance of addressing issues arising from climate change for the long-term survival of migratory waterbirds as highlighted in Resolution 4.14 on the Effects of Climate Change on Migratory Waterbirds,

Further recognising that, as renewable power generation is estimated by the International Energy Agency to triple globally by 2035 with a similar increase expected in the use of biofuels, there is a need to assess and consequently address possible adverse effects from renewable energy sources on migratory waterbirds,

Acknowledging that wind energy installations in particular, can have both direct and indirect impacts on birds under some circumstances, for example, as concluded in the Bern Convention Report “Effects of Wind Farms on Birds”,

Further acknowledging that the production and use of biofuels can potentially have negative effects on biodiversity including the degradation of crucial waterbird habitats such as wetlands, depending on factors such as the feedstocks used, the mode and place of production and the agricultural practices used as highlighted in the draft Ramsar Technical Report “*Wetlands and Energy Issues: A Review on the Possible Implications of Policies, Plans and Activities in the Energy Sector for the Wise Use of Wetlands*”,

Recalling that, in accordance with Paragraph 4.3 of the AEWA Action Plan, Contracting Parties are required, *inter alia* to assess the impact of proposed projects which are likely to lead to conflicts between populations listed in Table 1 and human interests, to promote high environmental standards in the planning and construction of structures in order to minimise their impact on populations tabled under Table 1, and to consider steps to minimise any impact caused by existing structures,

Further recalling Resolutions 7.5 and 10.9 of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species on wind turbines and migratory species and on the conservation of migratory species in the light of climate change, which *inter alia* call for the application of strategic environmental impact assessments, the development of environmental sensitivity and zoning maps and post-construction monitoring of climate change mitigation and adaptation projects, such as bio-energy production, as well as guidelines for the construction of offshore wind farms aimed at minimising the negative impacts on migratory species,

Recognising Resolution X.25 of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands regarding wetlands and biofuels, which *inter alia* calls for the assessment of the potential impacts, benefits and risks of biofuel production, affecting wetlands,

Further acknowledging that negative impacts of some renewable energy installations on waterbirds can be substantially minimised through careful site selection, by learning from post-construction monitoring and by undertaking activities to mitigate adverse effects as highlighted *inter alia* in the World Bank working paper “*Good and Bad Dams: Environmental Criteria for Site Selection of Hydroelectric Projects*”,

Noting with satisfaction also the UNDP/GEF 'Migratory Soaring Birds Project', which is being implemented by BirdLife International, and which aims to ensure that the conservation needs of migratory soaring birds are addressed by industry, including the energy sector, along the Red Sea/Rift Valley Flyway, and the potential this project has to promote the implementation of this resolution and the above-mentioned guidelines at national and local levels.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Calls upon* Contracting Parties to develop and strengthen national renewable energy planning and development to include monitoring in order to avoid and minimise adverse effects of renewable energy installations (including for biofuels) on waterbirds, and in particular to:

1.1 carefully evaluate potential sites for the development of new renewable energy installations where there is a likelihood of significant negative impacts on migratory waterbirds, *inter alia* by undertaking strategic environmental assessments and environmental impact assessments (SEA and EIA), developing sensitivity and zoning maps, thereby avoiding existing protected areas, such as Ramsar Sites and Special Protection Areas, or other sites of importance (including Important Bird Areas) where rigorous and complete SEA and EIA show significant negative impacts on migratory waterbirds;

1.2 in addition, where rigorous and complete SEA and EIA show significant negative impacts on migratory waterbirds, avoid sites located within the main migration corridors of migratory waterbirds which have been shown to experience high bird densities, such as wetlands, coastlines, ridges and other topographic features, also taking into consideration possible indirect effects such as disturbance, displacement, loss or deterioration of habitats;

1.3 strengthen, if necessary, national level cross-sectoral land-use planning and ensure that the vital needs of migratory waterbird species are mainstreamed within energy policy;

1.4 ensure that water usage in renewable energy processes does not affect critical waterbird habitats and is economised where this might be the case, and that possible negative impacts of construction of infrastructure related to renewable energy installations, such as the building of roads and power lines, are kept at the minimum level;

1.5 follow existing international environmental guidelines, recommendations and criteria for the project-level environmental impact assessment development and utilisation of renewable energy sources;

1.6 use AEWA Guideline No. 11 on how to avoid, minimise or mitigate the impacts of infrastructural developments and related disturbance affecting waterbirds and widely disseminate this to interested Parties;

1.7 encourage post-development monitoring of renewable energy installations and associated infrastructure in order to identify possible effects on biodiversity and ensure that lessons learned from post-development monitoring feed into the process for planning future developments;

1.8 encourage the mitigation of adverse effects of existing renewable energy installations and associated infrastructure where such effects have been identified;

1.9 share information from post-construction monitoring and mitigation measures in renewable energy installations on observed effects on migratory waterbirds and their habitats, so Parties can

benefit from lessons learned and so that cumulative impacts of renewable energy installations can be assessed at the flyway level;

1.10 consider, where damage cannot be avoided or mitigated, the possibility of compensation for damages to biodiversity resulting from the development of renewable energy installations in accordance with national legislation as well as Ramsar Resolution VII.24 *Compensation for lost wetland habitats and other functions* (1999) and Ramsar Resolution VIII.20 *General guidance for interpreting “urgent national interest” under Article 2.5 of the Convention and considering compensation under Article 4* (2002);

2. *Further calls upon* Contracting Parties to undertake specific measures to reduce the potential negative impact of terrestrial as well as marine wind farms on waterbirds, *inter alia* by:

2.1 encouraging wind farm operators to operate wind farms in ways that minimise bird mortality, for example by introducing short-term shutdowns during peak migration and minimising lighting in wind farms;

2.2 further encouraging the dismantling of wind turbines in existing installations, should waterbird mortality have an effect on the population status of a species and other mitigation measures have proved insufficient;

2.3 focusing research efforts on alleviating the negative effects on waterbirds from wind farms, such as the mapping of the main migration corridors and migration crossings for waterbirds also allowing the optimising of wind farm layouts;

3. *Further calls upon* Contracting Parties to pay particular attention and undertake specific measures to assess, identify and reduce potential negative impacts of biofuel production on waterbirds building on the approaches established in Resolution X.25 of the Ramsar Convention on wetlands and biofuels;

4. *Urges* Parties and *invites* non-Contracting Parties, inter-governmental organisations and other relevant institutions, as appropriate, to include the measures contained in this Resolution in their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and relevant legislation, if applicable, in order to ensure that the impact of renewable energy developments on waterbird populations is minimised, and *calls on* Parties to report progress in implementing this Resolution to each Meeting of the Parties as part of their National Reports;

5. *Requests* the Technical Committee, in liaison with relevant industry bodies and other interested parties, to identify key knowledge gaps and/or deficiencies in guidance related to the impact of renewable energy production and migratory waterbirds, and make proposals as to how these might most effectively be filled.

RESOLUTION 5.17

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS: STANDING COMMITTEE

Recalling Resolution 2.6 regarding the establishment of the Standing Committee and, in particular, the composition of its membership,

Further recalling the tasks given to the Standing Committee as laid down in Resolution 2.6 paragraph 1, Resolution 4.6 paragraph 3 and Resolution 4.17 paragraph 4,

Acknowledging the active role the Standing Committee has played in overseeing, as representatives of the Meeting of the Parties, the implementation of the Agreement and functioning of the Secretariat,

Further acknowledging that the Standing Committee has provided guidance and advice to the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat on the implementation of the Agreement, on the preparation of meetings and any other matters,

Recognising CMS Resolution 10.9 *Future structure and strategies of the CMS Family* and wishing to continue the cooperation with CMS and the CMS Family to increase efficiency and enhance synergies.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Approves* the list of elected or reconfirmed regional representatives for the Standing Committee, as follows:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Europe and Central Asia (1)	Norway	Ukraine
Europe and Central Asia (2)	France	Croatia
Middle East and Northern Africa	Algeria	Libya
Western and Central Africa	Ghana	Chad
Eastern and Southern Africa	Uganda	South Africa

2. *Re-confirms* that the Standing Committee should also include a representative of the host country for the next Session of the Meeting of Parties as well as a representative of the Depositary;

3. *Agrees* that the Standing Committee will meet at least twice between the 5th and the 6th Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties;

4. *Re-confirms* the tasks given to the Standing Committee as laid down in Resolution 2.6 paragraph 1, Resolution 4.6 paragraph 3 and Resolution 4.17 paragraph 4;
5. *Decides* to make a provision in the Budget 2013-2015 for payment, upon request, of reasonable and justifiable travel expenses of appointed Standing Committee members from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, within the policy agreed by the Meeting of Parties;
6. *Requests* Contracting Parties to provide financial assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition that are Parties to the Agreement, to be represented at meetings of the Standing Committee by an observer;
7. *Decides* that, in the framework of the Implementation Review Process established by AEWA MOP4, the Standing Committee will be responsible, in addition to the task defined by Resolution 4.6, for identifying funds for the implementation of new reviews, to be withdrawn from the Trust Fund balance;
8. *Requests* the Standing Committee
 - 8.1 to contribute, where appropriate, to activities identified in Annex 1 of CMS Resolution 10.9;
 - 8.2 in particular to contribute to the development of coordinated strategic plans 2012-2014 for the CMS family;
 - 8.3 to express views of AEWA, through the Secretariat, to the CMS strategic plan working group (2015-2023).

RESOLUTION 5.18

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS: TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Pursuant to Article VII of the Agreement, the first Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP), through Resolution 1.8, established and determined the composition of the Technical Committee,

Recalling that through Resolution 4.18, the MOP approved the Modus Operandi of the Technical Committee, which superseded the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Technical Committee,

Considering that at the present 5th Session of the MOP, the terms of office of four members of the Technical Committee expire: the regional representatives for Central Europe, Eastern Europe, Southwestern Asia, and for Eastern Africa; two regional representatives (for Western Africa and for Southern Africa) had to step down in advance of the expiration of their terms of office and that the position of the regional representative for Central Africa remained vacant in the past quadrennium,

Further considering the recommendation of the Advisory Group, as per Rule 8 of the Modus Operandi of the Technical Committee, regarding the nominated candidates for the vacant positions,

Referring to Resolution 5.5 on “Implementation and Revision of the Communication Strategy”,

Thanking members of the Technical Committee for their work in fulfilling the task stipulated by Article VII.2 of the Agreement, thereby contributing to the implementation of the Agreement over the past quadrennium,

Taking note of the amendments to the Modus Operandi of the Technical Committee proposed by the Technical and Standing Committees.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Adopts* the Modus Operandi of the Technical Committee, as set out in Appendix II to the present Resolution;
2. *Appoints* to the Technical Committee the members and alternates named in Appendix I to the present Resolution, taking into account terms of office in accordance with Rule 5 of the Modus Operandi of the Technical Committee and the geographical representation as laid down in its Appendix;
3. *Repeals* Resolution 4.18 of the 4th Meeting of the Parties;

4. *Instructs* the Chairperson of the Technical Committee to identify and appoint an expert on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) to the Technical Committee to facilitate the revision and implementation of the AEWA Communication Strategy;
5. *Instructs* the Secretariat to provide the necessary support to the Technical Committee in accordance with Article VII of the Agreement, as well as the provisions in the budget for the Agreement and the activities of the Technical Committee or the Agreement Secretariat, as adopted under Resolution 5.21;
6. *Encourages* Contracting Parties to include members of the Technical Committee in their delegations to the Meeting of the Parties, finances permitting, in order to enhance synergies between the bodies of the Agreement.

Appendix I

AEWA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

NORTH AND SOUTHWESTERN EUROPE

Mr David Stroud (United Kingdom)

ALTERNATES

Vacant

CENTRAL EUROPE

Mr Lorenzo Serra (Italy)

Mr Darko Saveljic (Montenegro)

EASTERN EUROPE

Mr Saulius Svazas (Lithuania)

Mr Gleb Gavrys (Ukraine)

SOUTHWESTERN ASIA

Mr Sharif Jbour (Jordan)

Vacant

NORTHERN AFRICA

Mr Hichem Azafzaf (Tunisia)

Vacant

WESTERN AFRICA

Mr Erasmus Owusu (Ghana)

Vacant

CENTRAL AFRICA

Vacant

Vacant

EASTERN AFRICA

Mr Muchai S. Muchane (Kenya)

Vacant

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Mr Mark Brown (South Africa)

Vacant

REPRESENTATIVES OF ORGANISATIONS ¹

IUCN

Mr Jean-Christophe Vié

Vacant

WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL

Mr Szabolcs Nagy

Mr Taej Mundkur

CIC

Mr Arto Marjakangas

Vacant

THEMATIC EXPERTS

RURAL ECONOMICS

Mr Hussein Sosovele

ENVIROMENTAL LAW

Ms Melissa Lewis

GAME MANAGEMENT

Mr Jean-Yves Mondain-Monval

¹ Term of office to be decided by the Organisation.

Appendix II

Modus Operandi of the Technical Committee of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds

General functions

Rule 1

The Technical Committee (hereinafter referred to as Committee), established in accordance with Article VII of the Agreement provides scientific and technical advice and information, to the Meeting of the Parties and, through the Agreement Secretariat, to the Parties; it makes recommendations to the Meetings of the Parties concerning the Action Plan, implementation of the Agreement and further research to be carried out; it prepares for each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties a report on its activities, which shall be submitted to the Agreement secretariat not less than one hundred and twenty days before the session of the Meeting of the Parties; it carries out any other tasks referred to it by the Meeting of the Parties. The Technical Committee works closely with the Standing Committee to ensure consistency across the Agreement's work.

Representation and attendance

Rule 2

1. In accordance with Article VII paragraph 1, the Committee membership shall comprise:
 - (a) nine experts representing the different regions of the Agreement Area (Northern & Southwestern Europe, Central Europe, Eastern Europe, Southwestern Asia, Northern Africa, Central Africa, Western Africa, Eastern Africa and Southern Africa) elected among all the Parties on the recommendation of the Parties of the region in question;
 - (b) one representative appointed by each of the following organisations: the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Wetlands International, the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC); and
 - (c) one thematic expert from each of the following fields: rural economics, game management, and environmental law; elected by the Parties.
2. With the exception of the experts in the field of rural economics, game management and environmental law, all the above-mentioned representatives shall name an Alternate Member for each position to be approved by the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 3

Except as provided for in Rule 6, attendance at meetings of the Technical Committee shall be limited to members of the Technical Committee or their Alternates and observers of the Parties.

Rule 4

Only members of the Committee (hereinafter the members) shall exercise the voting rights. In his/her absence, the Alternate shall act in his or her place.

Rule 5

1. The term of office of the regional representatives and the thematic experts shall expire at the close of the second ordinary Meeting of the Parties following that at which they were elected, unless extended by agreement of the Meeting of the Parties. At each ordinary meeting of the Meeting of the Parties, elections shall be held only for those regional members whose term of office will have expired at the close of the meeting and for any regional member who indicates a desire to step down without completing a full term of office. The same provisions shall apply with respect to the alternate/ members approved in accordance with Rule 2.
2. In the instance of a regional representative and his/her alternate or a thematic expert standing down simultaneously without completing a full term of office, the Chairperson of the Committee, in close cooperation with the region/organisation involved and in consultation with the Agreement Secretariat, is permitted to appoint an expert of the region or a thematic expert to replace the member and an alternate intersessionally with full voting rights. The term of office of the replacement member/alternate shall expire at the close of the next ordinary Meeting of the Parties with the possibility that the Meeting appoints him/ her as a representative or alternate.
3. The representatives of organisations, as per Rule 2, paragraph 1(b), and their alternates are not limited by a term of office. They can be replaced at any time by their organisations.

Rule 6

1. The Chairperson may invite observers of non-contracting Parties and the Chairperson of the AEWA Standing Committee.
2. Furthermore the Chairperson may invite or admit a maximum of four observers from specialised international inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations.
3. In addition, at each meeting of the Committee, the Chairperson may invite guests to contribute to specific agenda items.

Nomination and election of members

Rule 7

Candidates proposed for nomination as regional representatives or thematic experts in the Committee must have the following:

1. Recognised experience and expertise in one or more aspects of waterbird science or conservation;
2. Demonstrated capacity for networking with waterbird science or conservation experts at local, national or international levels;
3. Full access to e-mail and internet communication systems on which the intersessional Committee work depends;
4. Commitment to undertake the work required of the Committee and actively participate in the delivery of the Committee working groups' tasks.

Rule 8

The new regional representatives, their alternates and experts to the Committee will be elected by the Meeting of the Parties at the recommendation of the Advisory Group. The Advisory Group shall comprise the current Chair and Vice-chair of the Standing Committee, the current Chair and Vice-chair of the Technical Committee, the Executive Secretary and the Technical Officer. The Advisory Group will be chaired by the Technical Committee Chair.

Rule 9

1. Nominations of candidates for regional representatives to the Committee can be submitted by:
 - 2.1 the National AEWA Administrative and Implementation Authorities of the Parties in the respective region²;
 - 2.2 the National AEWA Technical Committee Focal Points (in consultation with the National AEWA Administrative and Implementation Authority) of the Parties in the respective region;
 - 2.3 the current Technical Committee Chair and Vice-chair; and
 - 2.4 the current Technical Committee members and observers.
2. Nominations of candidates for thematic experts to the Committee can be submitted by:
 - 3.1 the National AEWA Administrative and Implementation Authorities of the Parties regardless of the region;
 - 3.2 the National AEWA Technical Committee Focal Points (in consultation with the National AEWA Administrative and Implementation Authority) of the Parties regardless of the region;
 - 3.3 the current Technical Committee Chair and Vice-chair; and
 - 3.4 the current Technical Committee members and observers.
3. Nominations for thematic experts are not limited to persons of the same country of origin as the nominator, since it is the relevant expertise and/or the networking capacity that is being sought, regardless of the nationality or country of current domicile of the expert. Thematic experts can be nominated from any of the AEWA Range States. For regional representatives, however, only persons from AEWA Contracting Parties may be nominated.

Rule 10

1. The nominator of each candidate will provide the Advisory Group with a short summary of the relevant expertise and experience of the candidate in the form of a recommendation letter not later than 180 days before the date of the next session of the Meeting of the Parties.
2. Candidates being nominated will provide a declaration³ that they are willing to be considered for appointment to the Committee, that they have the full support of their organisation or institution to deliver the work expected of the Committee members, including time, availability and funds (if applicable) for attending meetings⁴, and that they have the necessary language skills (English, French or both) to engage fully in the work of the Committee; they will provide a brief summary of how they see their skills and expertise contributing to the Committee's work, along with a *curriculum vitae* (CV).

Rule 11

On the basis of the nominations received within the deadline, the Secretariat shall prepare an assessment and submit it to the Advisory Group for consideration. The Advisory Group will then submit a list of recommended candidates, together with summaries of their expertise, to the Meeting of the Parties for the election of new regional representatives, their alternates and thematic experts.

Rule 12

If no candidates were elected by the Meeting of the Parties for either of the vacant positions, the Chairperson may appoint members or alternates through a procedure as described in Rule 5.

² For the AEWA Technical Committee regionalisation please refer to Annex 1 appended to this document.

³ Sample declaration is appended in Annex 3.

⁴ Financial support for attending Technical Committee meetings will be available only to members from the eligible AEWA Parties (please refer to Annex 2).

Officers

Rule 13

The members shall elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson from their regional representatives of the Parties, for terms corresponding to those of the Meetings of the Parties. This election will normally take place as soon as possible after the Meeting of the Parties, and the newly elected officers shall assume their functions upon election.

Rule 14

The Chairperson shall preside at meetings of the Committee, approve the provisional agenda prepared by the Secretariat for circulation, and liaise with the members between meetings of the Committee. The Chairperson may represent the Committee as required within the limits of the Committee mandate, and shall carry out such other functions as may be entrusted to him/her by the Committee.

Rule 15

The Vice-Chairperson shall assist in the execution of the Chairperson's duties, and shall preside at meetings in the absence of the Chairperson.

Rule 16

The Agreement Secretariat shall serve the meetings of the Committee.

Elections of officers

Rule 17

If in an election to fill one place no candidate obtains an overall majority in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken, restricted to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If the votes are equally divided in the second ballot, the presiding officer shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

Rule 18

If in the first ballot there is a tie amongst candidates obtaining the second largest number of votes, a special ballot shall be held amongst them to reduce the number of candidates to two.

Rule 19

In the case of a tie amongst three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes in the first ballot, a special ballot shall be held amongst them to reduce the number of candidates to two. If a tie then results amongst two or more candidates, the presiding officer shall reduce the number to two by drawing lots, and a further ballot shall be held in accordance with Rule 17.

Meetings

Rule 20

Unless the Meeting of the Parties decides otherwise, meetings of the Committee shall be convened by the Agreement Secretariat at least twice between ordinary sessions of the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 21

Where in the opinion of the Committee an emergency has arisen that requires the adoption of immediate measures to avoid deterioration of the conservation status of one or more migratory waterbird species, the Chairperson may request the Agreement Secretariat to urgently convene a meeting of the Parties concerned.

Rule 22

Notice of meetings, including date and venue, shall be sent to all Parties by the Secretariat at least 60 days in advance and, in the case of extraordinary meetings, at least 14 days in advance.

Rule 23

A quorum for a meeting shall consist of half of the members of the Committee. No decision shall be taken at a meeting in the absence of a quorum.

Rule 24

Decisions of the Committee shall be taken by consensus unless a vote is requested by the Chairperson or by three members.

Rule 25

Decisions of the Committee by voting (pursuant to Rule 24) shall be passed by a simple majority vote of the members present and voting. In the case of a tie, the motion shall be considered rejected.

Rule 26

A summary record of each meeting shall be prepared by the Secretariat as soon as possible and shall be communicated to all members of the Technical Committee.

Rule 26 bis

The documents for each meeting of the Committee shall be distributed to its members by the Secretariat at least 30 days before the opening of the Meeting. At the discretion of the Chair, in exceptional circumstances documents may be accepted after these deadlines, but not later than two weeks before the Meeting. Typically documents will be distributed electronically.

Working groups

Rule 27

The Committee may establish such ad hoc working groups as may be necessary to deal with specific tasks. It shall define the terms of reference and composition of each working group.

Rule 28

In so far as they are applicable, these Rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the proceedings of working groups.

Rule 29

The Committee shall receive reports from other committees and working groups established under the Agreement as necessary.

Communication procedure

Rule 30

Any member of the Committee, or the Secretariat, may submit a proposal to the Chairperson of the Technical Committee for a decision by correspondence. Upon request by the Chairperson, the Secretariat shall communicate the proposal to the members for comments within 60 days of the date of communication. Any comments received within these limits shall also be thus communicated. In case of emergency the proposal shall be communicated to the members for comment within 30 days.

Rule 31

If, by the date on which comments on a proposal were due to be communicated, the Secretariat has not received any objection from a member, the proposal shall be adopted, and notice of the adoption shall be given to all members.

Rule 32

If any member objects to a proposal within the applicable time limit, the proposal shall be referred to the next meeting of the Committee.

Rule 33

The Secretariat shall inform the Contracting Parties on the date and venue of the next meeting of the Committee. For each Meeting of the Committee the Contracting Parties will receive at least the provisional agenda and draft minutes of the previous meeting. All other documents to be discussed will be made available through the Agreement's website. Any Contracting Party may propose an issue to be considered by the Technical Committee in which case the proposal will be communicated, together with any relevant documents, to the Secretariat not later than 45 days before the date of the next meeting of the Committee.

Rule 34

The regional representatives shall act as coordinators for Range States and Contracting Parties in their region, submit a report to the Committee on AEWA implementation in their regions and disseminate to the technical focal points of Contracting Parties the outcomes of Committee meetings.

Other functions

Rule 35

In accordance with Art. VII 3(c) of the Agreement, the Chairperson shall submit a written report on the Committee's activities to the Agreement Secretariat not less than one hundred and twenty days before the session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Final provisions

Rule 36

This Modus Operandi shall be applied at the first meeting of the Committee following its approval by the Meeting of the Parties, and may be amended by the Meeting of the Parties, as required, in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement and its decisions.

Annex 1 to the Modus Operandi of the Technical Committee

Division of the Agreement area into nine regions for the purpose of appointment of regional representatives to the Technical Committee as described in document AEWA/MOP 1.11/Rev 1 (*with pertinent amendments in country names and status of ratification (as of May 2012)*).

Region	Names of the Range States and regional economic organisations (<i>current AEWA Parties are in bold</i>)
NORTH- AND SOUTHWESTERN EUROPE	Andorra, Belgium , Canada, Denmark (incl. Greenland), European Union , Finland , France , Germany , Iceland, Ireland , Liechtenstein, Luxembourg , Monaco , the Netherlands , Norway , Portugal , Spain , Sweden , Switzerland , United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
CENTRAL EUROPE	Albania , Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria , Croatia , Czech Republic , European Union , Greece, Italy , Hungary , Malta, Montenegro , Poland, Romania , San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia , Slovenia , the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
EASTERN EUROPE	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia , European Union , Georgia , Latvia , Lithuania , Republic of Moldova , Russian Federation (European part), Ukraine
SOUTHWESTERN ASIA	Bahrain, Cyprus , European Union , Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel , Jordan , Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon , Oman, Qatar, Russian Federation (Asian part), Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic , Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan , Yemen
NORTHERN AFRICA	Algeria , Canary Islands (Spain) , Egypt , Libya , Madeira (Portugal) , Morocco, Tunisia
CENTRAL AFRICA	Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo , Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea , Gabon, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe
WESTERN AFRICA	Benin , Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad , Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia , Ghana , Guinea , Guinea-Bissau , Liberia, Mali , Mauritania, Niger , Nigeria , Senegal , Sierra Leone, Togo
EASTERN AFRICA	Djibouti , Eritrea, Ethiopia , Kenya , Mayotte (France) , Réunion (France) , Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan , Uganda , United Republic of Tanzania
SOUTHERN AFRICA	Angola, Ascension Island (United Kingdom) , Botswana, Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar , Malawi, Mauritius , Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa , St. Helena (United Kingdom) , Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Annex 2 to the Modus Operandi of the Technical Committee

List of the AEWA Contracting Parties (as at May 2012) eligible to receive financial support for attending AEWA meetings:

Albania
Algeria
Benin
Chad
Congo
Croatia
Djibouti
Egypt
Equatorial Guinea
Ethiopia
Gambia
Georgia
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Jordan
Kenya
Lebanon
Libya
Madagascar
Mali
Mauritius
Montenegro
Niger
Nigeria
Republic of Moldova
Senegal
Sudan
Syrian Arab Republic
The Former Yugoslav Republic
of Macedonia
Togo
Tunisia
Uganda
Ukraine
United Republic of Tanzania
Uzbekistan

Annex 3 to the Modus Operandi of the Technical Committee

Declaration of candidate nominated as regional representative or thematic expert to the AEWA Technical Committee

I, *[fill in name and post]* would like to inform you that I am willing to be considered as *[fill the relevant position⁵]* to the AEWA Technical Committee and that I have the full support of my *[organisation or institution, please fill the name]* to deliver the work expected of the Technical Committee members⁶, including time, availability and funds (if applicable) for attending Technical Committee meetings⁷.

I have the necessary *[English or French or both, please fill as appropriate]* language skills to engage fully in the work of the Technical Committee.

[Please provide a brief summary of how you see your skills and expertise contributing to the work of the Technical Committee.]

I am providing my *curriculum vitae* (CV) as an attachment. *[please attach]*

Signature:

[please sign]

Date:

[please fill]

⁵ Regional representative of [state the relevant region, refer to Annex 1]; or expert in one of the following three fields: game management, environmental law or rural economics.

⁶ As required by the Modus Operandi and Resolution 3.13 (for the latter see Annex 4).

⁷ Please note that only certain AEWA Parties are eligible to receive financial support for attending AEWA meetings (please refer to Annex 2).

Annex 4 to the Modus Operandi of the Technical Committee

Further obligations of the members of the Technical Committee as decided by the Meeting of the Parties in Resolution 3.13, operative paragraph 4:

“Further decides that each Regional Representative shall:

- a) serve as the Technical Committee’s contact point for the Range States and, in particular, Contracting Parties of that geographical region, and as such maintain contact with the Contracting Parties’ technical focal points in order to synchronise regional activities for the implementation of AEWA;
- b) prepare, submit and present to the Technical Committee at each of its meetings a report on the implementation of AEWA in that geographical region represented by him/her;
- c) provide information on activities undertaken by the Range States, Contracting Parties and others in the region on implementation of AEWA;
- d) disseminate to the Contracting Parties’ technical focal points information on the outcomes of discussions at the meetings of the Technical Committee.”

RESOLUTION 5.19

**ENCOURAGEMENT OF FURTHER JOINT IMPLEMENTATION OF
AEWA AND THE RAMSAR CONVENTION**

Submitted by the European Union and its Member States

Recalling that the conservation of waterbirds has always been and continues to be a key factor in wetland conservation and conversely that the rational management of wetlands is a determining factor for the conservation of waterbirds,

Noting with concern the decline of populations of waterbirds throughout the world, driven in some instances by their unsustainable exploitation, but usually being a consequence of the loss and deterioration of wetland habitats,

Noting the increase of some waterbird populations indicating that management interventions and implementation of various policy measures give successful conservation responses,

Recalling Article III.2, paragraph (c) of the Agreement according to which Parties “shall identify sites and habitats for migratory waterbirds occurring within their territory and encourage the protection, management, rehabilitation and restoration of these sites, in liaison with those bodies listed in Article IX, paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Agreement”,

Recalling also paragraph 3.2.2 of the Action Plan which states that: “Parties shall endeavour to give special protection to those wetlands which meet internationally accepted criteria of international importance”, and *noting* that the designation, conservation and wise use of such sites are the three implementation ‘pillars’ of the Ramsar Convention,

Noting that target 1.2 of AEWA’s Strategic Plan 2009-2017 states that in the intended network of sites, existing networks are to be taken into account and *noting* that the Ramsar Site network and the EU’s *Natura 2000 network* can be considered good examples of such existing networks,

Recalling the relevant decisions of the Ramsar Convention, and its Strategic Plan 2009-2015, as well as objective 5.3 of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 regarding cooperation with other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs),

Noting also that as part of the continuing process of developing closer linkages and cooperation between the AEWA and the Ramsar Convention and in addressing issues of common concern to both treaties, it is important that Contracting Parties that are not yet Parties to the Ramsar Convention consider joining as soon as possible,

Noting with appreciation the efforts made by Parties to preserve migratory waterbirds, including their habitats, both individually and cooperatively,

Also noting with appreciation the results of the Global Environment Facility's multi-partner project, the *Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) UNEP-GEF African-Eurasian Flyways Project* and respective follow up projects,

Further noting with appreciation the joint initiative of the Ramsar STRP, CMS, BirdLife International and Wetlands International in collaboration with the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership and AEWA established under Ramsar Resolution X.22 to bring together experiences and lessons learned from flyway initiatives worldwide; *aware* that a 2011 initiative workshop established a Global Interflyway Network (GIN); and *welcoming* that the report and recommendations for this workshop (as summarised in UNEP/CMS/Inf.10.41) will be published as a joint Ramsar/CMS/AEWA Technical Report,

Stressing the importance of the goals of the Convention on Migratory Species' (CMS) Future Shape process for the CMS and the 'CMS family', as set out in CMS COP10 resolution 10.9,

Noting that the production of thematic modules by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)/World Conservation Union (IUCN) *TEMATEA*¹ project assists in the consistent application of MEAs,

Also noting the ongoing UNEP information and knowledge management *InforMEA* initiative and its *InforMEA* web-portal for access to information on multilateral environmental agreements, including CMS, AEWA and the Ramsar Convention,

Stressing the need for the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and the AEWA Technical Committee to cooperate closely on a continuing basis, on issues of common concern in their support for implementation of their respective Strategic Plans,

Underlining the importance of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) project "Strengthening the implementation of the biodiversity-related Conventions through strategic use of information: knowledge management among MEAs", headed by UNEP-WCMC, which with the participation of Ramsar aims to simplify and harmonise online tools for the MEAs and their Secretariats,

Further underlining the need to reduce the reporting burden of Parties by aligning formats for reporting on common issues and, where possible, avoid duplications,

Noting UNEP and UNEP-WCMC's work on options and necessary pre-conditions for harmonised national reporting, and the results of the Australian and South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) initiative for Pacific Island States on consolidated national reporting.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Recognises* the mechanisms under the EU Birds Directive for designation of Special Protection Areas in EU member states and under the Ramsar Convention for the identification, designation and management of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites), and its designation Criteria applicable to migratory waterbirds, which apply throughout the AEWA region, as established mechanisms for addressing paragraph 3.2.2 of the AEWA Action Plan and for achieving harmonised implementation of AEWA and the Ramsar Convention concerning internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds, and *urges* Parties to fully utilise the Critical Site Network (CSN) tool to identify and designate further such sites;
2. *Requests* the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat to liaise with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat to develop an updated Joint Work Plan under the renewed Ramsar-CMS Memorandum of Cooperation and, where appropriate, to advise Parties on developing consistent and complementary strategic plans in the future, and on ways of better harmonising AEWA and Ramsar Convention reporting;
3. *Encourages* those Contracting Parties of AEWA which are not Parties to the Ramsar Convention to become Parties to that Convention in order to enhance the coherent conservation and wise use of wetlands;

¹ Online Database of Environmental Conventions

4. *Encourages* those Contracting Parties of AEWA which are Parties to both treaties to pursue common communication strategies jointly under both treaties, and implement communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) strategies that include factors relevant to migratory waterbirds, taking current and future enhanced cooperation in the CMS family fully into account;
5. *Calls upon* Contracting Parties to include AEWA experts in their national Ramsar Committees;
6. *Encourages* Contracting Parties to ensure close coordination between their national focal points for AEWA's Technical Committee and for Ramsar's STRP where these differ;
7. *Encourages* Contracting Parties to develop common implementation indicators for AEWA and Ramsar if appropriate based for example on the *TEMATEA* tool.

RESOLUTION 5.20

**PROMOTE TWINNING SCHEMES BETWEEN THE NATURAL SITES COVERED BY
THE AEWA AND THE NETWORK OF SITES LISTED UNDER
THE RAMSAR CONVENTION**

Submitted by the European Union and its Member States

Noting the complementary nature of AEWA which encourages international cooperation for migratory waterbirds at flyway scales and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, which encourages, as far as possible, the wise use of all wetlands including the designation and management of Wetlands of International Importance based on ecological criteria including those related to waterbirds,

Recalling AEWA Article III.2, paragraph (c) of the Agreement according to which Parties “shall identify sites and habitats for migratory waterbirds occurring within their territory and encourage the protection, management, rehabilitation and restoration of these sites, in liaison with those bodies listed in Article IX, paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Agreement, concerned with habitat conservation”,

Recalling target 1.2 of the AEWA Strategic Plan, that refers to the establishment and maintenance of a comprehensive and coherent flyway network of protected and managed sites, and other adequately managed sites, of international and national importance for waterbirds and *noting* that the Ramsar site network and the EU’s Natura 2000 network can be considered as good examples,

Recalling also paragraph 3.2.2 of the Action Plan which states that: “Parties shall endeavour to give special protection to those wetlands which meet internationally accepted criteria of international importance”, and *noting* that the conservation and wise use of wetlands is one of the three ‘pillars’ of the Ramsar Convention,

Recalling Article 5 of the Ramsar Convention text concerning international cooperation and Resolution VII.19 which calls on Contracting Parties to *inter alia* intensify efforts in the application of site twinning arrangements,

Recalling the numerous countries traversed by the same migratory wild birds within the Agreement area,

Noting the generally good knowledge of sites important to migratory waterbirds *inter alia* as described by the wetland inventories of Wetlands International, the “Important Bird Areas (IBAs)”¹ inventories of BirdLife International, as well as the Critical Site Network² resulting from the Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) UNEP-GEF African-Eurasian Flyways Project,

¹ <http://www.birdlife.org/action/science/sites/>

² <http://wow.wetlands.org/INFORMATIONFLYWAY/CRITICALSITENETWORKTOOL/tabid/1349/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Stressing the benefits of twinning initiatives between protected areas in different countries in helping to exchange expertise and build capacities, including through collaboration on joint research programmes, the transfer of knowledge, and direct exchanges of wardening staff or others; and *recalling* the technical guidance from Eurosite "*How to make your twinning a success*, June 1998" to this end,

Noting the operational, cultural and financial challenges which mean that bilateral arrangements rarely last for more than 10 years,

Further noting that important opportunities are provided by the addition of environmental elements to existing cultural, educational and economic exchanges that already exist between local and regional authorities in different countries.

The Meeting of Parties:

1. *Encourages* Contracting Parties, in particular through managers/administrators of sites of importance for migratory waterbirds to promote twinning arrangements with equivalent sites in other countries, within the framework of site management plans and especially where such sites share common migratory waterbirds or conservation issues;
2. *Encourages* Contracting Parties to consider to facilitate the conclusion of twinning schemes between managers/administrators of sites of importance for migratory waterbirds;
3. *Encourages* each AEWA Contracting Party to consider with other Contracting Parties from the same or another region with which it shares a common flyway, the feasibility of twinning arrangements between sites and to report any such arrangements arising to each session of the Meeting of the Parties;
4. *Suggests* that such twinning agreements could be concluded for a renewable period of three years;
5. *Encourages* the Contracting Parties to consider taking advantage of Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties to conclude a twinning agreement of at least one site in their country and a site in another country sharing common migratory waterbirds or conservation issues.

RESOLUTION 5.21

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Recalling Article V, Paragraph 2 (a) and (b), of the Agreement, which states that Parties shall contribute to the budget of the Agreement in accordance with the United Nations scale of assessment,

Acknowledging with appreciation the financial and other support provided by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for hosting the Agreement Secretariat, which is co-located with the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals in Bonn,

Aware that the 5th Conservation Status report shows that 38 per cent of the waterbird populations covered by AEWA for which trends are known are in decline and that some are even on the brink of extinction,

Further aware that more needs to be done to significantly reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss in accordance with the Aichi 2020 biodiversity targets,

Recognising the importance of all Parties being able to participate in the implementation of the Agreement and related activities,

Appreciating the additional support given by various Parties and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on a voluntary basis to implement the Agreement,

Taking note with appreciation of the generous pledge from the Government of Norway to cover the costs of the Associate Programme Officer (LWfG Coordination),

Furthermore appreciating the support of the Global Environment Facility for the development and implementation of the Wings over Wetlands (WOW) UNEP-GEF African-Eurasian Flyways project,

Recognising the need to provide sufficient resources to enable the Secretariat to implement the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 and to serve all Parties in the Agreement area,

Welcoming the adoption of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017, and recognizing the need to provide adequate human, technical and financial resources for the coordination and implementation of the Plan,

Taking note with appreciation of the generous offer from the Government of France to provide technical support towards the implementation of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa, as reflected in Resolution 5.9,

Aware that many Parties, particularly developing countries or countries with economies in transition, may not have the financial means to send representatives to meetings of bodies established under the Agreement,

Noting the increased number of Contracting and non-Contracting Parties as well as organisations attending the 5th Session of the Meeting of the Parties, and the resulting additional expenditures to Parties thus incurred,

Stressing the need for the appointment of the next Executive Secretary to be carried out in a transparent way that involves the Parties to the Agreement,

Emphasising the desire of the Parties to the Agreement to be consulted in respect of the appointment of the next Executive Secretary in a full and timely manner.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Decides* that the 6th Session of the Meeting of the Parties shall take place in 2015;
2. *Confirms* that Parties shall contribute to the budget adopted at the scale agreed upon by the Meeting of the Parties in accordance with Article V, Paragraph 2 (a) and (b), of the Agreement;
3. *Adopts* the budget for 2013-2015 attached as Appendix I to the present Resolution;
4. *Decides* to draw from the reserve of the Trust Fund of the Agreement the amount of 370,000 Euros to support the budget for the next triennium, thereby reducing the assessed contributions required from the Parties;
5. *Agrees* with the scale of contributions for Parties to the Agreement as listed in Appendix II to the present Resolution, and to the application of that scale *pro rata* to new Parties;
6. *Agrees* that the minimum contribution shall not be less than 2,000 Euros per annum and that exceptionally for the period 2013-2015, the maximum contribution shall be restricted to 20 per cent of the total budget;
7. *Instructs* the Secretariat, using the financial rules and regulations of the United Nations; the staff rules and regulations of the United Nations and other administrative policies or procedures promulgated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to develop a series of budget scenarios for further consideration by Parties at the 6th Session of the Meeting of Parties;
8. *Further instructs* the Secretariat, in preparing the draft budget for the 6th Session of the Meeting of the Parties, to clearly indicate the composition and organisation of the Secretariat and the activities carried out by each post identified in the budget in order to enable the Parties to effectively prioritise;
9. *Requests* Parties, in particular those that are required to pay the minimum contribution, to consider paying for the whole triennium in one instalment;
10. *Further requests* Parties to pay their contributions promptly as far as possible, but in any case not later than the end of June of the year to which they relate;
11. *Decides* that a working capital be maintained at a constant level of at least 15 per cent of the estimated annual expenditure or 150,000 Euros, whichever is higher;
12. *Agrees* to set the threshold of eligibility for funding of delegates to attend AEWA meetings at 0.200 on the UN Scale of Assessment and, as a general rule, to exclude countries from the European Union and European countries with strong economies, as listed in Appendix IV attached hereto and/ or countries that have payments in arrears of more than 3 years;
13. *Takes note* of Resolution 5.3 on the *AEWA International Implementation Tasks* for the period 2012-2015 and its related appendices;

14. *Urges* all Parties to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund to support requests from developing countries and countries with economies in transition to participate in and implement the Agreement throughout the triennium;
15. *Further urges* Contracting Parties and other partners to make an increased effort in providing additional contributions to secure urgent implementation of the Agreement, in particular implementation of the AEWa Strategic Plan 2009-2017, implementation of the AEWa Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017 and the *AEWA International Implementation Tasks* for the period 2012-2015;
16. *Invites* States not Party to the Agreement, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations and other sources to consider contributing to the implementation of the Agreement on a voluntary basis;
17. *Approves*, taking into account the UN Rules and Regulations, the establishment of a part time (50%) post of Associate Programme Officer/African Coordinator, at the P-2 level (fixed-term), to be based in the UNEP/AEWa Secretariat in Bonn;
18. *Instructs* the Secretariat to find additional funding in the form of voluntary contributions to extend the post of Associate Programme Officer/African Coordinator beyond 50%, as appropriate and in accordance with UN Rules and Regulations;
19. *Requests* the Standing Committee to assess the need to establish the post of Programme Assistant for the African Initiative, before voluntary contributions are sought for this post;
20. *Invites* Contracting Parties as well as the United Nations Environment Programme to consider the feasibility of providing gratis personnel and/or junior professional officers, in accordance with the United Nations rules and regulations, to strengthen the capacity of the Agreement Secretariat;
21. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to extend the duration of the Trust Fund to 31 December 2015;
22. *Approves* the terms of reference for the administration of the Agreement budget as set out in Appendix III to the present Resolution for the period 2013-2015;
23. *Requests* the UNEP Executive Director to arrange for the recruitment of a new Executive Secretary (P4) who will be selected and appointed before the end of 2012 as a UNEP staff member in accordance with the United Nations staff rules and regulations and following the procedure set out in Appendix V to the present Resolution.

Appendix I
CORE BUDGET FOR THE TRIENNIUM 2013-2015

BL	Budget Item	2013	2014	2015	TOTAL
		EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
GENERAL MANAGEMENT					
1101	Executive Secretary (P4)	155,256	158,361	161,528	475,145
1102	Technical Officer (P3)	126,086	128,608	131,180	385,874
1103	Associate Information Officer (P2)	83,693	85,367	87,074	256,134
1104	Associate Programme Officer (P2)	77,101	78,643	80,216	235,960
1105	Associate Programme Officer (LWfG Coordination) (P2)*	*	*	-	-
1301	Administrative Assistant (G5)	62,516	63,766	65,041	191,323
1302	Team Assistant (G4) 75%	50,630	51,643	52,676	154,949
1303	Information Assistant (G4) 50%	31,509	32,139	32,782	96,430
1201	Translators	6,500	6,500	9,000	22,000
1601	Official travel AEWA staff	31,500	31,500	31,500	94,500
3201	Training of staff	2,500	2,500	2,500	7,500
4101	Miscellaneous office supplies	3,000	3,000	3,000	9,000
4201	Office equipment	7,000	7,000	7,000	21,000
4301	Rent and maintenance costs **	-	-	-	-
4302	IT service provider	40,000	40,000	40,000	120,000
5101	Operation/maintenance of computers	1,500	1,500	1,500	4,500
5102	Operation/maintenance of photocopiers	2,500	2,500	2,500	7,500
5103	Operation/ maintenance -others	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000
5201	Document production (external)	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000
5203	Reference material	300	300	300	900
5301	Telephone, fax	4,000	4,000	4,000	12,000
5302	Postage and miscellaneous	6,000	6,000	7,500	19,500
5303	Bank charges	100	100	100	300
5400	Hospitality	500	500	500	1,500
	Sub-total	694,191	705,927	721,897	2,122,015
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN INITIATIVE					
1106	Associate Programme Officer/African Coordinator (P2) 50%	42,500	43,350	44,217	130,067
1304	Programme Assistant (G4) 50%	-	-	-	-
2203	Small Grant Fund Projects in African countries	30,000	30,000	30,000	90,000
2204	Implementation of the African Action Plan	15,000	15,000	15,000	45,000
	Sub-total	87,500	88,350	89,217	265,067

BL	Budget Item	2013	2014	2015	TOTAL
SERVICING THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES					
1201	English translators	-	-	-	-
1202	French translators	-	-	30,000	30,000
1204	Report writers	-	-	7,500	7,500
1205	Interpreters	-	-	50,000	50,000
1220	Consultancies for MOP (1 review)	50,000	-	-	50,000
1602	Travel of staff to the MOP	-	-	-	-
2201	Organisation of MOP	-	-	80,000	80,000
5201	Document production (external)	-	-	7,500	7,500
	Sub-total	50,000	-	175,000	225,000
SERVICING THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE					
1201	English translators	-	-	-	-
1202	French translators	-	5,000	-	5,000
1204	Report writers	-	-	-	-
1205	Interpreters	-	10,000	-	10,000
3302	Meetings of the TC (travel/dsa/organisational costs)	-	17,500	-	17,500
	Sub-total	-	32,500	-	32,500
SERVICING THE STANDING COMMITTEE					
1201	English translators	-	-	-	-
1202	French translators	-	5,000	20,000	25,000
1204	Report writers	-	-	-	-
1205	Interpreters	-	10,000	10,000	20,000
3303	Meetings of the StC (travel/dsa/organisational costs)	-	17,500	17,500	35,000
	Sub-total	-	32,500	47,500	80,000
	TOTAL	831,691	859,277	1,033,614	2,724,582
	13 % PSC ***	108,120	111,706	134,370	354,196
	GRAND TOTAL	939,811	970,983	1,167,984	3,078,778
	Withdrawal from Trust Fund	130,000	120,000	120,000	370,000
	TOTAL TO BE SHARED BY PARTIES	809,811	850,983	1,047,984	2,708,778

* Covered by a pledge from the Government of Norway

** Covered by the Government of Germany

*** From the 13% overhead, UNEP is covering the costs of one professional and four general service staff members of the CMS Administrative and Fund Management Unit, which support the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat

Appendix II

SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY PARTIES TO THE UNEP/AEWA TRUST FUND FOR 2013-2015

N°	Party	2013	2014	2015	Total 2013-2015
1	Albania	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
2	Algeria	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
3	Belgium	23,494	23,494	23,494	70,482
4	Benin	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
5	Bulgaria	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
6	Chad	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
7	Congo	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
8	Croatia	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
9	Czech Republic	2,784	2,784	2,784	8,352
10	Cyprus	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
11	Denmark	22,932	22,932	22,932	68,796
12	Djibouti	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
13	Egypt	3,833	3,833	3,833	11,499
14	Equatorial Guinea	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
15	Estonia	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
16	Ethiopia	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
17	European Union	16,593	16,593	16,593	49,779
18	Finland	17,195	17,195	17,195	51,585
19	France	132,745	132,745	132,745	398,235
20	Gambia	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
21	Georgia	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
22	Germany	132,745	132,745	132,745	398,235
23	Ghana	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
24	Guinea	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
25	Guinea-Bissau	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
26	Hungary	3,302	3,302	3,302	9,906
27	Ireland	9,174	9,174	9,174	27,522
28	Israel	14,915	14,915	14,915	44,745
29	Italy	75,007	75,007	75,007	225,021
30	Jordan	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
31	Kenya	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
32	Latvia	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
33	Lebanon	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
34	Libya	3,203	3,203	3,203	9,609
35	Lithuania	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
36	Luxembourg	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
37	Madagascar	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
38	Mali	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
39	Mauritius	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
40	Monaco	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
41	Montenegro	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
42	Netherlands	53,977	53,977	53,977	161,931
43	Niger	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
44	Nigeria	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
45	Norway	16,288	16,288	16,288	48,864
46	Portugal	11,838	11,838	11,838	35,514
47	Republic of Moldova	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
48	Romania	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
49	Senegal	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
50	Slovakia	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
51	Slovenia	2,149	2,149	2,149	6,447
52	South Africa	9,326	9,326	9,326	27,978
53	Spain	62,576	62,576	62,576	187,728

N°	Party	2013	2014	2015	Total 2013-2015
54	Sudan	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
55	Sweden	31,874	31,874	31,874	95,622
56	Switzerland	38,230	38,230	38,230	114,690
57	Syrian Arab Republic	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
58	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
59	Togo	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
60	Tunisia	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
61	Uganda	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
62	Ukraine	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
63	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	132,745	132,745	132,745	398,235
64	United Republic of Tanzania	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
65	Uzbekistan	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
	Total	904,938	904,939	904,940	2,714,817

Appendix III

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST FUND FOR THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

1. The terms of reference for the Trust Fund of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) shall refer to the financial years beginning 1 January 2013 and ending 31 December 2015.
2. The Trust Fund shall be administered by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) subject to the approval of the Governing Council of UNEP and the consent of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
3. The administration of the Trust Fund shall be governed by the financial regulations and rules of the United Nations, the staff regulations and rules of the United Nations and other administrative policies or procedures, promulgated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
4. In accordance with United Nations rules, UNEP shall deduct from the income an administrative charge equal to 13 per cent of the expenditure charged to the AEWA Trust Fund in respect of activities financed under AEWA.
5. The financial resources of the Trust Fund for 2013-2015 shall be derived from:
 - (a) Contributions made by Parties by reference to Appendix II of Resolution 5.21, including contributions from any new Party; and
 - (b) Further contributions from Parties and contributions from States not Parties to the Agreement, other governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations and other sources.
6. All contributions to the Trust Fund shall be paid in fully convertible Euros. For contributions from States that become Parties after the beginning of the financial period, the initial contribution (from the first day of the third month after deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession until the end of the financial period) shall be determined *pro rata* based on the contribution of other States Parties on the same level of the United Nations scale of assessments, as it applies from time to time. However, if the contribution of a new Party determined on this basis would be more than 20 per cent of the budget, the contribution of that Party shall be 20 per cent of the budget for the financial year of joining (or *pro rata* for a part year). No contribution shall be less than 2,000 Euros. The contribution of each Party as laid down in Appendix II of Resolution 5.21 shall be fixed until the next ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties. Contributions of new Parties shall flow into the Trust Fund of the Agreement. Contributions shall be paid in annual instalments. The contributions shall be due on 1 January 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Contributions shall be paid into the following account:

UNEP Euro Account
Account No. 6161603755
J.P. Morgan AG
Junghofstrasse 14
60311 Frankfurt / Main
Germany
Bank code number 501 108 00
SWIFT No. CHASDEFX
IBAN: DE 565011080061616 03755

7. For the convenience of the Parties, for each of the years of the financial period, the Executive Director of UNEP shall, as soon as possible, notify the Parties to the Agreement of their assessed contributions.
8. Contributions received into the Trust Fund that are not immediately required to finance activities shall be invested at the discretion of the United Nations, and any income shall be credited to the Trust Fund.
9. The Trust Fund shall be subject to audit by the United Nations Board of Auditors.
10. The budget estimates covering income and expenditures for each of the three calendar years constituting the financial period to which they relate, prepared in Euros, shall be submitted to the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement.
11. The estimates of each of the calendar years covered by the financial period shall be divided into sections and objects of expenditure, shall be specified according to budget lines, shall include references to the programmes of work to which they relate, and shall be accompanied by such information as may be required by or on behalf of the contributors, and such further information as the Executive Director of UNEP may deem useful and advisable. In particular, estimates shall also be prepared for each programme of work for each of the calendar years, with expenditure itemized for each programme so as to correspond to the sections, objects of expenditure, and budget lines described in the first sentence of this paragraph.
12. The proposed budget, including all the necessary information, shall be dispatched by the Secretariat to all Parties at least 90 days before the date fixed for the opening of the Meeting of the Parties.
13. The budget shall be adopted by unanimous vote of the Parties present and voting at the Meeting of the Parties.
14. In the event that the Executive Director of UNEP anticipates that there might be a shortfall in resources over the financial period as a whole, the Executive Director shall consult with the Secretariat, which shall seek the advice of the Standing Committee as to its priorities for expenditure.
15. Commitments against the resources of the Trust Fund may be made only if they are covered by the necessary income of the Agreement. No commitments shall be made in advance of the receipt of contributions.
16. Upon the request of the Secretariat of the Agreement, after seeking the advice of the Standing Committee, the Executive Director of UNEP should, to the extent consistent with the financial regulations and rules of the United Nations, make transfers from one budget line to another. At the end of the first, second or third calendar year of the financial period, the Executive Director of UNEP may proceed to transfer any uncommitted balance of appropriations to the second, third or fourth calendar year respectively, provided that it does not exceed the total budget approved by the Parties, unless this is specifically sanctioned in writing by the Standing Committee.
17. At the end of each calendar year of the financial period¹, the Executive Director of UNEP shall submit to the Parties, through the Agreement Secretariat, the accounts for the year. The Executive Director shall also submit, as soon as practicable, the audited accounts for the financial period. These shall include full details of actual expenditure compared to the original provisions for each budget line.
18. Those financial reports required to be submitted to the Executive Director of UNEP shall be transmitted simultaneously by the Secretariat of the Agreement to the members of the Standing Committee.

¹ The calendar year 1 January to 31 December is the accounting and financial year, but the official closure date is 31 March of the following year. Thus, on 31 March the accounts of the previous year have to be closed, and it is only then that the Executive Director can submit the accounts of the previous calendar year.

19. The Secretariat of the Agreement shall provide the Standing Committee with an estimate of proposed expenditures over the coming year simultaneously with, or as soon as possible after, distribution of the accounts and reports referred to in the preceding paragraphs.
20. The present terms of reference shall be effective from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2015.

Appendix IV

ELIGIBILITY FOR SPONSORSHIP FOR AEWB MEETINGS

N°	Party	Proposed rules UN Scale in % 2012*
1	Albania	0.010
2	Algeria	0.128
3	Belgium	1.075
4	Benin	0.003
5	Bulgaria	0.038
6	Chad	0.002
7	Congo	0.003
8	Croatia	0.097
9	Cyprus	0,046
10	Czech Republic	0.349
11	Denmark	0.736
12	Djibouti	0.001
13	Egypt	0.094
14	Equatorial Guinea	0.008
15	Estonia	0,040
16	Ethiopia	0.008
17	European Union	2.500
18	Finland	0.566
19	France	6.123
20	Gambia	0.001
21	Georgia	0.006
22	Germany	8.018
23	Ghana	0.006
24	Guinea	0.002
25	Guinea-Bissau	0.001
26	Hungary	0.291
27	Ireland	0.498
28	Israel	0.384
29	Italy	4.999
30	Jordan	0.014
31	Kenya	0.012
32	Latvia	0.038
33	Lebanon	0.033
34	Libya	0.129
35	Lithuania	0.065
36	Luxembourg	0.090
37	Madagascar	0.003

N°	Party	Proposed rules UN Scale in % 2012*
38	Mali	0.003
39	Mauritius	0.011
41	Monaco	0.003
42	Montenegro	0.004
43	Netherlands	1.855
44	Niger	0.002
45	Nigeria	0.078
46	Norway	0.871
47	Portugal	0.511
48	Republic of Moldova	0.002
48	Romania	0.177
49	Senegal	0.006
50	Slovakia	0.142
51	Slovenia	0.103
52	South Africa	0.385
53	Spain	3.177
54	Sudan	0.010
55	Sweden	1.064
56	Switzerland	1.130
57	Syrian Arab Republic	0.025
58	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	0.007
59	Togo	0.001
60	Tunisia	0.030
61	Uganda	0.006
62	Ukraine	0.087
63	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	6.604
64	United Republic of Tanzania	0.008
65	Uzbekistan	0.010

☐ Parties which are considered eligible for financial support to attend relevant AEWA-sponsored meetings.

☒ Parties which are considered non-eligible for financial support to attend relevant AEWA-sponsored meetings.

* UN Scale of Assessment 2010 -2012 as adopted by the General Assembly (doc. A/REs/64/248) on 5-2-2010.

Appendix V

RECRUITMENT PROCEDURES FOR THE AEWA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

1. The Executive Director will consult the Standing Committee through its Chair, or such other member of the Standing Committee as it may appoint for that purpose, on the recruitment, selection and appointment of the new AEWA Executive Secretary and will make every effort to recommend an Executive Secretary who is acceptable to the Standing Committee, while recognising that the United Nations personnel rules will govern the recruitment, selection and appointment.
2. The Executive Director will invite the Standing Committee, through its appointed representative:
 - to review and offer the Committee's comments on candidates for the post, including the short-listing of anonymised candidates for the post and comments on the selection of final candidates from any such short list, and
 - to join the assessment panel established by the Executive Director for the identification and recommendation of suitably qualified candidates for the position of Executive Secretary.
3. To the extent possible within his powers and in accordance with UN rules, the Executive Director will consult with the Standing Committee through its appointed representative at all stages of these processes.
4. Contracting Parties to AEWA shall be consulted by their regional representatives at all stages of these processes.

RESOLUTION 5.22

**ESTABLISHING A LONG-TERM BASIC STRUCTURAL FUNDING REGIME FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL WATERBIRD CENSUS IN THE AFRICAN-EURASIAN REGION**

Submitted by Switzerland

Noting with concern that in accordance with the conclusions of the 5th Edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report (document AEWA/MOP 5.14) the majority of the AEWA populations have poor quality population trend estimates (82%) and most of the population size estimates are based on expert opinion extrapolating from geographically unrepresentative samples (only 5% are based on census data, while for 2% estimates are not available at all); this applies in particular to West Asia and the Afrotropical region,

Stressing that up-to-date and adequate information on population sizes and trends is essential for establishing responsive conservation policies and measuring progress towards achieving strategic conservation goals,

Reaffirming the importance of the International Waterbird Census (IWC) as a generator of data for the production of the triennial AEWA Conservation Status Report and the global Waterbird Population Estimates and *recognising* that the IWC is one of the longest implemented and largest harmonised biodiversity monitoring schemes globally,

Recalling Resolution 4.2 which recognised the need for increased and strengthened waterbird monitoring and the importance of the IWC and its associated database at Wetlands International as a monitoring scheme and major data depository,

Further recalling Resolutions 3.11 and 4.10 which reaffirmed “*the need to support the maintenance of the International Waterbird Census in Europe and its further development in Africa, the Middle East, East and Central Asia as the basis of assessing the international status and trends of waterbird populations and thus the effective implementation of the Agreement*”,

Further recalling Resolution 3.6, which, *inter alia*, urged “*...the urgent development of an international partnership to provide an essential and long-term funding regime for the International Waterbird Census (IWC)...*” and requested “*...the Agreement Secretariat to work with Wetlands International to develop costed proposals to this end...*”,

Further recalling Resolution 4.7 on the adoption of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009–2017, which has set target 3.1 “*Necessary resources are in place to support, on a long-term basis, the international processes for gathering monitoring data for status assessment*” and has identified the following indicators: “*Timely production of annual IWC summary report and the AEWA CSR and global Waterbird Population Estimates*” and “*50% increase of species/populations whose international status is being assessed with regular monitoring data*”,

Further recalling the Hague Action Statement¹, the outcome of the 2010 symposium to celebrate the 15th Anniversary of AEWA, which called upon a broad spectrum of stakeholders to establish a consortium by the end of 2010 to secure adequate financial resources for international data collection, analysis and dissemination of updated and topical information necessary for waterbird conservation in the AEWA region, in particular through the extended International Waterbird Census,

Recognising that a strengthened IWC would contribute to achieving Target 19 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets approved by CBD COP10 in 2010, which is:

“By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied”,

Further recognising that other MEAs, particularly the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Convention on Migratory Species, as well as the EU Birds Directive, require regular waterbird monitoring data for their operations, such as Ramsar criterion 5 for the designation of wetlands of international importance whose applicability is linked to the Waterbird Population Estimates which is largely derived from IWC data,

Stressing the need to maximise synergies between MEAs as well as other legal instruments, such as the EU Birds Directive, including population monitoring activities,

Thanking Wetlands International and the Agreement Secretariat for compiling document AEWA/MOP 5.42 on Strategic Development of the Waterbird Monitoring in the African-Eurasian Flyways which presents various options for long-term basic structural funding for the IWC,

Thanking Contracting Parties, international organisations and other stakeholders, such as the Government of France and the MAVIA foundation, for their financial contribution and technical support to the IWC,

Acknowledging Wetlands International’s commitment to dedicate part of the organisation’s unrestricted resources to the management of IWC data,

Welcoming the establishment of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership, which comprises all main stakeholders involved in the implementation of IWC or users of data generated by the scheme and aims at strengthening the implementation and development of IWC in the African-Eurasian flyways.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Invites the Technical Committee to work with the Waterbird Monitoring Partnership to make progress towards the monitoring-related targets of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 and to report to MOP6 and, if required, to propose this issue to be revisited at MOP6 with the aim to secure a long-term, sustainable solution for international waterbird monitoring;*
2. *Urges Contracting Parties to consider making voluntary contributions to support the collection and collation of data for the production of the triennial AEWA Conservation Status Report and the global Waterbird Population Estimates;*
3. *Invites the non-Contracting Parties, international organisations and other stakeholders to support the collection and collation of data for the production of the triennial AEWA Conservation Status Report and the global Waterbird Population Estimates through voluntary contributions.*

¹<http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/symposium/symposium.htm>

RESOLUTION 5.23¹

**AEWA’s CONTRIBUTION TO DELIVERING THE AICHI 2020
BIODIVERSITY TARGETS**

Recalling the desire of the international community to halt the loss of global biodiversity and the establishment of a target in 2002 by world leaders at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, of “a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity” by 2010; and the even more challenging European Union target “that biodiversity decline should be halted with the aim of reaching this objective by 2010”,

Recalling also the overall goal of AEWA’s Strategic Plan “To maintain or restore migratory waterbird species and their populations at a favourable conservation status throughout their flyways”,

Recalling again the deep concern of the fourth Meeting of Parties in 2008 expressed in Resolution 4.6, at the continued worsening of the overall status of migratory waterbirds in the Agreement area as shown by twice as many waterbird species having decreasing trends as increasing trends, the continuing negative trend in the Red List Index for AEWA species, and that immediate action needed to be taken in light of the progressively worsening status of especially Africa’s and Eurasia’s migratory waterbirds if these biodiversity targets and goals were to be attained,

Noting that, as with other biodiversity, the overall status of migratory waterbirds in 2010 was unfavourable and thus contributed to the overall failure to achieve the 2010 targets related to global biodiversity,

Noting that according to the *Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds in the Agreement Area – 5th Edition* (2012) (document AEWA/MOP 5.14) the number of waterbird populations in a favourable conservation status has decreased by 20; the Red List Index has decreased by 1% compared to the previous review; and the quality of data and information on which population assessments are made remains generally poor,

Re-emphasising the potential that waterbirds have as indicators, acting as surrogates of the overall ecological condition or status of wetlands in many cases, since they can be, and often are, more readily and easily surveyed than other features of wetlands, that historical information on past numbers exist at many sites, and that long-term and wide-scale mechanisms for the annual monitoring of their populations already exist in many countries,

Acknowledging Decision X/2 of the tenth Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya, Japan, 2010) establishing a Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 which “represents a useful flexible framework that is relevant to all biodiversity-related conventions”, and which includes 20 ‘Aichi’ Targets, which are addressed to all relevant intergovernmental organisations and other processes related to biodiversity,

¹ Please note that the number of this resolution has changed; it was previously AEWA/MOP5 DR24

Aware accordingly that the full implementation of AEWA will materially help to achieve the Aichi Targets, and recalling again Decision X/2 which “Urges Parties and other Governments, with the support of intergovernmental and other organisations, as appropriate, to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and in particular to:

“... Develop national and regional targets using the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Targets ... with a view to contributing to collective global efforts to reach the global targets...”,

Noting that the contribution that will be made to these targets depends on the full implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 and the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Adopts* the actions within the Annex to this Resolution as AEWA’s contribution to the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;
2. *Requests* that the Technical and Standing Committees work together to assess progress on issues relevant to the Aichi Targets, and to present triennial assessments of AEWA’s contribution to each of the relevant Aichi Targets, elaborating further needs as necessary and appropriate, as an agenda item for each future MOP through to 2020;
3. *Requests* that future AEWA status reviews and progress reports including, but not restricted to, those listed in paragraph 7.4 of AEWA’s Action Plan, are designed so as to aid assessment against relevant actions of the Aichi Targets and Strategic Plan for Biodiversity;
4. *Urges* Contracting Parties to ensure that those national authorities responsible for AEWA implementation are fully involved in the process to update national biodiversity strategies and action plans as requested by CBD Decision X/2 so as further to promote synergies between biodiversity-related treaties;
5. *Requests* that the UNEP/AEWA and UNEP/CMS Secretariats work together with the CBD Secretariat to ensure that information on the status of migratory species including waterbirds are fully included in future CBD assessments of progress against relevant Aichi Targets, and to report progress to this end to the 6th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA (MOP6).

Annex: AEWA's Contribution to the Strategic Goals and Aichi Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2012-2020

Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services

Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2011)	AEWA's future contribution (2012-2020)
<i>Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society</i>		
Target 1 By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of a Communications Strategy by MOP3 (Resolution 3.10) Strategic Plan agreed (2008) with relevant objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Objective 4: To improve Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) about migratory waterbird species, their flyways, their role in alleviating poverty, threats to them and the needs for measures to conserve them and their habitats.</i> Adoption of Guidelines on the development of ecotourism at wetlands 	Implement Targets for AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 Objective 4: 4.1 Support for the implementation of the Communication Strategy (CS) is secured. 4.2 The AEWA Communication Strategy is [revised and] implemented. 4.3 Awareness and understanding of waterbird conservation issues in general and of AEWA in particular are increased at all levels within the Contracting Parties. Implement relevant actions from AEWA's Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2011)	AEWA's future contribution (2012-2020)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of <i>Guidelines on reducing crop damage, damage to fisheries, bird strikes and other forms of conflict between waterbirds and human activities</i> 	
<p>Target 2</p> <p>By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement relevant actions from AEWA's Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017 Contracting Parties to develop national implementation working groups, in cooperation with relevant implementation of other multi-lateral environmental agreements such as the Ramsar Convention: Resolution 5.19 <i>Encouragement of Further Joint Implementation of AEWA and the Ramsar Convention</i>
<p>Target 3</p> <p>By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimise or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio-economic conditions.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement Resolution 5.16 <i>Renewable Energy and Migratory Waterbirds</i>
<p>Target 4</p> <p>By 2020, at the latest, governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of Resolution 3.19 <i>Implementing the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines</i> 	Implement Targets for Strategic Plan Objective 2:

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2011)	AEWA's future contribution (2012-2020)
<p>have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.</p>	<p><i>for the sustainable use of biodiversity</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of <i>Guidelines on sustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds</i> • Adoption of <i>Guidelines on how to avoid, minimise or mitigate impact of infrastructural developments and related disturbance affecting waterbirds</i> • Adoption of <i>Guidelines on the development of ecotourism at wetlands</i> • Adoption of <i>Guidelines on regulating trade in migratory waterbirds</i> • Adoption of <i>Guidelines on the management of key sites for migratory waterbirds</i> • Strategic Plan agreed (2008) with relevant objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Objective 2: <i>To ensure that any use of waterbirds in the Agreement area is sustainable</i> • Development of International Species Management Plan for the Svalbard population of the Pink-footed Goose <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> 	<p>2.1 By 2017 the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands is phased out by all Contracting Parties, Parties should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the effectiveness of national measures already taken to phase out the use of lead shot and to phase in non-toxic alternatives in wetlands; and • Engage with all relevant stakeholders, inter alia hunters and the manufacturing industry, to understand and address barriers to implementation; and to establish and implement joint communication strategies, • Where requested, the Secretariat and the Technical Committee will provide support to individual Parties conducting such evaluation and engagement. <p>2.2 Internationally coordinated collection of harvest data is developed and implemented.</p> <p>2.3 Measures to reduce, and as far as possible eliminate, illegal taking of waterbirds, the use of poison baits and non-selective methods of taking are developed and implemented.</p> <p>2.4 Best practice codes and standards, such as bird identification, are developed and promoted, in order to achieve proper enforcement of legally</p>

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2011)	AEWA's future contribution (2012-2020)
		<p>binding provisions.</p> <p>2.5 Adaptive harvest management² of quarry populations is ensured at international scale.</p> <p>Rewrite Conservation Guideline No. 5 in line with Resolution 5.3 "International Implementation Tasks for 2012 -2015".</p> <p>Implement Resolution 5.14 "Waterbirds, Wetlands and Impacts of extractive industries".</p>
Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use		
<p>Target 5</p> <p>By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Plan urges establishment of site networks to protect important wetland habitats 	<p>Implementation of the AEWA Action Plan and Strategic Plan</p>
<p>Target 6</p> <p>By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Single Species Action Plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise and implement Multi-species Action Plan for southern African seabirds Develop active collaboration with other international processes to promote conservation measures to benefit AEWA-listed seabirds

² Adaptive Harvest Management is the periodic process of setting hunting regulations based on a system of population and habitat monitoring, harvest level recording, data analysis and defining regulatory options.

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2011)	AEWA's future contribution (2012-2020)
ecological limits.		
Target 7 By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of <i>Guidelines on the management of key sites for migratory waterbirds</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noting the value of waterbirds as indicators of wider environmental conditions especially with respect to agriculture (e.g. lowland breeding waders), AEWA Technical Committee to work with Ramsar, the EU and other international actors to assess the potential utility of policy-related guidance for sustainable management of agriculture and aquaculture and make recommendations to MOP6 as appropriate
Target 8 By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement Resolution 5.12 "<i>Adverse Effects of Agrochemicals on Migratory Waterbirds in Africa</i>" engaging with the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pesticides and other relevant international processes as appropriate, such as the CMS Scientific Council Working Group on minimising the risk of poisoning to migratory birds. Support implementation of conclusions from 25th and 26th meetings of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (2009 & 2011) especially as regards chemical management/pollution issues relevant to waterbirds, notably with regards to lead

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2011)	AEWA's future contribution (2012-2020)
Target 9 By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritised, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of <i>Guidelines on Avoidance of Introductions of non-native Waterbird Species</i> • Adoption of Resolution 4.5 <i>Introduced non-native waterbirds in the Agreement area</i> • <i>Review on the Status of Introduced Non-native Species of Waterbirds</i> (AEWA/MOP 4.12; 2008) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eradication of the Ruddy Duck <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i> from the AEWA region, per Resolution 4.5, before 2020 • Enhanced activity to control invasive non-native waterbirds, notably Sacred Ibis <i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i> where it is non-native (per Resolution 4.5) <p>Implement Target for Strategic Plan Objective 1:</p> <p>1.5 Waterbirds are considered thoroughly in the context of the delivery of National Action Plans on non-native species by other international fora, such as CBD, Bern Convention, and GISP.</p>
Target 10 By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of Resolution 3.17 <i>Climate change and migratory waterbirds</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement Resolution 5.13 “<i>Climate Change Adaptation Measures for Waterbirds</i>”
Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity		
Target 11 By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Plan urges establishment of site networks to protect important wetland habitats • Adoption of <i>Guidelines on the management</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Parties should address site management issues and which sites to prioritise for designation, including consideration of the tentative conclusions and recommendations of the preliminary report on the Site Network

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2011)	AEWA's future contribution (2012-2020)
ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.	<p><i>of key sites for migratory waterbirds</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of <i>Guidelines on the preparation of site inventories for migratory waterbirds</i> • <i>Report on the Site Network for Waterbirds in the Agreement Area</i> (document AEWA/MOP 5.15) 	<p>in the Agreement Area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Technical Committee, working with other relevant organisations and processes, to have further developed understanding of the scope and content of protected area networks within the Agreement area for migratory waterbirds, and to make clear recommendations to MoP6 concerning the sufficiency of current provision in the context of Aichi Target 11 and necessary national and international responses • CSN Tool and Flyway Training Kit need to be used
<p>Target 12</p> <p>By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plan agreed (2008) with the over-arching goal: <i>To maintain or restore migratory waterbird species and their populations at a favourable conservation status throughout their flyways</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Objective 1: <i>To undertake conservation measures so as to improve or maintain conservation status of waterbird species and their populations</i> • Adoption of <i>Guidelines on the preparation of National Single Species Action Plans for migratory waterbirds</i> • Single Species Action Plans developed for 15 species and implemented for six globally 	<p>Implement Targets for Strategic Plan Objective 1:</p> <p>1.1 Full legal protection is provided to all Column A species by MOP7.</p> <p>1.2 A comprehensive and coherent flyway network of protected and managed sites, and other adequately managed sites, of international and national importance for waterbirds is established and maintained, while taking into account the existing networks and climate change.</p> <p>1.3 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) & Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) are used to reduce the impact of new developments on waterbird species and populations.</p> <p>1.4 Single Species Action Plans (SSAPs) are</p>

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2011)	AEWA's future contribution (2012-2020)
	<p>threatened species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of <i>Guidelines for a waterbird monitoring protocol</i> • Reporting of status of migratory waterbirds via triennial AEWA Conservation Status Reviews 	<p>developed and implemented for most threatened species listed in category 1 and categories 2 and 3 marked with an asterisk on column A of Table 1.</p> <p>Report to each MOP on the status of species for which Single Species Action Plans (SSAP) have been developed</p> <p>Seek to establish international coordination mechanisms for each SSAP</p>
<p>Target 13</p> <p>By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimising genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.</p>		
Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services		
<p>Target 14</p> <p>By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement relevant actions from AEWA's Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017
<p>Target 15</p> <p>By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced,</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Committee to work <i>inter alia</i>, with the Ramsar Convention's Scientific and

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2011)	AEWA's future contribution (2012-2020)
through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.		Technical Review Panel (STRP) and relevant CBD's Programmes of Work, to make recommendations as to priorities for wetland conservation and management recommendations that would both benefit migratory waterbirds, and contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and/or to combating desertification
Target 16 By 2015, the <i>Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization</i> is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.		
Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building		
Target 17 By 2015, each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that those authorities responsible for AEWA implementation are fully involved in the process to update national biodiversity strategies and action plans so as further to promote synergies between biodiversity-related treaties
Target 18 By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Committee to develop understanding of implications of traditional harvest methodologies and the implications these may have for AEWA implementation.

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2011)	AEWA's future contribution (2012-2020)
integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.		
<p>Target 19</p> <p>By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plan agreed (2008) with relevant objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Objective 3: To increase knowledge about species and their populations, flyways and threats to them as a basis for conservation action</i> • Triennial publication of Conservation Status Review summarises knowledge of AEWA-listed migratory waterbirds • CSN Tool and Flyway Training Kit 	<p>Implement Targets for Strategic Plan Objective 3:</p> <p>3.1 Necessary resources are in place to support the international processes for gathering monitoring data for status assessment, on a long-term basis.</p> <p>3.2 Capacity of national monitoring systems to assess the status of the waterbirds is established, maintained and further developed.</p> <p>3.3 Nationally responsible state agencies, academic and other wildlife related research institutions are encouraged to establish research programmes to support implementation of waterbird conservation priorities.</p> <p>3.4 Best practices, including in particular traditional knowledge, for waterbird conservation programmes are collated and incorporated.</p> <p>3.5 Sharing and accessibility of relevant data and information are enhanced so as to underpin relevant conservation decision-making.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Committee to make proposals as to further needs regarding implementation of

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2011)	AEWA's future contribution (2012-2020)
		Objective 3 of the Strategic Plan in the context of the needs to improve, widely share and transfer, and apply scientific information on waterbirds.
<p>Target 20</p> <p>By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the <i>Strategy for Resource Mobilization</i>, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parties and other stakeholders are encouraged to consider increasing funding and other capacity needs for the implementation of the Single Species Action Plans for globally threatened species and develop such plans for all globally threatened species. By MOP6 Parties should decide on options for the establishment of a long-term basic structural funding regime for the international waterbird census (IWC) and take a strengthened strategic approach to the development and maintenance of the IWC. Resolution 5.21 <i>Financial and administrative matters</i>

RESOLUTION 5.24¹

**CLARIFICATIONS ON THE DEFINITION OF DISTURBANCE, USEFUL FOR
APPROPRIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN**

Submitted by the European Union and its Member States

Acknowledging that disturbance by hunting has led to the creation of reserves where hunting is prohibited and special provisions in hunting laws limit disturbance during critical periods (e.g. during severe weather and in the breeding season), while at the same time other human activities can also have adverse effects on populations of birds (for example tourism, leisure, sports and forestry, etc.), and that these reserves should be free of any significant forms of disturbance, as stressed by the AEWA Conservation Guidelines No. 5 (AEWA, Technical Series No. 19)²,

Noting that recreational activities are increasingly oriented towards nature and can cause disturbances in any season and are likely in many cases to have impact on waterbirds during any of the critical phases of their annual cycle,

Aware of recent advances in scientific knowledge of disturbance, more particularly in the fields of eco-ethology and eco-physiology,

Emphasising the need to develop standard assessment methodologies for all disruptive activities,

Considering that information on disturbance and related management needs to be made available to wetland managers in their own language to ensure this information is accessible,

Recalling that the protection of species and the issue of deliberate disturbance are addressed by other relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) such as the Ramsar and the Bern Conventions and there are also legal obligations for some Parties addressed through regional and national measures,

Recalling paragraphs 2.1.1 b), 4.3.6 and 5.6 of AEWA's Action Plan requesting the Parties to prohibit deliberate disturbance, insofar that it is shown that disturbance significantly affects conservation of the population concerned, and requesting Parties to carry out studies of disturbance,

Noting the recent increase of litigation on the grounds of disturbance in some countries.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Requests* the Technical Committee to propose to the Meeting of the Parties definitions of the terms "disturbance" and the "significant" nature of any disturbance that may negatively affect the conservation of waterbirds, at the individual and population levels, in the context of applying the AEWA Action Plan;

¹ Please note that the number of this resolution has changed; it was previously AEWA/MOP5 DR25

² Guidelines on sustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds

2. *Requests* the Technical Committee, funding permitting, to commission a synthesis of scientific knowledge of disturbance, including activities that are significant and widespread sources of disturbance, and dealing both with the effects of disturbance and with the possible mechanisms of adaptation, mitigation and compensation, and where relevant, summarising those studies that have evaluated the short-term effects of disturbance and its long-term impact on bird productivity and survival, both at the individual and population levels, and provide the synthesis to MOP6 for consideration;
3. *Requests* the Technical Committee, funding permitting, in undertaking this task, to produce simple but comprehensive guidance on the management of disturbance in a form that may be widely translated and disseminated to wetland site managers throughout the Agreement area;
4. *Urges* Contracting Parties to support the production, translation and dissemination of this guidance;
5. *Invites* the Contracting Parties to the Agreement to cooperate with hunting organisations to further assess the potential impacts of hunting disturbance on wild birds by encouraging the management and conservation initiatives of hunting stakeholders.

RESOLUTION 5.25¹

**SUPPORT FOR REINFORCING CAPACITIES WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING LAWS
AND POLICIES IN FAVOUR OF WATERBIRDS**

Submitted by the European Union and its Member States

Recalling the main goal of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017, adopted at MOP4, to "maintain or to restore migratory waterbird species and their populations at a favourable conservation status throughout their flyways" through better collaboration and cooperation between stakeholders, as referred to in Objectives 1, 2 and 5 of the Plan,

Recalling Resolution 4.4 adopted by Parties at MOP4 on "Developing international best practice for the conservation of threatened waterbirds through action planning and re-establishment" and Resolution 4.9 on the "African Initiative for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and Their Habitats in Africa",

Recalling the Ramsar Convention and its importance for conservation and wise use of wetlands, including the protection of wetlands of international importance, and *further recalling* the Convention on Biological Diversity and its efforts in the development, revision and/or update of national biodiversity strategies and action plans,

Recalling also the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity, adopted in 2007 within the framework of the Convention for the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 1979), highlighting the critical importance of monitoring and hunter involvement in the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity in Europe and beyond,

Concerned about the impact of certain methods as well as the extent of taking on populations of migratory waterbirds used in areas under the Agreement, in particular during the nesting period (taking of eggs or chicks) and on migration to and from their breeding areas (including *inter alia* hunting all year round, unselective capture with nets and traps, and killing by the use of explosives, etc.),

Recalling document Doc AEWA/MOP 4.9 and StC 5.16 on "Hunting and trade legislation in countries relating to the species listed in Annex 2 to AEWA", presented at MOP4 and at the fifth Meeting of the AEWA Standing Committee respectively and *noting* that guidelines concerning hunting and trade legislation are currently being prepared by the Technical Committee,

Further recalling that only 27 of the 63 Contracting Parties to the Agreement have so far banned the use of lead shot in wetlands on their territory,

Noting also the great disparities in measures concerning the conservation of waterbirds in different Contracting Parties, and in some Contracting Parties, the lack of technical expertise and/or adequate capacity to establish appropriate frameworks for the sustainable management and use of these birds and of their habitats,

¹ Please note that the number of this resolution has changed; it was previously AEWA/MOP5 DR 26

Reaffirming that all Contracting States have sovereign powers over their territory, including those related to the establishment of laws and policies regarding species conservation; notwithstanding their legal obligations under AEWA.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Requests* the Standing Committee to finalise the guidelines prepared by the Technical Committee on *Hunting and trade legislation*, including a synthesis of existing migratory waterbird conservation legislation and measures currently in place within Contracting Parties: to present the guidelines to MOP6 for consideration and to propose procedures through which they may be kept up-to-date and thus continue to reflect best and current practice after MOP6;
2. *Recalls* the obligation of Parties and invites other Range States within the Agreement area to conserve and sustainably manage migratory waterbirds *inter alia* by acceding to the Agreement and fully implementing its Action Plan;
3. *Invites* Contracting Parties to contribute to the development of bilateral and/or multilateral cooperation programmes that reinforce capacities and facilitate legal and technical support to those Parties wishing to improve their regulatory frameworks;
4. *Invites* Contracting Parties to assist those Parties in need of support to incorporate AEWA principles and requirements into their national legislation;
5. *Further encourages* Contracting Parties to consider using National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) as a tool for cooperation with other Parties;
6. *Invites* the Secretariat and Contracting Parties to develop regional synergies, including, for example, regional consultative systems to consolidate their preparation of, and participation in decision-making sessions of the Agreement.

RESOLUTION 5.26¹

TRIBUTE TO THE ORGANISERS

Recalling the offer of the French Government to host the 5th Session of the Meeting of Parties, which was accepted by the Meeting of the Parties at its 4th Session with great appreciation,

Aware of the effort, in particular, financial, undertaken in the organisation of the current Session of the Meeting of the Parties by the French Government,

Also aware of the support to the current Session provided by various governmental organisations, research institutions and non-governmental organisations, in particular:

- Association nationale des chasseurs de gibier d'eau (ANCGE)
- Fédération nationale des chasseurs (FNC)
- France nature environnement (FNE)
- Ligue pour la protection des oiseaux (LPO)
- Office national de la chasse et de la faune sauvage (ONCFS)
- Oiseaux Migrateurs du Paléarctique Occidental (OMPO)
- Tour du Valat,

Appreciating the financial support provided by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to facilitate the participation of as many Range States as possible,

Further appreciating the financial support provided by the Governments of France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Spain and Switzerland for the logistical and substantial preparation of the current Session of the Meeting of Parties.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Expresses* its gratitude to the French Government for the arrangements and the important financial investment made to provide an excellent venue, facilities and services for the 5th Session of the Meeting of the Parties;
2. *Also expresses* its gratitude to the City of La Rochelle, la Ligue pour la protection des oiseaux (LPO), l'Office national de la chasse et de la faune sauvage (ONCFS) and la Fédération départementale des chasseurs de la Charente-Maritime (FDC17) for all the additional support and services offered to the Meeting and the delegates;

¹ Please note that the number of this resolution has changed; it was previously AEWA/MOP5 DR27

3. *Expresses* its appreciation to the Agreement's Secretariat for the preparation of the documents and logistics for the 5th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement;
4. *Also expresses* its appreciation for all the support of the governments, governmental organisations, research institutions and non-governmental organisations listed above, which contributed to the preparation of the 5th Meeting of the Parties, thus facilitating the participation of many Range States and/or the logistical and substantial preparation of the current Session of the Meeting of Parties.

RESOLUTION 5.27¹

**VENUE OF THE 6th SESSION OF THE
MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

Recalling Article VI, paragraph 2 of the Agreement, which states that the Agreement Secretariat shall convene ordinary sessions of the Meeting of the Parties, in consultation with the Convention Secretariat, at intervals of not more than three years, unless the Meeting of the Parties decides otherwise,

Appreciating the benefits that may accrue to the Agreement and to Parties by holding sessions of the Meeting of the Parties in different regions within the Agreement area.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Invites* interested Parties to communicate to the Secretariat within six months their interest in hosting the 6th Session of the Meeting of the Parties;
2. *Requests* the Standing Committee to decide on behalf of the Meeting of the Parties, the venue of the 6th Session of the Meeting of the Parties, taking into account the expressions of interest received from Parties.

¹ Please note that the number of this resolution has changed; it was previously AEWA/MOP5 DR 28

ANNEX 2

**RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE SESSIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES
TO THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN
MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS**

Purpose

Rule 1

These rules of procedure shall apply to any Session of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, convened in accordance with article VI of the Agreement.

Insofar as they are applicable, these rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to any other meeting held in the framework of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds.

Definitions

Rule 2

For the purpose of these rules:

- a) “Agreement” means the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, concluded on 16 June 1995 at The Hague, the Netherlands and entered into force on 1 November 1999. This Agreement is an agreement within the meaning of article IV paragraph 3 of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979);
- b) “Convention” means the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, 1979;
- c) “Parties” means the Contracting Parties to the Agreement;
- d) “Meeting of the Parties ” means the Meeting of the Parties in accordance with article VI;
- e) "Session" means any ordinary or extraordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties convened in accordance with article VI of the Agreement;
- f) The “President” means the President elected in accordance with rule 21, paragraph 1, of the present rules of procedure;
- g) “Subsidiary body” means all committees or working groups established by the Meeting of the Parties;
- h) “Technical Committee” means the body established in accordance with article VII

- i) “Standing Committee” means the body established by Resolution 2.6 as adopted at the second session of the Meeting of the Parties;
- j) The “Meeting Committee”, means the body established in accordance with Rule 26 (1);
- k) “Secretariat” means the Secretariat of the Agreement established in accordance with article VIII;
- l) “Proposal” means a draft resolution or recommendation submitted by one or more Parties, by the Standing Committee, by the Meeting Committee or by the Secretariat.

Place of Meetings

Rule 3

1. The Meeting of the Parties shall take place in the country chosen by the previous Meeting of the Parties on the basis of a formal invitation that should have been issued to this effect by the responsible authority of that country. If more than one Party issues an invitation to host the next session of the Meeting of the Parties, and two or more invitations are maintained after informal consultations, the Meeting of the Parties shall decide on the venue of the next session by secret ballot.
2. If no invitation has been received, the session of the Meeting of the Parties shall be held in the country where the Secretariat has its seat, unless other appropriate arrangements are made by the Secretariat of the Agreement or the Secretariat of the Convention.

Dates of Meetings

Rule 4

1. Ordinary sessions of the Meetings of the Parties shall be held at intervals of not more than three years, unless the Meeting decides otherwise.
2. At each ordinary session, the Meeting of the Parties shall determine the year and venue of the next ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties. The exact dates and duration of each ordinary session shall be established by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Convention Secretariat and the host country of the meeting.
3. Extraordinary sessions of the Meetings of the Parties shall be convened on the written request of at least one third of the Parties.
4. An extraordinary session shall be convened not later than ninety days after the request has been received, in accordance with paragraph 3 of this rule.
5. In the event of an emergency situation, the Technical Committee may urgently request the Secretariat to convene a meeting of the Parties concerned.

Rule 5

The Secretariat shall notify all Parties of the date, venue, and provisional agenda of an ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties at least 12 months before the session is due to commence. The notification shall include the draft agenda for the meeting and the deadline for submission of proposals by the Parties. Only Parties, the Standing Committee, the Technical Committee, the Meeting Committee and the Secretariat shall be entitled to submit proposals.

Observers

Rule 6

1. The Secretariat shall notify the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, in its role as Depositary of the Agreement, the United Nations, its specialized Agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, any Range State not Party to the Agreement, and the secretariats of international conventions concerned *inter alia* with the conservation, including protection and management, of migratory waterbirds of the session of the Meeting of the Parties so that they may be represented as observers.
2. Such observers may, upon the invitation of the President, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any session of the Meeting of the Parties unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.

Rule 7

1. Any agency or body, national or international, whether governmental or non-governmental, technically qualified in conservation matters or in research on migratory waterbirds, which has informed the Secretariat of its wish to be represented at the Meetings of the Parties by observers, shall be admitted unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object. Once admitted these observers shall have the right to participate but not to vote.
2. Bodies or agencies desiring to be represented at the meeting by observers shall submit the names of their representatives, and in case of national non-governmental bodies or agencies, evidence of the approval of the State in which they are located, to the Secretariat at least one month prior to the opening of the session.
3. Such observers may, upon the invitation of the President participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any session unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.
4. Seating limitations may require that no more than two observers from any Range State not a Party, body or agency be present at a session of the Meeting of the Parties. The Secretariat shall notify those concerned of such limitations in advance of the meeting.
5. A standard participation fee may be fixed by the Secretariat of the Agreement, to be paid in advance of the Meeting by all non-governmental organisations. The fee will be announced in the letter of invitation and this Meeting will determine any fee for the next ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Agenda

Rule 8

The Secretariat shall prepare the provisional agenda of each meeting, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Standing Committee.

Rule 9

The provisional agenda of each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties shall include, as appropriate:

- a) Items arising from the articles or the Annexes of the Agreement;
- b) Items, the inclusion of which has been decided at a previous meeting or which emanate from decisions taken at a previous meeting;
- c) Items referred to in rule 15 of the present rules of procedure;
- d) Any item proposed by a Party, the Standing Committee, the Technical Committee or the Secretariat related to the fundamental principles or the implementation of the Agreement.

Rule 10

Except for proposals made in accordance with article X of the Agreement, the official documents for each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, as referred to in Rule 54, and proposals received in accordance with rule 5, shall be distributed in the official languages by the Secretariat to the Parties at least sixty days before the opening of the meeting.

Rule 11

The Secretariat shall, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, include any item which has been proposed by a Party and has been received by the Secretariat after the provisional agenda has been produced, but before the opening of the meeting, in a supplementary provisional agenda.

Rule 12

The Meeting of the Parties shall examine the provisional agenda together with any supplementary provisional agenda. When adopting the agenda, it may add, delete, defer, or amend items. Only items which are considered by the Meeting of the Parties to be urgent and important may be added to the agenda.

Rule 13

The provisional Agenda for an extraordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties shall consist only of those items proposed for consideration in the request for the extraordinary meeting. The provisional agenda and any necessary supporting documents shall be distributed to the Parties at the same time as the invitation to the extraordinary meeting.

Rule 14

The Secretariat shall report to the Meeting of the Parties on the administrative and financial implications of all substantive agenda items submitted to the meeting, before these items are considered by the meeting. Unless the Meeting of the Parties decides otherwise, no such item shall be considered until the Meeting of the Parties has received the Secretariat's report on the financial and administrative implications.

Rule 15

Any item of the agenda of an ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, consideration of which has not been completed at the meeting, shall be included automatically in the agenda of the next ordinary meeting, unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties.

Representation and Credentials

Rule 16

Each Party participating in a meeting shall be represented by a delegation consisting of a head of delegation and such other accredited representatives, alternate representatives, and advisers as the Party may deem necessary. Logistics and other limitations may require that no more than four delegates of any Range State be present at a plenary session. The Secretariat shall notify Parties of any such limitations in advance of the meeting.

Rule 17

A representative may be designated as an alternate head of delegation. An alternate representative or an adviser may act as a representative upon designation by the head of Delegation.

Rule 18

1. The original of the statement of credentials of the head of delegation and other representatives, alternate representatives, and advisers, shall be submitted to the Secretariat of the Agreement or to his/ her designated representative, if possible, not later than twenty-four hours after the opening of the meeting. Any later change in the composition of the delegation shall also be submitted to the Secretary or the representative of the Secretary.

2. The credentials shall be issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or his/her equivalent, or on their behalf by an ambassador who is duly authorised. If other authorities in a

Contracting Party are entitled to issue credentials for international meetings, the Secretary should be notified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in advance of the meeting.

3. The credentials must bear a full signature of the appropriate authority or else be sealed and initialed by that authority. The seal and/or letter heading should clearly indicate that the credentials have been issued by the appropriate authority.

4. A representative may not exercise the right to vote unless his/ her name is clearly and unambiguously listed in the credentials.

5. If credentials are submitted in a language other than one of the working languages of the Agreement (French and English), they shall be accompanied by a suitable translation into one of these two languages to permit efficient validations of the credentials by the Credentials Committee.

Rule 19

A Credentials Committee composed of at least two Parties of the African region and two of the Eurasian region, elected at the first session of each ordinary meeting, shall examine the credentials and submit its report to the Meeting of the Parties for approval.

Rule 20

Pending a decision of the Meeting of the Parties upon their credentials, representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the meeting.

Officers

Rule 21

1. At the commencement of the first session of each ordinary meeting, a President and one or more Vice-Presidents shall be elected from among the representatives of the Parties present at the meeting, on the basis of a proposal put forward by the Meeting Committee. In preparing its proposal on this matter, the Meeting Committee shall consider first the candidate(s) put forward by the host country of the meeting for the post of President of the meeting.

2. The President shall participate in the meeting in that capacity and shall not, simultaneously, exercise the rights of a representative of a Party. The Party concerned shall designate another representative who shall be entitled to represent the party in the meeting and to exercise the right to vote.

Rule 22

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon the President elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of the meeting, preside at the sessions of the meeting, ensure the observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote, and announce decisions. The President shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings and over the maintenance of order.

2. The President may propose to the Meeting of the Parties the closure of the list of speakers, limitations on the time to be allowed to speakers and the number of times each Party or observer may speak on a question, the adjournment or the closure of the debate, and the suspension or the adjournment of a session.

3. The President, in the exercise of the functions of that office, remains under the authority of the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 23

The President, if temporarily absent from a session or any part thereof, shall designate a Vice-President to act as President. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

Rule 24

If the President and/or a Vice-President resign or are otherwise unable to complete the assigned term of office or to perform the functions of the office, a representative of the same Party shall be named by the Party concerned to replace the said officer for the remainder of that office's mandate.

Rule 25

At the first session of each ordinary meeting, the President of the previous ordinary meeting, or in the absence of the President, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, shall preside until the Meeting of the Parties has elected a President for the meeting.

The Meeting Committee, other Committees and Working Groups

Rule 26

1. The Meeting Committee is established. It shall consist of the President of the previous ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, the elected President and Vice-Presidents of the current Meeting of the Parties, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, and the Chairperson of the Technical Committee. The Secretariat of the Agreement shall assist and support the Meeting Committee. The Meeting Committee may invite observers to attend the Meeting Committee, as they deem appropriate. The Meeting Committee shall be chaired by the President of the current session of the Meeting of the Parties.
2. The Meeting Committee shall meet at least once daily to review the progress of the meeting, including the draft of the report of the previous day prepared by the Secretariat, and to provide advice to the President in order to ensure the smooth development of the rest of the proceedings.
3. The Meeting of the Parties may establish other committees and working groups if it deems it necessary for the implementation of the Agreement. Where appropriate, meetings of these bodies shall be held in conjunction with the Meeting of the Parties.
4. The Meeting of the Parties may decide that any such body may meet in the period between ordinary meetings.
5. Unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties, the chairperson for each such body shall be elected by the Meeting of the Parties. The Meeting of the Parties shall determine the matters to be considered by each such body.
6. Subject to paragraph 5 of this rule, each body shall elect its own officers. No officers may be re-elected for a third consecutive term.
7. Unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties, these rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the proceedings of such bodies, except that:
 - a) A majority of the Parties designated by the Meeting of the Parties to take part in any such body shall constitute a quorum, but in the event of the body being open-ended, one quarter of the Parties shall constitute a quorum;
 - b) The chairperson of any such body may exercise the right to vote;
 - c) There shall be no requirement to provide interpretation in committee or working group sessions, including the Meeting Committee.

Secretariat

Rule 27

1. The Head of the Agreement Secretariat shall be the Secretary of the Meeting of the Parties. The Secretary or the representative of the Secretary shall act in that capacity in all sessions of the Meeting of the Parties and of subsidiary bodies.

2. The Secretary shall provide and direct the staff as required by the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 28

The Secretariat shall, in accordance with these rules:

- a) Arrange for interpretation at the meeting;
- b) Prepare, receive, translate, reproduce and distribute the documents of the meeting;
- c) Publish and circulate the official documents of the meeting;
- d) Make and arrange for keeping of sound recordings of the meeting;
- e) Arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the meeting;
- f) Draft the report of the meeting for consideration by the Meeting Committee first and for final approval by the Meeting of the Parties; and
- g) Generally perform all other work that the Meeting of the Parties may require.

Conduct of Business

Rule 29

- 1. Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties shall be held in public, unless the Meeting of the Parties decides otherwise.
- 2. Sessions of subsidiary bodies shall be held in private unless the subsidiary body concerned decides otherwise.
- 3. Delegations shall be seated in accordance with the alphabetical order of the English language names of the Parties.

Rule 30

The President may declare a session of the meeting open and permit the debate to proceed if at least one half of the Parties to the Agreement are present, and may take a decision when representatives of at least one half of the Parties are present.

Rule 31

- 1. No one may speak at a session of the Meeting of the Parties without having previously obtained the permission of the President. Subject to rule 32, 33, 34 and 36, the President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The Secretariat shall maintain a list of speakers. The President may call a speaker to order if the speaker's remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
- 2. The Meeting of the Parties may, on a proposal from the President or from any Party, limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each Party or observer may speak on a question. Before a decision is taken, two representatives may speak in favour and two against a proposal to set such limits. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call the speaker to order without delay.
- 3. A speaker shall not be interrupted except on a point of order. He may, however, with the permission of the President, give way during his/her speech to allow any other representative or observer to request clarification on a particular point in that speech.
- 4. During the course of a debate, the President may announce the list of speakers, and with the consent of the meeting, declare the list closed. The President may, however, accord the right of reply to any representative, if appropriate, due to a speech delivered after the list has been closed.

Rule 32

The chairperson or rapporteur of a subsidiary body may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by that subsidiary body.

Rule 33

During the discussion of any matter, a Party may at any time raise a point of order, which shall be decided immediately by the President in accordance with these rules. A Party may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be put to the vote immediately and the ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the Parties present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 34

Any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Meeting of the Parties to discuss any matter or adopt a proposal or an amendment to a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before the matter is discussed or a vote is taken on the proposal or amendment in question.

Rule 35

1. Proposals for amendment of the Agreement may be made by any Party. According to article X the text of any proposed amendment and the reason for it shall be communicated to the Agreement Secretariat not less than one hundred and fifty days before the opening of the session.

2. A new proposal, other than in paragraph 1 of this rule, that was not submitted to the Secretariat at least 60 days before the opening of the meeting as well as amendments to proposals, shall be introduced in writing by the Parties and handed to the Secretariat in at least one of the official languages, for submission to the Meeting Committee.

3. A new proposal shall deal only with matters that could not have been foreseen in advance of the session or arise out of the discussions at the session. The Meeting Committee shall decide if the new proposal meets this requirement, so as to introduce it formally for consideration by the meeting. If a new proposal is rejected by the Meeting Committee, the sponsor(s) shall be entitled to request the President to submit the question of its admissibility to a vote, as per Rule 34. The sponsor(s) shall be given the opportunity to make one intervention to present the arguments in favour of the introduction of the new proposal, and the President shall explain the reasons for its rejection by the Meeting Committee.

4. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any session unless copies of it, translated into the official languages of the Meeting of the Parties, have been circulated to delegations not later than the day preceding the session. Nevertheless, the President may permit the discussion and consideration of amendments to proposals or of procedural motions and, in exceptional circumstances, in cases of urgency and when deemed useful to advance the proceedings, permit the discussion and consideration of proposals even though these proposals, amendments or motions have not been circulated or have been circulated only the same day or have not been translated into all the official languages of the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 36

1. Subject to rule 33, the following motions shall have precedence, in the order indicated below, over all other proposals or motions:

- a) To suspend a session;
- b) To adjourn a session;
- c) To adjourn the debate on the question under discussion; and
- d) For the closure of the debate on the question under discussion.

2. Permission to speak on a motion falling within (a) to (d) above shall be granted only to the proposer and, in addition, to one speaker in favour of and two against the motion, after which it shall be put immediately to the vote.

Rule 37

A proposal or motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has begun, provided that the motion has not been amended. A proposal or motion withdrawn may be reintroduced by any other Party.

Rule 38

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered at the same meeting, unless the Meeting of the Parties, by a two-thirds majority of the Parties present and voting, decides in favour of reconsideration. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to the mover and one other supporter, after which it shall be put immediately to the vote.

Voting

Rule 39

Each Party shall have one vote. Regional economic integration organisations, which are Parties to this Agreement shall, in matters within their competence, exercise their voting rights with a number of votes equal to the number of their Member States which are Parties to the Agreement. A regional economic integration organization shall not exercise its right to vote if its Member States exercise theirs, and *vice versa*.

Rule 40

1. The Parties shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters of substance by consensus. If all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted and no agreement reached, the decision shall, as a last resort, be taken by a two-thirds majority of the Parties present and voting, unless otherwise provided by the Agreement such as in the case of:

the adoption of the budget for the next financial period and any changes to the scale of assessment, which require unanimity (article V);

2. For the purposes of these rules, the phrase "Parties present and voting" means Parties present at the session at which voting takes place and casting an affirmative or negative vote. Parties abstaining from voting shall be considered as not voting.

Rule 41

If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the Meeting of the Parties, unless it decides otherwise, shall vote on the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted. The Meeting of the Parties may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

Rule 42

Any representative may request that any parts of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal be voted on separately. The President shall allow the request unless a Party objects. If objection is made to the request for separate voting, the President shall permit two representatives to speak, one in favour of and the other against the motion, after which it shall be put to the vote immediately.

Rule 43

If the motion referred to in rule 42 is adopted, those parts of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal, which are approved, shall then be put to the vote as a whole. If all the operative parts of a proposal or amendment have been rejected, the proposal or amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Rule 44

A motion is considered to be an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from, or revises parts of that proposal. An amendment shall be voted on before the proposal to which it relates is put to the vote, and if the amendment is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

Rule 45

If two or more amendments to a proposal are put forward, the Meeting of the Parties shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal, then on the amendment next furthest removed there from, and so on, until all amendments have been put to the vote. The President shall determine the order of voting on the amendments under this rule.

Rule 46

Voting, except for elections and the decision on the venue of the next ordinary meeting, shall normally be by show of hands. A roll-call vote shall be taken if one is requested by any Party; it shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the Parties participating in the meeting, beginning with the Party whose name is drawn by lot by the President. However, if at any time a Party requests a secret ballot, that shall be the method of voting on the issue in question, provided that this request is accepted by a simple majority of the Parties present and voting. The President shall be responsible for the counting of the votes, assisted by tellers appointed by the Meeting, and shall announce the result.

Rule 47

1. The vote of each Party participating in a roll-call vote shall be expressed by "Yes", or "No", or "Abstain" and shall be recorded in the relevant documents of the meeting.
2. When the meeting votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of hands and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call vote.

Rule 48

After the President has announced the beginning of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual proceedings. The President may permit the Parties to explain their votes, either before or after the voting, but may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. The President shall not permit those who put forward proposals or amendments to proposals to explain their vote on their own proposals or amendments, except if they have been amended.

Rule 49

All elections and the decision on the venue of the next ordinary meeting shall be held by secret ballot, unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 50

1. If, when one person or one delegation is to be elected, no candidate obtains a majority of votes cast by the Parties present and voting in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken between the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If, in the second ballot, the votes are equally divided, the President shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.
2. In the case of a tie in the first ballot among three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes, a second ballot shall be held. If there is then a tie among more than two candidates, the number shall be reduced to two by lot and the balloting, restricted to them, shall continue in accordance with the procedure set forth in paragraph 1 of this rule.

Rule 51

1. When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, the number of candidates must not exceed the number of such places, those obtaining the largest number of votes and a majority of the votes cast by the Parties present and voting in the first ballot shall be deemed elected.
2. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of persons or delegations to be elected, there shall be additional ballots to fill the remaining places. The voting shall then be restricted to the candidates that obtained the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot and shall not exceed twice the places that remain to be filled. After the third inconclusive ballot, votes may be cast for any eligible person or delegation.
3. If three such unrestricted ballots are inconclusive, the next three ballots shall be restricted to the candidates who obtained the greatest number of votes in the third of the unrestricted ballots and shall not

exceed twice the places that remain to be filled. The following three ballots thereafter shall be unrestricted, and so on until all the places have been filled.

Languages

Rule 52

The official and working languages of the Meeting of the Parties shall be English and French.

Rule 53

1. Statements made in an official language shall be interpreted into the other official language.
2. A representative of a Party may speak in a language other than an official language, if the Party provides for interpretation into one such official language.

Documents

Rule 54

1. Official documents of the meetings shall be drawn up in one of the official languages and translated into the other official language.
2. Financial limitations may make it necessary to limit the number of documents provided to each Party and observer. The Secretariat shall encourage Parties and observers to download the documents from the Agreement website on the Internet or to receive them on a CD-ROM, so as to save costs of photocopying and mailing.
3. Any documents, including proposals, submitted to the Secretariat in any language other than a working language shall be accompanied by a translation into one of the working languages.
4. When in doubt, the Secretariat shall ask the approval of the Meeting Committee for issuing a document as an official document of the meeting.
5. Parties and observers wishing to distribute documents that have not been approved as official documents of the meeting shall make their own arrangements for distribution, after having sought the advice of the Secretariat on how to proceed.

Sound Recordings of the Meeting

Rule 55

Sound recordings of the Meeting of the Parties, and whenever possible of its subsidiary bodies, shall be kept by the Secretariat.

Entering into Force and Amendments to the Rules of Procedure

Rule 56

These rules of procedure shall enter into force immediately after their adoption. Amendments to these rules shall be adopted by consensus by the Meeting of the Parties, upon a proposal by one or more Parties and/or the Standing Committee.

Overriding authority of the Agreement

Rule 57

In the event of a conflict between any provision of these rules and any provision of the Agreement, the Agreement shall prevail.

ANNEX 3

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ANNEX 4

LIST OF PRE-SESSION DOCUMENTS

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AEWA/MOP5 DR21	27	Financial and Administrative Matters
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AEWA/MOP Inf. 5.6	25	Report of The Meeting to Conclude and Endorse the Proposed Central Asian Flyway Action Plan to Conserve Migratory Waterbirds and Their Habitats (CMS/CAF/Report 24 January 2006)
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PART II

OPENING STATEMENTS

(REPRODUCED IN THE FORM SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARIAT)

STATEMENTS MADE DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY

**Opening Statement by Madame Béatrice Abollivier,
the Préfète de Charente Maritime**

5ème réunion des parties à l'accord sur les oiseaux d'eau migrateurs
d'Afrique et d'Eurasie

La Rochelle, du 14 au 18 mai 2012

Madame le Maire,

Madame et Messieurs les Secrétaires,

Mesdames, Messieurs,

En tant que représentante de l'Etat français dans le département de la Charente-Maritime, je suis très heureuse d'accueillir la 5^{ème} réunion des parties à l'accord sur les oiseaux migrateurs d'Afrique-Eurasie à La Rochelle. Je tiens à saluer les représentants des Nations-Unies, du Ministère de l'Ecologie, du Développement Durable, des Transports et du Logement et l'ensemble des délégations étrangères et à vous souhaiter la bienvenue dans notre département.

Je remercie bien évidemment Monsieur le Maire et la ville de La Rochelle d'avoir apporté leur soutien à l'organisation de cette manifestation pour vous permettre de travailler dans les meilleures conditions.

Le choix du département de la Charente-Maritime pour accueillir l'AEWA me semble tout particulièrement judicieux :

Vous le savez, la Charente-Maritime est située sur la voie de migration atlantique empruntée par de nombreux oiseaux qui nichent dans le nord de l'Europe ; les zones de marais situées dans la zone littorale, accueillantes pour ces oiseaux, représentent un cinquième de la superficie totale du département : vous aurez l'occasion d'en visiter certaines jeudi, et les oiseaux seront nombreux au rendez-vous.

L'Etat, avec le concours de plusieurs opérateurs dont la Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux, qui fête cette année son 100^{ème} anniversaire, et le Conservatoire du Littoral qui ont tout deux leur siège national dans le département, s'investit largement dans la protection du patrimoine naturel et la protection des espèces. Nous avons dans ce département 3 réserves naturelles exceptionnelles dans la baie de l'Aiguillon, dans l'île de Ré et à Marennes-Oléron dont l'Etat soutient chaque année le fonctionnement.

Je tiens aussi à rappeler le travail que nous accomplissons actuellement avec les préfectures voisines pour la mise en place d'un parc naturel marin au large des côtes charentaises qui constitue une zone de regroupement des oiseaux.

Je voudrais enfin souligner le partenariat qui existe en Charente-Maritime avec la fédération des chasseurs pour la protection des espèces. Les chasseurs, au nombre de 22 000 dans ce département, sont des acteurs essentiels pour la protection et la conservation des espèces et je me réjouis qu'ils soient associés à vos travaux. Vous pourrez notamment visiter cette semaine la cabane de Moins qui est un bel exemple du travail accompli par les chasseurs pour faire découvrir leur activité et notre patrimoine commun au grand public.

La Charente-Maritime est aussi un département attractif pour l'homme et est aujourd'hui le deuxième département littoral de France pour l'accueil des touristes français et étrangers en période estivale. C'est aussi un département dont la population s'accroît régulièrement, en particulier dans la zone littorale...qui héberge les habitats favorables aux oiseaux d'eau migrateurs.

Autant dire, donc, que la thématique de la réunion, « les oiseaux d'eau migrateurs et les hommes, des zones humides en partage », s'applique pleinement dans notre département.

Je crois que malgré cet accroissement de la présence humaine, nous avons réussi à maintenir une bonne co-existence avec les oiseaux d'eau dans les zones humides. Cela tient notamment au maintien d'activités agricoles diversifiées, à l'attractivité des paysages littoraux et de zones humides en particulier pour le tourisme, et au soin apporté tant par les chasseurs que par les associations de protection de la nature, avec l'appui de l'Etat, à la conservation d'un réseau de zones humides remarquables.

Si les habitants de ce département sont heureux de vous accueillir et fiers de leurs actions, ils sont aussi intéressés par l'éclairage plus large qu'apportent vos débats, à l'échelle de l'aire de répartition des oiseaux d'eaux qui fréquentent nos zones humides. Les orientations que fixe l'AEWA, qui a su rester un accord très concret et pragmatique, seront prises en considération par les acteurs locaux comme par la collectivité nationale.

Je vous souhaite donc des débats fructueux, et vous invite à profiter, une fois votre tâche accomplie, des plaisirs culturels et naturels qu'offre notre département.

Merci à Mesdames et Messieurs les interprètes

Opening Statement by Madame Sabrina Laconi
Adjointe au Député-Maire de la Rochelle

Bonjour à tous.

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur devrait arriver, son train est maintenant en gare de La Rochelle, mais je tiens à saluer Madame la Secrétaire, Madame la Préfète et Monsieur le Secrétaire.

Je suis ici en tant que représentante de Monsieur Maxime Bono, notre député maire, et j'espère que votre accueil dans la ville de La Rochelle a été un moment dont vous vous souviendrez.

Sans doute, la plupart d'entre vous ne connaissaient pas cette petite ville de province, une ville de 80 000 habitants et qui a une histoire écologique très forte depuis de nombreuses années puisqu'il s'agit aussi de la ville de Michel Crépeau, qui a été pendant un temps ministre de l'Environnement. Cette petite cité de l'Atlantique a cherché à innover en matière d'écologie depuis les années 70, que ce soit en matière de transport ou de préservation de la faune et de la flore. La première action de Michel Crépeau quand il a été élu en 1971, a été de planter un arbre, cela représente le début du renouveau de cette ville et c'est pourquoi, même très proche du centre-ville, à moins d'un kilomètre, vous allez trouver un marais protégé depuis 1996 ainsi qu'un autre marais plus loin sur notre commune, le marais de Pampin, classé en réserve naturelle en 1985. La Charente maritime, en particulier la région de Rochefort possède des réserves naturelles très importantes et la question de la préservation de la faune et de la flore est un sujet essentiel pour les élus de toutes ces circonscriptions.

Je vous remercie de votre venue et vous souhaite des travaux très sincères car il est vrai que la préservation de la faune et de la flore est un véritable défi, un défi lancé au monde entier. Vous représentez 67 pays adhérents, ce qui montre bien que c'est en préservant cette biodiversité que l'on pourra avancer et que c'est un défi pour l'humanité toute entière.

Je vous souhaite un très bon séjour à La Rochelle, j'espère que vous reviendrez nous voir, nous retrouver. J'espère aussi que vous allez dès à présent découvrir le patrimoine qui est le nôtre.

**Statement by His Excellency,
Ambassador for the Environment, Jean-Pierre Thébault**

Madame la Secrétaire exécutive,
conseillère du Directeur exécutif,
Monsieur le Secrétaire exécutif par intérim,
Madame la Préfet,
Madame la représentante du Député maire,
Mesdames et Messieurs les Hauts délégués,

C'est un très grand plaisir pour moi de venir ce matin vous rencontrer, écouter vos débats et y participer. Les précédents orateurs, dont Achim Steiner, ont souligné toute l'importance de cet Accord sur les oiseaux d'eau migrateurs. Son importance, tout d'abord parce qu'ils sont menacés. Nous avons, il y a quelques jours à peine, célébré la journée mondiale des oiseaux et en même temps des chiffres terribles indiquent combien dans le cadre d'une biodiversité qui est elle-même globalement menacée au niveau international, combien cette partie de la biodiversité est sous pression. Nous avons tous collectivement une responsabilité et une tâche urgente, celle d'œuvrer à travers nos travaux - comme nous y a incité le Plan d'action décennal adopté à Nagoya et comme nous y incitent nos propres considérations - pour essayer par notre action de revenir vers des tendances plus satisfaisantes en matière de conservation. Ce sera, comme l'a dit Madame la Secrétaire exécutive, l'une des tâches de votre réunion : adopter des plans d'action, les financer, illustrer par ce biais la volonté de la communauté internationale d'agir efficacement malgré la dureté des temps.

Je souhaite également vous dire à cette occasion, toute notre joie que cette cinquième Réunion des Parties ait lieu à La Rochelle, un lieu emblématique pour la conservation des oiseaux d'eau migrateurs, un lieu également très cher à mon cœur, et enfin un lieu où l'accueil qui vous sera réservé fera en sorte, j'en suis sûr, Madame la Député maire, que vos travaux soient extrêmement efficaces.

Je crois également que c'est une excellente occasion d'accueillir de nouveaux États membres à cette Convention. On a cité effectivement trois pays africains, le Tchad, la Mauritanie et l'Éthiopie, et je souhaite saluer leurs Délégués. On a cité également le Monténégro, c'est une bonne chose que les nouveaux membres soient presque également répartis entre l'Afrique et l'Europe.

Une troisième chose que je souhaiterais souligner, c'est que, les travaux qui ont déjà commencé et qui ont porté sur la création de ce Plan d'action africain, sont nous semble-t-il pour le gouvernement français et pour moi-même, extrêmement importants. Jamais on ne soulignera assez la contribution de l'Afrique à la préservation de la biodiversité mondiale. Ce continent, dans sa diversité, est une des sources majeures de la biodiversité mondiale ; mais ce continent ne peut pas tout faire, il ne peut pas être à la fois celui qui héberge, celui qui protège, celui qui conserve, sans notre soutien. Le plan d'action pour l'Afrique est un plan essentiel pour illustrer non seulement l'importance que nous attachons collectivement à la question de la conservation, mais également combien nous sommes capables et prêts à être solidaires avec le continent africain pour que cette œuvre de conservation soit réalisée.

Nous allons dans quelques semaines à peine nous réunir à Rio+20 pour le Sommet de la Terre, ce Sommet dans lequel nous allons décider à bien des égards des orientations que la planète prendra en matière de développement durable. Je crois, comme l'a exprimé Achim Steiner, que même cette « petite » Convention comme vous l'avez dit Madame la Secrétaire exécutive, petite mais efficace malgré ses problèmes de moyens et de recrutement, illustre aussi le thème du développement durable. Au-delà de la question de la conservation spécifique des oiseaux d'eau migrateurs, c'est également la question du développement durable qui est traitée comme vous l'avez-vous-même souligné, la question du lien entre la nature et l'homme, la question de la possibilité de réconcilier, la nécessité pour l'Homme de vivre et de vivre mieux - et c'est sans

doute sur le continent africain que cet impératif est le plus fort - et en même temps de préserver les ressources naturelles pour leur valeur intrinsèque mais également pour le mieux-être de l'Homme qu'il soit en Afrique, qu'il soit dans le monde entier. Ces oiseaux, comme vous l'avez souligné, sont aussi la possibilité de développer des activités à la fois respectueuses de la nature et qui permettent aux hommes, aux familles, de mieux vivre, et c'est donc une définition du développement durable. Et alors que nous espérons tous, je crois, en tout cas pour les pays qui sont dans la salle et qui soutiennent cette initiative, qu'à l'occasion de Rio +20 l'Afrique soit encore plus reconnue dans son rôle de pilier essentiel de l'environnement mondial à travers, nous l'espérons, l'élévation du PNUE en Agence spécialisée des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement, et bien d'une certaine manière cette réunion des Parties de l'AEWA est une petite brique dans cette construction.

Je souhaite conclure mon propos, Mesdames et Messieurs les Délégués, tout d'abord en vous remerciant d'être venus jusqu'à La Rochelle, vous ne le regretterez pas, La Rochelle est une ville splendide, donc si vos travaux vous le permettent, n'hésitez pas à aller vous promener, à la fois sur le port et dans la vieille ville, c'est une des plus belles villes de France, on le sait trop peu, donc allez-y et faites en aussi la publicité. Mais je souhaite également à cette occasion vous dire tout l'engagement de la France auprès de l'AEWA, vous savez que nous sommes un participant ancien, je crois important, de cet Accord. Nous souhaitons encore, de toutes les manières, Madame la Secrétaire exécutive, renforcer notre engagement dans cette convention. J'espère qu'il y aura des candidats français et je suis même certain Monsieur Barbieri qu'il y aura de très bons candidats français, mais je souhaite surtout qu'il y en ait beaucoup pour devenir Secrétaire exécutif de cette Convention particulière. Votre appel est justifié, parce que je crois que ce type d'accord vit non seulement grâce au soutien financier qu'on lui apporte et qui est essentiel, mais vit aussi et beaucoup grâce à la qualité des hommes et des femmes qui souvent sont ceux qui les font vivre.

Je souhaiterais terminer mon propos d'accueil en mentionnant aussi une catégorie d'acteurs, Mesdames et Messieurs les Hauts représentants, que l'on ne peut pas oublier lorsque l'on traite de ces questions. Ils jouent un rôle essentiel et ont souvent historiquement joué le rôle d'avertisseur, le rôle de conscience sur ces questions : ce sont les organisations non gouvernementales. Je crois que certaines sont présentes dans la salle - il est difficile à La Rochelle de ne pas connaître l'activité de la Ligue pour la protection des oiseaux et de son président emblématique Alain Bougrain Dubourg qui est aussi un ami. Je crois que, s'il m'est permis de conclure mon propos par une note qui est à la fois positive mais également une note de remerciements, c'est en adressant ces remerciements aux organisations non gouvernementales. Les ONG ont joué un rôle fondateur pour la protection des oiseaux migrateurs et notamment les oiseaux d'eau, je crois qu'il est bon à l'occasion de cette réunion de le dire, de les saluer, et je considère que les applaudissements qui viendront ne seront pas pour moi mais pour eux.

Merci infiniment.

**Statement by Mr Achim Steiner, United Nations Under-Secretary-General
and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

to the

**5th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of
African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, let me extend my warm welcome on this the occasion of the fifth meeting of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement.

Our collaboration between UNEP and AEWA has both a long tradition and, in recent years, also taken a much greater substantive and also subject significance. The work that you will be doing during the coming days is obviously one that not only is of great interest to us in UNEP, but that also binds us together in the overall objectives of trying to bring the issues of species and biodiversity, loss of habitat and habitat degradation to the attention of the international community.

I would like to also extend my warm thanks to the French authorities for hosting this fifth meeting, and to also provide the delegates and also the Secretariat with all the support necessary to make this a very successful and productive meeting.

Clearly, as it comes just a few weeks before the Rio+20 Summit, it is important to make the link between the conservation of migratory waterbird species and the broader discussions about sustainable development and, in the context of UNEP's work on the green economy, the linkage between conservation and people.

It is also a centerpiece of the theme for this meeting and, in that sense, it will hopefully provide, not only for AEWA itself, but also for the discussions in Rio, yet another example of how multilateral cooperation and multilateral instruments can be part of an environmental governance and cooperation framework for the global community to address issues such as migratory waterbirds. In many ways they symbolize the objectives of multilateralism because the responsibility for both ensuring the survival and conservation of species, but also for maintaining habitat, is one that is, in the case of migratory waterbirds, more shared than perhaps for other issues.

Our contribution to supporting AEWA and the work of member states extends from both a very close collaboration with the Secretariat, on issues such as Information Knowledge Management, to also developing new online reporting systems, of which AEWA is, in fact, the first one to use this new framework that we have been developing together with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

I hope also that the focus on Africa that you will be addressing during this AEWA meeting will be another example of how an international convention can be part of trying to bring international interests together in a framework of cooperation. Clearly a great deal of progress has been made on the African continent in addressing the issues of biodiversity and habitat conservation. Particularly for migratory waterbirds, Africa is a central landing spot, but also a central place in which the linkage between the benefit of biodiversity conservation, species conservation and human wellbeing cannot be more obvious.

The notion that wetlands are not only a place where species survive and thrive, but also form an integral part of the ecosystem services that we look to nature to ensure that we, as human beings, can continue into the future to benefit from the extraordinary capacity of nature to sustain our societies and economies.

In that sense, I hope that your meeting in La Rochelle will provide both a new impetus and a stronger focus on the need to act, particularly on the most threatened migratory waterbirds, but also to continue to build that narrative that will always link conservation of nature with human wellbeing. It is also the bridge to Rio+20.

Thank you.

STATEMENTS FROM CONTRACTING PARTIES

DÉCLARATION DU TOGO

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- **MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT,**
- **DISTINGUES DELEGUES**

QU'IL NOUS SOIT PERMIS DE VOUS FELICITER POUR VOTRE BRILLANTE ELECTION A CONDUIRE LA CINQUIEME REUNION DE L'AEWA DANS VOTRE BEAU PAYS QU'EST LA FRANCE. NOS REMERCIEMENTS AU SECRETARIAT DE L'AEWA POUR LES EFFORTS ENGAGES POUR LA TENUE EFFECTIVE DE LA MOP5 ET FELICITATIONS AU GOUVERNEMENT FRANÇAIS POUR SON HOSPITALITE ET TOUTES LES FACILITES MISES A NOTRE DISPOSITION.

NOUS Y SOMMES ICI A LA ROCHELLE, GRACE AUX DIFFERENTS SOUTIENS, NOTAMMENT, SOUTIEN AU VOYAGE ET A L'HEBERGEMENT ET NOUS REJOUISSONS QUE NOUS Y SOYONS REPRESENTES, ET PARTANT, VOUDRIONS A CE TITRE QUE LE SECRETARIAT DE LA L'AEWA TROUVE ICI LA GRATITUDE DU GOUVERNEMENT TOGOLAIS. AUSSI, SOMMES NOUS EGALEMENT HEUREUX DE CONSTATER QUE TOUTES LES INTERVENTIONS FAITES PAR LES EMINENTS DELEGUES ICI PRESENTS FONT ETAT DU DECLIN DES POPULATIONS D'OISEAUX D'EAU MIGRATEURS ET DE LA DEGRADATIONS CONTINUE DE LEURS HABITATS, A L'ORIGINE DE PLUSIEURS FACTEURS, NOTAMMENT, LES ACTIONS HUMAINES, D'OU L'IMPORTANCE DE L'INITIATIVE AFRICAINE POUR LA MISE EN ŒUVRE DE L'AEWA EN AFRIQUE NON SEULEMENT A LA FAVEUR DES OISEAUX D'EAU MIGRATEURS, MAIS AUSSI DES HOMMES.

MERCI AUX PAYS QUI VIENNENT DE S'AJOUTER A LA FAMILLE DE L'AEWA, LE BURKINA-FASO, LE TCHAD, ETC... NOS EFFORTS CONJUGUES VONT PERMETTRE DE RELEVER BON NOMBRE DE PROBLEMES LIES A LA CONSERVATION DES ESPECES MIGRATRICES, ENTENDU QUE LES OISEAUX NE CONNAISSENT LES FRONTIERES. C'EST LE LIEU DE PARTAGER AVEC VOUS QUE LE GOUVERNEMENT TOGOLAIS S'EST ENGAGE DEPUIS QUELQUE TEMPS DANS LES REFORMES ADMINISTRATIVES POUR UNE TRAÇABILITE DE CE QUI EST LA GESTION PUBLIQUE.

CETTE REFORME A ETE MARQUEE PAR L'ORGANISATION DE TOUS LES MINISTERES QUI FORMENT L'APPAREILLAGE DE L'ETAT ET LA RELECTURE DES POLITIQUES, STRATEGIES ET PLANS D'ACTION SECTORIELS. C'EST DANS CETTE OPTIQUE QUE LE MINISTERE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET DES RESSOURCES FORESTIERES A ADOPTE EN JUIN 2011 LE PROGRAMME NATIONAL DE L'INVESTISSEMENT POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET LES RESSOURCES NATURELLES (PNIERN).

CE PROGRAMME, QUI EST UN CADRE FEDERATEUR DES PROGRAMMES DU DEPARTEMENT, MET EN BONNE PLACE LES QUESTIONS DE CONSERVATION DE LA DIVERSITE BIOLOGIQUE. LA PRESERVATION DES HABITATS ET ECOSYSTEMES CRITIQUES POUR LE MAINTIEN DU CYCLE BIOLOGIQUE DES ESPECES MIGRATRICES Y EST INSCRIT. AU NOM DU MINISTRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET DES RESSOURCES FORESTIERES, NOUS VOUDRIONS VOUS INVITER (PARTENAIRES TECHNIQUES ET FINANCIERS) A S'INTERESSER A CE PROGRAMME LARGEMENT DIFFUSE EN APPUYANT CERTAIN DE SES VOILETS QUI S'INSCRIVENT DANS VOS PLANS OPERATIONNELS.

TOUTEFOIS, NOUS NOUS RESUMONS A DIFFUSER LE FORMAT ELECTRONIQUE DUDIT PROGRAMME A TRAVERS LE SECRETARIAT DE L'AEWA ET VOUS PRIONS DE TROUVER ICI NOS REMERCIEMENTS ANTICIPES POUR L'IMPORTANCE QUE VOUS VOUDRIEZ BIEN ACCORDER A CE PROGRAMME EN VUE DE SA MISE EN ŒUVRE.

JE VOUS REMERCIE

STATEMENTS FROM NON-PARTY RANGE STATES

ZIMBABWE'S DECLARATION AT THE OPENING OF AEWA MOP5

14 – 18 May 2012

La Rochelle, FRANCE

ZIMBABWE would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your appointment as Chair of MOP5 and to also thank the Government of FRANCE for the generous support and the warm hospitality that the city of La Rochelle is offering us delegates.

ZIMBABWE as the most recent Contracting Party to ratify the Agreement, would like to express and convey the Government of Zimbabwe's commitment to implement the African Eurasian Water-bird Agreement. While ratification is the most recent development, Zimbabwe been participating in AEWA as an observer at the two previous MOPs. ZIMBABWE also participated in the Single Species Action Plan for the Slaty Egret that was held in the region. In the past two days, having participated in the African Initiative which culminated in the conclusion of Plan of Action for Africa, Zimbabwe had the privilege and honour to work together with other African range states and would like to assure all distinguished delegates here present that all efforts will be made in order to ensure the conservation of migratory water-birds through among other activities improved coordination and implementation within implementing agencies at national level and through mainstreaming of the Agreement into our national development plans.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

OTHER STATEMENTS

Statement by Denmark on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

- Thank you Mr. Chairman for allowing me to make an opening statement on behalf of the EU and its Member States.
- We have a full agenda in front of us and many important issues to deal with this week and looking at the agenda time is short. Therefore this statement will be short in order to save time for the discussions on the important issues coming up here in plenary and in the working groups that we have agreed to establish. The EU and its Member States will do our best to be as brief and as right to the point as possible to support the Chair in the effort to complete the meeting successfully on Friday afternoon.
- It is though in place that we express our gratitude to the Government of France and to the city of La Rochelle for hosting this 5th meeting of the Parties to the AEWa Agreement. It is indeed a beautiful city and a very suitable venue – thank you so much.
- The EU and its Member States are looking forward to be engaged in fruitful discussions among the Parties and observers present and we are looking forward to decisions at the end of this week that will support and bring us an important steps forward to fulfil the principles and general conservation measures that we as Parties to the Agreement have committed ourselves to.
- We have received many pages of documentation supporting the draft resolutions proposed for this meeting. This would not have been possible without the hard and dedicated work of the Standing Committee, The Technical Committee, The Secretariat as well as the work of collaborating organisations and individuals of whom many are present today and it would not have been possible without the contributions from the Parties and the generous voluntary donations from governments and private funds. We would like to extend our gratitude and thanks for their effort and support.
- Mr. Chairman – thank you for accepting the appointment as Chair. You have the full support from the EU and its Member States in your effort to chair this meeting of the Parties successfully. Thank You.

Déclaration préliminaire du Groupe Afrique

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs

Comme vous le savez, le Bénin, mon Pays préside actuellement l'Union Africaine. A ce titre, les délégations africaines ont voulu valoriser cette situation de fait en désignant le délégué du Bénin comme Président du Groupe Afrique au cours de cette session, donc leur porte-parole. Je suis secondé dans cette mission par l'Ouganda.

C'est donc dans ce cadre que j'interviens, pour d'abord vous féliciter, monsieur le Président, vous ainsi que le bureau de la session, pour votre brillante élection à ce poste de responsabilité pour conduire les travaux de notre session.

L'Afrique s'en voudrait de ne pas féliciter aussi le secrétariat de l'AEWA, les Responsables du Pays et de la Ville Hôte pour l'accueil et la qualité de la préparation de la session.

L'Afrique accorde une grande importance à l'Accord et surtout à la présente session. C'est pour cela que depuis deux jours déjà, les délégués du continent africain se sont mobilisés pour apporter leurs dernières touches à cet projet de plan d'actions pour les cinq années à venir, assorti d'un projet de mécanisme de coordination de sa mise en œuvre.

L'Afrique espère l'adoption de ce plan d'action et le concours de tous pour sa mise en œuvre effective.

Monsieur le Président,

Faut-il encore rappeler que le Groupe de l'Afrique s'élargit jour après jour avec six nouvelles adhésions (comme le Tchad, le Zimbabwe, l'Ethiopie, le Mozambique, la Guinée Equatoriale et le Burundi,) et avec les Pays comme la Côte d'Ivoire, le Gabon, la Zambie, la Mauritanie, et j'en oublie, sont avancés dans le processus de leur adhésion à l'Accord.

Monsieur le Président,

La session actuelle se tient comme l'a rappelé, un des responsables à l'ouverture, à quelques jours de la tenue du sommet de la terre sur le développement durable, je veux parler du Rio+ 20.

Pour nous, Groupe d'Afrique, les objectifs de l'AEWA sont en adéquation avec ceux du Développement Durable. Sans visa, sans

passes ports, sans formalités aux frontières, encore moins de carte de vaccination, les oiseaux migrateurs contribuent inconsciemment à ce développement durable de la planète terre. C'est pourquoi le Groupe Africain voudrait vous assurer de son adhésion entière aux différentes résolutions pertinentes qui vont être prises au cours de cette session, de manière à contribuer à la sauvegarde, que dis-je, à la survie de ces espèces, ainsi qu'à leur valorisation et à leur utilisation durable aux bénéfices de l'humanité, notamment des populations vivant sous l'influence de leurs couloirs et de leurs sites d'accueils tout au long de leur parcours et de leurs trajets de migration.

Au nom du Groupe Afrique, je vous remercie

Théophile KAKPO
(Bénin)

**STATEMENTS BY THE WINNERS OF THE
AEWA WATERBIRD CONSERVATION AWARD 2012**

Winner of the AEWA Waterbird Conservation Award 2012
In the Institutional Category



International Wader Study group (IWSG)

The International Wader Study Group are extremely honoured to have received the AEWA Conservation Award. This award recognises IWSG as a group of volunteers, professionals and amateurs who form a world-wide network connecting all continents and many cultures. For more than 40 years, IWSG has worked towards wader conservation, through collecting and synthesising information on waders and helping to protect their critical habitats.

On their biannual migrations, waders need functional wetlands to use as stepping stones, where they can collect the reserves necessary for their incredible long-distance journeys.

As they travel from continent to continent, birds are unaware of human boundaries. However, researchers, subject to these limitations may be left holding various pieces of a larger puzzle they cannot see. Therefore, international collaboration is essential to view all of the processes connecting the life cycles of these birds. The community of IWSG fosters these connections between people working on the same topics in different parts of the world, and many fruitful co-operations have emerged from this community.

Achievements in conservation of waterbirds have been made in some parts of the world, for example in the flyways covered by AEWA. Despite this, wetlands are disappearing worldwide at rates faster than seen in any other ecosystems. Wetlands are declining not only in number and size, but also in quality, further reducing the resources waterbirds need for their survival. A striking example of a vast decline in wetlands is the Yellow Sea area where up to 35% of the tidal mudflats have been lost in just the last 10 years. This jeopardises the persistence of a number of threatened waterbird species, including the nearly-extinct Spoon-billed Sandpiper. But even in the well-protected European Wadden Sea, which is a World Heritage Site, the population of a *common* wader, the Oystercatcher, is declining. Worryingly, the reasons for this decline are largely unknown.

Just the examples of the Yellow Sea and the Wadden Sea show that many efforts are still needed to halt the decline in wetlands all over the world.

The IWSG standpoint is that effective conservation can only be achieved through sound knowledge of wader ecology. In the future, we will further instigate and support high quality, global monitoring systems. We will promote that the data showing what is going on with populations is up-to-date, and accessible to everybody concerned. More importantly, we will promote fundamental ecological work

that demonstrates the processes linking habitat loss or degradation with population declines. With this knowledge, actions that focus on the major issues can clearly be defined.

This award will encourage the members of the IWSG to enthusiastically continue working toward their common goal: providing waders with the environment they deserve. Here we want to thank AEWA for the award, Mike Moser for the nomination, and Yaa Ntiamoa-Baidu and Christoph Zöckler for acting as referees.

Winner of the AEWA Waterbird Conservation Award 2012
in the Individual Category

Dr Brooks Childress († 22 July 2011)

The focus of Brooks' work was three-fold. The first was to take on the chairmanship of the Flamingo Specialist Group. With time available, unlike many network coordinators, he channelled his time and energy into assuring the growth and success of the group. He was fortunate to come along in an electronic age, able to communicate easily between Europe, the Americas, Africa, the Middle East and the Indian subcontinent. The scientists he met, whether in person or through the ether, were exactly the sort of people he came to admire most: people living interesting lives, working closely with one another and with a myriad of organisations, to further the cause of flamingo conservation.

The second focus was field work which Brooks enjoyed immensely. Using cutting-edge technology, he tracked the movements of lesser flamingos that he captured in Kenya and Ethiopia. This work confirmed the nomadic behaviour of the adults of this population.

Finally, Brooks sought to provide strategic insight and key advice to the campaign to save Lake Natron, the single most important site for the conservation of lesser flamingos. His personal attributes and genuine desire to make the world better - not only for birds but also for people living around them - found natural expression in this mission.

Sandra Childress



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