



THIRD MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE
CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS (AEWA)
TANZANIA, 27-28 MAY 2002

ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR MEETINGS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Introduction

At the second Meeting of the Technical Committee (France, 5-7 November 2001) some amendments to the Rules of Procedures for Meetings of the Technical Committee were discussed. During this discussion it became obvious that if intersessionally a specific member as well as his/ her alternate had to step down replacement of these officers should take place in close cooperation with the region/ organisation.

Furthermore the replacement member/ alternate should be granted full voting rights.

Another point that was discussed is the need to improve the flow of information between the region and their regional representative and vice versa.

Based on the outcome of the above-mentioned discussion the Secretariat proposes to amend rule 7 and to add two new rules (nr 29 and 30) under the heading communications.

Proposal

1. The Secretariat proposes to re-word the last sentence of Rules 7 as follows:

In case a Member and/ or his Alternate has to stand down without completing a full term of office the Chair of the Technical Committee in close cooperation with the region/ organisation involved and in consultation with the Agreement Secretariat is permitted to designate an expert of the region or organisation involved to replace the Member and/or Alternate intersessionally and granting him/ her full voting rights. The term of office of the temporary member/ alternate shall expire at the closure of the first coming ordinary Meeting of the Parties.

2. The Secretariat proposes to add two new rules under the heading of communication namely:

Rule 29: The Agreement's Secretariat shall inform the Contracting Parties on the date and venue of the next Meeting of the Technical Committee. For each Meeting of the Technical Committee the Contracting Parties will receive at least the provisional agenda and draft minutes of the previous meeting. All other documents to be discussed will be made available through the Agreement's website.

Rule 30: The regional representative shall ensure flow of information from the Meetings of the Technical Committee to the Contracting Parties in his/ her region and vice versa.

AMENDED (8-4-2002)

**RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR MEETINGS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF
THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN
MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS (AEWA)**

General functions

Rule 1

The Technical Committee, established in accordance with Article VII of the Agreement, provides scientific and technical advice and information, to the Meeting of the Parties or through the Secretariat to the Parties. Its functions are defined in Article VII paragraph 3.

Rule 2

In particular, it makes recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties concerning the Action Plan, implementation of the Agreement and further research to be carried out.

Rule 3

In the event of an emergency the Technical Committee may request the Agreement Secretariat to urgently convene a Meeting of Parties involved to avoid deterioration of the conservation status of one or more migratory waterbird species.

Representation and attendance

Rule 4

The Committee shall, in accordance with Article VII paragraph 1, comprise: nine experts representing the Agreement Area, one representative from the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), one representative from Wetlands International, one representative from the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) and one expert from each of the following fields: rural economics, game management, and environmental law.

The nine experts representing the different regions shall be elected among the Parties from each of the four regions in Eurasia (Southwestern Asia, North- and Southwestern, Central and Eastern Europe) and of the five African regions (Northern, Central, Western, Eastern and Southern Africa) on the recommendation of the Parties of each of those regions. Furthermore Wetlands International, CIC and IUCN shall be invited to appoint a representative. Any Party has the right to recommend an expert in the fields of rural economics, game management and environmental law for nomination by the Meeting of the Parties.) With exception of the experts in the field of rural economics, game management and environmental law all the above mentioned representatives, shall name an Alternate Member for each position to be approved by the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 5

Except as provided for in Rule 8, attendance at meetings of the Technical Committee shall be limited to members of the Technical Committee or their Alternates and observers of the Parties.

Rule 6

Only Members shall exercise the voting rights. In his/her absence, the Alternate shall act in his or her place.

Rule 7

The membership of experts and representatives and their Alternates other than those appointed directly by the Parties shall be reviewed at each ordinary Meeting of the Parties. The membership of the nine experts to the Committee representing a geographical region shall be reviewed at each ordinary meeting of the Meeting of the Parties, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the meeting. The term of office of these members shall expire at the close of the second ordinary Meeting following that at which they were nominated. At each ordinary meeting of the Meeting of the Parties, elections shall be held only for those regional members whose term of office will have expired at the close of the meeting and for any regional member who indicates a desire to stand down without completing a full term of office. The same provisions shall apply with respect to the alternate members nominated in accordance with rule 4.

In case a Member and/ or his Alternate has to stand down without completing a full term of office the Chair of the Technical Committee in close cooperation with the region/ organisation involved and in consultation with the Agreement Secretariat is permitted to designate an expert of the region or organisation involved to replace the Member and/or Alternate intersessionally with full voting right. The term of office of the temporary member/ alternate shall expire at the closure of the first coming ordinary Meeting of the Parties with the possibility that the Meeting appoints him/ her as an expert, representative or alternate.

Rule 8

The Chairperson may invite observers of non-contracting Parties and invite or admit a maximum of four observers from specialized international inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Officers

Rule 9

The members of the Committee shall elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson from their regional representatives of the Parties, for terms corresponding to those of the Meetings of the Parties. This election will normally take place immediately before the Meeting of the Parties, and the newly elected officers shall assume their functions at the conclusion of the corresponding Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 10

The Chairperson shall preside at meetings of the Committee, approve the provisional agenda prepared by the Secretariat for circulation, and liaise with committees between meetings of the Committee. The Chairperson may represent the Committee as required within the limits of the Committee mandate, and shall carry out such other functions as may be entrusted to him/her by the Committee

Rule 11

The Vice-Chairperson shall assist in the execution of the Chairperson's duties, and shall preside at meetings in the absence of the Chairperson.

Rule 12

The Agreement Secretariat shall serve the meetings of the Committee.

Elections

Rule 13

If in an election to fill one place no candidate obtains an overall majority in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken, restricted to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If the second ballot the votes are equally divided, the presiding officer shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

Rule 14

If in the first ballot there is a tie amongst candidates obtaining the second largest number of votes, a special ballot shall be held amongst them to reduce the number of candidates to two.

Rule 15

In the case of a tie amongst three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes in the first ballot, a special ballot shall be held amongst them to reduce the number of candidates to two. If a tie then results amongst two or more candidates, the presiding officer shall reduce the number to two by drawing lots, and a further ballot shall be held in accordance with Rule 13.

Meetings

Rule 16

Meetings of the Committee shall be convened by the Agreement Secretariat in conjunction with each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties and at least once between ordinary sessions of the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 17

Where in the opinion of the Committee an emergency has arisen, which requires the adoption of immediate measures to avoid deterioration of the conservation status of one or more migratory waterbird species, the Chairperson may request the Agreement Secretariat to urgently convene a meeting of the Parties concerned.

Rule 18

Notice of meetings, including date and venue, shall be sent to all Parties by the Secretariat at least 45 days in advance and, in the case of extraordinary meetings, at least 14 days in advance.

Rule 19

A quorum for a meeting shall consist of half of the members of the Committee. No decision shall be taken at a meeting in the absence of a quorum.

Rule 20

Decisions of the Committee shall be taken by consensus unless a vote is requested by the Chairperson or by three members.

Rule 21

Decisions of the Committee by voting (pursuant to Rule 20) shall be passed by a simple majority vote of the members present. In the case of a tie, the motion shall be considered rejected.

Rule 22

A summary record of each meeting shall be prepared by the Secretariat as soon as possible and shall be communicated to all Party and Conference appointed experts/representatives.

Working groups

Rule 23

The Committee may establish such ad hoc working groups as may be necessary to deal with specific tasks. It shall define the terms of reference and composition of each working group.

Rule 24

Insofar as they are applicable, these Rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the proceedings of working groups.

Rule 25

The Committee shall receive reports from other committees and working groups established under the Agreement, as necessary.

Communication procedure

Rule 26

Any member or the Secretariat may submit a proposal to the Chairperson for a decision by postal procedure. The Secretariat shall communicate the proposal to the members for comments within 60 days of the date of communication. Any comments received within these limits shall also be so communicated.

Rule 27

If, by the date on which comments on a proposal were due to be communicated, the Secretariat has not received any objection from a Party appointed member, the proposal shall be adopted, and notice of the adoption shall be given to all members.

Rule 28

If any member objects to a proposal within the applicable time limit, the proposal shall be referred to the next meeting of the Committee.

Rule 29

The Secretariat shall inform the Contracting Parties on the date and venue of the next Meeting of the Technical Committee. For each Meeting of the Technical Committee the Contracting Parties will receive at least the provisional agenda and draft minutes of the previous meeting. All other documents to be discussed will be made available through the Agreement's website.

Rule 30

The regional representative shall ensure flow of information from the Meetings of the Technical Committee to the Contracting Parties in his/ her region and vice versa.

Other functions

Rule 31

The Chairperson shall submit a written report on the Committee's work since the previous ordinary meeting to each ordinary Meeting of the Parties.

Final provisions

Rule 32

These Rules shall be applied at the first meeting of the Committee following their approval by the Meeting of the Parties, and may be amended by the Committee as required, in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement and decisions of the Meeting of the Parties.