

8th MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
03 - 05 March 2008, Bonn, Germany

**GUIDANCE ON ASSESSMENT OF DEGREE OF CONCENTRATION ON A
SMALL NUMBER OF SITES**

(Report by TC Working Group 2)

BACKGROUND

The third meeting of parties called for guidance on the interpretation of criteria used in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan as follows:

“Recalling Resolution 2.1 and the call of the MOP upon the Technical Committee to develop guidance for the interpretation of the term “significant long-term decline” in the context of Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan;

Noting the responsive output presented by the Technical Committee to MOP3, being a succinct guidance (document MOP 3.11);

Further noting that there are more criteria used to classify species in various categories in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan for whose application no clear guidance exists;

The Meeting of the Parties:

Calls upon the Technical Committee to develop guidelines for interpretation of other criteria used in Table 1 of the Action Plan, notably:

- the degree of concentration on a small number of specific sites at any stage of annual cycle;
- the dependence on a habitat type which is under severe threat; and
- the extent of fluctuation in population size or trend.”

The use of this term in the Criteria within the Action Plan table relates to two scenarios:

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;

Column B

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;

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION BY THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

To address this issue, a working group was convened within the TC, which worked on possible approaches of defining the interpretation of “degree of concentration on a small number of sites” early in the triennium. Two approaches were suggested in a paper presented to the 7th TC meeting in 2006. The first approach was lined to the Ramsar criterion of identifying wetlands of international importance, where 1% or more of a biogeographical population of a certain species concentrates, while the second approach was closer to the BirdLife International’s definition of “Localised” species, used in their publication “Birds in Europe”. At TC7 it was decided to convene an ad hoc workshop for this working group to advance the development of guidelines for interpretation of this criterion. The TC advised the working group that the second suggested approach would be more appropriate.

In mid-March 2007 the working group met in the AEWA Secretariat premises for one-day ad hoc workshop. The working group looked at the BirdLife’s definition of “Localised” species used in the first edition (1994) and second edition (2004) of the publication “Birds in Europe” (BiE1 and BiE2). It was noted that there is a large degree of overlap between AEWA populations currently categorised as A3a and B2a (concentrated onto a small number of sites at any stage of their annual cycle) and the European populations of waterbirds categorised by BirdLife International as “Localised” either in BiE1 or BiE2. It was therefore decided that the BirdLife’s numerical criterion (*90% concentrated in 10 or fewer sites*) would be an appropriate one to be added to the definition of AEWA criteria A3a and B2a.

The definition therefore is proposed to read as follows:

“A population which *concentrates onto a small number of sites at any stage of its annual cycle* is one 90% or more of which is localised in 10 or fewer sites in a particular annual cycle stage.”

ACTIONS REQUESTED FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The Technical Committee is invited to review this proposal for definition and guidance, make amendments as appropriate, and approve it for submission to MOP4 through the Standing Committee.