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7th MEETING OF THE AEWA STANDING COMMITTEE
26 – 27 November 2011, Bergen, Norway

**PROPOSALS TO THE 5TH SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES FOR
AMENDMENTS TO ANNEX 3 (ACTION PLAN AND TABLE 1) OF THE
AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN
MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS (AEWA)**

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A. SUMMARY OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE AEW ANNEX 3 (ACTION PLAN AND TABLE 1)

(Amendments are shown in track changes apart from within Table 1)

[...]

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 utilization 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 utilization of, and trade in, any readily recognizable parts or derivatives of such birds and their eggs.

2.1.2 By way of exception for:

- (a) those populations listed in Categories 2 and 3 in Column A, and which are marked by an asterisk, and
- (b) those populations listed in Category 4 in Column A,

hunting may continue to be conducted on a sustainable use¹ 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.² Such use shall, at 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 2.1.3 below.

2.1.3 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 2.1.4 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;

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.

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- (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,
 - 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 bait,
 - 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 2.1.3 (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 utilization 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.

2.1.4 Parties may grant exemptions to the prohibitions laid down in paragraphs 2.1.1 and 2.1.3, 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 interests, 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.

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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 birds 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.

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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 which should include 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 harmonized 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 well as the use of lead fishing weights weighing between 0.06 and 28.35 grams as soon as possible in accordance with self-imposed and published timetables.

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- 4.1.5 Parties shall develop and implement measures to reduce, and as far as possible eliminate, illegal taking.
- 4.1.6 Where appropriate, Parties shall encourage hunters, at local, national and international levels, to form clubs or organizations to coordinate their activities and to help ensure sustainability.
- 4.1.7 Parties shall, where appropriate, promote the requirement of a proficiency test for hunters, including among other things, bird identification.

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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.

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[...]

Table 1

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.

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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 fulfill the conditions in respect of Category 1, 2 or 3, as described above.

For species listed in categories 2, 3 and 4 above, see paragraph 2.1.2 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.

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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.

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/criticalsitenetworktool/tabid/1349/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

North Africa	Algeria, Egypt, <u>Libya</u> , 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, <u>South Sudan</u> , Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania.
North-west Africa	Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia.
North-east Africa	Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, <u>South Sudan</u> , 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.

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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, FYR Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia 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

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	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, and 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).

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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 current 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.

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Note: Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan was updated using the version approved by MOP4 in 2008. This table lists the status of each species in three columns, headed "A", "B" and "C", according to their conservation status. Updated information is entered in bold type in three additional columns headed "**A proposed revision**", "**B proposed revision**" and "**C proposed revision**". The proposed revision reflects also the proposed new Category 4 of Column A. The conservation status in the absence of the adoption of this new category is also presented in the table and marked with the "!!" sign. The earlier

information which has been updated is included, and is identifiable by being crossed through. Changes in taxonomic treatment and nomenclature are typed in bold font with having the old name crossed through. A few single populations have been split into two. These have the previous population name and status crossed through. The new treatment, when these populations were split in the 2011 review, appears below the previous population, and information in these cases only appears in the new columns in bold type. A small number of errors included in earlier versions of the table have been deleted using strikethrough (eg. 2a) and the correct information has been entered in the appropriate new column. When using this table, the sources of proposed revisions in Conservation Status can readily be found by referring to Table 1 in the 2011 Conservation Status Report.

	A	A proposed revision	B	B proposed revision	C	C proposed revision
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	(4)			
<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					

	A	A proposed revision	B	B proposed revision	C	C proposed revision
<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 aethereus aethereus</i>						
- South Atlantic	1c					
<i>Phaethon aethereus indicus</i>						
- Persian Gulf, Gulf of Aden, Red Sea	1c					
<i>Phaethon rubricauda rubricauda</i>						
- Indian Ocean	4e	2				
<i>Phaethon lepturus lepturus</i>						
- Persian Gulf, Gulf of Aden, Red Sea W Indian Ocean	4e	2				
PELECANIDAE						
<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>						
- 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)	4a-4e	1a 1b 1c				
- South-west Asia & South Asia (win)	4a-4e	1a 1b 1c				
SULIDAE						
<i>Sula (Morus) bassana</i>			2a			1
<i>Sula (Morus) capensis</i>						
- Southern Africa	1b		2a 2c			
<i>Sula dactylatra melanops</i>						
- W Indian Ocean	4e	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>						

	A	A proposed revision	B	B proposed revision	C	C proposed revision
- 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	2a 2c!!			
FREGATIDAE						
<i>Fregata minor aldabrensis</i>						
- W Indian Ocean	4e	2				
<i>Fregata ariel iredalei</i>						
- W Indian Ocean	4e	2				
ARDEIDAE						
<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>						
- Sub-Saharan Africa			1			
<i>Egretta vinaceigula</i>						
- South-central Africa	1b 1c					
<i>Egretta garzetta garzetta</i>						
- 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>						

	A	A proposed revision	B	B proposed revision	C	C proposed revision
- Tropical Africa			1			
- West Europe & West Mediterranean/West Africa	2					
- East Europe, & South-west Asia 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 brachyrhynchus</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>						
- Tropical 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			2c			

	A	A proposed revision	B	B proposed revision	C	C proposed revision
Mediterranean/Sub-Saharan Africa						
- 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					
- Heria 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	4e	1b 1c				
THRESKIORNITHIDAE						
<i>Plegadis falcinellus falcinellus</i>						
- Sub-Saharan Africa (bre)					1	
- Black Sea & Mediterranean/West	3c					

	A	A proposed revision	B	B proposed revision	C	C proposed revision
Africa						
- 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					
<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>Phoenicopterus Phoeniconaias minor</i>						
- West Africa	2					
- Eastern Africa		4	2a 2c!!			
- Southern Africa (to Madagascar)	3a					
ANATIDAE						
<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>						
- West Africa (Senegal to Chad)		2	4			
- 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*					

	A	A proposed revision	B	B proposed revision	C	C proposed revision
<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>						
- North-east Europe/North-west Europe		3c	4			
- West & Central Siberia/Turkmenistan to W China		1c			(4)	
<i>Anser fabalis rossicus</i>						
- West & Central Siberia/NE & SW Europe					(1)	
<i>Anser fabalis johanseni</i>						
<i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i>						
- NW Siberia & NE Europe/North-west Europe					1	
- Western Siberia/Central Europe	3e*					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>						
- N NE Europe & W Siberia/Black Sea & Caspian	1a 1b 2					
- Fennoscandia		1a 1b 1c				
<i>Anser anser anser</i>						

	A	A proposed revision	B	B proposed revision	C	C proposed revision
- 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–2e	2b		
<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>						
- Svalbard/Denmark & UK	1c					
- Canada & Greenland/Ireland	2	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/Iraq & Iraq			1			
<i>Tadorna cana</i>						
- Southern Africa		3c	+			
<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>						
- North-west Europe			2a			
- Black Sea & Mediterranean	3e					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	
<i>Nettion auritus</i>						
- West Africa	1c					
- Southern & Eastern Africa					(1)	
<i>Anas capensis</i>						

	A	A proposed revision	B	B proposed revision	C	C proposed revision
- 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			2e			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			2e			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			2e			1
- W Siberia/SW Asia, NE & Eastern Africa			2c			
<i>Anas erythrorhynchos</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			2e			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	

	A	A proposed revision	B	B proposed revision	C	C proposed revision
- 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	
<i>Netta erythrophthalma brunea</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			

	A	A proposed revision	B	B proposed revision	C	C proposed revision
- 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 2	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	2a 2c		
<i>Melanitta fusca fusca</i>						
- Western Siberia & Northern Europe/NW Europe			2a	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					
GRUIDAE						
<i>Balearica pavonina pavonina</i>						
- West Africa (Senegal to Chad)	2	1b 1c				
<i>Balearica pavonina ceciliae</i>						
- Eastern Africa (Sudan to Uganda)	3e	1b 3c				

	A	A proposed revision	B	B proposed revision	C	C proposed revision
<i>Balearica regulorum regulorum</i>						
- Southern Africa (N to Angola & S Zimbabwe)	4e	1b 1c				
<i>Balearica regulorum gibbericeps</i>						
- Eastern Africa (Kenya to Mozambique)	3e	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	4b		2e			1
<i>Amaurornis flavirostris</i>						

	A	A proposed revision	B	B proposed revision	C	C proposed revision
- 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>						
- 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	3a			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 ('meridionalis')	2					
- SW Europe & North-west Africa/West Africa			1			
- Central Europe & E Mediterranean/N-Central Africa			1			

	A	A proposed revision	B	B proposed revision	C	C proposed revision
- 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	(2)			1		
<i>Burhinus senegalensis inornatus</i>						
- North-east & Eastern Africa	(2)			1		
GLAREOLIDAE						
<i>Pluvianus aegyptius aegyptius</i>						
- 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	2b 2c!!			
<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	

	A	A proposed revision	B	B proposed revision	C	C proposed revision
- 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 psammodroma</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					
- SW & Central Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa			(1)			
<i>Charadrius marginatus mechowii</i>						
- <i>mechowii/tenellus</i> Inland East & Central Africa	2					
- Coastal E Africa	2					
- West Africa	2					
<i>Charadrius mongolus pamirensis</i>						
- West-central Asia/SW Asia &					1	

	A	A proposed revision	B	B proposed revision	C	C proposed revision
Eastern Africa						
<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 & South-central Africa	3c					
<i>Eudromias morinellus</i>						
- Europe/North-west Africa	(3c)					
- Asia/Middle East			(1)			
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>						
- Europe/Europe & North Africa			2e			
- Western Asia/South-west Asia					(1)	
- 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					

	A	A proposed revision	B	B proposed revision	C	C proposed revision
- 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)	
<i>Gallinago stenura</i>						
- Northern Siberia/South Asia & Eastern Africa					(1)	
<i>Gallinago media</i>						
- Scandinavia/probably West Africa		4	1!!			
- Western Siberia & NE Europe/South-east Africa		4	2c!!			
<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>Limnocryptes 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	2c!!			
- Eastern Europe/Central & Eastern Africa		4	2c!!			
- West-central Asia/SW Asia & Eastern Africa		4	(1)!!			
<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>						
- Iceland/Western Europe	3a*	4		1!!		
<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					(1)	

	A	A proposed revision	B	B proposed revision	C	C proposed revision
& Eastern Africa						
<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		2c!!	+	
<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)	2	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>						
- 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,					1	

	A	A proposed revision	B	B proposed revision	C	C proposed revision
West Africa						
- 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>Tringa cinerea</i> <i>Xenus cinereus</i>						
- NE Europe & W Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa					1	
<i>Tringa</i> <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	4e	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-2e	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>						

	A	A proposed revision	B	B proposed revision	C	C proposed revision
- 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					
<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</i> <i>longicaudus</i>					1	
LARIDAE						
<i>Larus leucophthalmus</i>						
- Red Sea & nearby coasts	1a		1			
<i>Larus hemprichii</i>						
- Red Sea, Gulf, Arabia & Eastern Africa			2a			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	1a 3a					

	A	A proposed revision	B	B proposed revision	C	C proposed revision
Africa						
<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 glaucooides glaucooides</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	(2e)			
<i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>						
- Western Europe/Mediterranean & West Africa					1	
<i>Larus fuscus intermedius</i>						
- S Scandinavia, Netherlands, Ebro Delta, Spain					1	
<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			

	A	A proposed revision	B	B proposed revision	C	C proposed revision
<i>Larus ridibundus</i>						
- W Europe/W Europe, W Mediterranean, West Africa			2e			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)			2a			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>						
- Canada & Greenland/SE Atlantic					(1)	
<i>Rissa tridactyla tridactyla</i>			2a	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			
- Europe (bre)	4e					
- 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			2a			1
<i>Sterna bengalensis par</i>						
- Red Sea/Eastern Africa	3a			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>						

	A	A proposed revision	B	B proposed revision	C	C proposed revision
- 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>						
- Western Europe/West Africa			2a			1
- Black Sea & Mediterranean (bre)			2a			
- West & Central Asia/South-west & South Asia			2a			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>						
- Eastern Atlantic (bre)	3b 3e					
- 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>						

	A	A proposed revision	B	B proposed revision	C	C proposed revision
- 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>						
- S 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			
<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			2a			1
<i>Uria aalge aalge</i>						
- E North America, Greenland, Iceland, Faeroes, Scotland, S Norway, Baltic			2a	2c		
<i>Uria aalge albionis</i>						
- Ireland, S Britain, France, Iberia,			2a			1

	A	A proposed revision	B	B proposed revision	C	C proposed revision
Helgoland						
<i>Uria aalge hyperborea</i>						
- Svalbard, N Norway to Novaya Zemlya			2a			1
<i>Uria lomvia lomvia</i>						
- E North America, Greenland, E to Severnaya Zemlya			2a	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>Cephus grylle grylle</i>						
- Baltic Sea			1			
<i>Cephus grylle mandtii</i>						
- Arctic E North America to Greenland, Jan Mayen & Svalbard E through Siberia to Alaska			1			
<i>Cephus grylle arcticus</i>						
- N America, S Greenland, Britain, Ireland, Scandinavia, White Sea			+			1
<i>Cephus grylle islandicus</i>						
- Iceland		3c	+			
<i>Cephus 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			2a			1
<i>Fratercula arctica naumanni</i>						
- NE Canada, N Greenland, to Jan Mayen, Svalbard, N Novaya Zemlya		3a	2a			
<i>Fratercula arctica grabae</i>						
- Faeroes, S Norway & Sweden, Britain, Ireland, NW France			2a			1

**B. JUSTIFICATIONS FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE AEWA
ANNEX 3 (ACTION PLAN AND TABLE 1)**

I. SPECIES CONSERVATION: LEGAL MEASURES (REPLACEMENT OF THE “LONG-ESTABLISHED CULTURAL PRACTICE” CRITERION & HIGHLIGHTING THE STATUS OF NEAR THREATENED SPECIES)

Current wording:

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 utilization 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 utilization of, and trade in, any readily recognizable parts or derivatives of such birds and their eggs.

By way of exceptions for those populations listed in Categories 2 and 3 in Column A only and which are marked with an asterisk, hunting may continue on a sustainable use basis where hunting of such populations is a long-established cultural practice. This sustainable use shall be conducted within the framework of special provisions of a species action plan at the appropriate international level.

[...]

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.

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

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 extreme fluctuations in population size or trend.

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

[...]

Proposed wording:

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 utilization 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 utilization of, and trade in, any readily recognizable parts or derivatives of such birds and their eggs.

2.1.2 By way of exception for:

- (a) those populations listed in Categories 2 and 3 in Column A and which are marked by an asterisk, and
- (b) those populations listed in Category 4 in Column A.

hunting may continue to be conducted on a sustainable use³ 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.⁴ Such use shall, at 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 2.1.3 below.

³ „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.

⁴ 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.

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 extreme 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 fulfill the conditions in respect of Category 1, 2 or 3, as described above.

For species listed in categories 2, 3 and 4 above, see paragraph 2.1.2 of the Action Plan contained in Annex 3 to the Agreement.

[...]

Reasons for the deletion of the “long-established cultural practice” criterion:

While paragraph 2.1.1 of the Action Plan currently requires Parties to prohibit the take of birds from Column A populations, an exception is provided for the hunting of asterisk-marked populations listed in Categories 2 and 3 where such hunting constitutes a “long-established cultural practice”. There are currently four populations (of three species) that are marked with an asterisk, and to which this exception can consequently be applied:

- *Limosa limosa islandica*;
- *Thalassornis leuconotus leuconotus*;
- *Anser albifrons albifrons*; and
- *Anser albifrons flavirostris*.

At MOP5 it will, however, be proposed that *Limosa limosa islandica* and *Anser albifrons albifrons* be downgraded to Column A, Category 4 (see discussion of Near Threatened Species below) and

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

Column C, Category 1 respectively. If these proposals for downgrading are accepted by the MOP, the result will be that only two Column A populations will continue to be marked with an asterisk.

The current exception may be applied only when hunting constitutes a “long-established cultural practice”. Since this term is extremely vague, it is difficult to determine which practices do and do not fall within its ambit. It is thus proposed that the exception be deleted from paragraph 2.1.1. At the same time, however, it is recognized that consumptive use, where sustainable, has the potential to benefit conservation status. It is thus appropriate to continue to allow the hunting of asterisk-marked Category 2 and 3 populations, provided that such hunting is subject to strict conditions that ensure sustainability.

It is proposed that a new exception be inserted after paragraph 2.1.1 which allows the hunting of those populations that are listed in Categories 2 and 3 of Column A and marked with an asterisk. Such hunting should only, however, be permitted if the following conditions are met:

- The hunting is conducted on a sustainable use basis. (Parties to AEWa are, in any event, under a general obligation to ensure that any use of migratory waterbirds is sustainable—AEWA, Article III.2(b).);
- Use is conducted within the framework of special provisions of an international single species action plan, which seeks to implement the principles of adaptive harvest management. (Single species action plans are already required for the hunting of asterisk-marked populations under the current “long-established cultural practice” exception. Paragraph 2.2.1 of the Action Plan additionally requires Parties to “cooperate with a view to developing and implementing international single species action plans ... for those populations listed with an asterisk in Column A of Table 1”. A draft single species action plan has already been produced for *Anser albifrons albifrons*, though such a plan still needs to be drafted for *Thalassornis leuconotus leuconotus*.)
- Use is, at a minimum, subject to the same legal measures as the taking of birds from populations listed in Column B of Table 1. (In terms of the Action Plan’s current paragraph 2.1.2, Parties are required to introduce legal measures to regulate the taking of birds and eggs of populations listed in Column B of Table 1. If the hunting of any Column A populations is permitted, it is appropriate for such hunting to at least be subject to the same restrictions as the hunting of populations that face a lower degree of risk, as indicated by their listing in a lower column.)

Reasons for the amendments aimed at highlighting the status of Near Threatened species:

AEWA’s coverage of IUCN threatened species

According to Table 1 of AEWa’s Action Plan, Category 1 of Column A currently includes, *inter alia*, those species that are listed as “threatened” (i.e. either Critically Endangered, Endangered, or Vulnerable) on the IUCN Red list of Threatened Species (as reported in the most recent summary by BirdLife International). The result is that Parties are required to provide strict legislative protections to waterbird species that are included in one of the IUCN’s threatened categories and occur within their territories: Subject to limited exceptions (currently enumerated in paragraph 2.1.3 of the Action Plan), Parties are to prohibit the taking of birds and eggs of these species; prohibit deliberate disturbance insofar as this would be significant for the conservation of the population concerned; and prohibit the possession, utilization of, and trade in, birds or eggs that have been taken illegally, as well as the possession, utilization of, or trade in readily recognizable parts or derivatives of such birds and their eggs (Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.1). Because IUCN threatened species are included in Category 1 of Column A, Parties are additionally required to, as a priority, cooperate with a view to developing and implementing international single species action plans for threatened species, and to prepare and implement national single species action plans for such species (Action Plan, paragraph 2.2).

Near Threatened species

Species that do not fall into one of the IUCN's threatened categories may currently be classified as Near Threatened, Least Concern, Extinct in the Wild, Data Deficient, or Not Evaluated. "Near Threatened" is defined to include taxa that, whilst not currently qualifying for any of the threatened categories, *are close to qualifying, or likely to qualify, for a threatened category in the near future*. This category was introduced in 1994⁵ (although the Near Threatened category was, at that time, grouped with the Conservation Dependent and Least Concern categories as "lower risk"). While a revised version of the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria was published in 2001,⁶ this version has retained the Near Threatened category (though the Conservation Dependent category has been deleted and slight modifications have been made to the criteria used to assign species to the remaining categories). The Near Threatened category thus existed at the time of AEWa's adoption in 1995 and has not undergone any significant changes since that time.

Although species belonging to one of the IUCN's threatened categories are expressly incorporated into Column A of Table 1, and are thus entitled to the highest level of protection afforded by AEWa, Table 1 currently makes no reference whatsoever to Near Threatened species. Unlike threatened species, Near Threatened species as a group are not entitled to any protection from AEWa (although particular Near Threatened species can, of course, be covered by the Agreement if they independently satisfy one of the Table 1 listing criteria). This is despite the fact that Near Threatened species are, by definition, close to qualifying, or likely to qualify, for a threatened category in the near future.

Proposed amendments and justification

The fundamental principle underlying AEWa is that Parties must take "co-ordinated measures to maintain migratory waterbird species in a favourable conservation status or to restore them to such a status" (Article II). To this end, Parties are directed by Article III.1 to "take measures to conserve migratory waterbirds, giving special attention to endangered species as well as those with an unfavourable conservation status". This is one of the provisions that must be taken into consideration when amending AEWa's Action Plan (Article IV.3). Given that Near Threatened species are close to meeting, or likely to meet, the criteria for listing in a threatened category in the near future, it is probable that most (if not all) Near Threatened species can be considered to have an unfavourable conservation status, even if they do not qualify as "endangered". The Near Threatened Category is thus arguably made up of precisely the kind of species that the drafters of AEWa envisaged Parties taking measures to protect. It is consequently proposed that Table 1 be amended so as to expressly incorporate all IUCN Near Threatened species.

Since Near Threatened species do face a lower risk of extinction than those species included in the IUCN threatened categories, it is probably inappropriate to include them in Category 1 of Column A, thereby entitling them to AEWa's highest level of protections. That said, the fact that Near Threatened species are close to qualifying for, or likely to qualify for, a threatened category in the near future (and are thus almost at a stage at which they will automatically be included in Category 1 of Column A) supports their inclusion in an AEWa category that provides some special protections. At the same time, particular Near Threatened species/populations should be permitted to qualify for inclusion in a higher Table 1 category if they meet that category's criteria. It is therefore proposed that a fourth category be added to Column A. It is further suggested that Parties not be required to completely prohibit the take of Near Threatened (Category 4) species, but that such take be allowed subject to the same conditions that this document proposes for the take of asterisk-marked populations listed in Category 2 or 3 of Column A.

Impact of proposed amendment on Near Threatened populations currently covered by AEWa

⁵ IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria: Version 2.3 (1994).

⁶ IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria: Version 3.1 (2001).

According to the Report on the Status of Migratory Waterbirds in the Agreement Area (5th edition), which will be presented at MOP5, AEWA presently covers 28 Near Threatened populations of 16 species. A question thus arises as to how these populations would be affected by the proposed amendment. Approximately two thirds of the Near Threatened populations that are currently covered by AEWA are included in Category 1, 2 or 3 of Column A. The proposed amendment would have no impact whatsoever on these populations. The amendment would, however, impact those Near Threatened populations that are currently included in Column B or C. These populations would be upgraded to Column A's new category. They include (*see also Appendix B*):

- *Phalacrocorax capensis*, Cape Cormorant (S. Africa);
- *Phoenicopus minor*, Lesser Flamingo (E. Africa);
- *Glareola nordmanni*, Black-winged Pratincole (E. Europe-Central Asia);
- *Gallinago media*, Great Snipe (Scandinavia, W. Siberia, N.E. Europe);
- *Limosa limosa limosa*, Black-tailed Godwit (W. Europe, E. Europe, W. Asia); and
- *Numenius arquata arquata*, Eurasian Curlew (Europe, N. Africa, W. Africa).

There is additionally evidence that *Limosa limosa islandica* no longer meets the criteria for inclusion in Category 3 of Column A and should be downgraded to Category 1 of Column B. If the proposed amendment is accepted, this population should rather be downgraded to Column A's new Category 4.

The result of including the above populations in Category 4 is that Parties could only allow the hunting of these populations subject to the conditions proposed in paragraph 2.1.2 above. In this regard, it is noteworthy that the majority of Near Threatened populations that are currently covered by AEWA are not, in any event, huntable in their range states. Out of those populations listed above, the only ones that are currently huntable are *Limosa limosa limosa*, *Limosa limosa islandica*, and *Numenius arquata arquata* (though take of live birds from populations of *Phoenicopus minor* does also occur in East Africa). Amongst those populations that are huntable, it is only *Numenius arquata arquata* that currently lacks an international single species action plan. Furthermore, all of the above-listed populations other than *Numenius arquata arquata* are currently listed in Column B of Table 1, with the result that Parties are already required to regulate the take of birds from these populations.

Scientific Name	Huntable in range states?	International SSAP?	Parties required to regulate take?
<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>	No	No (though this species is planned to be included in a multispecies plan)	Yes (Col B2b, 2c)
<i>Phoenicopus minor</i>	No (but take of live birds for trade)	Yes	Yes (Col B2a, 2c)
<i>Glareola nordmanni</i>	No	Yes	Yes (Col B2b, 2c)
<i>Gallinago media</i>	No	Yes	Yes (Col B1, B2c)
<i>Limosa limosa limosa</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes (Col B2c, B1)
<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes (Col A3a*)
<i>Numenius arquata arquata</i>	Yes	No (though this species is currently covered by an EU management plan)	No (Col C1) (But currently meets criteria for listing in Col B1.)

It follows that the proposed amendments would not significantly alter the obligations of Parties concerning those Near Threatened populations that are currently covered by AEWA. Such amendments would, however, impose new obligations on Parties with regard to any Near Threatened species that are not currently covered by the Agreement.

II. SPECIES CONSERVATION: LEGAL MEASURES (MODES OF TAKING)

Current wording:

2.1.2 Parties with populations listed in Table 1 shall regulate the taking of birds and eggs of all population 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;*
- (c) establish limits on taking, where appropriate, and provide adequate controls to ensure that these limits are observed; and*
- (d) prohibit the possession or utilization 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.*

[...]

4. Management of Human Activities

4.1 Hunting

[...]

4.1.5 Parties shall develop and implement measures to reduce, and as far as possible eliminate, the use of poisoned baits.

Proposed wording:

2.1.3 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 2.1.4 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,
- 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 bait,
- 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 2.1.3(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 utilization 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.*

Reasons for the amendment:

While the current paragraph 2.1.2 requires Parties to take legal measures to regulate modes of taking, no guidance is provided as to how Parties should go about meeting this requirement. The objectives of the regulatory measures currently included in paragraph 2.1.2 are (i) to maintain or contribute to the restoration of Column B populations to a favourable conservation status, and (ii) to ensure that the taking of birds from Column B populations is sustainable. If these objectives are to be achieved, it stands to reason that Parties should prohibit those methods of taking that are indiscriminate and/or have the potential to cause mass destruction of, or serious disturbance to, populations listed in Column B. It is thus proposed that the Action Plan be amended so as to require Parties to prohibit such modes of take and that the amended provision include a list of problematic methods of taking so as to provide guidance to Parties concerning what should be prohibited. This list should not, however, be considered to be exhaustive.

Despite the need to avoid indiscriminate modes of taking, it is recognised that throughout Africa, individuals make use of snares, limes, nets, traps, hooks etc. when hunting as a livelihoods strategy. Parties should thus be permitted to grant exemptions from the required prohibitions for take that is for livelihoods purposes, provided that such take will be sustainable.

To ensure that the proposed amendment does not conflict with other parts of the Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.5 should be deleted from part 4 of the Action Plan (on Management of Human Activities).

III. SPECIES CONSERVATION: LEGAL MEASURES (THE “OVERRIDING PUBLIC INTEREST” EXEMPTION)

Current wording:

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 or other overriding public interests;*
- (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.

Proposed wording:

2.1.4 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.

Reasons for the amendment:

Although the current paragraph 2.1.3(b) allows Parties to grant exemptions from prohibitions and restrictions on take when such exemptions are supported by overriding public interests, the only specific overriding public interest to which this part of the Action Plan refers is air safety. Parties are provided with no further guidance as to what may constitute an overriding public interest. It is suggested that the following types of interests can, depending on the circumstances, constitute overriding public interests and thus be used to justify the use of this exemption:

- public health and safety;

- social interests;
- economic interests (provided that these are indeed public interests – projects that are entirely in the interests of companies or individuals generally would not be included); and
- environmental protection.

It is thus proposed that these interests be expressly referred to in the Action Plan so as to provide Parties with guidance regarding the kinds of interests that they may rely upon to justify an exemption for overriding public interests. These interests should not, however, constitute an exhaustive list of the types of interests that may qualify as overriding public interests.

It must be stressed that the interests that have been listed above will not *always* justify exemptions to the legal restrictions required by the Action Plan. The current paragraph 2.1.3(b) only applies to those public interests that are *overriding* in nature. Public interests will thus need to be carefully balanced against the conservation interests protected by AEWA. Furthermore, it must be remembered that all of the exemptions that are currently included in paragraph 2.1.3 are qualified by the requirement that they not operate to the detriment of Table 1 populations. The result is that, even when significant social, economic or other interests are at play, these should never completely outweigh conservation concerns.

It is proposed that the current paragraph 2.1.3 (which will become paragraph 2.1.4 if the other amendments proposed in this document are accepted by the MOP) be amended as described above.

IV. INTRODUCTIONS

Current wording:

Both Article III(2)(g) of AEWA and paragraph 2.5 of AEWA's Action Plan deal with the introduction and management of non-native species. The two provisions state the following -

AEWA – Article III(2)(g):	Action Plan – paragraph 2.5
<i>Parties shall “prohibit the deliberate introduction of non-native waterbird species into the environment and take all appropriate measures to prevent the unintentional release of such species if this introduction or release would prejudice the conservation status of wild fauna and flora; when non-native waterbird species have already been introduced, the Parties shall take all appropriate measures to prevent these species from becoming a potential threat to indigenous species.”</i>	<p><i>“2.5.1 Parties shall, if they consider it necessary, prohibit the introduction of non-native species of animals and plants which may be detrimental to the populations in Table 1.</i></p> <p><i>2.5.2 Parties shall, if they consider it necessary, require the taking of appropriate precautions to avoid the accidental escape of captive birds belonging to non-native species.</i></p> <p><i>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.”</i></p>

Proposed wording of paragraph 2.5:

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 in Table 1.

2.5.2 Parties shall require the taking of appropriate precautions to avoid the accidental escape of captive birds belonging to non-native species which may be detrimental to the populations 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.

Reasons for the amendment:

Both Article III(2)(g) and paragraph 2.5 create obligations concerning (i) prohibiting the introduction of non-native species; (ii) preventing the unintentional/accidental release of such species; and (iii) preventing those non-native species that have been released from becoming a threat to other species. Nevertheless, Article III(2)(g) and paragraph 2.5 do differ in the following respects:

- While paragraph 2.5 recognizes (at least in 2.5.1 and 2.5.3) that the purpose of managing non-native species is to protect populations of waterbirds listed in terms of Table 1, Article III(2)(g) refers to the protection of wild fauna and flora in general. However, in light of the purpose of AEWA (and, in particular, the purpose of the measures called for in Article III), it can be inferred that, in implementing Article III(2)(g) of the Agreement, Parties should pay special attention to the protection of indigenous waterbird species (in particular those that have been identified as endangered/having an unfavourable conservation status). It can thus be argued that this difference between the two provisions is of no particular significance.
- While the obligations created by Article III(2)(g) only relate to non-native *waterbird* species, the Action Plan's paragraph (with the exception of 2.5.2) recognizes that there is a need to protect listed waterbird populations from *all* non-native species that may be detrimental to such populations. It is further significant that, unlike Article III(2)(g) and paragraphs 2.5.1 and 2.5.3, paragraph 2.5.2 fails to stipulate that the obligations it creates only apply if the non-native species in question may prejudice the conservation status of/be detrimental to/pose a threat or hazard to other species (the implications of this are discussed below).
- By qualifying both the obligation to prohibit the introduction of non-native species and the obligation to prevent the accidental escape of captive birds with the phrase "if they consider it necessary", paragraph 2.5 makes measures that are peremptory under the text of AEWA merely discretionary under the Action Plan. The obligation to take such measures is, in other words, made contingent upon a subjective determination made by range states themselves. This language is far weaker than that found in Article III(2)(g), which (at least insofar as non-native waterbird species are concerned) requires such steps to be taken whenever failure to do so would prejudice the conservation of fauna and flora. The language is also weak when read against the other provisions of the Action Plan - particularly part 2, which, with the exception of paragraph 2.5, contains the most prescriptive wording of the entire Action Plan.

As a result of the last of the above points, it is proposed that the phrase "if they consider it necessary" be removed from paragraph 2.5 of the Action Plan. Such an amendment would have the following advantages:

- At present the Action Plan's provision on non-native species fails to align with the primary Agreement's text on the same issue – particularly insofar as the strength of obligations is concerned. This has the potential to create confusion amongst the Contracting Parties, and it would thus be appropriate to amend the Action Plan so as to bring it into line with the more restrictive text of the Agreement. Indeed, when amending the Action Plan, AEWA expressly directs the MOP to take the provisions of Article III of the Agreement into consideration (Article IV(2)).
- The strengthening of paragraph 2.5 insofar as it relates to non-native waterbird species would also be supported by the Conservation Guidelines, which Article IV(2) directs the MOP to take into account when reviewing the Action Plan. (See in particular the Guidelines on Avoidance of Introductions of Non-native Waterbird Species, which recognize both the potential problems caused by non-native waterbird species in the Agreement Area and the need to establish/improve legislation to prevent the introduction of non-native waterbird species and to allow their control where established populations exist).
- While it is true that the scope of paragraph 2.5 is broader than that of Article III(2)(g), in that it calls for the control of *all* types of non-native species rather than merely non-native waterbirds, the Conservation Guidelines do also recognize the threats posed by alien predators, invasive plant species etc. to waterbirds and their habitats. Such hazards provide good reason to strengthen the Action Plan's obligations concerning non-native species in general. Indeed, the Guidelines on Identifying and Tackling Emergency Situations for Migratory Waterbirds advise that "[n]o alien species should ever be deliberately introduced without detailed assessment of the possible consequences" (p9).
- Finally, amending the Action Plan so as to impose less discretionary requirements on Parties concerning the control of all alien species would serve to better align the obligations in the AEWA Action Plan with approaches taken under a number of other MEAs to which countries in the Agreement Area subscribe, as well as the approach taken within the European Union. (See Appendix C).

In light of the above, it is proposed that the phrase "if they consider it necessary" be deleted from paragraph 2.5 of the Action Plan. One further issue that must, however, be considered is that paragraph 2.5.2 fails to provide that the taking of precautions to prevent the accidental escape of captive birds belonging to non-native species is only required when such species *pose a threat* to Table 1 populations. The result is that, without further amendment to paragraph 2.5, the removal of the phrase "if they consider it necessary" will strictly oblige Parties to take precautions to prevent the accidental escape of *all* non-native waterbirds – even those that pose no threat to the populations that AEWA seeks to protect. To avoid the creation of so strict an obligation, it is suggested that paragraph 2.5 of the Action Plan be amended so as only to require Parties to take precautions to avoid those accidental escapes that may be detrimental to populations listed in Table 1.

Finally, insofar as paragraph 2.5.1 is concerned, it is proposed that this part of the Action Plan be brought into line with the corresponding part of Article III(2)(g) by specifying that it applies to introductions 'into the environment'.

V. HABITAT CONSERVATION: TACKLING THE EFFECTS OF AQUATIC INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES ON WATERBIRD HABITATS

Proposed wording:

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 which should include 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.

Reasons for the addition:

In Resolution 4.11, operative paragraph 8(e) the Meeting of the Parties requested the drafting of a proposal for amendments to the AEWA Action Plan to deal with tackling the effects of aquatic invasive non-native species on waterbird habitats. Being a factor leading to habitat degradation, it was suggested that aquatic invasive non-native species can be specifically pointed out in the current paragraph 3.3 aiming at the rehabilitation and restoration of damaged areas. However, a number of other factors are similarly strong causes leading to habitat destruction and deterioration; therefore it is proposed to add a longer list of natural and human-induced factors.

VI. MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES: HUNTING (PHASING OUT LEAD FISHING WEIGHTS)

Current wording:

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.

Proposed wording:

4.1.4 Parties shall endeavour to phase out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands as well as the use of lead fishing weights weighing between 0.06 and 28.35 grams as soon as possible in accordance with self-imposed and published timetables.

Reasons for the amendment:

Waterbirds can ingest lead fishing weights, mistaking them for food or grit. Fishing weights ingested by waterbirds are usually small fishing weights as used in sport fishing (weighing between 0.06 and 28.35 grams). The ingestion of a single fishing weight can lead to acute lead poisoning. The following 14 species of waterbirds listed by AEWA have been documented as being affected by lead poisoning though lead fishing weights:⁷

GAVIIDAE

- Great Northern Diver or Common Loon (*Gavia immer*)

ARDEIDAE

- Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*)
- Black-crowned Night-heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

⁷According to various sources compiled by Scheuhammer et al. (2003) and Rattner et al. (2008). In addition, 15 non-AEWA waterbird species are listed.

ANATIDAE

- Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)
- Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*)
- Tundra or Bewick's Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*)
- Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)
- Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)
- Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*)
- Velvet Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*)⁸
- Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*)
- Goosander or Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*)

LARIDAE

- Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)

STERNIDAE

- Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*)

Scheuhammer et al. (2003) actually assume that “[v]irtually all species of piscivorous bird, as well as species that feed in nearshore soils and sediments, are at risk of lead poisoning from inadvertent consumption of lost or discarded lead sinkers.”⁹

The precise amounts of lead entering the environment in the form of fishing weights used in sport fishing are currently unknown; however, the estimated range is up to ca. 550 tonnes/year (Canada) and 2,000-6,000 tonnes/year for the European Union area.

For the reasons outlined, legal bans on the use/ import/ sale of lead weights already exist at national level in countries such as Canada, United Kingdom, and Denmark. For these reasons, it is also proposed that the Action Plan be amended so as to oblige AEWA Parties to phase out the use of lead fishing weights weighing between 0.06 and 28.35 grams as soon as possible in accordance with self-imposed and published timetables.

VII. MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES: OTHER HUMAN ACTIVITIES – CLARIFICATION OF TERMINOLOGY (SPECIES ACTION PLANS vs SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLANS)

Current wording:

4.3. Other Human Activities

[...]

4.3.4 *Parties shall cooperate with a view to developing single species action 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.*

[...]

⁸ In Scheuhammer et al. (2003) the North American common name “White-winged Scoter” is used for *Melanitta fusca*.

⁹ Scheuhammer et al. (2003), p. 18.

Proposed wording:

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.*

[...]

Reasons for the replacement of “action” by “management”:

With the development of the first AEWA species plan under AEWA Action Plan paragraph 4.3.4 dealing with a population causing crop damage (Draft Species Management Plan for the Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* – Svalbard population) the Technical Committee considered the terminology used for such plans (Single Species Action Plans) which is the same as in paragraph 2.2 for populations in Category on Column A of Table 1, i.e. populations with poorest conservation status requiring measures to recover them to favourable status. The Committee suggested that the species plans referred to in paragraph 4.3.4 shall be renamed to Single Species Management Plans in order to differentiate them from the ones required by paragraph 2.2 and avoid confusion on the concepts of these two types of plans.

VIII. INTERPRETATION OF THE TERM “EXTREME FLUCTUATIONS IN POPULATION SIZE OR TREND” APPLICABLE TO AEWA TABLE 1 – REPLACEMENT OF “EXTREME” BY “LARGE”

Current wording:

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 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 extreme fluctuations in population size or trend.*

Column B

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

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 extreme fluctuations in population size or trend.*

Proposed wording:

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 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.*

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.*

Reasons for the replacement of “extreme” by “large”:

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

In resolution 3.3. the Meeting of the Parties requested a guidance on interpretation of the term “extreme fluctuations in population size and trend” used in criteria applicable to AEWA Table 1.

The initial consideration was to use as guidance the IUCN Red List criterion for “extreme fluctuations”:

“Extreme fluctuations could be said to occur in a number of taxa when population size or distribution area varies widely, rapidly and frequently, typically with a variation greater than one order of magnitude (i.e. a tenfold increase or decrease).”¹⁰

However, it became clear that (water)bird populations do not fluctuate in size at a scale of one order of magnitude. Subsequent discussion considered adjusting the definition so as to be more applicable for the purpose of assessing bird populations.

In considering the issue further, however, there was concern about the implications of consequences of an AEWA re-definition of “*extreme fluctuation*” given that this would then be at variance to the already widely applied IUCN definition.

It has been therefore suggested that the problem could be resolved by simply changing the wording of criterion from “*extreme*” to “*large*” fluctuation. This would avoid confusion with the IUCN Red List term and definition which is clearly inappropriate for waterbirds, and it would usefully avoid the scenario of two meanings for the same term in the context of species listings.

A proposed guidance on the term “large fluctuations in population size and trend” will be submitted to the Meeting of the Parties by the Technical Committee .

IX. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS TO TABLE 1 OF THE AEWA ACTION PLAN

All recommended amendments are based on the 5th edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report

1. Changes in status

Recent information or improvement in data quality suggest that a change in status is appropriate:

Gavia stellata – Caspian, Black Sea & East Mediterranean (win)

Upgrade from B1 to A1c.

Total of 420-1250 counted in E Med and E Black Sea. Data presented in 2004 compilation of national breeding population estimates and trends by BirdLife International. Numbers wintering in N Black and Caspian Seas unknown, but assumed to be below 9,000.

Phaethon rubricauda rubricauda - Indian Ocean

Downgrade from A1c to A2.

Review of status for this report revealed that population is larger than previously thought.

Phaethon lepturus lepturus - Western Indian Ocean

Downgrade from A1c to A2.

Review of status for this report revealed that population is larger than previously thought.

Pelecanus crispus - Black Sea & Mediterranean (win)

Upgrade from A1a A1c to A1a A1b A1c.

¹⁰ IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria: Version 3.1

2010 review by BirdLife International recognised this species as Globally Threatened in the category Vulnerable.

Pelecanus crispus - South-west Asia & South Asia (win)

Upgrade from A1a A1c to A1a A1b A1c.

2010 review by BirdLife International recognised this species as Globally Threatened in the category Vulnerable.

Sula (Morus) bassana – North Atlantic

Downgrade from B2a to C1.

Review of status for this report revealed that population does not meet new criterion for concentration onto a small number of sites.

Sula dactylatra melanops – W Indian Ocean

Downgrade from A1c to A2.

Review of status for this report revealed that population is larger than previously thought.

Fregata minor aldabrensis – W Indian Ocean

Downgrade from A1c to A2.

Review of status for this report revealed that population is larger than previously thought.

Fregata ariel iredalei – W Indian Ocean

Downgrade from A1c to A2.

Review of status for this report revealed that population is larger than previously thought.

Balaeniceps rex– Central Tropical Africa

Upgrade from A1c to A1b A1c.

2010 review by BirdLife International recognised this species as Globally Threatened in the category Vulnerable.

Dendrocygna bicolor – West Africa (Senegal to Chad)

Upgrade from B1c to A2.

Only 4,131 counted in near-simultaneous aerial counts of W African Sahel, Jan 2006, and new population estimate of 10,000-20,000 was suggested.

Anser fabalis fabalis – North-east Europe/North-west Europe

Upgrade from B1 to A3c

Accelerating decline of this population is causing concern in Goose Specialist Group. Decrease between 2004/5 and 2010/11 may have been as much as 50% (T. Heinicke in litt 2011).

Anser albifrons albifrons – Western Siberia/Central Europe

Downgrade from A3c to C1

Status amended following review of European goose populations published in 2010.

Branta leucopsis – Svalbard / SW Scotland

Upgrade from B1 to A3a

Concentrations on the Solway Firth in winter include 90% or more of the population localised in 10 or fewer sites.

Branta bernicla bernicla – Western Siberia/Western Europe

Downgrade from B2b B2c to B2b

2011 analysis of IWC data reveals long-term decline not significant under AEW criteria.

Branta bernicla hrota – Canada & Greenland / Ireland

Downgrade from A2 to A3a

Population estimate now exceeds 25,000, but 90% or more of the population congregates at a single site, Strangford Lough, on autumn migration.

Tadorna cana – Southern Africa

Upgrade from B1 to A3c

2011 analysis of IWC data reveals significant long-term decline.

Tadorna tadorna – Black Sea & Mediterranean

Downgrade from A3c to C1

New data from Algeria necessitates an increase in the population estimate, and 2011 analysis of IWC data suggests that population is no longer declining.

Anas penelope – W Siberia & NE Europe/Black Sea & Mediterranean

Downgrade from B2c to C1

2011 analysis of IWC data reveals long-term decline not significant under AEWA criteria.

Anas strepera – North-east Europe/Black Sea & Mediterranean

Downgrade from B2c to C1

2011 analysis of IWC data reveals long-term decline not significant under AEWA criteria.

Anas acuta - W Siberia, NE & E Europe/S Europe & West Africa

Downgrade from B2C to C1

Recent high counts suggest fluctuations in numbers rather than significant long-term decline.

Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos – Eastern Europe / Black Sea and Eastern Mediterranean

Upgrade from C1 to B2c

2011 analysis of IWC data reveals significant long-term decline.

Anas clypeata – W Siberia, NE & E Europe/S Europe & West Africa

Downgrade from B2c to C1

2011 analysis of IWC data reveals long-term decline not significant under AEWA criteria.

Aythya ferina – North-east Europe / North-west Europe

Upgrade from C1 to B2c

2011 analysis of IWC data reveals significant long-term decline.

Aythya ferina – Central & NE Europe / Black Sea & Mediterranean

Upgrade from C1 to B2c

2011 analysis of IWC data reveals significant long-term decline.

Aythya fuligula – Central Europe, Black Sea & Mediterranean (win)

Upgrade from C1 to B2c

2011 analysis of IWC data reveals significant long-term decline.

Aythya marila – Northern Europe / Western Europe

Upgrade from C1 to B2c

2011 analysis of IWC data reveals significant long-term decline.

Polysticta stelleri – Western Siberia / North-east Europe

Upgrade from A1a A2 to A1a A1b A2

2010 review by BirdLife International recognised this species as Globally Threatened in the category Vulnerable.

Clangula hyemalis – Western Siberia / North Europe

Upgrade from C1 to B2c

2007-2009 SOWBAS survey reveals collapse of Baltic population since 1990s.

Melanitta nigra nigra – W Siberia & N Europe / W Europe & NW Africa

Upgrade from B2a to B2a B2c

2007-2009 SOWBAS survey revealed collapse of Baltic population since 1990s.

Melanitta fusca fusca – W Siberia & N Europe / NW Europe

Upgrade from B2a to B2a B2c

2007-2009 SOWBAS survey revealed collapse of Baltic population since 1990s.

Balearica regulorum regulorum - Southern Africa (N to Angola & S Zimbabwe)

Upgrade from A1c to A1b A1c

2010 review by BirdLife International recognised this species as Globally Threatened in the category Vulnerable.

Balearica regulorum gibbericeps - Eastern Africa (Kenya to Mozambique)

Upgrade from A3c to A1b A3c

2010 review by BirdLife International recognised this species as Globally Threatened in the category Vulnerable.

Balearica pavonina pavonina – West Africa (Senegal to Chad)

Upgrade from A2 to A1b A1c

2010 review by BirdLife International recognised this species as Globally Threatened in the category Vulnerable. Recent counts suggest that the population size is below 10,000 individuals.

Balearica pavonina ceciliae – Eastern Africa (Sudan to Uganda)

Upgrade from A3c to A1b A3c

2010 review by BirdLife International recognised this species as Globally Threatened in the category Vulnerable.

Crex crex - Europe & Western Asia/Sub-Saharan Africa

Downgrade from A1b B2c to C1

2010 review by BirdLife International recognised this species as no longer being Globally Threatened.

Dromas ardeola - North-west Indian Ocean, Red Sea & Gulf

Downgrade from A3a to B1

Review of the key site network revealed that this population does not meet the new criteria for A3a.

Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus –Europe/South & West Europe & NW Africa

Upgrade from C1 to B2c.

2011 analysis of IWC data reveals significant long-term decline.

Burhinus senegalensis senegalensis – West Africa

Downgrade from (A2) to B1

Review published in 2009 Wader Atlas suggests population higher than previously thought.

Burhinus senegalensis inornatus – NE and E Africa

Downgrade from (A2) to B1

Review published in 2009 Wader Atlas suggests population higher than previously thought.

Limosa limosa islandica – Iceland / Western Europe

Downgrade from A3a to B1

Does not meet criteria of concentration into few sites needed for A3a.

Numenius arquata arquata – Europe / Europe N & W Africa

Upgrade from C1 to B2c

Data presented in 2004 compilation of national breeding population estimates and trends by BirdLife International showed that between 1990 and 2000, populations decreased in 16 countries and increased in 5. The decrease continued to 2008 in the UK.

Numenius arquata suschkini – SE Europe & SW Asia (bre)

Upgrade from A2 to A1c

Species classified as Near Threatened in latest BirdLife International review.

Review published in 2009 Wader Atlas describes massive decrease in population through 20th century and it is unlikely to exceed 2,170 pairs.

Calidris tenuirostris – SW Asia & W South Asia

Upgrade from A1c to A1b A1c

2010 review by BirdLife International recognised this species as Globally Threatened in the category Vulnerable.

Calidris canutus – NE Canada & Greenland/Western Europe

Downgrade from B2a B2c to B2a

2011 analysis of IWC data reveals this population does not meet the criteria for significant long-term decline.

Larus hemprichii - Red Sea, Gulf, Arabia & Eastern Africa

Downgrade from B2a to C1

Review of key site network revealed that this population does not meet new criterion for concentration onto a small number of sites.

Larus fuscus fuscus - NE Europe/Black Sea, SW Asia & Eastern Africa

Upgrade from B2c to A3c

Upgrade reflects the smaller population size and continued decline.

Larus ridibundus – W Europe/W Europe, W Mediterranean, West Africa

Downgrade from B2c to C1

2011 analysis of IWC data reveals this population does not meet the criteria for significant long-term decline.

Larus genei - West, South-west & South Asia (bre)

Downgrade from B2a to C1

Review of key site network revealed that this population does not meet new criterion for concentration onto a small number of sites.

Rissa tridactyla tridactyla – SE Europe & SW Asia (bre)

Change from B2a to B2c

Review of status for this report revealed that this population does not fulfill B2a criterion, but is in Significant long-term decline within the AEWA region.

Globally *Sterna bengalensis bengalensis* - Gulf/Southern Asia

Downgrade from B2a to C1

Review of key site network revealed that this population does not meet new criterion for concentration onto a small number of sites.

Sterna bengalensis par - Red Sea/Eastern Africa

Downgrade from A3a to B1

Review of key site network revealed that this population does not meet new criterion for concentration onto a small number of sites.

Sterna sandvicensis sandvicensis - Western Europe/West Africa

Downgrade from B2a to C1

Review of key site network revealed that this population does not meet new criterion for concentration onto a small number of sites.

Sterna sandvicensis sandvicensis - West & Central Asia/South-west & South Asia

Downgrade from B2a to C1

Review of key site network revealed that this population does not meet new criterion for concentration onto a small number of sites.

Alle alle alle – High Arctic, Baffin Is – Novaya Zemlya

Downgrade from B2a to C1

Review of status for this report revealed that population does not meet new criterion for concentration onto a small number of sites.

Uria aalge aalge - E North America, Greenland, Iceland, Faeroes, Scotland, S Norway, Baltic

Change from B2a to B2c

Review of status for this report revealed that population does not meet new criterion for concentration onto a small number of sites, but is in Significant long-term decline.

Uria aalge albionis - Ireland, S Britain, France, Iberia, Helgoland

Downgrade from B2a to C1

Review of status for this report revealed that population does not meet new criterion for concentration onto a small number of sites.

Uria aalge hyperborea - Svalbard, N Norway to Novaya Zemlya

Downgrade from B2a to C1

Review of status for this report revealed that population does not meet new criterion for concentration onto a small number of sites.

Uria lomvia lomvia - E North America, Greenland, E to Severnaya Zemlya

Change from B2a to B2c

Review of status for this report revealed that population does not meet new criterion for concentration onto a small number of sites, but is in Significant long-term decline.

Cephus grylle arcticus – N America, S Greenland, Britain, Ireland, Scandinavia, White Sea

Downgrade from B1 to C1

Review of status for this report revealed that population is larger than previously thought.

Cephus grylle islandicus – Iceland

Upgrade from B1 to A3c

Review of status for this report revealed that population is smaller than previously thought and in Significant long-term decline.

Cephus grylle faeroeensis – Faeroes

Upgrade from B1 to A1c

Review of status for this report revealed that population is smaller than previously thought.

Fratercula arctica arctica - Hudson Bay & Maine E To S Greenland, Iceland, Bear Is, Norway to S Novaya Zemlya

Downgrade from B2a to C1

Review of status for this report revealed that population does not meet new criterion for concentration onto a small number of sites.

Fratercula arctica naumanni - NE Canada, N Greenland to Jan Mayen, Svalbard, N Novaya Zemlya

Upgrade from B2a to A3a

Review of status for this report revealed that population meets new criterion for concentration onto a small number of sites.

Fratercula arctica grabae - Faeroes, S Norway & Sweden, Britain, Ireland, NW France

Downgrade from B2a to C1

Review of status for this report revealed that population does not meet new criterion for concentration onto a small number of sites.

2. If the newly proposed category A4 is approved the following populations belonging to Near Threatened species will be upgraded to A4

Phalacrocorax capensis - Coastal Southern Africa

Upgrade from B2a B2c to A4

Phoeniconaias minor – Eastern Africa

Upgrade from B2a B2c to A4

Glareola nordmanni – SE Europe & W Asia / S Africa

Upgrade from B2b B2c to A4

Gallinago media - Scandinavia/probably West Africa

Upgrade from B1 to A4

Gallinago media - Western Siberia & NE Europe/South-east Africa

Upgrade from B2c to A4

Limosa limosa limosa - Western Europe/NW & West Africa

Upgrade from B2c to A4

Limosa limosa limosa - Eastern Europe/Central & Eastern Africa

Upgrade from B2c to A4

Limosa limosa limosa - West-central Asia/SW Asia & Eastern Africa

Upgrade from B(1) to A4

Limosa limosa islandica - Iceland/Western Europe

Upgrade from B1 to A4 (if the proposed downgrade from A3c* to B1 is approved)

Numenius arquata arquata - Europe/Europe, North & West Africa

Upgrade from B2c (or C1 if the upgrade to B2c is not approved) to A4

3. Newly recognised populations and changes in population boundaries

Anser erythropus - N Europe & W Siberia/Black Sea & Caspian

Divide into two populations:

- NE Europe & W Siberia/Black Sea & Caspian; status **A1a A1b A2**

- Fennoscandia; status **A1a A1b A1c**

Separation recommended by the AEWA Single Species Action Plan for the Lesser White-fronted Goose.

Sterna caspia – Europe (bre)

Divide into two populations:

- Baltic (bre); status **A1c**
- Black Sea (bre); status **A1c**

Species expert recommends division because thousands of ring recoveries indicate complete separation of Baltic and Black Sea populations in breeding season.

Sterna albifrons – East Atlantic (bre)

Divide into two populations:

- Europe north of Mediterranean (bre); status **A2**
- West Mediterranean/West Africa; status **A3b**

Recommended by Italy in April 2008.

The following populations have been merged.

Vanellus vanellus – Europe, W Asia / Europe, N Africa, and

Vanellus vanellus – Western Asia / South-west Asia

Merge into one population:

Vanellus vanellus – Europe, W Asia / Europe, N Africa & SW Asia; status **C1**.

Review published in 2009 Wader Atlas suggests mixing of populations in all seasons to an extent that makes separation invalid.

4. Changes in nomenclature and textual changes

Changes have been made in taxonomy and nomenclature in line with changes recommended by the BirdLife Taxonomic Working Group. Any other changes are corrections of errors.

Phaethon aetheras change to *Phaethon aethereus*.

Phaethon lepturus lepturus change “Persian Gulf, Gulf of Aden, Red Sea” to “Western Indian Ocean”.

Ciconia ciconia ciconia change “Iberia & NW Africa” to “W Europe & NW Africa”.

Ardea purpurea purpurea change “East Europe & South-west Asia” to “East Europe, Black Sea & Mediterranean”.

Phoenicopterus minor change to *Phoeniconaias minor*. (to be reflected in the AEWA Annex 2 too)

Anser fabalis johanseni now considered invalid; include in *Anser fabalis fabalis*.

Tringa cinerea change to *Xenus cinereus*. (to be reflected in the AEWA Annex 2 too)

Tringa hypoleucos change to *Actitis hypoleucos*. (to be reflected in the AEWA Annex 2 too)

Sterna anaethetus antarctica change “S Indian Ocean” to “W Indian Ocean”.

5. Errors in the year 2008 version of the AEWA Action Plan Table 1 corrected for the year 2012 version

Anser fabalis fabalis – West & Central Siberia/Turkmenistan to W China: **correct C(1) to A1c**.

Arenaria interpres- NE Canada & Greenland/W Europe & NW Africa: **correct B1 to C1**.

Sterna anaethetus melanopterus – W Africa: **correct from A1 to A1c**.

Sterna anaethetus antarctica - W Indian Ocean: **correct B1 to A2**.

Appendix 1

Impact of Proposed Amendments concerning Near Threatened Species on Current AEWA Populations

Scientific name	English name	Red List category	Population	Table 1 category
<i>Gavia adamsii</i>	White-billed Diver	NT	N Europe (win)	A1c
<i>Phalacrocorax coronatus</i>	Crowned Cormorant	NT	SW Africa	A1c
<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>	Cape Cormorant	NT	Southern Africa	A4 (From B2a, 2c)
<i>Phoenicopterus minor</i>	Lesser Flamingo	NT	W Africa	A2
		NT	E Africa	A4 (From B2a, 2c)
		NT	S Africa	A3a
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Ferruginous Duck	NT	N & W Africa (non-bre)	A1a, 1c
		NT	E Europe, E Medit., Black S.	A1a, 3c
		NT	SW Asia & NE Africa(non-br)	A1a, 3c
<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>	Maccoa Duck	NT	Ethiopian Highlands	?
		NT	Eastern Africa	A1c
		NT	Southern Africa	A1c
<i>Haematopus moquini</i>	African Black Oystercatcher	NT	SE Africa	A1c
<i>Glareola nordmanni</i>	Black-winged Pratincole	NT	E Europe - Central Asia	A4 (From B2b, 2c)
<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>	Chestnut-banded Plover	NT	<i>pallidus</i> , Southern Africa	A2
		NT	<i>venustus</i> , Eastern Africa	A1c
<i>Gallinago media</i>	Great Snipe	NT	Scandinavia (bre)	A4 (From B1)
		NT	W Siberia, NE Europe (bre)	A4 (From B2c)
<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Eurasian Curlew	NT	<i>arquata</i> , Europe/Europe, North & West Africa	A4 (From C1)
		NT	<i>orientalis</i> , W Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa	A3c
		NT	<i>suschkini</i> , SE Europe & SW Asia (bre)	A1c (If MOP approves upgrade from A2)
<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Black-tailed Godwit	NT	<i>limosa</i> , W Europe (bre)	A4 (From B2c)
		NT	<i>limosa</i> , E Europe (bre)	A4 (From B2c)
		NT	<i>limosa</i> , W Asia (bre)	A4 (From B1)
		NT	<i>islandica</i>	A4 (If MOP agrees that

				population meets current criteria for B1 and should thus be downgraded from A3a*)
<i>Larus leucophthalmus</i>	White-eyed Gull	NT	Red Sea	A1a (Removal of B1)
<i>Larus audouinii</i>	Audouin's Gull	NT	Mediterranean (bre)	A1a, 3a
<i>Sterna balaenarum</i>	Damara Tern	NT	SW Africa (bre)	A2
<i>Rynchops flavirostris</i>	African Skimmer	NT	East & Southern Africa	A2

Appendix 2

Regulation of Non-Native Species

Approach of other MEAs in Agreement Area

- AEWA's parent convention, the CMS, requires parties that are range states of Appendix I species to endeavour "to the extent feasible and appropriate, to prevent, reduce or control factors that are endangering or are likely to further endanger the species, *including strictly controlling the introduction of, or controlling or eliminating already introduced exotic species.*" (Art III(4)(c), emphasis added.) The Convention proceeds to provide that, insofar as Agreements concerning Appendix II species (including AEWA) are concerned, these should, where appropriate and feasible, provide for the protection from disturbance of those habitats of importance in maintaining a favourable conservation status of the species in question, "including strict control of the introduction of, or control of already introduced, exotic species detrimental to the migratory species". (Art V(5)(e).)
- The Convention on Biological Diversity requires Parties to, as far as possible and as appropriate, "[p]revent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species". (Art 8(h).) (Indeed, the CBD's most recent strategic plan for biodiversity (adopted in 2010 in Decision X/2) sets the following target in this regard: "By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.")
- Each Party to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats undertakes to "strictly control the introduction of non-native species". (Art 11(2)(b).)
- The Ramsar Convention's COP has recognized the "severe threat that alien species pose to the ecological character of wetlands, and to wetland species ... if they become invasive" and has urged Contracting Parties to, amongst other things, identify, eradicate and control invasive species within their jurisdictions and review, and where necessary adopt, legislation and programmes to prevent the introduction and movement or trade of new and environmentally dangerous alien species into/within their jurisdictions. (Resolutions VII.14 and VIII.18.)

Approach Taken in the EU Directives

- The Birds Directive requires Member States to "see that any introduction of species of bird which do not occur naturally in the wild state in the European territory of the Member States does not prejudice the local flora and fauna." (Art. 11.)
- The Habitats Directive requires Member States to "ensure that the deliberate introduction into the wild of any species which is not native to their territory is regulated so as not to prejudice natural habitats within their natural range or the wild native fauna and flora and, if they consider it necessary, prohibit such introduction." (Art. 22(b).) The EU is also currently in the process of developing a strategy on invasive alien species.