



AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF
AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS



5th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES
14 – 18 May 2012, La Rochelle, France

“Migratory waterbirds and people - sharing wetlands”

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>		
<p>Target 1</p> <p>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.</p>	<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 <i>Guidelines on the development of ecotourism at wetlands</i> 	<p>Implement Targets for AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 Objective 4:</p> <p>4.1 Support for the implementation of the Communication Strategy (CS) is secured.</p> <p>4.2 The AEWA Communication Strategy is [revised and] implemented.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Implement relevant actions from AEWA's Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017</p>

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	<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> 	<p>Implement Targets for Strategic Plan Objective 2:</p>

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<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, <i>inter alia</i> 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 [used to inform harvest management regimes].</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</p>

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		<p>enforcement of legally 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>	<p>International Single Species Action Plans</p>	<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.

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ecological limits.		
<p>Target 7</p> <p>By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.</p>	<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
<p>Target 8</p> <p>By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.</p>		<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

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<p>Target 9</p> <p>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.</p>	<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>
<p>Target 10</p> <p>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.</p>	<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>”
<p>Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity</p>		
<p>Target 11</p> <p>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,</p>	<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

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<p>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>	<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 MOP6].</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>

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	<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>		
<p>Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services</p>		
<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

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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
<p>Target 16</p> <p>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.</p>		
Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building		
<p>Target 17</p> <p>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.</p>		<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
<p>Target 18</p> <p>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</p>		<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.

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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

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		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>