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

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## **REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT**

### **Introduction**

In accordance with Article X paragraph h of the Agreement the Secretariat shall prepare on an annual basis and for each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, reports on the work of the Secretariat and on the implementation of the Agreement. For the second meeting of the Technical Committee, which took place from 5-7 November 2001 in France, such a report was submitted by the Secretariat and discussed during this meeting.

Since the second Meeting of the Technical Committee took place just five months ago it seems to be senseless to draft a complete new report. Therefore the Secretariat decided to update the previous report. This means that this current report will inform you about the activities of the Permanent Secretariat since 17 July 2000 till 10 April 2002.

## **OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE AEW SECRETARIAT**

### **GENERAL**

#### **Work of the Secretariat**

The day to day work consists approximately of: 60-70 per cent responding to mail, maintenance of the AEW network with Contracting and Non Contracting Parties and last but not least financial and administrative matters. Regarding the latter, although AEW surely benefits from the Administrative and Fund Management Officer, who is working for CMS and the Agreements Unit, most of the work has to be done by the Secretariat itself. The above-mentioned Officer has the role of certifying officer and liase with UNEP/ UNON on behalf of the AEW Secretariat. Concretely this means that the Secretariat drafts all contracts, Host Government Agreements, revision of the budget, etc. Also a certain time is spent reminding Contracting Parties to transfer their annual contribution to the AEW Trust Fund.

Twice a year contact is made with all Non-Contracting Parties to urge them to join the Agreement. Communication is not always easy in particular with African countries. Fax-messages have to be sent four, five or six times before they go through. E-mail messages bounce back regularly. However, in order to make any progress in the recruitment of new Parties it is essential to maintain the network. It is also essential to keep the database of addresses up-to-date as much as possible.

#### **Administrative/ Financial Matters**

Since the co-location and integration of the AEW Secretariat the Secretariat tries to familiarize itself with the Rules and Procedures of the United Nations and in particular of UNON/ UNEP. Unfortunately the guidance from the Administrative and Fund Management Officer is limited because she is also fairly new in the UNON/ UNEP system. So as familiarizations with the Rules and Procedure takes place through learning by making mistakes. However, this is very time consuming e.g. Letters of Agreement with Wetlands International to contract out some work to them go back and ford to UNON several times. Each time new questions for clarification are raised or requirements on the substance of the contract change.

The Executive Secretary is fully responsible for all administrative and financial matters of AEW.

Regarding the latter, on regular basis financial reports and reviews of the budget have to be produced and submitted by the Secretariat to UNON through CMS. Although the Administrative and Fund Management Officer supports these activities the work is mainly done by the Secretariat. The same is applicable regarding contracting out work to consultants, purchase of stationary, etc.

Over the last few months a lot of time has been spent on the year's end closure. It became obvious that financial administration in the Agreement's Unit need improvement. Although the Secretariat receives overviews of deposits to the AEW Trust Fund (weekly) and the status of the Trust Fund (monthly) showing the collections of contributions a monthly overview of the expenditures is missing. The AEW Secretariat has urged the Administrative and Fund Officer to provide the Secretariat with this information, which is of importance for the Executive Secretary to manage the annual budget. On 1 January 2001 CMS has recruited a Financial Assistant and due to this the capacity increased, hopefully in due course the financial and administrative support will be improved.

#### **Agreement's Unit**

At their respective Meeting of the Parties it was decided to co-locate and to integrate EUROBAT as well as ASCOBANS to CMS. Together with AEW these Secretariats now form the Agreement's Unit. In the Agreement's Unit but also with CMS we try to synchronize our work. Nearly on a day-to-day basis there is bilateral contact between the agreements and/ or with CMS. It was agreed that on a regular basis meetings will be scheduled between all Agreement's Secretariats and CMS. Although the idea of establishing this Agreement's Unit was born years ago there are still a lot of issues to be clarified dealing with responsibilities of the Agreement's Secretariats taking into account that each of this Agreements is a separate legal entity, etc. To make the Agreement's Unit a success the Secretariat had and has to put a lot of effort.

Besides the CMS Agreements based in Bonn, the Secretariat also tries to maintain contact with ACAP (Australia) and with ACCOBAMS (Monaco). Regarding the latter the Secretariat supported whenever possible the ACCOBAMS Secretariat in preparation for their MOP1, by providing documents they could use as model and by providing some advice. Furthermore, on the request of ACCOBAMS, the Assistant strengthened their team during the MOP1 as document control officer.

### **Recruitment of the Assistant and temporary staff**

The recruitment procedure for the Assistant to the Executive Secretary started in August 2000. Nearly 40 applications have been received, among them highly qualified Secretaries/ Assistants. By the end of September the interviews with the short listed candidates took place. Afterwards the report of the interview panel was sent to UNON with the request to offer the job to the favourite candidate. Months later UNON informed the Secretariat that the job had not been classified before the vacancy announcement was published and that therefore the whole recruitment process should start from scratch. All efforts from the Secretariat to change the decision of Nairobi were in vain. So in January 2001 the whole recruitment process started all over again. Luckily per 1 December 2000 a temporary assistant could be contracted. In March 2001 the interviews took place and the report of the interview panel was submitted to UNON. Finally Ms Mirna Maya received the job offer for this post in June and hopefully she could start officially per 1-8-2001. This means that one year after starting the recruitment process, where the Secretariat put a lot of time and effort in, we could close this chapter.

Early 2002 it was decided to recruit some temporary staff on consultancy basis to increase the capacity of the Secretariat. To increase activities on raising of awareness on non-toxic shot Ms Nienke Beintema (The Netherlands) was recruited as of 15 February to 15 June 2002. Ms Beintema will draft a number of articles on the non-toxic shot issue and a special AEWA Newsletter on this subject. On 15 March Ms Heike Grelka started as Information Assistant/ Secretary. Ms Grelka is responsible of drafting a regular issue of the AEWA Newsletter, updating the Agreement's Website, development of other information materials and to support the Assistant with reproduction, formatting and mailing of documents whenever needed. In close cooperation and under special terms, it was also decided to contract the coordinator of the African-Eurasian Flyway GEF project Dr Chris Baker (Wetlands International). Dr Baker will draft a special Newsletter on the GEF project. Besides this, he will draft the International Implementation Plan AEWA 2003-2007 and as English native speaker will support the Agreement Secretariat to improve linguistically our documents for MOP2.

### **Interns**

From 7 November 2001 to 21 December 2001 Ms Jennifer Freychet (France) joined the Secretariat as intern. As student of the Lycée Paul Cezanne in Aix en Provence, she was looking for an internship for the third semester of the "zweijährige ausbildung" for multilingual Assistant/ Secretary. During her internship she was a great help for the Secretariat. Besides supporting the Assistant/ Secretary in the day-to-day work her work was very valuable for the translating of letters into French.

On the 1 March 2002 Ms Aicha Zergani (Morocco) joined the Secretariat as intern. Ms Zegani is studying for a master degree in Environmental Law at the University of Bremen. She helped with drafting of some documents for MOP2 and later on with the preparation of the guideline on national legislation. Unfortunately her internship of just 6 weeks was too short to finalize the activities in particular regarding the guideline on national legislation.

### **Finalization of MOP1**

The AEWA Secretariat secured funds to cover travel and subsistence costs to enable nearly 80 delegates to participate at COP6 and MOP1, which were provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Development Cooperation of the Netherlands provided these funds. Besides, the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries covered the organizational costs of the MOP1. Reporting back to these Ministries was time consuming and could not be finalized before the Secretariat moved to Bonn.

Beside the rounding up of the financial and administrative matters of MOP1, the Secretariat also had to spend quite some time finalizing the following documents in French: Proceedings, Action Plan 2000-onwards and the International Implementation Priorities 2000-2004. These documents were partly translated by UNON and partly by other translators. Due to the move of the Secretariat and to due to the lack of human resources, it was not feasible to produce these documents earlier. Since June 2001 all documents are now available in English and French.

### **Preparations for MOP2**

The logistical arrangements for MOP2 are mainly being done by Germany. The input from the Secretariat in this regard is until now very limited. Currently the venue and hotel accommodation have been arranged. To fill in the substantial part of the meeting is the responsibility of the Agreement's Secretariat. We started with these preparations in the middle of 2000, by contracting Wetlands International to prepare some of the documents. More information on this could be found under the projects listed below. Since the end of 2001 the workload on preparations for MOP2 are increasing rapidly. The first announcement for MOP2 was sent out to all 1500 addresses of our database. Although nearly 150 pre-registration forms have been received so far, registration of some Contracting Parties is still missing. In the coming months these Contracting Parties will receive a reminder. They will also be reminded to submit their National Reports and to inform the Secretariat on who will act as focal point for AEWA.

Currently the Secretariat is working on drafting the necessary documents for MOP2.

### **TC meetings**

The first Meeting of the Technical Committee took place in November 2000 in Bonn and the second in November 2001 in France. The third is scheduled for May 2002 in Tanzania. Preparations for such meetings are quite time consuming. Besides drafting of the necessary documents also the logistical arrangements including travel of funded delegates require the necessary input of the Secretariat.

### **Dark-bellied Brent Goose Working group.**

In accordance with the decision taken by the Technical Committee at its first meeting, the Secretariat started early 2001 with the preparations for the establishment of a working group to implement the D-b Brent Goose Management Plan. The 3<sup>rd</sup> draft of the Management Plan was distributed to the Range States of the Species. Furthermore the Key countries have been informed about the decision of the TC and have been requested to appoint a representative to take a seat in the working group. In close cooperation with the Dr Jesper Madsen, Chair of the working group, the agenda and venue for the first meeting of the working group was discussed. This Meeting took place on 10 October 2001 in Denmark.

After the above-mentioned meeting the Secretariat received some additional comments to the Action Plan. These amendments were implemented and finally the 4<sup>th</sup> draft was sent for approval to the Key countries. The submission of the final draft is scheduled for its adoption at MOP2. Before this could be done the Dark-bellied Brent Goose Action Plan will be submitted to the ORNIS Committee of the European Union for approval.

### **Newsletters**

The AEWA Newsletter is highly appreciated by its readers and is widely distributed in the Agreement Area as well as outside the region. It is an extremely useful tool to disseminate information and at the same time it promotes the Agreement and its implementation. Therefore the Secretariat tries to publish two issues annually. However collecting articles from all over the Agreement Area, edit them and/ or write some of them it is very time consuming. Due to the move of the Secretariat from the Netherlands to Bonn and linked to this the integration of the Secretariat into UNEP it was not feasible to produce a two issues in 2001. For 2002 it is scheduled to publish a special Newsletter on non-toxic shot, an special Newsletter on the AEWA GEF project and one regular Newsletter.

The move of the Secretariat had also impact on our contacts with printers, designers, etc. Over the last 5 years the Interim Secretariat worked with the same printer and designer to produce the Newsletters and this saved a lot of time and energy as all of us knew exactly the terms of references for producing these Newsletter. Now that the Secretariat is based in Bonn we have to invest quite some time making

acquaintance with designers and printers, making a selection of suitable companies and clarifying our terms of reference.

To emphasize that, the Agreement has entered into a new era, the Secretariat decided to upgrade the Newsletter. Our designer and at the same time printer developed a new design in close cooperation with the Agreement's Secretariat.

## **PROJECTS**

### Species Conservation

#### **Guideline on National Legislation for Migratory Waterbirds**

In June 2001 contact was made with the IUCN-Environmental Law Centre in Bonn to discuss the drafting of a guideline on National Legislation for Migratory Waterbirds. Early 2002 agreement was reached with IUCN-ELC and work has been contracted out to them to draft this specific guideline. The final draft will be submitted to MOP2 for adoption.

#### **Development of new international single species action plans**

From the minutes of the Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention (December 2000) it became clear that the Bern Convention Secretariat would like to produce international species action plans for the following globally threatened species: White tailed Eagle, Pallid Harrier, Cinerous Bunting, Sociable Plover, Black-winged Pratincole and Great Snipe. Obviously the drafting of these action plans was still depending on voluntary contributions. The AEWA Secretariat took the initiative to make contact with the Bern Convention Secretariat and to discuss how AEWA could support the drafting of in particular the action plan for the three mentioned waterbird species, being species listed in Annex 2 of AEWA. Agreement was reached that AEWA would cover the cost of drafting the action plan for the Great Snipe. The Bern Convention and the Netherlands will cover the cost of the other five action plans.

The AEWA Secretariat concluded in June 2000 an agreement with BirdLife International-European division. They will execute the project and the Action Plan for the Great Snipe will be submitted to the MOP2. It was also agreed that for these AEWA species action plans, the format of the Dark-bellied Brent Goose Management Plan would be used.

#### **Guideline on Avoidance of Introductions of Non-native Migratory Waterbird Species**

For a desk study and drafting of a guideline on Avoidance of Introductions of Non-native Migratory Waterbirds support has been received from the UK. Currently the project has been tendered out and the Secretariat is awaiting the quotes.

### *Management of Human Activities*

#### **Review of the use of non-toxic shot for waterbird hunting**

The Wetlands International Workshop on Lead Poisoning in Waterfowl (Brussels, 1991), was a landmark event for actions, which have subsequently taken place to reduce the impacts on lead poisoning in waterbirds. Since then Wetlands International produced the proceedings of this workshop in 1992 and two update reports in 1995 and 1997. With financial support of UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee and AEWA a third International Update Report on Lead Poisoning in Waterbird has been produced and will be published in the second half of 2001.

The AEWA Secretariat provided input for the questionnaires used to collect information and regarding the draft report. Furthermore, AEWA facilitated the work of Wetlands International providing them with address details of AEWA focal points and urging some of the countries to return their questionnaires. To reach a broader audience the AEWA Secretariat arranged at its own expenses the translation of the report in French. During the IUCN Meeting (October, 2000) the Executive Secretary discussed with the Secretary-General of FACE the idea to organize a special workshop on non-toxic shot. The idea was to organize a workshop for

Eastern European countries to inform them on alternatives to toxic shot. FACE offered to contribute in kind to this workshop by making the necessary logistical arrangements. AEWA would secure funds to cover the travel and subsistence cost of invited delegates from countries with economies in transition. Therefore, the Agreement Secretariat made contact with some of the industrialized countries to seek funding. Switzerland responded to this request and generously offered to cover the cost of funded delegates.

On 11 May 2001 the Executive Secretary visited the headquarters of FACE to discuss the programme in detail. The workshop took place from 24- 28 October 2001 in Romania. Based on the recommendations of this workshop the Secretariat decided to draft a special issue of the AEWA Newsletter on non-toxic shot. Furthermore a number of articles will be published e.g. ballistic differences between lead and non-toxic shot, safety problems, etc. These articles will be disseminated to all National hunters organisations with the request to publish them in their hunter's magazines.

As follow up of the workshop the Secretariat investigated the feasibility to organise a similar workshop in southern Europe. In principle, agreement has been reached with the President of Ill Nibbio (Italy) to organize such a workshop early 2003 in Italy.

### **Review of the use of agrochemicals in Africa and their impact on migratory waterbirds**

During the Pan-African Ornithological Congress (September 2000, Uganda) the Executive Secretary discussed with the representative of FAO the International Implementation Priorities AEWA 2000-2004. The outcome of this discussion was that the representative of FAO showed some interest in the project nr. 14 "Review of the use of agrochemicals in Africa and their impact on migratory waterbirds". Months later we reached an agreement that CERES/ LOCUSTOX Foundation, an agency of FAO, will executed this project and will contribute in kind to it. The AEWA Secretariat would cover the remaining costs.

In March 2001 CERES/ LOCUST Foundation contracted an ornithologist for this project. He will be involved in bibliographic studies, questionnaires and field studies in selected countries. The results will be published in a report. It is foreseen that a draft version report will be available for submission to MOP2.

### **Research and monitoring**

#### **Study of potential impacts of marine fisheries on migratory waterbirds**

There has been significant concern about the potential impacts of industrial sea fisheries on bird population. In particular now the fleet of European vessels for the coast of Africa is increasing due to the fact that more and more African countries decide to sell concession for fishing in their territorial waters. Therefore there is a need to undertake a desk study to review the potential impacts of industrial sea fishing on migratory waterbirds.

Early 2001 contact was made by the Secretariat with an expert of ALTERRA (The Netherlands). The foreseen study as indicated in the International Implementation Priorities 2000-2004 was thoroughly discussed. Based on this discussion the Secretariat started drafting the terms of references. Later on contact was made with the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries. Being aware that this issue could be of interest for the Ministry, support has been requested for the above-mentioned study. Later on a confirmation was received from the Ministry that they were willing to support this project. The project has been tendered out and the Secretariat is currently awaiting the quotes.

#### **Publication of an Atlas for Wader Populations**

Wetlands International coordinates the development of an Atlas of Wader Populations. In particular the Wader Study Group is strongly involved. Due to the efforts of the AEWA Secretariat the necessary funds could be secured. At this stage the AEWA Secretariat is following the development of the atlas from a certain distance.

Unfortunately In March 2002 the Secretariat was informed that the project is hampered by the legal closure of Wetlands International-Africa, Europe and Middle East. Hopefully in due course these problems could be solved.

### **Report on Status and Trends of Populations for MOP2**

The Action Plan of AEWA calls for a report on the status and trends of populations covered by the Agreement to be prepared at intervals of not more than three years. Such information provided the basic material for operation, updating and evaluation of the Agreement. The first report was presented at the first Session of the Meeting of the Parties. The final version of the report was published early 2002.

Early 2001 Wetlands International was contracted by the Secretariat to update the status and trend of populations covered by AEWA. The update draft version of the Report on Status and trends of Populations will be ready by the end of 2001 and could be submitted to the MOP2 in time.

### **Actions for the conservation of colonial Waterbirds**

A large proportion of the migratory waterbirds species covered by the Agreement nest in colonies for different reasons. However this makes these species particularly vulnerable to habitat change, taking of eggs, young or adult, disturbance or emergency situations at such sites.

This project foresees a desk study to explore options, priorities and costs for coordinated monitoring of colonial waterbirds. Furthermore, this project foresees the drafting of a conservation guideline on national actions to be undertaken for colonial waterbirds.

By the end of March 2002 agreement was reached with Tour-du-Valat to contract this work out to them. The final results will be available by the middle of 2003. This project is being supported by France.

### **Exchange of know-how on traditional approaches of wetland and waterbird management in Africa**

Rural communities in African countries have developed traditional norms, regulations and technologies for the wise use of migratory waterbirds and their wetlands habitats. Such approaches offer a valuable insight into options for sustainable development and utilization of these resources by rural communities, which may be replicated in other countries.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries of the Netherlands committed itself to support this project partially. Recently agreement was reached with IUCN to execute this project. Currently suitable projects in at least two countries are identified in close consultation with the Secretariat. The final results will be available by the end of 2003.

### **Conservation Guidelines**

At the MOP1 the Conservation Guidelines were adopted as initial guidelines. The Meeting requested the Technical Committee to revise the initial guidelines as a matter of urgency. The Technical Committee revised the guidelines at its first meeting and it was decided that an additional guideline should be drafted for international emergency situations. The Secretariat contracted Wetlands International for this work. Wetlands International, in close cooperation with the AEWA Secretariat will finalize the initial guidelines as well as draft the new guideline on international emergency situations. It is foreseen that the work could be finalized by the end of August 2002 and that the guidelines could be submitted to MOP2 in time.

### **Rehabilitation of important sites for migratory waterbirds, which have been degraded by invasive species of aquatic weeds**

As indicated in the International Implementation Priorities 2000-2004 a large number of wetlands (including many of international importance to migratory waterbirds) particularly in tropical Africa, have been degraded by invasions of species of aquatic weeds.

Being aware that the RAMSAR Bureau is working on the same subject the Secretariat took the initiative to make contact with them to discuss further cooperation with RAMSAR and other relevant organisations. At the 10<sup>th</sup> Scientific and Technical Panel of RAMSAR it was decided to invite AEWA to participate in drafting of a Resolution and its annex on "wetland management and invasive species" to be tabled at the RAMSAR COP8. Meanwhile RAMSAR and IUCN are organizing workshops in Africa on this theme. Linked to the JWP Programme between RAMSAR, CMS and AEWA in the coming months we will discuss how the cooperation between these Secretariats could be strengthened regarding eradication of invasive species. Meanwhile this project has been contracted out to IUCN. Currently IUCN is identifying suitable projects in Africa in close cooperation with the Secretariat.

## Education and Information

### **Development of the Agreement's Website**

The Internet is fast becoming the most effective tool for communication and awareness activities at international level. It offers an excellent, cost-effective means for promotion, coordination and implementation of many aspects of the Agreement. The existing website was out of date and therefore there was a need to update the website and to make it more attractive. The voluntary contribution from the Government of Germany enabled the Secretariat to contract the World Conservation and Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to develop a new website. The project started in 2000 and will expire by the end of this year. In May 2001 the first phase of this new website has been launched. The AEWA Secretariat is strongly involved in the further development.

UNEP-WCMC developed a map and a graphic based application that enhance the appeal and effectiveness of the AEWA website. Besides existing documents also new text has been provide by the Secretariat to be include in the website.

## *OTHER ACTIVITIES*

### **Workshop “Towards a strategy for waterbirds and wetlands conservation in the Central Asian Flyway”**

For many years there has been a strong wish to start with the development of a strategy for waterbirds and wetlands conservation for the Central Asian Flyway. Long time ago CMS reached an agreement with the RAMSAR Bureau, Wetlands International and the Netherlands to hold a workshop in the region to discuss this idea. However year-by-year the workshop was postponed. In 2000 Wetlands International requested the Netherlands to support the drafting of an Action Plan for the Central Asian Flyway. This application was approved early 2001 and afterwards a flyway officer could be appointed to draft the action plan. However this project is hampered by the legal closure of Wetlands International-Africa-Europe and Middle East. Hopefully these problems could be solved soon to enable Wetlands International to continue its activities. The Central Asian Flyway is overlapping partly with the AEWA Agreement Area. Therefore the AEWA Secretariat showed interest to be involved in this project. On request of CMS the AEWA Secretariat has taken the lead to coordinate the activities on behalf of CMS. These activities consists of organizing a workshop, liase with the Host Government, coordinate the activities of Wetlands Internal, drafting and mailing of the invitation letter, etc. All these activities together have been quite time consuming.

As follow up to the meeting the AEWA Secretariat drafted a discussion paper on the three options of future international concerted actions in the CAIF region. The Secretariat also commented on the draft Action Plan. Currently the Secretariat is in close cooperation with the CMS Secretariat, involved in organizing a one-day workshop during COP7 (September 2002, Bonn).

### **Joint Workplan with the Ramsar Bureau**

For some year CMS drafted a Joint Work Programme (JWP) between the RAMSAR bureau and CMS. Although both organisations were in favour of this JWP it has never been finalized because the person involved from CMS as well as from the RAMSAR Bureau left the office.

AEWA is fully complementary to the RAMSAR Convention, however there is also some overlap. To avoid any duplication or to enhance each other activities there is a need to synchronize our work plans. Therefore the AEWA Secretariat, in close cooperation with CMS, updated the existing draft JWP incorporating specific AEWA issues. A first draft has been sent to the RAMSAR Bureau and to CMS in April 2001 with the request to comment. Unfortunately no comments have been received so far from the RAMSAR Bureau. Hopefully agreement could be reached with the RAMSAR Bureau and CMS Secretariat before MOP2.

### **African-Eurasian Flyway GEF project**

Early 2000 the Global Environment Facility (GEF) decided to grant US \$ 350,000 for the drafting of a project brief of a full-size African-Eurasian Flyway GEF project of between US \$ 8-12 million.

The Secretariat is one of the members of the Steering Committee of this project. The Committee met for the first time in November 2001 in Wageningen, The Netherlands. The Secretariat participated at this meeting and during which the project was reviewed and the work programme approved.

As indicated in the project description during the Project Development Phase (PDF) two outreach workshops should be held one in the Middle East and one in Central Asia. The aim of these workshops is to improve regional communications, cooperation and coordination. As for all Conventions Secretariats the contact with the Middle East and Central Asia is very weak. Therefore the Secretariat decided to participate at the Middle East workshop, which took place in January 2001 in Bahrain and try to establish a better network with this region. For the same reason the Secretariat also participated at the Central Asian Workshop which was held in Uzbekistan in August 2001.

As member of the Steering Committee the Executive Secretary is strongly involved in the development of the project brief for the full size project. In this capacity he, together with a representative of the Technical Committee participated at the two days workshop "Analysis of the gaps of knowledge of the critical wetlands areas required by migratory waterbirds", which took place in June 2001.

The development of the project brief for the full size project is well underway. However a point of concern is to seek the matching funds, US \$ 4-6 million, required for approval of the project by the GEF Secretariat.

Together with the colleagues from the RAMSAR Bureau, BirdLife International and Wetlands International the Secretariat promised to do its utmost to seek additional funding.

### **AEWA Film**

With financial support of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries a professional filmmaker could be contracted to draft a scenario for a film on AEW. The idea is to produce a promotion film of not more than 20 minutes. In this short period it should be made clear why we need AEW for the conservation of migratory waterbirds. Such a film could be used at Meetings of experts and policy officers but also for the general public. It is being investigated if the film could also be use for TV. Although the scenario is ready it will take a while before the necessary funds would be secured. The cost of the production of this film is estimated to be US \$ 175,000.

The necessary funds have not been secured yet. However there is a fair chance that in due course the Netherlands will contribute with roundabout US \$ 50,000. The filmmaker as well as the Secretariat will continue to seek additional funding. In close cooperation with the project coordinator of the GEF project the Secretariat explores the possibility to integrate the film in the project brief of the full size GEF project. If that would be possible 50 % of the budget will be covered by GEF. Furthermore the cost estimates of the production of the film will be studied again to look for some savings.

### **Memorandum of Understanding for breeding Seabird in Southern Africa**

After the oil-spill disaster around the Robben-island (South Africa), which affected a high number of African penguins, the idea arose to draft a Memorandum of Understanding under the auspices of CMS for this species. Through the years more and more species were included in the draft MOU and finally it was decided to focus on all breeding Seabird in southern Africa encompassing South Africa, Namibia and Angola.

The Secretariat participated at the Workshop on the Conservation Assessment and Management Plan for Southern African Coastal Seabirds, which was held 4-8 February 2002 in Cape Town, South Africa. During this workshop the possible administrative and institutional arrangements concerning the conservation of Southern Africa Seabirds was discussed. The outcome of this discussion was that the participants preferred to include the seabird species into AEW instead of concluding a stand-alone MOU. Of the proposed 17 species, five have been included in AEW already. Special attention is needed for the population of these specific species. Of the remaining 12 species one (Leach's Storm Petrel) will be submitted for inclusion in the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels. South Africa will submit the others for inclusion in AEW and by doing this, there will be no need to include a special MOU for the coastal Seabirds of Southern Africa.

