

# MOP 6

Proceedings of  
the Sixth Session  
of the Meeting  
of the Parties

9 - 14 November 2015  
Bonn, Germany

UNEP / AEWA Secretariat

# PROCEEDINGS

## OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

BONN, GERMANY, 9 - 14 NOVEMBER 2015

Supported by:



Federal Ministry for the  
Environment, Nature Conservation,  
Building and Nuclear Safety

based on a decision of the German Bundestag

Published by  
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## FOREWORD

In accordance with Article VI of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, the Agreement Secretariat shall convene ordinary sessions of the Meeting of the Parties, the decision-making organ of the Agreement. The Sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP6) took place from 9 - 14 November 2015 in Bonn, Germany.

The year 2015 saw the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AEWA; for the past two decades, AEWA has provided the framework for international cooperation on the conservation and management of migratory waterbird populations in the region - also serving as an example for flyway cooperation around the globe. The Agreement's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which was celebrated throughout the year, culminated in MOP6.

The theme of MOP6, "Making Flyway Conservation happen", highlighted AEWA's 20-year long dedication towards the protection of flyways. Flyways cover the entire annual range of birds, including stopover sites, breeding and wintering areas. Safeguarding flyways is hence of crucial importance for the survival of migratory waterbirds.

The proceedings of MOP6 include, *inter alia*, the report of the session, the Resolutions adopted by the Meeting of the Parties, statements made during the opening ceremony, as well as statements made by the winners of the AEWA Waterbird Conservation Award.

Dr Jacques Trouvilliez  
Executive Secretary  
UNEP/AEWA Secretariat  
Bonn, Germany



PART I

REPORT OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE  
MEETING OF THE PARTIES (MOP6)



## 6<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

9-14 November 2015, Bonn, Germany

*“Making flyway conservation happen”*

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### REPORT OF THE 6<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES (MOP6) TO THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS (AEWA), 9–14 NOVEMBER 2015, BONN, GERMANY

#### Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting

1. The **Executive Secretary of AEW A**, Mr Jacques Trouvilliez, invited Mr François Lamarque, representing **France**, the host of MOP5 (La Rochelle, 2012) to chair the meeting until such time as the President and Vice-President of MOP6 were elected.
2. **Mr Lamarque** extended thanks to the UNEP/AEW A Secretariat for its work in preparing MOP6, as well as to both governments and non-governmental organisations that had contributed. He was sure the meeting would lead to positive results for the conservation of migratory waterbirds. He introduced a video message from the **Executive Director of UNEP**, Mr Achim Steiner.
3. **Mr Steiner** welcomed participants to this session of the MOP, which also marked AEW A’s 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. UNEP was privileged to have hosted the AEW A Secretariat for the better part of 20 years. The Sixth Conservation Status Report for Migratory Waterbirds in the Agreement Area had revealed some discouraging trends. However, there were many examples where success stories were unfolding, showing that negative trends could be reversed by working together. It was important not to underestimate the significance of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals; it was in this broader context, for example in decisions related to land-use, energy and transport systems, that solutions to the conservation of waterbirds and biodiversity in general lay. In closing, he wished AEW A a happy 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, noting that the Agreement had a great deal to be proud of.
4. The **Chair** invited the Executive Secretary of AEW A to present his opening remarks.
5. **Mr Trouvilliez** recalled that he had taken up his position 18 months previously and that the entire AEW A team had worked hard to organise the present meeting. The week ahead would see an intensive focus on setting AEW A’s directions and priorities for the next three years. Looking back, it was clear that AEW A had covered a great deal of ground and come a long way, demonstrating that flyway conservation could work in practice and was getting results. Much remained to be done and the path ahead was long, with changing pressures on waterbirds, including the effects of climate change.
6. Without solid scientific knowledge and the commitment of all governments and NGOs, wetlands would gradually be lost and the skies no longer filled with the calls of migratory birds. In a period of global crisis, with many humans undertaking long migrations without the promise of a return journey, it might seem frivolous to be talking about migratory waterbirds, but, as the Executive Director of UNEP had underlined in his video message, there were objective reasons to aim at achieving a favourable conservation status for waterbird populations. AEW A needed to play its part in keeping alive a dream that belonged to all of humankind, so that future generations could continue to marvel at a flock of flamingos or cranes flying overhead.

## Agenda item 2. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

7. The **Chair** referred the meeting to document AEWA/MOP 6.2 *Rules of Procedure*. He opened the floor to comments.

8. **Luxembourg**, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, indicated its overall satisfaction with the Rules of Procedure, but noted that Rule 18.2, concerning credentials, did not make specific provision for Regional Economic Integration Organisations. It might be helpful to make a small addition to bring Rule 18.2 into line with wording now used in the CMS Rules of Procedure, namely the insertion at the end of the first sentence:

*“or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization<sup>1</sup>.”*

*Footnote 1: For the purpose of interpreting this Rule, in the case of the European Union ‘competent authority’ means the President of the European Commission or the Commissioner responsible for the environment.”*

9. At the invitation of the **Chair**, the meeting adopted the Rules of Procedure, as contained in document 6.2, subject to the inclusion of the amendment proposed by Luxembourg on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

## Agenda item 3. Election of Officers

10. The **Chair** recalled that, in accordance with Rule 21 of the Rules of Procedure, a President and one or more Vice-Presidents were to be elected. He invited nominations from the floor.

11. **Luxembourg**, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, proposed **Mr Fernando Spina** (Italy) as President of MOP6.

12. **Ghana**, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, proposed **Mr James Lutalo** (Uganda) as Vice-President of MOP6.

13. The President and Vice-President were elected by acclamation. Taking his place on the podium **Mr Spina** thanked the meeting for its trust in electing him to chair what was going to be a very busy and interesting week.

## Agenda item 4. Adoption of the Agenda and Work Programme

14. The **Chair** introduced documents AEWA/MOP 6.3 Rev.2 *Provisional Agenda* and AEWA/MOP 6.4 Rev.2 *Provisional Annotated Agenda and Meeting Schedule*. He opened the floor to proposals for revisions or additions.

15. **Norway** referred to information document AEWA/MOP Inf. 6.13, an intended proposal for submission to the Meeting Committee of MOP6 by the Government of Norway. Initially the idea was to have had a text ready to be forwarded to the MOP by the Chair of the CMS Standing Committee. Norway was now formally submitting to the MOP document AEWA/MOP Inf. 6.13 in conformity with Rule 35 of the Rules of Procedure. (See also paragraphs 43 and 43 bis).

16. The **Executive Secretary** of AEWA confirmed that Rule 35 provided for new proposals from Contracting Parties to be reviewed by the Meeting Committee. In the case of a positive decision by the Meeting Committee, the proposal would be submitted formally to MOP6, in both working languages, and Norway would be invited to introduce its proposal in detail.

17. **Luxembourg**, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States underlined the need to allocate enough time for discussion in the Working Groups; starting them only on Wednesday afternoon

(11 November) might not allow enough time and it was therefore suggested that initial plenary discussions should be rather brief.

18. The **Executive Secretary** confirmed that the Secretariat would see what could be done to bring forward the commencement of Working Group sessions to Wednesday morning.

19. In response to a question from **Saudi Arabia**, the Executive Secretary confirmed that further information concerning Agenda item 21, regarding the new Arabic translation of the Agreement text, would be presented on Wednesday morning (11 November). The translation approved by the Standing Committee for forwarding to MOP6 had raised some questions on the part of the Depositary. The Secretariat was working closely with the Netherlands to finalise a version acceptable to all stakeholders. If this process was not completed in time, MOP6 would be invited to adopt a Resolution allowing for adoption of the new Arabic text as soon as possible.

20. **Algeria**, on behalf of African Parties, noted that the Finance & Administration Working Group, which was expected to be established under Agenda item 5 would wish to hold a closed session.

21. **UNEP** requested admittance to the proposed closed session of the Finance & Administration Working Group, since UNEP hosted the AEWAs Secretariat and managed its finances and staff.

22. **Luxembourg** (speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States) and **Norway** supported the participation of UNEP.

23. The **Executive Secretary** noted that according to the Rules of Procedure, a closed session limited to Contracting Parties was entirely possible. While it would be advisable for both the Secretariat and UNEP to be admitted for budgetary discussions, this was a matter for the Parties themselves to decide.

24. In response to a question from **South Africa**, the **Executive Secretary** clarified that the right of Parties to decide on the admission of observers to sessions of the Working Group extended to non-Party Range States.

25. **Uganda** and **Kenya** considered that the participation of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and UNEP in sessions of the Working Group that dealt with budgetary matters to be absolutely necessary. However, it should still be possible to hold a closed session of the Working Group, without the presence of either the Secretariat or UNEP, if the Parties deemed this necessary.

26. The **Chair** concluded that Parties were free to decide in relation to the admission of non-Party Range States, the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and UNEP. He understood that the Working Group would meet in a closed session, but with the opportunity of fully involving both the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and UNEP, especially when considering budgetary matters.

## **Agenda item 5. Establishment of Credentials Committee and Sessional Committees**

27. The **Chair** recalled that establishment of a Credentials Committee was a requirement of Rule 19 of the Rules of Procedure. He invited proposals from the floor.

28. **Uganda**, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, nominated **Ghana** and **Libya** to represent the Africa group on the Credentials Committee.

29. **Luxembourg** (speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States) nominated **Luxembourg** and the **Netherlands** to represent the Eurasian region on the Credentials Committee, noting that the Rule 19 of the Rules of Procedure stipulated a minimum of four members (two from Africa and two from Eurasia).

30. The **Chair** recalled that at previous MOPs a five-person Credentials Committee had been appointed to facilitate decision-making. However, in the absence of further nominations, a four-member Committee would indeed meet the requirements of the Rules of Procedure.

31. The **Chair** noted that it was proposed there should be two Sessional Working Groups; one dealing with Scientific and Technical matters, the other dealing with Financial and Administrative matters. He invited nominations for the Chairs of the two Working Groups.

32. **Luxembourg** (speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States) nominated Mr David Stroud (**United Kingdom**) to chair the Scientific and Technical Working Group.

33. **Ghana**, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, nominated Ms Chandanee Jhowry (**Mauritius**) to chair the Financial and Administrative Working Group.

34. The nominations for the Chairs of the two Working Groups were approved by consensus.

### **Agenda item 6. Admission of Observers**

35. The **Chair** introduced document AEWA/MOP 6.5 Rev.2 *Admission of Observers*. He noted that this listed nine non-Party Range States, seven Intergovernmental Organisations, eight International NGOs, 20 National NGOs and 17 Other Observers. This diversity of bodies seeking admittance was testament to the significance of AEWA. He invited interventions from the floor.

36. There being no such interventions, the meeting decided by consensus to admit as Observers all those countries and organisations listed in document AEWA/MOP 6.5 Rev.2.

### **Agenda item 7. Opening Statements**

37. The **Chair** noted that written opening statements from Contracting Parties, intergovernmental organisations and non-governmental organisations would appear in the proceedings of the meeting. States that had become Contracting Parties since MOP5, or non-Party Range States, which were in the process of accession to AEWA, and that wished to take the floor, were particularly welcome to make brief oral statements.

38. **Mauritania** was pleased to note that it had become the newest Contracting Party to AEWA in May 2015. Thanks were due to the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat for its support during the accession process. Mauritania wished to draw the meeting's attention to two internationally important sites in its territory, namely Banc d'Arguin and Diawling. Banc d'Arguin was one of the largest protected areas in Western Africa and one the most important wetlands in the world, supporting more than 2.5 million migratory waterbirds.

39. **Luxembourg** (speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States) was proud to be part of MOP6 and warmly congratulated AEWA on the occasion of its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The EU would do its best to make outcome-oriented contributions and welcomed the 6<sup>th</sup> Conservation Status Report for the Agreement Area, which clearly showed how concerted management measures could make significant improvements. AEWA offered important opportunities for capacity building and development of best practice. MOP6 would need to agree the way forward, not only with respect to waterbird conservation but also synergies and partnerships within the CMS Family, but also with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, keeping in mind the need for complete transparency and consultation. The EU and its Member States assured the meeting of its full support.

### **Agenda item 8. AEWA Waterbird Conservation Award Presentation Ceremony**

40. The Secretariat recalled that the AEWA Award had been established by the Standing Committee in 2005 to recognise individuals and organisations who have made outstanding contributions to the conservation of migratory waterbirds.

41. This was the fourth occasion on which the AEWA Awards had been presented. A call for nominations had been launched in April 2015, with a deadline in mid-June 2015. The winners had been selected by the Standing Committee at its 10<sup>th</sup> meeting in July 2015 (and subsequently announced on the AEWA website) as follows:

#### Individual category:

Mr Abdoulaye Ndiaye, Senegal

### Institutional category:

The Association Inter-Villageoise du Ndiaël (the inter-village Association of the Ndiaël), Senegal, represented by the President of the Association Mr Amadou Sow.

42. Following the screening of short introductory videos, the recipients were each presented with an Award Certificate and a work of art, complemented by a cash prize of USD 5,000. The Awards were presented by the Chair of the Standing Committee, to acclamation from the meeting. The recipients made brief remarks thanking all those who had supported the work for which they were being honoured.

## **Agenda item 9. Reports**

### **a. Standing Committee**

43. The **Chair of the Standing Committee (StC), Norway**, represented by Mr Øystein Størksen, presented document AEWA/MOP 6.6 *Report of the Standing Committee*. He summarised briefly the composition of the Committee, the dates of the two intersessional meetings held since MOP5, and the principal issues dealt with, including: review of progress with implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan, International Implementation Priorities and the African Initiative; revision of the modus operandi of the AEWA Small Grants Fund; updates concerning International Single Species Action Plans and the Implementation Review Process; appointment of the AEWA Executive Secretary; and the pilot phase aimed at increasing synergies between AEWA and CMS in response to decisions taken by AEWA MOP5 and CMS COP11. The last of these was a particularly important issue and participants were referred to Norway's proposal for a MOP6 Resolution on the way forward, contained in document AEWA/MOP Inf. 6.13.

43.bis Following approval by the Meeting Committee, **Norway** subsequently introduced the proposal contained in AEWA/MOP Inf. 6.13 as a new Draft Resolution, AEWA/MOP6 DR22 *Synergies Between the UNEP/AEWA and UNEP/CMS Secretariats*.

44. The **Secretariat** noted that all participants proposing amendments to MOP6 Draft Resolutions and/or making statements to be recorded in the report of the meeting, were required to send these electronically to the Secretariat, using the email address: aewa.mop6@unep-aewa.org

### **b. Technical Committee**

45. The **Chair** described the Technical Committee as the backbone of the Agreement and invited, the **Chair of the Committee**, Mr David Stroud, to make his report.

46. **Mr Stroud** referred to document UNEP/AEWA/MOP6.7 the *Report of the Technical Committee* which outlined the Committee's activities since the last MOP. The Committee had held two meetings, one in Ghana in 2012 and a second in Bonn in March 2015, when the documentation for the MOP had been reviewed. Mr Stroud expressed his thanks to the hosts of those meetings and to the Secretariat and in particular Mr Sergey Dereliev for their assistance.

47. The first meeting had established ten Working Groups each with its own lead Committee member and these had generated twelve draft Resolutions that had been tabled at the MOP, together with a considerable number of supporting information documents. While much had been achieved, some tasks had not progressed as well as had been hoped.

48. At the meeting in Ghana, Committee members had been asked a series of questions. The first question was to name the two main threats facing waterbirds. Answers included habitat loss; lack of political will; inadequate policy frameworks; poisoning from lead, pesticides and nutrients; disturbance leading to virtual loss of habitat (i.e. habitat without species); unsustainable and/or illegal hunting; as well as climate change and associated hydrological changes.

49. The priorities for the Committee's work, as identified by TC members, included a clearer focus on issues where AEWA had a unique niche and therefore would not duplicate the efforts of others; a review of the

Committee's procedures so that it could better respond to the requirements of the Parties; assistance with capacity-building; targeting of the Committee's advice more effectively; building awareness; identifying knowledge gaps; and assisting with monitoring.

50. AEWA had a unique role in the sustainable use, hunting and taking of waterbirds because of its position in the hub of a network bringing together a range of different interests. It should advocate better enforcement of existing laws and join the fight against illegal hunting and wildlife crime. It should refine its communication strategy, tailoring its messages and choosing its target audiences, supplying them with the information that they needed. The new AEWA Communication Strategy was set out in Draft Resolution 6.10 Rev1.

51. The Agreement could be made more effective through collaboration with others to avoid duplication and releasing resources to focus on its unique role. There were other forums and organisations with an interest in waterbirds, including MEAs, which also had an interest in developing the capacity of their Parties.

52. More funding was required, especially to assist developing countries and to increase the capacity of the Secretariat to support the Agreement. Efforts should be made to recruit some key non-Party Range States.

53. With regard to communications and outreach, special attention should be paid to children and youth as they would be the decision-makers of the future, and to improving liaison with other Secretariats and certain key stakeholders. Some investment should be made in having AEWA guidelines translated into additional languages.

54. Since 1999, Meetings of the Parties were making an increasing number of requests for assistance from the TC. It was reassuring to know that the service provided was in demand and appreciated, but the Committee had very limited resources (some travel assistance was offered to some members). Substantive work of the Committee was undertaken by members during their work or free time and contracting out of tasks could only be done if voluntary contributions were offered. Parties were less likely to make their staff available to the Agreement in the current climate of financial austerity, and thus the capacity of the TC in this regard was declining.

55. For the first time the Parties were being provided with a forward look at the TC's Work Programme in Draft Resolution 6.17. This presented a prioritised and costed list of tasks. Ideally, the budget allocation to the Committee would be increased but this seemed unlikely in the current economic context. The total cost of the Work Programme had been estimated at 850,000 EUR, approximately 540,000 EUR of which could be ascribed to the top priorities. Full details were contained in the document.

56. The **Chair** thanked Mr Stroud for his report and all TC members for their work on behalf of the Agreement.

### **c. Depositary**

57. The **Chair** called upon the representative of the **Netherlands** to make the report of the Depositary.

58. The representative of the **Netherlands** noted that in 2012, Gabon, Swaziland and Zimbabwe had acceded to the Agreement and Morocco had ratified it. In 2013, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Iceland had acceded but with 22 reservations in the case of Iceland. In 2014, Burundi and Rwanda had acceded and the most recent Party was Mauritania which had acceded in 2015.

59. The changes made to the Annexes at MOP5 had entered into effect, but reservations had been lodged within the 90-day deadline by the Czech Republic, Denmark, the European Union, Finland and Sweden.

60. The **Chair** commented that the Agreement had shown encouraging growth in the preceding triennium and opened the floor to questions or comments.

61. The representative of **Cote d'Ivoire** commented that his country's location in West Africa meant that it had a large transitory avian fauna and this was one of the principal reasons why it had joined the Agreement.

#### **d. Secretariat**

62. The **Executive Secretary of AEWA**, Mr Jacques Trouvilliez, presented document AEWA/MOP 6.9 *Report of the Secretariat* covering the activities of the Secretariat since MOP5.

63. Regarding staff, there had been some changes. At MOP5, Mr Marco Barbieri had led the Secretariat as Interim Executive Secretary and had been replaced in October 2013 by Mr Bert Lenten who was Acting Executive Secretary until June 2014 when Mr Trouvilliez had entered on duty. After a long recruitment process Ms Evelyn Moloko had been appointed as Coordinator of the African Initiative, a P-2 post in part supported by the Swiss Federal Office of the Environment. Norway had undertaken to fund the P-2 post filled by Ms Nina Mikander dealing with ISSAPs and the Lesser White-fronted Goose and Germany had agreed to fund a post, filled by Ms Birgit Drerup, to provide administrative support to the African Initiative.

64. Savings from posts not filled had allowed some temporary staff to be engaged such as Ms Melanie Jakuttek who had been helping with MOP6 preparations. There had also been eleven interns from eight countries working for shorter periods. They had undertaken a range of tasks, including, in one case, the design of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo.

65. Some changes had been made to the structure of the Secretariat. It was a relatively small team requiring a great deal of internal synergies and multitasking and this was facilitated by a strong team spirit. All staff members had an annual work plan to guide their activities. There were eleven staff members, six professionals and five administrative and the core budget covered 6.75 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions while voluntary contributions and redeployment of savings supported 3.25 FTE posts.

66. The Secretariat was organised into four units: executive management; science, implementation and compliance; the African Initiative; and communications. These were supported by the Administration and Finance Management Unit, provided by UNEP and managed by the CMS Secretariat, which served all the Bonn-based members of the CMS Family. Since 2014, the Communication Unit had joined with the CMS communications personnel into a common team; this issue would be covered in greater detail under agenda item 10.

67. As had been reported by the Depositary (see item 9 c. above), several new Parties had acceded to the Agreement, while Belarus, represented at MOP6 by observers, was likely to accede in 2016 following a round table meeting with ministry officials in Minsk in May 2015 and a Presidential decree signed in the second half of the year. Although membership was growing, there were still some noticeable gaps on the map, in particular in south-west Africa, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East.

68. Three meetings of the Standing Committee and two meetings of the Technical Committee had been organised.

69. Strategic partnerships were being fostered, examples of which included cooperation with the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) and its Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI). A memorandum had been signed with CAFF, which covered an area where many AEWA species had their breeding grounds. AEWA was also involved in the Partnership for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats with the Ramsar Convention, BirdLife International and Wetlands International as a follow-up to the Wings over Wetlands project.

70. In May 2013 and 2014 strategic meetings had been held with BirdLife International and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), at which the idea of a task force on energy and a Pan-Mediterranean task force on illegal killing of migratory birds were first discussed.

71. Fundraising efforts continued to bear fruit, with a little over 405,000 EUR raised in 2013, 406,000 EUR in 2014 and 473,000 EUR in 2015. These contributions were essential for many of the activities, such as ISSAPs, the African Initiative, the Communication Strategy, World Migratory Bird Day, work on renewable energy technologies, the Small Grants Fund and the organisation of meetings, including the MOP. Thanks were expressed to donors: Norway, Switzerland, Germany, Luxembourg, the EU and the Czech Republic.

72. The Agreement was celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary under the slogan “Making flyway conservation happen” with a special logo and features on the website such as “people behind the scenes”. A limited edition

book would be launched at a special event later in the day. The anniversary was also being used as an opportunity to highlight the Agreement's work and achievements.

73. The work of the Communications Team would be covered in detail under agenda item 10.

74. With regard to the work of the Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit, a number of ISSAPs, ISSMPs and now an IMSAP had been developed, the Implementation Review Process (IRP) had been operating and a number of reviews would be considered by the MOP. The Unit had also produced guidelines and participated in or coordinated various Task Forces, Working Groups, the Waterbirds Harvest Specialist Group and a range of other partnerships. Nine editions had been produced under the AEWA Technical Series.

75. More details on the African Initiative would be given by the Coordinator of the African Initiative, Ms Evelyn Moloko, when she reported the following day under agenda item 12.

76. Other activities included jointly running a workshop in Cape Town, South Africa on preventing bird poisoning in conjunction with CMS and the Raptors MOU, assisting various capacity-building events and participating in the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Workshop. AEWA was also contributing to the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species process, working with IPBES and seeking synergies with other biodiversity conventions along with UNEP.

77. A great deal had been achieved but much was still left to be done and it was a seemingly endless task trying to raise the money needed.

78. In response to a question from **South Africa** about setting up a clearing house mechanism for examples of best practice, **Mr Trouvilliez** said that the Secretariat was always open to suggestions on ways to improve the website.

79. The **Chair** thanked the Secretariat for its report and for the wide range of activities undertaken since MOP5.

#### **e. UNEP**

80. The **representative of UNEP**, Mr Jiri Hlaváček, pointed out that AEWA was one of many MEAs supported by UNEP. At the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in May 2016, the Executive Director was due to present a paper on synergies between MEAs. A Task Team had been established, led by the Deputy Executive Director with the Executive Secretary of CMS serving as the Vice-Chair and with the participation of UNEP, the United Nations Office in Nairobi, the United Nations Office in Geneva and MEAs. It had examined the services required by MEAs, the services provided, identifying gaps and identifying possible service providers to enhance cooperation and synergies, over a wide range of issues from healthy ecosystems to climate change.

81. Where cooperation between UNEP and MEAs was working, it should be continued and expanded. Areas for new cooperation for mutual benefit should be identified and formalised through work programmes to implement policies at national, regional and global levels. Communications and outreach work could be improved and MEAs could be better aligned to address emerging issues through joint prioritization. Priorities were being identified through an open and transparent process and there was evidence that MEA strategies were already being integrated.

82. The Working Group on administration had completed its work in September 2015 and had decided that there was a need for written agreements between UNEP and the MEAs with the involvement of the MEAs' governing bodies. Flexible, tailor-made agreements would be elaborated in accordance with UNEP rules.

83. Mr Hlaváček recalled that AEWA MOP1 had agreed to establish a permanent Secretariat co-located with the parent Convention in Bonn, which paved the way for and facilitated further synergies in future.

84. In February 2016 the paper would be presented to the Permanent Representatives before being transmitted to the second session of UNEA in May.

85. UNEP had completed a project on synergies among MEAs building on the report "The Future We Want" and funded by the EU and the Governments of Switzerland and Finland. An online survey had been conducted

and two expert meetings had been held, involving staff from UNEP and MEAs, National MEA Focal Points and outside experts. A review of all available guidance and lessons learned had been prepared, with 28 recommendations and 88 action points, including programmatic cooperation through NBSAPs and the Aichi Targets, with a view to including biodiversity objectives into the mainstream policies of other sectors. Thanks were due to the co-chairs, Finland and Ghana.

86. The themes included NBSAPs and the Aichi Targets, reporting, IPBES and science, information management, awareness raising, capacity building and institutional cooperation. The aim was to achieve more effective national implementation through further synergies and coherence on MEAs, especially biodiversity MEAs and their role in implementing the SDGs and Aichi Targets. All the actors – Parties, MEAs and the UN – had their role to play. A workshop was scheduled for the first quarter of 2016, relevant to CMS COP Resolution 11.3 *Enhancing synergies and common services among CMS Family Instruments*, including the joint communications team.

87. A report on national and regional synergies in implementing MEAs had been published in May 2015 and it was hoped that this report had been disseminated to Parties. Further measures would be agreed at the second session of UNEA in May 2016 and CBD COP13 in December. UNEP/WCMC was mapping MEAs to the Aichi Targets, a project funded by Finland, which was providing a comprehensive overview of all the guidance produced by MEAs.

88. The second session of UNEA would be discussing a number of issues of relevance to AEWA including wildlife crime and marine debris. The meeting taking place from 23 to 27 May 2016 would have the theme of implementing the SDGs by 2030. The High Level Segment would discuss issues surrounding a healthy planet and healthy people and the role of biodiversity in clean air, health and mental wellbeing. A side event was being organised by the biodiversity conventions.

89. Norway thanked UNEP for the comprehensive report and given that it had been so detailed requested that it be submitted in writing for inclusion in the proceedings (see Appendix 1).

## **Agenda item 10. Common CMS/AEWA Information Management, Communication and Awareness-raising Team**

90. The **Executive Secretary of AEWA**, Mr Jacques Trouvilliez, referred participants to document AEWA/MOP 6.10 Rev.1 *Report on the CMS/AEWA Common Information Management, Communication and Awareness-Raising Team*. He explained the work and background of the Joint CMS AEWA Information, Communications and Awareness Team (IMCA), which had been launched in 2014. A first report, written in close consultation with the Executive Secretary of CMS, was delivered to the Standing Committee (StC) meeting held in Kampala. The IMCA is coordinated by the AEWA Information Officer under the supervision of the Executive Secretary of CMS. At COP11, CMS reported on the results of the pilot so far and Parties, through Resolution 11.3 on strengthening the synergies, asked for an independent analysis and report on the legal, financial, operational and administration of actions to enhance synergies, such as through sharing services. The original version of document AEWA/MOP 6.10 had been referred to in the independent assessment undertaken by consultants from the Free University of Brussels (see information document AEWA/MOP Inf. 6.8).

91. **Mr Trouvilliez** described the duties of the unit which covered press, websites, campaigns, social media and publications. The StC had agreed to the establishment of selected common services at its 9<sup>th</sup> meeting as part of a wider programme of synergies between CMS and AEWA.

92. Prior to the establishment of IMCA, AEWA had two staff members dealing with communications, a P2 Information Officer and a part-time G4 Assistant. In CMS there were five staff members, some full-time and some part-time. Originally the Joint Team included a P2 staff member responsible for the website, two G staff members and a consultant. A further part-time G staff member had joined later.

93. To date, AEWA had paid 38 per cent of the staff costs, more than the 33 per cent that would be due in accordance with the formula of 3:1 agreed between CMS and AEWA, reflecting the size of the two bodies' budgets. This imbalance would be addressed.

94. Benefits of the Joint Team included staff spending more time on their specialisms and pooled capacity on managing the websites. The CMS and AEWA communications strategies were being developed in tandem.

95. The early stages of the pilot had coincided with the preparations of the CMS COP and very good media coverage had been achieved. The Joint Team had hit the ground running but it was now time to reflect and to look particularly at the formula for apportioning costs. The Meeting would need to make a decision on how or whether to proceed.

96. **Mr Trouvilliez** expressed his thanks to Norway and to Mr Størkersen as Chair of the Standing Committees of both AEWA and CMS. He noted that the independent evaluation had presented a series of options ranging from reverting to the previous arrangements through to proceeding with merging of a wide range of services. It was evident that there was greater need to coordinate between CMS and AEWA given their different roles, the range of their subject matters and the timing and cycles of their meetings and decision-making processes. The aims of the team would be defined more clearly and its work planned more thoroughly and arrangements made for dealing with unexpected/emergency events. Increasing the technical capacity of the team was also a priority.

97. **South Africa** asked for clarification of the cost-sharing formula between CMS and AEWA, which was a fundamental issue that Parties would need to have agreed before embarking on further joint services.

98. **Mr Trouvilliez** agreed that this was an essential question, but the independent evaluation had not gone into great details regarding the financial implications. The pilot covered communications which was an area where the needs of both CMS and AEWA were easy to define. The first year's main activity was the CMS COP and more recently the focus had turned to the AEWA MOP. No detailed time analysis had been done but more attention would be paid to monitoring of time-allocation if the joint arrangements continued or were expanded into other areas such as conference services. The rule of 3:1 could not be applicable to other common services where the expectations of CMS and AEWA might be very different.

99. **Norway** said that it was important to realize that when organisations merged, there were usually some costs in terms of money or efficiency at the outset and the benefits took some time to materialize. The merged unit could build on the strengths of its members and the team could make adjustments. Both Executive Secretaries would have a say in the team's work and the arrangements would be flexible. Mr Størkersen said that his impression was that both CMS and AEWA had already benefitted. While CMS COP11 had taken much of the team's time in 2014, AEWA had the team assisting with preparations for MOP6.

100. **Madagascar** commented that communications were a key area in the work of the Convention and the Agreement, and noted that Madagascar was Party to both. Madagascar was not opposed to the Joint Team but thought that it was important to maintain the visibility and identity of both organisations.

## **Agenda item 11. a. Outcomes of CMS COP11 and other developments of relevance to AEWA**

101. The **Executive Secretary of CMS**, Mr Bradnee Chambers, reported on some of the main outcomes of the CMS COP in Quito that were relevant to AEWA. At the conclusion of his intervention, he would invite the Chair of the CMS Standing Committee to comment in greater detail on the Draft Resolution on synergies.

102. CMS had had a successful COP in Quito with record numbers of participants attending, more species added to the Appendices, reform of the Scientific Council started, the possibility of a review mechanism for the Convention being considered and a number of conservation resolutions, with implications for AEWA. These included Resolution 11.15 on poisoning which identified a variety of sources of poisoning and called for the phasing out of lead in ammunition; Resolution 11.16 on illegal taking and trade which had identified a number of hotspots and work would start in the first quarter of 2016 with a special focus on the Mediterranean region; Resolution 11.30 on marine debris, where CMS would work closely with UNEP and other MEAs; Resolution 11.26 which adopted a Programme of Work on climate change and migratory species; and Resolution 11.27 on the effects of renewable energy technologies, for which a Task Force supported by a voluntary contribution from Germany would start work in 2016.

103. Special mention should be made of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species which was linked directly to the Aichi Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and to the Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs) recently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. CMS had worked closely with CBD to influence the SDGs and SDG 15 placed the work of CMS and AEWA in the mainstream of wider global policies. AEWA Parties were invited to look at the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species, which addressed audiences beyond CMS.

104. COP11 had also adopted a Resolution calling for World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) to be designated an official UN Day. A proposal had been lodged by Ecuador, Kenya and the Philippines with the appropriate committee and would be considered by the General Assembly during its next session.

105. Resolution 11.3 dealt with synergies and common services. The report drafted by consultants from the Free University of Brussels evaluating the pilot project and the prospects for further common services had been presented to the 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee. The evaluation contained some options: non-institutional collaboration, step-by-step institutional synergies, or full merger of all common services.

106. With regard to the Joint Team, it had been an exercise of ‘learning by doing’, addressing problems as and when they occurred. The agreed formula for sharing costs was a split of 3:1 between CMS and AEWA, based on the two bodies’ budgets and this would be reviewed to ensure it was a fair reflection through a Programme of Work the implementation of which would be closely monitored and the team supervised. In summary, the pilot project had been a success with minor difficulties encountered along the way, but with Parties benefitting from the synergies that meant that more could be done with the resources available.

107. The **Chair of the CMS Standing Committee**, Mr Øystein Størkersen remarked that he had little to add to the Executive Secretary’s report. At its 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting the CMS Standing Committee had discussed the consultants’ evaluation and a clear preference had emerged in favour of the second option of a step-by-step continuation of merging common services. It was now for the AEWA MOP to make its choice. It would be retrograde if AEWA were to decide to revert to old arrangements. It could choose to continue the pilot or to make the joint arrangements more permanent. Taking concrete measures to establish synergies would be more in tune with wider intergovernmental policies. If AEWA Parties agreed to continue the joint arrangements, the CMS Standing Committee could complete the procedures through an intersessional process.

## **Agenda item 11. b. Outcomes of Ramsar COP12 of relevance to AEWA**

108. The **Ramsar Secretariat’s Senior Advisor for Europe, Mr Tobias Salathé**, summarized the relevant major outcomes from the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar COP12), held in Uruguay in June 2015.

109. Although some waterbird populations were increasing, this was not the case for the wetlands on which they depended. Since 1971, when the Ramsar Convention came into being, wetlands had been lost worldwide, including in Europe. Everyone attending MOP6 was convinced of the value of wetlands, but that was not the case more widely. Better information and better means of conveying information were needed to change behaviour. Ramsar was a ‘bridging convention’ that reached out to a variety of constituencies; for example, it did not only participate in the Biodiversity Liaison Group but was also a partner of UN-Water.

110. The greatest achievement of Ramsar COP12 had been the adoption of a new Global Strategy for Wetlands, covering nine years (three intersessional triennia) with a mid-term review. The Global Strategy identified the following Strategic Goals, each with associated Targets:

- Addressing drivers of wetland loss and degradation
- Effective management of Ramsar sites
- Using all wetlands wisely
- Enhancing implementation (including communication and outreach)

111. Ramsar’s Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) was composed of experts and institutions, including partner NGOs, with a present focus on the following priority issues:

- Monitoring, mapping, inventories
- Management plans for wetlands

- Economic valuation of wetland goods and services
- Balancing wetland conservation and development
- Climate change and wetland restoration

112. **Mr Salathé** briefly summarized Ramsar's Regional Initiatives (Resolution XII.8). He also noted significant outcomes from COP12 relevant to AEWA concerning peatlands, climate change and wise use (Resolution XII.11) and conservation of Mediterranean basin island wetlands (Resolution XII.14).

113. The **Chair** thanked Mr Salathé for his presentation, noting the wealth of opportunities for AEWA and Ramsar to work together.

## **Agenda item 12. Implementation of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2012 – 2017**

114. The **Coordinator for the African Initiative**, Ms Evelyn Moloko, presented document AEWA/MOP 6.11 *Report on the Implementation of the African Initiative and the Plan of Action for Africa*. She recalled the launch of the African Initiative at MOP4 in 2008 and the Plan of Action to promote its implementation during the period 2012–2017, which had been approved by MOP5.

115. The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat provided a small Coordination Unit composed of a full-time Coordinator and a part-time Assistant. There was also a team of five sub-regional coordinators appointed under the terms of Resolution 5.9. However, the driving force for the Initiative and Action Plan remained the 35 National Focal Points.

116. A major contribution was made by the Technical Support Unit (TSU) made possible by the Government of France and operationalized in 2012 through experts in France and Senegal who supported implementation at the sub-regional level. Valuable support was also provided by a wide range of partners.

117. In 2012 it had been decided to identify priority activities to guide the work of the TSU. The Secretariat and TSU consequently organised three sub-regional meetings, for North Africa, Western & Central Africa and Southern & Eastern Africa, respectively.

118. Ms Moloko presented additional information detailed in the report, including:

- Species Action Planning in Africa; in particular, International Single Species Action Plans for Shoebill and Grey Crowned-crane and the Multi-species Action Plan for the Benguela Current Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds.
- The accession of nine new African Contracting Parties since MOP5, namely (in order of accession) Zimbabwe, Morocco, Gabon, Swaziland, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Rwanda, Burundi and Mauritania.
- The status of accession formalities for prospective Contracting Parties, including Angola, Botswana and the Central African Republic.
- AEWA Small Grants Fund (SGF) – during the period 2012–2015, the Secretariat had been able to maintain an annual call for proposals. Projects had been completed in Senegal and Uganda and were ongoing in Gabon and Guinea. The 2014 SGF allocations would be announced after MOP6 and the 2015 call for proposals would also be launched. Unfortunately, there had been no additional voluntary contributions to the SGF in either 2014 or 2015 and deliberations were required to find innovative and sustainable ways forward.
- Capacity-building remained a key cross-cutting issue. The CMS Family Manual for National Focal Points had already been used for an African Focal Points training workshop held in South Africa. The pre-MOP regional preparatory meetings had also played a key role, along with the building of technical capacity through 'training of trainers' workshops, for example those held for Eastern & Southern Africa and Lusophone countries in Africa.
- CEPA, which had mainly focused on promotion of World Migratory Birds Day in Africa.

119. With regard to the future, financial resources remained a critically important issue. The Secretariat had been making substantial efforts to raise funds. Fifty per cent of the funds for the African Initiative Coordinator came from voluntary contributions and all of the funding for the part-time Assistant. There was a need to think

about this and to find long-term solutions. A Draft Resolution (AEWA/MOP6 DR21) on resource mobilization, submitted by South Africa, was of particular relevance for the region. There continued to be some arrears in the payment of assessed contributions by Parties but considerable efforts had been made by the Parties themselves and by the Secretariat to address this issue.

120. There was a general need to strengthen collaboration with partners, especially where the Secretariat did not have sufficient manpower or resources. New models of cooperation should be explored to achieve this. An important recent partnership development was the establishment of an MOU between AEWA and three major wildlife colleges in Africa: the École de Faune, Garoua, Cameroon; the College of African Wildlife Management in Mweka, United Republic of Tanzania, and the Kenyan Wildlife Service Training Institute (KWSTI).

121. Thanking Ms Moloko for her tireless work for the region within the Secretariat, the **Executive Secretary**, Mr Jacques Trouvilliez, invited representatives of the three African wildlife colleges to join him and colleagues from the TSU for a short ceremony to conclude the formal signature of the MOU.

122. The **Chair** opened the floor to interventions.

123. **Senegal** thanked the Secretariat and especially Ms Moloko for their work and collaboration with African countries. In Senegal this had included excellent cooperation concerning the Réserve Naturelle Communautaire de Tocc, a Ramsar site important as a breeding and feeding area for migratory waterbirds. Although work remained to be done, particularly in terms of strengthening capacity, significant progress had been made through cooperation with local people and protected area managers.

124. **Madagascar** warmly expressed gratitude for the work undertaken by Ms Moloko and briefly summarized a new project being undertaken in Madagascar with funding from GEF5. Thanks were due to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and UNEP for both technical and financial support.

125. **Côte d'Ivoire** also extended its deep appreciation to Ms Moloko. An important issue for Côte d'Ivoire was that of zoonoses (i.e. diseases that could be transmitted from animals to humans). The Government had decided to establish a sanitary surveillance mechanism to monitor wildlife for the potential presence of zoonoses as a means of contributing to sustainable management of wildlife and offering food security to people, given that a majority of people in rural parts of the country ate meat taken from the wild.

126. **Ghana** thanked the Governments of France and Germany for their support of the AEWA African Initiative. Implementation of the Initiative had already improved the conservation of migratory waterbirds in Africa, but funding was becoming limited. During the coming days, Parties were urged to look into innovative funding mechanisms to take things forward.

127. **Kenya** concurred that much had been achieved thanks to the African Initiative, which was highly appreciated by Kenya. It was really important to attract new partners and additional support and to have the African Initiative included within the core budget of AEWA. This would require the support of everyone attending MOP6.

128. The **United Republic of Tanzania** stressed the significance for waterbird conservation of the MOU that had just been signed with African wildlife colleges. Within the region, and especially in East Africa, it was important to use existing structures, including maximizing synergies between AEWA and Ramsar and with international NGOs, such as BirdLife International.

129. **Swaziland** commended the efforts of the TSU and the Coordinator of the African Initiative. As a new AEWA Contracting Party itself, Swaziland was proof that the Plan of Action was bearing fruit. During the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration the previous day, Mr Abdoulaye Ndiaye had emphasized that Africa was at the core of AEWA. This pointed to the need to support implementation in the region. Swaziland urged all those who could provide the necessary resources to do so and recalled Resolution 5.9 that instructed the Secretariat to make every effort to secure such resources.

130. **Mauritania** drew attention to four projects being implemented nationally: the National Strategy for Wetland Conservation, with a focus on migratory waterbirds in particular; a project to be launched in the near future, in cooperation with Wetlands International, for the protection of White Storks; the conclusion of MOUs

between Diawling National Park, Djoudj National Park, Senegal and Nenetsky State Nature Reserve in the Russian Federation; and the signature of an agreement between the Banc d'Arguin and the Wadden Sea Initiative. The latter two would be covered by MOP6 side events on 12 and 13 November.

131. **Morocco** expressed its support for the African Initiative, which had proved a very useful tool for coordination between countries. It was necessary to strengthen collaboration, working on the basis of the knowledge already built up.

132. The **Chair** concluded by reflecting that the African Initiative captured the spirit of AEWA and underlined once more the crucial importance of taking on board perspectives from the region.

### **Agenda item 13. Implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009–2017**

133. The **Chair** invited **Mr Sergey Dereliev, AEWA Technical Officer**, to present a report on implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017.

134. **Mr Dereliev** explained the background to the AEWA Strategic Plan saying that the current plan had been adopted at MOP4 in 2008. It was aimed not only at the Secretariat and the Parties, but also at a wider range of stakeholders. The Standing Committee had been assigned the task of monitoring implementation and the Secretariat had compiled an assessment on behalf of the Standing Committee, which had endorsed it for submission to the MOP.

135. The report followed the structure of the Strategic Plan and measured how well work on the goal and various objectives and goals had been progressing. Indicators had been devised for all of the goals and the assessment of how well implementation was progressing was based on National Reports and other documentation prepared for the MOP. Progress was rated on a six point scale. The report also contained some recommendations for future action.

136. Of twelve indicators for the Strategic Plan goal (eight with Agreement-wide application and four nationally applicable) the only one deemed to have been achieved at the time of MOP5 had now been moved to the category 'not achieved'. Most indicators in the two worst categories were also showing negative trends. In the latest report no assessment was made of the four nationally applicable targets, as the National Reports did not contain a section requesting data upon which an evaluation could be based.

137. Some progress had been achieved across the suite of Objectives since 2012 with the exception of Objective 4 but all Objectives had an overall negative trend, and some might have their assessment downgraded at the next review.

138. The assessment was dependent on receiving National Reports from Parties and the response rate for this round had been low. From the information received, only two targets had been reached. Target 4.3 on awareness of waterbird issues had been surpassed as had the target related to capacity of national staff (this being due to capacity-building workshops held in conjunction with CMS). Another three targets showed advanced progress with implementation, but will require more detailed information in order to be fully assessed. On some targets little or no progress had been made.

139. The recommendations included focussing on the four targets requiring national implementation and it was noted that the two targets that had been achieved would contribute little by themselves as so many other targets were being missed and there was a discrepancy between the apparent improved implementation and a widespread lack of progress towards meeting the Strategic Plan goal.

140. **The Chair** thanked Mr Dereliev for his report noting that it was essential for Parties to submit National Reports as these were the primary source of information upon which to make the assessments.

141. **South Africa** asked what sources of information could be used other than the National Reports and whether the work of partner NGOs was reflected in the assessment. Reports to other MEAs might also be relevant. The reasons for the poor response rate by Parties should also be examined.

142. **Mr Dereliev** said that the National Reports were the main source of data but other reports prepared for the MOP were also used. He added that the Secretariat depended on the Parties to gather information at the national level, and they should devise a system to gather appropriate information from stakeholders, as it would be impractical for the Secretariat to contact national NGOs operating in the 75 Contracting Parties. He referred to the CMS Family National Focal Point Manual which described National Reporting as a continuous exercise and not the end of a process. He also said that the Secretariat would be wary of using information provided by NGOs without the approval of the Party concerned. Some National Reports had been returned with sections left blank and Parties were urged to be meticulous when completing their reports. The overall assessment would be more comprehensive and valuable if more Parties submitted reports. The Secretariat was operating on a shoestring and staff were hard pressed.

143. **Benin** suggested that the poor response rate might be attributable to technical problems such as unreliable power supplies and connections to the internet and asked whether alternative means of submitting reports could be considered.

144. **Mr Dereliev** said that WCMC was working to improve the online reporting system, which should make submission of reports easier but it was not feasible to have reports sent as attachments in smart PDF format or Excel tables.

145. **Mr Dereliev** introduced Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP6 DR14 *Extension and Revision of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa*, which proposed one important change that would lead to better synchronization of the Strategic Plan and MOP cycles. The deadline for submitting national reports would also change. Development of the new AEWA Strategic Plan for 2017–2019 would be taken into account the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species adopted by the CMS COP. The Plan of Action for Africa would also be revised to align it better with the new AEWA Strategic Plan. Both documents would be submitted to MOP7 for adoption. It was also suggested that this Draft Resolution, being routine in nature, did not need to be referred to a Working Group but could be submitted directly to the Plenary for adoption. This suggestion was accepted by the meeting.

146. **Mr Marco Barbieri, Science Adviser, CMS**, mentioned two elements of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species relevant to the AEWA process. The Strategic Plan for Migratory Species mirrored to the greatest extent possible the Aichi Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Strategic Plan for Migratory Species was not aimed exclusively at the Convention but was meant to be relevant to all migratory species and all members of the CMS Family were being invited to contribute ideas. The Strategic Plan Working Group had had its mandate renewed at the COP and had been given the task of developing indicators and a ‘Companion Volume’, a detailed guide to implementation and was looking at existing indicators used in other forums. The Strategic Plan Working Group was examining the possibility of developing the Companion Volume as an online tool to facilitate amending and updating it. AEWA Parties were invited to continue to follow the process being undertaken at CMS and to consider developing the AEWA Strategic Plan in parallel.

147. The **Chair of the Technical Committee**, Mr David Stroud, UK, introduced Draft Resolution 6.15 *Update on AEWA’s Contribution to Delivering the Aichi 2020 Biodiversity Targets and Relevance of the Sustainable Development Goals*. The Resolution itself was quite succinct and contained three Annexes: Annex I - the Technical Committee’s assessment of the priority needs for AEWA’s contribution to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Targets; Annex II - AEWA’s Contribution to the Strategic Goals and Aichi Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2012-2020 and Annex III – a summary of AEWA’s contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals.

148. The **Chair** suggested that this Draft Resolution might also be submitted directly to Plenary for adoption without being referred to a Working Group. This suggestion was accepted by the meeting.

#### **Agenda item 14. Analysis and Synthesis of National Reports**

149. The Chair invited **Ms Kelly Malsch, Head of Species Programme, UNEP-WCMC** to present document UNEP/AEWA/MOP6.13 *Analysis of AEWA National Reports for the Triennium 2012-2014*.

150. **Ms Malsch** emphasized that the National Reports submitted by Parties were a vital source of information particularly with regard to how effectively the Agreement was being implemented.

151. AEWA had adopted an online reporting system but the percentage of Parties submitting reports had fallen to 55 per cent (39 out of 71 Parties for which reports were due) and this represented a drop compared with MOP5 and MOP4 when 69 and 64 per cent respectively of Parties had reported. This low response rate made the preparation of assessments from the analysis more difficult.

152. The conclusions from the analysis followed the same structure as the Strategic Plan, taking each of the Objectives in turn and recording how the Contracting Parties were faring in achieving the various targets. In addition to activities described within the Strategic Plan, two further topics were addressed, namely Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and the use of the AEWA Conservation Guidelines.

153. The recommendations included urging Parties to focus their efforts on the targets identified in the Strategic Plan, redrafting certain sections of the reporting format to achieve greater clarity, and taking advantage of the project aimed at assisting African, Caribbean and Pacific countries with meeting their reporting obligations under MEAs.

154. The **Chair** thanked **Ms Malsch** for her presentation and drew the conclusion that the response rate needed to be improved. He urged Parties to familiarize themselves with the online reporting system.

155. **South Africa** reiterated the point made earlier that the activities of national NGOs had to be captured in national reports but added that some international organisations were active and their work was also contributing to implementation of the Agreement. South Africa expressed support for the views expressed by Benin about the difficulties of hi-tech systems in countries with irregular access to the internet, which made reporting difficult or even impossible. A system based on continuous updating of data for national reports would also be helpful and would avoid problems arising from the absence of key staff at critical times before reporting deadlines.

156. The **Chair** recognized that routine access to the internet could not be taken for granted in some regions but added that obligations under MEAs to submit reports were not an innovation and Parties should be able to organise their workloads to meet deadlines.

157. **Kenya** supported the view that reporting was essential and commended the Secretariat for making contact to seek clarification of the responses contained in the first version of the draft report submitted. Kenya had been able to provide supplementary additional information and therefore improved its report. More consideration should be given to the problems of reporting beyond technological difficulties. Parties might lack expertise or clear structures or assignment of roles.

158. **Ms Malsch** added that the Secretariat had indeed done an excellent job in chasing Parties to improve their reports. WCMC wanted to make both the reports themselves and the analysis as useful as possible and therefore would welcome feedback from Parties.

159. **Wetlands International** congratulated WCMC on the analysis but asked whether it would be possible to have a geographic overview of the responses as this might provide some further insights. A revision of the scope of the analysis could be referred to the Technical Committee.

## **Agenda item 15. International Reviews**

160. **Mr Szabolcs Nagy, Wetlands International**, presented document AEWA/MOP 6.14 *Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds in the Agreement Area, Sixth Edition*. He stressed that the 6<sup>th</sup> Conservation Status Report would not have been possible without the help of a large number of contributors, especially people working on the ground.

161. Key conclusions were that:

- The Conservation Status Report (CSR) summarized monitoring information relevant for the management of waterbird populations;

- It informed the amendment of Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan and thus adjusted the management of waterbird populations to reflect their conservation status;
- Together with the draft Site Protection Report, the CSR showed that the Agreement indeed worked if its provisions and guidelines were implemented properly;
- The CSR showed improved knowledge as the result of intensive capacity-building efforts sustained over the last decade;
- The CSR reiterated the urgent need for expanding membership of the Agreement along the West Asian–East African flyway, where the conservation status of waterbirds was more worrying than anywhere else in the Agreement Area;
- Trend data showed that Species Action Plans worked and their implementation should be intensified;
- However, implementation of SAPs would be insufficient on its own to achieve the targets of the AEWA Strategic Plan. Urgent action was needed on three fronts:
  - protection and management of key sites and the wider countryside
  - improving sustainable management of populations
  - reducing unnecessary mortality

162. In response to a question from **Senegal** concerning the causes of fluctuating waterbird populations, Mr Nagy noted that it had not been possible to address this issue in his brief presentation, but concurred that hunting and habitat loss were among the most important factors to be considered. The Technical Committee had highlighted the need for more detailed analyses of the causes of population declines but noted that this would require substantial financial resources for undertaking the required detailed demographic monitoring. At the moment AEWA was still grappling with strengthening basic monitoring of waterbirds.

163. **Ms Kelly Malsch, Head of Species Programme, UNEP-WCMC** presented document AEWA/MOP 6.15 *Update on the Status of Non-native Waterbird Species within the AEWA Area*. This constituted an update to the report on this topic prepared for MOP4.

This new review recommended that AEWA should:

- Undertake coordinated action for priority non-native waterbird species;
- Develop internationally-agreed standards and guidance for non-native waterbird risk assessments;
- Support research on risks posed by non-native waterbirds;
- Increase reporting rates through capacity-building in order to improve data availability and quality;
- Establish a formal relationship between the AEWA Standing Committee, AEWA Technical Committee and bodies established under EU Regulation 1134/2014;
- Align the species lists under EU Regulation 1134/2014 with AEWA priorities;
- Align EU actions plans to address priority pathways with the AEWA Action Plan, International and National Single Species Action Plans, and other relevant plans;
- Facilitate cooperation/coordination with countries outside the EU concerning efforts to prevent introduction/spread of invasive species;
- Explore options for using information gathered as part of EU reporting obligations to help complete relevant sections of AEWA National Reports; and
- Explore options for inter-operability between the information support system under EU Regulation 1134/2014 and the AEWA online reporting system.

164. **Norway** commented that the new EU regulation was still in its infancy. There were no species lists so far and it therefore seemed fair to ask whether it was AEWA that should accommodate the EU or vice versa.

165. **Ms Malsch** agreed that this was the case but pointed out that there might be opportunities to influence the new EU Regulation.

166. **Ms Nina Mikander, AEWA Associate Programme Officer**, presented document AEWA/MOP 6.16 *Overview on the Status of Preparation and Implementation of AEWA ISSAPs and ISSMPs as well as Multi-species Action Plans 2015*.

Essential recommendations arising from the overview were that AEWA should:

- Step-up the implementation of existing Action Plans – with an emphasis on increased government involvement and commitment;
- Source more funding, human capacity and technical know-how for Action Plan implementation (focusing on globally threatened species);
- Step-up the work of the existing AEWA International Species Working & Expert Groups, including their coordination;
- Increase efforts to recruit new Contracting Parties to AEWA – particularly in Central Asia and the Middle East – in order to further enhance implementation.

High priority Recommendations were that AEWA should:

- Ensure coordination of implementation by continuing the establishment of AEWA Species Working and Expert Groups for new and revised Plans;
- Undertake an assessment of existing (older) Action Plans and suggest their revision or retirement (see process proposed in document AEWA/MOP 6.33);
- Learn from experience and continue to further develop the AEWA action- and management-planning process;
- Promote the development of further International Management Plans under the Agreement;
- Take into account AEWA conservation guidelines when preparing and implementing Action and Management Plans.

167. **Wetlands International** underlined the importance of flyway-wide coordination. The report proved the old adage that “*conservation without money is only conversation*” and highlighted the urgency of developing flyway-scale funding instruments to support implementation of species action plans.

168. **Norway** fully supported the conclusions and recommendations arising from the overview. Resources were clearly key. However, it was important to consider the limited capacity of the Secretariat to undertake coordination of Action Plans; that responsibility should be taken on by the Parties themselves.

169. **Ms Mikander** noted that the Secretariat was actually only responsible for coordinating one Working Group, namely that for the Lesser White-fronted Goose. Indeed, the Secretariat was actively pursuing the goal of devolving responsibility for Action Plan coordination.

## Agenda item 16. International Review Process

170. **Mr Sergey Dereliev, AEWA Technical Officer**, presented document UNEP/AEWA/MOP 6.17 *Implementation Review Process – Report to MOP6*. The Implementation Review Process (IRP) had been established by Resolution 4.6 in 2008 and had mandated the Standing Committee to oversee it.

171. A procedure had been established to process cases, beginning from receipt of the initial notification to the Technical Committee. Subsequent stages included reference to the Standing Committee, a Standing Committee decision to open an IRP case, contact with the Party concerned, and the offering and organisation of a mission to visit the site in question.

172. Four cases had been opened since 2012. One concerned illegal hunting of the Sociable Lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*) in the Syrian Arab Republic. The case was still open but was not being actively pursued because of the political situation in that country. Another concerned the drainage of the salina of Ulcinj for a leisure complex in Montenegro opened in 2012. The Secretariat had written to the authorities and a mission had been offered. After accepting a mission in 2012, the government did not respond to any communication from the Secretariat and the Standing Committee until 2015. Contact with the authorities had been made in the margins of a workshop held in Montenegro in April 2015. Terms were agreed for continuing the case and some positive discussions had taken place about possible solutions as a result of the workshop. The case was still open.

173. The third case involved a proposed wind farm adjacent to Lake Durankulak, Bulgaria, which threatened to obstruct movement of Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*) between a key roosting site and their feeding grounds. Letters had been exchanged and a face-to-face meeting had taken place in the margins of another meeting. The Bulgarian Government had declined the offer of a mission because of ongoing court proceedings.

A new protected area had been designated and an existing protected area extended, and it seemed likely that the windfarm project would go ahead.

174. The final case concerned Iceland and afforestation of lowlands affecting the breeding grounds of AEWA species. The Icelandic Government had responded positively and the terms of reference of a joint mission had been discussed. However, despite the potential synergies of involving AEWA, the Bern Convention, the Ramsar Convention and CAFF, the Government was only prepared to involve AEWA and Bern. It was possible that a mission would take place in the second quarter of 2016.

175. Another potential case involved the proposed construction of a windfarm in Aquitaine, France in what was a staging site for Eurasian Cranes (*Grus grus*) but with climate change the birds were now also remaining there over winter. A watching brief is being maintained and the French authorities had responded to requests for information. It was not clear whether an IRP case would be opened.

176. The IRP was constrained by lack of funds, although it had been agreed that missions could be funded by drawing down from reserves but those were not inexhaustible. The IRP would otherwise be dependent on voluntary contributions. A further constraint was the limited capacity of the Secretariat.

177. The **Chair** observed that the IRP was an important part of the Agreement's armoury and added to its credibility.

### **Agenda item 17. Report on the implementation and revision of the AEWA International Implementation Tasks 2012-2015**

178. **Mr Sergey Dereliev, AEWA Technical Officer**, introduced document UNEP/AEWA/MOP6.18 *Report on the Implementation of the AEWA International Implementation Tasks 2012-2015*. International Implementation Tasks (IITs) were an instrument designed to help prioritise the Agreement's work which had existed since the outset but had lost momentum. MOP5 had identified 30 tasks but only 10 had been taken forward with a further two in the pipeline.

179. Some of the work funded was being carried out in Africa, such as a project on harvesting and sustainable use led by France and the FAO.

180. Implementation of the IITs was being adversely affected by its dependence on voluntary contributions that were not materialising.

181. Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP6 DR13 *AEWA International Implementation Tasks 2016-2018* sought to find ways of improving the format for IITs as Parties were not using it and might not even be aware of the instrument. The list of projects would be given greater prominence and it was stressed that the entries on it reflected the priorities set by the Parties. IITs would also be more closely aligned to the new Strategic Plan for 2019–2027.

### **Agenda item 18. Financial and Administrative matters**

182. The **Executive Secretary of AEWA, Mr Jacques Trouvilliez**, presented document UNEP/AEWA/MOP6.19 *Report of the Secretariat on Finance and Administrative Issues 2013-2015* which outlined how the Secretariat had executed the budget adopted at MOP5 for the past triennium.

183. Resolution 5.21 had set a core budget of 3,078,778 EUR, financed in part by a withdrawal from reserves of 370,000 EUR, the major part being financed through assessed contributions based on an adapted UN Scale with a minimum of 2,000 EUR per annum. The threshold for eligibility for financial support was set at 0.2 on the UN scale.

184. **Mr Trouvilliez** outlined the staff changes that had occurred over the past triennium, pointing out that some staff members were funded or partly funded through voluntary contributions and others through savings.

185. The Agreement's finances were generally healthy. Assessed contributions from Parties amounted to 2.7 million EUR, but at the time of preparing the documents 156,000 EUR was still outstanding for 2015 bringing total arrears to 357,041 EUR. Some Parties had not paid any contributions since accession and it was pointed out that Parties in arrears were not eligible to benefit from the Small Grants Fund. The Secretariat was ready to assist National Focal Points if they needed support in their efforts to secure payment of dues. Some Parties on the other hand had paid in advance.

186. **Mr Trouvilliez** reported that there had been surpluses in both 2013 and 2014 and the current projections indicated that there would be a deficit of at least 53,000 EUR in 2015, but it was still possible that the Agreement would break even or even manage another small surplus when final figures were available. Special circumstances had contributed to the surpluses (the vacant Executive Secretary post and staff on maternity leave). Budget lines that had been overspent included staff travel. It had proved impossible to adhere to the reduced allocation made at MOP5 as the Secretariat had to attend meetings to represent the Agreement.

187. In addition to the 370,000 withdrawal from the Trust Fund agreed at MOP5 mentioned above, a further 70,000 EUR was approved by the Standing Committee to allow for reports to be produced for the MOP. This still left a balance of USD1 million, well in excess of the minimum operating reserve which should be 150,000 EUR or the equivalent of 15 per cent of estimated annual expenditure, whichever is the higher.

188. Voluntary contributions were essential for the operation of the Agreement and 405,288 EUR had been received in 2013, 406,704 EUR in 2014 and 473,535 EUR so far in 2015 some of which were MOP-related. The African Initiative, World Migratory Bird Day, development of the websites and publications all depended on the generosity of Parties and partners and thanks were due to the Czech Republic, the EU, Finland, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the Hellenic Ornithological Society.

189. **Egypt** asked that special consideration be given to the geographic balance of where the voluntary contributions were spent given the relative lack of resources in the south of the Agreement Area.

190. **Mr Trouvilliez** said that he was aware of the need to provide support to the south of the region, and many of the projects supported focused on Africa, e.g. the African Initiative and the Plan of Action for Africa and others such as the website and WMBD benefitted all Parties. The South received more than it paid in monetary terms and the "donor" countries saw the advantages for the flyway in this arrangement.

191. **Mr Trouvilliez** presented document AEWA/MOP 6.20 Rev.1 *Draft Budget Proposal for 2016-2018*. He outlined the four budget scenarios that the Secretariat had been asked to prepare, ranging from zero nominal growth, to zero real growth (taking account of 2 per cent inflation), 2 per cent real growth and 5 per cent real growth.

192. The budget was presented in the traditional format but would be transposed to take account of the new Umoja enterprise resource planning system that had been introduced in June 2015. As usual with such a change, there had been some initial problems with the system and staff needed to be trained and to familiarise themselves with the new procedures, but Umoja promised to bring considerable benefits when operating to its full potential. Under the new system, the number of budget lines would be reduced from thirty at present to seven.

193. New standard salary costs had been calculated for AEWA staff taking into account staff grades, family situation (whether or not they had dependents) and post adjustments to reflect the cost of living in the host country.

194. An organigram was presented showing the different units within the Secretariat, which staff posts were supported by the core budget and which were funded by voluntary contributions and savings. Given that the Standing Committee had confirmed the utility of the various unsecured posts, Parties should bear in mind that the Secretariat faced the prospect of losing staff and not being able to maintain the level of services it wished to provide.

195. It was also pointed out that even if the first option (zero nominal growth) were to be adopted, Parties would face an increase in their contributions unless another drawdown from the reserves were made. Dr

Trouvilliez said that there would be ample opportunity to discuss the details of the budget in the Working Group.

196. **Egypt** asked whether the benefits of the synergies exercise were reflected in the budget.

197. **Mr Trouvilliez** said that they were not, partly because the final decision on whether to continue with the pilot project had not been taken and secondly because it would take some time for the benefits to crystalize.

198. **UNEP** explained that since 1 June 2015 the Umoja system had been operating. Despite disruption during the initial phase, benefits of greater openness would soon become apparent and measures had been taken to ease the transition. (see Appendix 2)

199. **UNEP** made a statement to be included in full in the record of the meeting. A transcription of this statement appears as Appendix 3 to this report.

### **Agenda item 19. Report on the Implementation of the Communication Strategy and Adoption of the New Communication Strategy**

200. **Mr Florian Keil, AEWA Information Officer**, gave an update on the AEWA Communications Strategy which dated from MOP3 in Senegal. It was an ambitious Strategy with a detailed Plan of Action, which would have required a budget of USD 500,000 to implement fully.

201. The first major communications campaign had been launched in 2006 in the aftermath of the avian influenza outbreak and had been necessary to counteract the inaccurate claims circulating that wild birds were the main vectors. This campaign had led to the conception of World Migratory Bird Day which had now become a regular annual event, originally run by the AEWA Information officer and a part-time Assistant with increasing support from CMS and now managed by the Joint Communications Team.

202. MOP4 in Madagascar had led to the Wings Over Wetlands GEF project, which had resulted in a range of publications and a dedicated website. MOP5 in La Rochelle had asked for the Communication Strategy to be revised, and with a voluntary contribution from Germany it had been possible to engage a consultant. It had subsequently been agreed to establish a Joint Communications Team serving CMS and AEWA in January 2014 and a decision had been made to develop strategically aligned Communication Strategies for the two instruments.

203. The CMS Global Strategy should be completed next year. The AEWA Strategy focused on the Agreement's niche and its key players and tools and how to promote the Agreement's work across the flyway. The draft AEWA Strategy before the MOP for approval was based on a number of principles, one being the close linkage to the Aichi Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals but containing more detailed elements relating to AEWA, such as the Agreement's niche, CEPA and considerations on how to develop new dimensions for World Migratory Bird Day.

204. **Mr Keil** then gave an overview of the contents of Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP6 DR10 Rev.1 *Communication Strategy* through which the revised AEWA Communication Strategy would be adopted.

### **Agenda item 20 Proposals for Amendments to the Agreement or its Annexes**

205. **Mr Sergey Dereliev, AEWA Technical Officer**, introduced document AEWA/MOP 6.22 Add.1 *Proposals to the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties for Amendments to Annexes 2 and 3 of AEWA* and the associated Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP6 DR1 *Adoption of Amendments to the AEWA Annexes*.

206. In response to a question from **South Africa**, **Mr Dereliev** confirmed that 'African Penguin' was the correct common name to be used for *Spheniscus demersus*.

207. **The European Commission, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States**, noted that the EU had analysed the proposals for amendments and had identified that four species proposed for uplisting were

currently hutable under the Birds Directive. As modification of the Birds Directive could not be undertaken quickly, the EU would have to enter a reservation in this regard. In addition, the EU would reject the proposal concerning Eurasian Dotterel *Eudromias morinellus*. These points would be raised again in the relevant Working Group. In addition, some translation problems had been identified in the French versions of certain documents; France would liaise with the Secretariat on these.

208. In response to a question from **Norway**, **Mr Dereliev** confirmed that the abbreviation 'Br' in Table 1 was used to indicate that the relevant species population had been delineated on the basis of the breeding population.

### **Agenda item 21. Adoption of the New Arabic Translation of the Agreement Text**

209. The **Executive Secretary of AEWa**, **Mr Jacques Trouvilliez**, recalled that MOP5 had entrusted approval of the new Arabic translation of the Agreement text to the AEWa Standing Committee. A translation had been prepared and circulated to Parties, but had not yet been adopted following concerns raised by the Netherlands in its capacity as Depositary for the Agreement. The Government of the Netherlands had offered its translation service to complete preparation of the text and the Draft Resolution now before MOP6 (AEWA/MOP6 DR2 *Adoption of the New Arabic Version of the Agreement Text*) foresaw the Standing Committee being mandated to adopt the final version. Mr Trouvilliez said that this should take a few months at most and that the Standing Committee might choose to adopt the translation through a written procedure. The importance of having an Arabic version of the Agreement text as soon as possible was acknowledged as a key means of facilitating accession to the Agreement by Arabic-speaking Range States. The Depositary would be invited to circulate the text to all Range States once the Standing Committee had approved it.

210. **Saudi Arabia** expressed its appreciation of the assistance provided by the language service of the Depositary and Arabic speaking countries in facilitating the preparation of the translation. It was suggested that a small amendment should be made to the first operative paragraph of the Draft Resolution to provide for the participation of one or two Arabic-speaking Parties in the process.

211. **Libya** highlighted the importance of having an Arabic text for countries wanting to accede to the Agreement and urged that the text be finalised as soon as possible.

212. **Egypt** agreed that the text should be finalised as soon as possible and suggested that the final draft be circulated to two or three Arabic-speaking Parties for clearance before the Standing Committee adopted it.

213. The **Chair** noted that further discussion of this issue would be taken up by the Working Group on Financial and Administrative matters.

### **Agenda item 22. Waterbird Monitoring along the African-Eurasian Flyways**

214. **Mr Szabolcs Nagy**, **Wetlands International**, recalled that 2017 would see the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Waterbird Census (IWC) launched in 1967 by the late Geoffrey Matthews. The census was a prime example of citizen science supporting waterbird conservation and management and had contributed to the designation of Ramsar sites with an area greater than Nigeria.

215. Monitoring was important as it meant that conservationists were not 'flying blind' and helped inform adaptive management and sustainable harvesting management. It also helped identify the thresholds for what constituted an internationally important site.

216. The IWC could not provide all the answers and its methods did not lend themselves to counting certain species, examples being the African plovers. Conventional winter counts did not give a comprehensive picture for colonial breeding birds, birds that gathered offshore, or those that were widely dispersed.

217. The African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring partnership had been founded in 2011 and included all key IWC partners, including AEWa and Wetlands International.

218. **Mr Sergey Dereliev, AEWA Technical Officer**, introduced Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP6 DR3 *Strengthening Monitoring of Migratory Waterbirds*, which acknowledged the considerable amount of work achieved since MOP5 but stressed the need for longer-term stability. While much had been done, a great deal more needed to be undertaken as there were still large gaps and some activities planned for the previous triennium had not been completed because of lack of funds. The Critical Site Network Tool had proved useful but it was becoming outdated both from the point of view of the data it contained and technologically.

219. It was suggested that two special funds be established, one managed by the Secretariat and financed through voluntary contributions with allocations decided annually by the Standing Committee, which would report to the MOP. The other, complementary fund would be managed by the partners. World Migratory Bird Day could be used to help with raising funds. These funds were likely only to produce a fraction of the resources needed (estimated to run into tens of millions of Euros) and it would remain incumbent on the Parties to carry out national censuses. Twinning schemes could help exchange ideas and expertise.

220. The Site Network Report would need financing so that it could be completed in time to be submitted to the next MOP.

221. **South Africa** urged Parties to ensure that waterbird monitoring activities were incorporated into their NBSAPs in order to facilitate access to funding under the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

222. **Switzerland** expressed thanks to all those who had been involved in the IWC over the last 50 years. Switzerland had supported the IWC, would continue to do so and urged other Parties to do the same. The IWC was invaluable to AEWA, as well as to the Ramsar Convention.

223. **Luxembourg, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States**, agreed that monitoring was crucial but questioned the need to establish a new fund with more administrative work for the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and suggested that the relevant MOP6 Working Group should examine alternative ways of proceeding.

### **Agenda item 23. International Single Species and Multi-species Action Plans and Management Plans**

224. The **Chair** invited the relevant experts to make a brief introduction to each of the draft Plans that were being submitted to MOP6 for adoption. Each of these would be considered in detail by the Scientific & Technical Working Group.

225. For each Plan, background information on species status, key threats and drivers of decline was presented, together with an overview of key knowledge gaps, a summary of proposed Action/Management Plan objectives or results and the major actions required to achieve them.

226. **Ms Kerryn Morrison, Programme Manager, African Crane Conservation Programme, International Crane Foundation / Endangered Wildlife Trust Partnership**, introduced document AEWA/MOP 6.25 *Draft International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Grey Crowned Crane*.

227. **Mr Arto Marjakangas, Project Manager, Finnish Wildlife Agency**, introduced document AEWA/MOP 6.26 *Draft International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Taiga Bean Goose*.

228. **Mr Richard Hearn, Head of Monitoring, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust**, introduced document AEWA/MOP 6.27 *Draft International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Long-tailed Duck*.

229. **Mr Daniel Brown, Eurasian Curlew ISSAP Coordinator, RSPB**, presented document AEWA/MOP 6.28 *Draft International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Eurasian Curlew*.

230. **Mr Sergey Dereliev, AEWA Technical Officer**, introduced document AEWA/MOP 6.29 *Draft International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Shoebill*.

231. **Ms Christina Hagen, Pamela Isdell Fellow of Penguin Conservation, BirdLife South Africa**, introduced document AEWA/MOP 6.30 *Draft International Multi-Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Benguela Current Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds*.

232. **Mr Dereliev** took the floor again to introduce document AEWA/MOP 6.32 *Draft International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Northern Bald Ibis*, underlining that this constituted a revision of the existing SSAP.

233. **Saudi Arabia** thanked AEWA for helping to develop the ISSAP for Northern Bald Ibis. However, the situation had become very critical as a consequence of events in Syria. It was hoped that the necessary preparatory work could be undertaken to enable a future reintroduction programme. Thanks were also due to BirdLife for their support in the initiation of discussions.

234. **Ms Nina Mikander, AEWA Associate Programme Officer**, presented document AEWA/MOP 6.33 *Criteria for Prioritizing AEWA Populations for Action and Management Planning and for the Revision and Retirement of Action Plans as well as Guidance on the Definition of Principal Range States in Action Plans*.

235. This concluded that AEWA already had criteria for prioritizing AEWA populations for Action Plans (Resolution 5.8), but that there was a requirement to establish:

- Criteria for prioritising AEWA populations for Management Plans;
- A structured and transparent process for revising or retiring Action Plans; and
- Guidance on which Range States to include in Action Plans for species with a wide geographical range.

236. **Ms Mikander** introduced Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP6 DR8 *Adoption and Implementation of International Single Species and Multi-Species Action and Management Plans*. The MOP was requested, among other points, to:

- Provide the Technical Committee with the mandate to produce a priority list and subsequent selection of species/populations for the development of Management Plans after each MOP;
- Adopt the proposed process for the revision and retirement of Action Plans.

237. **Luxembourg, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States**, was very much in admiration of the work carried out by AEWA experts. Two of the four of the plans under consideration raised points of concern to the EU, amongst these was the International Management Plan for the Taiga Bean Goose for which minor amendments would be tabled in the relevant Working Group. Discussions were still ongoing with regard to the Eurasian Curlew.

## **Agenda item 24. Conservation Guidelines, Guidance and Definitions**

238. **Mr Alexander (Cy) Griffin, Director of Conservation, Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE)**, presented document AEWA/MOP 6.34 *Guidance on Measures in National Legislation for different Populations of the same Species, Particularly with Respect to Hunting and Trade*.

239. **Ms Melissa Lewis (University of Tilburg, The Netherlands), Environmental Law Expert, AEWA Technical Committee**, introduced AEWA/MOP 6.35 *Draft Guidelines on National Legislation for the Protection of Species of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats*.

240. **Professor Jesper Madsen (Aarhus University, Denmark), Chair of the Waterbird Harvest Specialist Group of Wetlands International**, introduced document AEWA/MOP 6.36 *Draft Guidelines on Sustainable Harvest of Migratory Waterbirds*.

241. **Mr Sergey Dereliev, AEWA Technical Officer**, introduced AEWA/MOP 6.37 *Draft Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment*.

242. **Mr Dereliev** also introduced the two Draft Resolutions related to the presentations made under this agenda item:

- AEW/MOP6 DR5 *Revision and Adoption of Conservation Guidelines*; and
- AEW/MOP6 DR7 *Adoption of Guidance and Definitions in the Context of Implementation of the AEW Action Plan*.

243. **Norway** supported and welcomed the draft guidelines relating to renewable energy technology, which were good and sensible, but wished to suggest replacing the word “Adopts” with, for example, “Welcomes” in the first operative paragraph of DR5. Norway would be raising this point again in the relevant Working Group.

244. **Mr Dereliev** cautioned that in all previous Resolutions, the MOP had ‘adopted’ such guidelines as a means of assisting implementation of the Agreement. Changing the verb to ‘welcome’ conservation guidelines would not be in conformity with Article IV.4 of the Agreement text. He suggested that the matter needed careful consideration to avoid creating an undesirable precedent where certain guidelines would have a different status to others.

245. **Saudi Arabia** underlined the importance of considering other languages when these types of Resolutions were adopted.

## **Agenda item 25. Issues Affecting the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds in the AEW Region**

246. **Mr Sergey Dereliev, AEW Technical Officer**, introduced document AEW/MOP 6.38 *Review of the Occurrence and Magnitude of the Conflict between Migratory Animals and of all Taxa and Renewable Technologies Deployment*. This document had been produced in conjunction with CMS, IRENA and BirdLife International. The UNEP/AEW and UNEP/CMS Secretariats had received additional financial support from Germany and Norway for this work. The document had already been submitted to CMS COP11 in 2014. The objectives of the review had been: assessment of occurrence and magnitude of impacts of renewable energy technologies (RET) on migratory species; provision of an up-to-date overview of mitigation measures; and identification of gaps in knowledge. The key conclusions were that:

- A simple summary was not possible;
- Many impacts occurred in the exploration and construction phases (not only the operational phase);
- There were few systematic studies and these were rather scattered in nature;
- Impacts had currently been assessed mostly at a local scale and there was little or no information on population-level impacts, due to a lack of appropriate studies;
- Assessment of cumulative effects of RET presented a major conservation challenges.

247. The report recommended:

- Undertaking pre-construction assessment and post-construction monitoring;
- Identifying routes and critical sites of migratory species in order to identify ‘hotspots’ and to avoid major conflicts;
- Focusing on cumulative impacts, with a need to involve population modelling;
- Developing and applying tailored guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Impact Assessment.

248. **Israel** thanked those involved in preparing the comprehensive review, but wondered if it went far enough in terms of identifying specific sites or geographical areas unsuitable for RET deployment.

249. **Mr Dereliev** underlined that the identification of hotspots was specific to the region/country, energy type and species concerned. This required very specific analyses that certainly had to be undertaken but this could not be the role of the UNEP/AEW Secretariat, which had neither the mandate nor the capacity. It was

especially important to look at cumulative impacts and this was a very challenging task.

250. **Saudi Arabia** thanked all organisations that helped to develop this very useful information and announced plans to organise a local workshop concerning renewable energy. It would be useful to consider how to raise the issue to a higher level since some RET companies used only limited information related to the site concerned.

251. **Mauritania** noted that within the Western Africa region, Mauritania was amongst the countries with the most advanced deployment of RET. The AEWA National Focal Point had often been consulted. To date, impacts had been local in nature, without noticeable effects on birds at population level.

252. **Mr Dereliev** introduced the corresponding Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP6 DR11 *Addressing Impacts of Renewable Energy Deployment on Migratory Waterbirds*, detailed discussion of which would be taken up by the Working Group on Scientific and Technical matters.

253. **Ms Christina Hagen, Pamela Isdell Fellow of Penguin Conservation, BirdLife South Africa**, introduced AEWA/MOP 6.39 *Review of Potential Impacts of Marine Fisheries on Migratory Seabirds Within the Afrotropical Region*. This review examined direct mortality due to bycatch from both gillnetting and long-line/trawling, as well as indirect effects such as competition and changed behaviour due to fishing. Of the assessed seabird taxa, cormorants, gannets and boobies, terns and noddies, and gulls were the most affected groups. The report provided a number of cross-cutting recommendations concerning the need to:

- Strengthen national fisheries management processes;
- Provide support from AEWA for strengthening of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs);
- Establish better dialogue between environment and fisheries departments;
- Improve information on the impact of gillnet fishing in the region;
- Manage foreign fleets to address the issue of over-fishing;
- Pay closer attention to forage fisheries.

254. Additional sub-regional recommendations were provided for West Africa, Southern Africa and East Africa.

255. **Senegal** drew attention to the difficulties faced by the relevant national authorities in responding to issues arising in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction. These could only be resolved internationally.

256. **Ms Hagen** introduced AEWA/MOP 6.40 *Review of the Status, Threats and Conservation Action Priorities for the Seabird Populations Covered by the Agreement*. This reviewed the status, trends and action priorities for seabirds in the entire Agreement Area, divided into five sub-areas (Arctic/sub-Arctic; Northern European, Lusitanian & Baltic; Mediterranean & Black Sea; West African Tropical and north-temperate Atlantic; Temperate Southern Africa; East Africa) and covering 84 species. Threats were assessed on a sub-regional basis, with corresponding sub-regional recommendations. Key threats across the whole Agreement Area included:

- Combined climate/human impacts on prey, including forage fish and ecosystem impacts
- Bycatch in fishing gear
- Harvesting by people
- Predation by invasive species
- Oil spills and contaminants
- Disturbance and mortality from at-sea developments

257. The review recommended:

- Identification and protection of pelagic sites for seabirds.
- Quantification of seabird mortality (main sources) and its incorporation into flyway-scale analyses to inform national and regional decision-making on 'sustainable use' of seabirds.

- Monitoring of seabird bycatch in all types of fisheries, with priority attention to gillnet bycatch, and development of effective mitigation solutions to gillnet bycatch.
- Increasing understanding of the scale and impact of invasive predators on seabird populations across the region.
- Provision of a focal point to coordinate predator eradication projects on islands.
- Increasing understanding of the scale and impact of contaminants, including marine litter on seabird species.
- Developing sub-regional strategies to mitigate oil spills and post-spill monitoring schemes across the different AEWA biogeographic regions.

258. **Ms Hagen** introduced the corresponding Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP6 DR9 Rev.1 *Improving the Conservation Status of African-Eurasian Seabirds*, discussion of which would be taken up by the Working Group on Scientific and Technical matters.

259. The **Chair of the Technical Committee, Mr David Stroud**, presented the following Draft Resolutions, briefly explaining the background to each and highlighting the key points of both preambular and operative paragraphs:

- AEWA/MOP6 DR4 Rev.1 *Conservation and Sustainable use of Migratory Waterbirds*.
- AEWA/MOP6 DR6 *Updated Advice on Climate Change Adaptation Measures for Waterbirds*.
- AEWA/MOP6 DR12 *Avoiding Additional and Unnecessary Mortality for Migratory Waterbirds*.

260. The **Chair** invited comments or questions from the floor. There being no such interventions the three Draft Resolutions were forwarded to the MOP6 Working Group on Scientific and Technical matters for further consideration.

## **Agenda item 26. Institutional Arrangements**

### **a. Standing Committee**

261. Referring to Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP6 DR16 *Institutional Arrangements: Standing Committee*, **Norway** noted that as two members of the Standing Committee had served two terms, replacements were needed to fill the places reserved for Europe & Central Asia and West & Central Africa. The Depositary and the host of the next MOP were automatically members of the Committee.

262. Alternate members would also have to be chosen. Parties were urged to consider which Parties should serve on the Committee and to notify the Secretariat accordingly during the course of the day.

### **b. Technical Committee**

263. **Mr Sergey Dereliev, AEWA Technical Officer**, introduced Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP6 DR17 *Institutional Arrangements: Technical Committee*, noting that similar resolutions had been adopted by all previous MOPs. The Draft Resolution would confirm the appointment of new members of the Technical Committee to replace those that had exhausted their terms. Nominations had been sought and candidatures reviewed.

264. The candidates being proposed for appointment to the Technical Committee were Ms Ruth Cromie (North and Southwestern Europe) and Mr Sidi Imad Cherkaoui (Northern Africa). No alternate had been identified for North and Southwest Europe but Mr Wed Abdou had been proposed as alternate member for Northern Africa.

265. With regard to thematic experts, it was proposed to reappoint Ms Melissa Lewis (environmental law) and to appoint Mr Pierre Defos du Rau (game management) and Mr Philippe Karpe (rural development).

266. Following the precedents set by other MEAs, it had been agreed to start a register of interests for Technical Committee members and observers.

## **Agenda item 27. Reports of the Credentials Committee and Sessional Committees**

267. In its capacity as **Chair of the Credentials Committee, the Netherlands** reported that the Committee (composed of Libya, Luxembourg, Ghana and the Netherlands) had met on 10 November. Of 63 Parties registered for MOP6, 57 were represented at the meeting. The Committee had so far examined the credentials submitted by 42 Parties and had approved the credentials of 40 Parties.

268. The **Secretariat** urged any Party yet to submit its credentials to do so as soon as possible so that the Committee could complete its work ahead of its final report to Plenary on 14 November.

269. The **Chair** referred to the terrorist outrage in Paris on the evening of 13 November, which had made this a difficult morning to be meeting. He wished that humanity could be wise enough to pay attention to what migratory birds could show in terms of sharing resources and space.

270. **The AEWA Executive Secretary, Mr Jacques Trouvilliez** informed the MOP that the UN Secretary General, Mr Ban Ki-moon, had condemned the attacks in Paris. The Secretary General had full trust in the French authorities to do everything in their power to bring the perpetrators to justice. The Secretary General had also conveyed his most sincere condolences to the families of the victims and wished the injured swift recovery, saying his thoughts were with the French Government and people.

271. Speaking from his personal perspective, **Mr Trouvilliez** remarked that as a young birdwatcher he had a copy of the Peterson Field Guide to Birds, in which he kept a postcard of a gull that bore the words of the French poet Paul Éluard who, in 1945, had written: “*Sur les ailes des oiseaux j’écris ton nom – Liberté*” (on the wings of the birds I write your name – Freedom). Mr Trouvilliez asked simply that the MOP should remember these words on this difficult day.

272. Speaking on behalf of his country, the representative of **France** wished to thank participants for the expressions of concern and solidarity that had come from the United Nations and the international community. Even if we sometimes had the impression that things were turning back to an era of religious wars, and the events of the previous evening had shown the darkest side of humankind, we should never lose faith in humanity.

273. The Chair drew attention to the importance of making the outcomes of the MOP the best that they could be. This had to do with sharing of decisions and resources and together being guided by the migratory birds themselves.

274. **Libya, speaking in its capacity as a member of the Credentials Committee**, presented the Committee’s Final Report. The Credentials Committee, composed of Libya, Luxembourg, Ghana and the Netherlands, had met on 10, 11 and 12 November 2015. Of 63 Contracting Parties registered for MOP6, 58 had been present in Bonn and 45 had submitted credentials. The Credentials Committee had approved all 45 credentials, having determined that each fulfilled the requirements specified in AEWA’s Rules of Procedure.

275. The **Chair** thanked the Credentials Committee for its work.

276. **Mr David Stroud (UK), Chair of the Working Group on Scientific and Technical Issues** reported that the Working Group had engaged in constructive discussion of twelve Draft Resolutions and supporting documents. Consensus had been reached on all issues. Thanks were due to all participants and to the Secretariat for its support.

277. The **Chair** thanked the Working Group on Scientific and Technical Issues for its hard and very efficient work.

278. **Ms Chandanee Jhowry (Mauritius), Chair of the Working Group on Financial and Administrative Issues**, thanked all Working Group members for the warm spirit of collaboration and understanding in which deliberations had been conducted. The Working Group had met on 11 and 12 November and had considered five Draft Resolutions. Revised drafts, showing the proposed amendments, had been agreed for each of these and were being presented for the consideration of the plenary. The Working Group debates had been lengthy and animated but consensus had been reached on all issues. Thanks were due to all those who had contributed, especially to the interpreters who had stayed until late in the evening.

279. The **Chair** thanked the Working Group for its efforts and the corresponding results. He was aware that the sessions had been extremely long and reiterated thanks to all participants and to the interpreters.

280. The **Chair** invited comments on any of the Committee or Working Group reports. There were no requests to take the floor.

## **Agenda item 28. Adoption of Resolutions and Amendments to the Annexes of the Agreement**

281. The **Chair** noted that this Agenda item was at the heart of the MOP as it would set up the ‘engine’ for the Agreement to work intersessionally. It was important that the Parties should empower the Agreement and its Secretariat for all of the activities foreseen during the coming intersessional period. These activities were both very many and complex, yet essential for furthering the conservation of migratory waterbirds.

282. The Chair drew attention to the revised texts of Draft Resolutions that had been prepared by the Secretariat and made available as printed and electronic documents in both English and French. All proposed amendments had been shown as ‘tracked changes’ to make reviewing the documents as efficient as possible. The Chair’s intention was to take each Draft Resolution in numerical sequence, to read the number, version number and title of each, and to open the floor for possible comments. These should be as brief as possible. The meeting would be invited to adopt the Resolution concerned before passing on to consider the following Draft Resolution.

283. The MOP adopted by consensus all 22 Draft Resolutions. Details are given below, including, in the case of five Draft Resolutions (DR7, DR18, DR20, DR21 and DR22), further minor amendments agreed by the meeting prior to final adoption.

### **DR1 Rev.1 Adoption of Amendments to the AEWA Annexes**

284. This Draft Resolution was adopted without further amendment.

### **DR2 Rev.1 Adoption of the New Arabic Version of the Agreement Text**

285. This Draft Resolution was adopted without further amendment.

### **DR3 Rev.1 Strengthening Monitoring of Migratory Waterbirds**

286. This Draft Resolution was adopted without further amendment.

### **DR4 Rev.2 Conservation and Sustainable Use of Migratory Waterbirds**

287. This Draft Resolution was adopted without further amendment.

### **DR5 Rev.1 Revision and Adoption of Conservation Guidelines**

288. This Draft Resolution was adopted without further amendment.

### **DR6 Rev.1 Updated Advice on Climate Change Adaptation Measures for Waterbirds**

289. This Draft Resolution was adopted without further amendment.

### **DR7 Rev.1 Adoption of Guidance in the Context of Implementation of the AEWA Action Plan**

290. This Draft Resolution was adopted subject to the inclusion of a correction tabled by the Secretariat (deletion of the word “the” before the word “meaning” in operative paragraph 3).

### **DR8 Rev.1 Adoption and Implementation of International Single Species and Multi-Species Action and Management Plans**

291. This Draft Resolution was adopted without further amendment.

292. In response to a question from **South Africa**, the **Secretariat** confirmed that the text of the International Single Species Action Plan for Grey Crowned-crane would be updated throughout to include the agreed common name for the species in accordance with the newly adopted taxonomic reference.

293. **Luxembourg, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States** noted for the record of the meeting that Croatia had asked to be included as a Range State in the ISSAP for Eurasian Curlew. However, during the Working Group on Scientific and Technical issues it had been clearly explained that the ISSAP focused on ‘Principal Range States’ and that Croatia did not meet the established criteria for consideration as a Principal Range State.

294. **FACE** made the following statement to be included in the record of the meeting:

295. *“FACE would like to express its views on the Eurasian Curlew SSAP submitted to this MOP. Firstly, we wish to state that we request no amendments to the plan as put for adoption, and congratulate the efforts of the ISSAP working groups. We want to highlight that the proposed actions do not entirely correspond to the listing of the species/population in category A4 of the AEWA Action Plan which states “that hunting may continue on a sustainable use basis. This sustainable use shall be conducted within the framework of an ISSAP, through which Parties will endeavour to implement the principles of adaptive harvest management. Such use shall, as a minimum, be subject to same legal measures as the taking of birds from Column B.” The Curlew plan proposes a moratorium if adaptive harvest management is not put in place, despite the fact that the plan suggests that hunting is not a significant factor in the decline. Indeed, adult survival of the population is high. We are of the opinion that this action is stricter than required by the listing in category A4, and unjustified based on the evidence for the decline. However, we will support all efforts to put in place a process of adaptive harvest management as requested in the plan and hope that these efforts are matched by measures undertaken by Parties to address the main threats identified in the plan. This statement is to avoid setting a precedent in the development of AEWA action plans for species in similar circumstances, and to promote support from relevant stakeholders.”*

#### **DR9 Rev.2 Improving the Conservation Status of African-Eurasian Seabirds**

296. This Draft Resolution was adopted without further amendment.

#### **DR10 Rev.2 Communication Strategy**

297. This Draft Resolution was adopted without further amendment.

#### **DR11 Rev.1 Addressing Impacts of Renewable Energy Deployment on Migratory Waterbirds**

298. This Draft Resolution was adopted without further amendment.

#### **DR12 Rev.1 Avoiding Additional and Unnecessary Mortality for Migratory Waterbirds**

299. This Draft Resolution was adopted without further amendment.

#### **DR13 Rev.1 AEWA International Implementation Tasks 2016-2018**

300. This Draft Resolution was adopted without further amendment.

#### **DR14 Extension and Revision of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa**

301. This Draft Resolution was adopted without further amendment.

302. **France** thanked the meeting for having, through this Resolution, expressed its appreciation of the role played by France in establishing the Technical Support Unit (TSU) for the Plan of Action for Africa. What had been achieved through the TSU and presented at the MOP through side events would not have been possible without the African partners. France had supported the TSU for a three-year period and would like to continue to do so, though budgetary constraints meant that the French contribution would be smaller in the coming years. France would continue to focus its attention on the Sahel and Nile Basin and urged other Parties to join France in supporting the TSU.

303. **Uganda**, on behalf of the Africa group, and supported by **Mali** and **Senegal**, paid tribute to the role of the French Government and all other stakeholders that had contributed to the implementation of the African Initiative and appealed to all Parties to respond to the call of France to contribute to the continuation of the TSU.

#### **DR15 Update on AEWA's Contribution to Delivering the Aichi 2020 Biodiversity Targets and the Relevance of the Sustainable Development Goals**

304. This Draft Resolution was adopted without further amendment.

#### **DR16 Institutional Arrangements: Standing Committee**

305. The **Chair** opened the floor to interventions.

306. **Luxembourg speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States** nominated France and Croatia as the first Representative and Alternate Representative for the Europe & Central Asia Region. **Norway** nominated **Georgia** as the second Representative for Europe and Central Asia. **Ukraine** nominated **Norway** as the second Alternate Representative for Europe and Central Asia. **Zimbabwe** nominated **Libya** as the Representative for the Middle East & North Africa, with **Algeria** as Alternate Representative; **Ghana** as the Representative for the Western & Central Africa Region, with **Senegal** as Alternate Representative; and **Uganda** as the Representative for Eastern and Southern Africa, with **South Africa** as Alternate Representative.

307. There being no further interventions the meeting adopted the Draft Resolution DR16 by consensus, thereby electing the Standing Committee for the triennium 2016–2018.

308. The Chair thanked Mr Øystein Størkersen, Norway, for his work as Chair of the Standing Committee during the last two triennia; AEWA had benefited greatly from his knowledge and experience.

309. Later in the session, after all Resolutions had been adopted, **Norway** advised the Chair that it had been made aware of a potentially unfortunate situation. Rule 17 of the Rules of Procedure for the Standing Committee stated that a Party could only be elected for two consecutive terms, i.e. six years in all: *“The term of office of regional members and alternates shall expire at the close of the next ordinary meeting of the Meeting of the Parties following the meeting at which they were originally elected. Regional members are eligible for re-appointment but may not serve more than two consecutive terms of office.”* Norway had been made aware that both Uganda and Ghana had served for six years, so the election held earlier was not valid. Given its status as the highest body of the Agreement, the MOP was free to decide to re-open the matter. Norway left it to the Chair to decide how to proceed.

310. The **Chair** considered it was unfortunate that this issue had come up at such a late stage, given that the MOP had already formally deliberated and decided on the matter.

311. **Uganda** referred the MOP to Resolution 2.6 (f): *“The membership of the Committee shall be reviewed at each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the meeting. The term of office of the members nominated on a geographical basis shall expire at the close of the second ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties following that at which they have been nominated”*. This was a decision of the Parties that contradicted the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee.

312. **Ms Melissa Lewis, Technical Committee legal expert** supported the point raised by Uganda; it was clear that a Term of Office for a Standing Committee member was two MOP cycles, not one.

313. **Germany** suggested that UNEP might be invited to clarify the matter, since there appeared to be differing interpretations.

314. **Uganda** indicated that it would object to any interpretation by UNEP as there was no provision in the Rules of Procedure for interpretation of Resolutions by UNEP and in any case Resolution 2.6 was self-explanatory.

315. **UNEP** commented that this was not the first time this kind of issue had arisen and it was clear that a legal interpretation was needed. Should the Parties desire such an opinion from UNEP, there would be a need to

consult with Nairobi. It was therefore suggested that the meeting might continue to other business to allow time for consultation.

316. The **Chair** reflected that he was in the hands of the Parties. However, it would be useful to understand whether or not there was a substantive issue on the table or not.

317. **Norway** considered that an issue remained and supported the proposal that advice be sought from UNEP for the meeting to come back to at a later stage.

318. **Uganda**, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, reiterated its strong objection to the matter being submitted for legal interpretation by UNEP.

319. **South Africa** supported the position put forward by Uganda.

320. **Luxembourg, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States** said that the EU's interpretation of Resolution 2.6 was that if the nominations were made at MOP5 they were valid to the end of MOP7.

321. **Germany** indicated that it would welcome a comment from the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat concerning the interpretation of this matter given that they acted as the guardians of the Agreement.

322. The **Chair** suggested breaking for lunch to consider this important issue further. When the meeting reconvened participants would hopefully have considered the matter carefully and have a clearer perspective of whether or not an issue was still on the table; if so, what the substance of the issue was, who should be interpreting it, and what action should be taken, given that the relevant Agenda item had already been closed.

323. Following a break for lunch, the **Chair** referred the meeting to Rule 38 of the Rules of Procedure for the MOP, which stated: "*When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered at the same meeting, unless the Meeting of the Parties, by a two-thirds majority of the Parties present and voting, decides in favour of reconsideration. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to the mover and one other supporter, after which it shall be put immediately to the vote.*" This seemed to be a rule pertinent to the meeting's deliberations. He opened the floor to comment.

324. **South Africa** cautioned against setting precedents.

325. **Uganda** drew attention to Rule 30 of the Rules of Procedure for the MOP, which stated: "*The President may declare a session of the meeting open and permit the debate to proceed if at least one half of the Parties to the Agreement are present, and may take a decision when representatives of at least one half of the Parties are present.*". He noted that when the Agenda item on adoption of Resolutions had been completed, some colleagues had left the room. There would be a need to establish the presence of a quorum before Rule 38 could even be considered.

326. The **Chair** observed that the Agenda of the MOP had always included an afternoon session of the Plenary on 14 November.

327. **Norway** had reflected on the matter during the break and agreed that Resolution 2.6 could clearly be read as not placing any limit on the number of terms to be served. The advice of the Technical Committee's legal expert was right in that sense. This was a weakness of the Resolution that ought to be amended at the next MOP, along with Rule 17 of the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee. Norway would not object if the Chair ruled in that direction.

328. The **Chair** thanked Norway and observed that reading Rules of Procedure was always challenging. He enquired if he could take it that Norway was withdrawing the possible problem that had arisen before the lunch break and therefore content to let the earlier adoption of the Resolution stand.

329. **Norway** concurred that this was one interpretation, but before proceeding the Chair should take a decision and seek the consensus of the meeting to revisit Resolution 2.6 at the next MOP.

330. The **AEWA Executive Secretary, Mr Jacques Trouvilliez** regretted that the text of Resolution 2.6 could be read in different ways. He noted that any Party was free to submit a clearer text for consideration at MOP7. The Secretariat would be considering things in depth with the support of UNEP.

331. At the invitation of the **Chair** the meeting indicated its consensus to move forward in the Agenda, and for the points raised during this discussion to be considered intersessionally.

#### **DR17 Rev.1 Institutional Arrangements: Technical Committee**

332. This Draft Resolution was adopted without further amendment.

333. The **Chair** thanked Mr David Stroud who was stepping down from his role as Chair of the Technical Committee. Mr Stroud has brought to the position huge experience and commitment to conservation.

334. The meeting showed its appreciation with warm applause.

335. **Norway** commented on the number of vacancies shown in the documents and enquired whether these were real gaps or if additional nominations would be forthcoming at a later stage.

336. The **AEWA Technical Officer, Mr Sergey Dereliev** commented that having a highly qualified membership for the Technical Committee was indispensable. At the same time, suitably qualified people were not only difficult to find but also extremely busy. It had proven difficult to recruit members who were able to devote sufficient time. The Work Programme for the Technical Committee was more than ambitious but lacked funding. Committee members devoted a great deal of both business and private time to deliver on the Committee's tasks. The Committee and Secretariat had done their best to secure nominated representatives for all regions – but had so far been unsuccessful in the case of Central Africa – and had also identified alternate members for some regions. With regard to Central Africa, a process was in train in coordination with Parties in the region and the new Chair of the Technical Committee. It would be announced on the website if the vacancy was filled. Otherwise the vacancy would be maintained until MOP7.

337. In response to a question from **Saudi Arabia, Mr Dereliev** confirmed that regional groupings within the Technical Committee were indeed different from those within the Standing Committee. The latter was primarily a political and administrative body where the Parties themselves were the members. In the case of the Technical Committee, however, the members did not represent a country, but participated in an individual expert capacity. The greater number of smaller regions within the Technical Committee also provided for better technical representation from across the Agreement Area.

#### **DR18 Rev.2 Financial and Administrative matters**

338. The **AEWA Executive Secretary, Mr Jacques Trouvilliez** drew attention to some small errors that had crept into finalization of Rev.2 of the Draft Resolution, as well as to one minor amendment:

- In the French text of Appendix III, scale of contributions, the total should be corrected to read 2,768,778 EUR in conformity with Annex I. The English text of the Draft Resolution was correct.
- In Annex II, a second asterisk should have been added to the single asterisks shown in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> lines of the table.
- In Appendix V, both Croatia and Iceland should have been included amongst those countries highlighted as being ineligible for financial support to attend AEWA meetings.
- The wording in Appendix IV paragraph 13 was not in conformity with the Text of the Agreement, which, as the most authoritative AEWA text, would prevail. The Agreement text stated that the budget should be adopted by consensus. In the Executive Secretary's view the consensus that had been reached in the Working Group on Financial and Administrative issues was tantamount to unanimity. He therefore suggested replacing "unanimous" with "consensus" in paragraph 13.

339. **Luxembourg, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States** clarified that the corrected text for Appendix IV paragraph 13 would read: "...*be adopted by consensus at the Meeting of the Parties*".

340. There being no further comments, the Draft Resolution was adopted by consensus, subject to the corrections and minor amendment tabled by the Executive Secretary and taking account of the clarification made by the EU and its Member States.

#### **DR19 Date, Venue and Funding of the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties**

341. This Draft Resolution was adopted without further amendment.

#### **DR20 Tribute to the Organisers**

342. This Draft Resolution was adopted subject to the inclusion of a minor amendment tabled by the Secretariat (insertion of “Norway” after “Czech Republic” in the fourth paragraph of the preamble and in the first operative paragraph). The AEWA Executive Secretary noted that funding from Norway had been received after the Draft Resolution had been prepared for submission to the MOP.

#### **DR21 Rev.1 Resource Mobilization for the Implementation of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)**

343. This Draft Resolution was adopted subject to the inclusion of a correction tabled by the Secretariat (deletion of the current text of operative paragraph 4 and its replacement by the current text of operative paragraph 6) and further refined by a proposal from South Africa (adjusting the listing of different levels of economic development used in the text being moved from operative paragraph 6 to reflect the terminology used in operative paragraph 4).

#### **DR22 Rev.1 Synergies between the UNEP/AEWA and UNEP/CMS**

344. This Draft Resolution was adopted subject to the inclusion of a correction tabled by the Secretariat (replacement of the word “rations” with “ratios” in operative paragraph 2). The Secretariat clarified for the record of the meeting that the “Common Information Management, Communication and Awareness-raising Team” mentioned in operative paragraph 1 had the same meaning as the “Joint Unit” mentioned in operative paragraphs 2 and 3.

### **Agenda item 29. Date and Venue of the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties**

345. This Agenda item was covered through the adoption of Draft Resolution DR19 *Date, Venue and Funding of the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties*.

### **Agenda item 30. Adoption of the Report of the Meeting**

346. The **Chair** drew attention to the Draft Reports covering the first three days of sessions of the MOP6 Plenary, namely those for 9, 10 and 11 November. These had been posted online and also made available as hard copies. The report for 11 November was not yet available in French as priority had been given to the translation of Draft Resolutions.

347. At the proposal of the **Chair**, the meeting agreed by consensus to entrust the finalization of the report for the last day of the meeting – to be drafted by the Secretariat as soon as possible – to the Meeting Committee.

348. With regard to the Draft Reports for 9, 10 and 11 November, the **Chair** invited participants who wished to make amendments of an editorial nature, such as the correction of typographical errors, to submit these directly to the Secretariat. However, any substantive amendments should be raised from the floor during the present Agenda item.

349. The meeting adopted the Report of the Meeting (for 9, 10 and 11 November) subject to inclusion of amendments to four paragraphs requested by **Luxembourg (speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States), Saudi Arabia and Uganda**.

## **Agenda item 31. Any Other Business**

350. The **Chair** recalled that no proposals for Any Other Business had been made prior to adoption of the Agenda on the opening day of the MOP and no such items had been drawn to his attention subsequently.

## **Agenda item 32. Closure of the Meeting**

351. The representative of the **Czech Republic**, speaking as the National Focal Point for AEWA, expressed her appreciation of the professional work undertaken by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, especially the Executive Secretary, Mr Jacques Trouvilliez, and the Technical Officer, Mr Sergey Dereliev. She recalled her role in the accession of the Czech Republic to the Agreement and her feeling of being in some ways a mother to AEWA. She was therefore very happy to see her child in good hands.

352. **South Africa**, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, expressed its condolences to France following the terrorist attack in Paris the previous evening. African participants also wished to thank all MOP6 participants for the positive spirit brought to the negotiations and to underline the commitment of African Parties to implementing their obligations, taking into account different economic circumstances. It was sincerely hoped that other Parties would respond to the requests for support from the region for building on the achievements to date of the African Initiative and Plan of Action for Africa. Finally, thanks were due to the Chair of the MOP and to the Chairs of the two Working Groups for the professional way they had conducted negotiations.

353. The Chair observed that when delegates came to a MOP and found everything well organised and working smoothly, this was the result of effort and commitment on the part of many people, including, Parties, observers, the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, the CMS Secretariat and others. The Government of Germany was thanked for having offered an evening reception and the excursions enjoyed by participants on 13 November. The Governments of Switzerland, the Czech Republic, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Norway had all provided financial support for the meeting, while a very important pre-MOP meeting had been supported by the EU, as well as the Governments of South Africa and Switzerland. Warm thanks were expressed to the Municipality of the City of Bonn for its warm welcome and especially the reception held in the Old Town Hall on 13 November. Finally, thanks were due to all those who had worked tirelessly until late in the night to enable MOP deliberations to proceed smoothly – in particular the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and the CMS Secretariat, which had provided additional staff under the leadership of Mr Bradnee Chambers, CMS Executive Secretary and Mr Bert Lenten, Deputy Executive Secretary. The Chair read out a list of all individuals who had contributed to the MOP Secretariat and critical meeting support functions:

**AEWA Staff:** Sergey Dereliev, Nina Mikander, Evelyn Moloko, Birgit Drerup, Marie-Therese Kämper, Jolanta Kremer, Florian Keil, Dunia Sforzin, Catherine Lehmann and Melanie Jakuttek;

**CMS/AFMU Team:** Sandra Rücker, Hillary Sang, Henning Lilge and Jeanybeth Mina;

**CMS Staff:** Catherine Brückner, Barbara Schönberg, Ximena Cancino, Laura Cerasi, Tine Lindberg-Roncari, Siri Quade, Marion Dankers, Hanah Al Samaraie, Chenxuan Jia (intern) and Iji Kim (intern);

**IMCA/CMS Staff:** Veronika Lenarz, Aydin Bahramlouian, Helga Karsten (intern) and Marie Mévellec;

**Interpretation Team:** Ingrid Catton, Starr Pirot, Claire-Emmanuelle Weyland, Anne-Marie Arbaji, Odile Montpetit and Vivienne Fadeev;

**Report Writers:** Tim Jones and Robert Vagg;

**RSPB:** Irene Sabiniarz;

**Conference Services, UN Campus:** Timo Kremer, Franz Münz and Thilan Mannan.

354. **Luxembourg**, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, considered MOP6 to have been a real success, thanks in large part to the efficient preparation of the Draft Resolutions by the Secretariat. Warm thanks went to the AEWA Executive Secretary and the whole MOP6 team. Thanks were also due to Dr Fernando Spina, for his special brand of chairing, and to the Chairs of the Working Groups. The EU and its Member States noted with satisfaction that AEWA was focusing on the conservation not only of species

but also of their habitats and the Agreement also played an important role as a bridge between Africa and Europe.

355. **Saudi Arabia** wished to express its sympathy and condolences to France in recognition of recent events. The Chair of the MOP was thanked for his important role and Saudi Arabia also wanted to underline the value of the side events, which had added an important dimension to the meeting.

356. The **AEWA Executive Secretary, Mr Jacques Trouvilliez** thanked Mr Fernando Spina for having accepted an insistent invitation to Chair MOP6. He also thanked all delegates, Parties and observers for their patience when small things had occasionally gone awry in documents or with the meeting technology. He was aware that some participants were disappointed or frustrated by the proportion of the MOP that had to be given over to administrative and financial matters, though these were all vital for furthering waterbird conservation under the Agreement, since AEWA needed a budget to be able to operate. Nevertheless, he hoped that at MOP7 much more time would be spent on talking about bird conservation and less about administration.

357. **Mr Trouvilliez** added his thanks to the interpreters and report writers and all those who had supported the meeting.

358. In closing MOP6 the **Chair** noted that the invitation to Chair the MOP had been entirely unexpected. He therefore wished to thank all participants for their warm and friendly cooperation and trust and to apologise for any mistakes he might have made inadvertently. He wished all participants a safe journey home.

359. Finally, members of the new AEWA Standing Committee were asked to remain in the room so that the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee could commence.

## Special Sessions

### Migratory Species Champion Programme (Monday 9 November)

360. The **Chair of MOP6**, Mr Fernando Spina, briefly introduced the Migratory Species Champion Programme, which had been launched at CMS COP11 in Quito. He recalled that there were three levels of recognition available under the Programme: ‘Champion’, ‘Champion Plus’ and ‘Champion Extraordinaire’. While the Migratory Species Champion Programme was an initiative of the CMS Family and therefore applied to all migratory animals, the present event would showcase three Champions whose support had enabled significant work for the conservation of migratory waterbirds.

361. The **Executive Secretary of AEWA** presented a Champion Certificate to:

- The Government of Norway, recognised as a ‘Champion Plus’ for its support for the “Conservation of the Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* during the period 2015–2017. The certificate was accepted on behalf of the Norwegian Government by Mr Øystein Størkersen of the Norwegian Environment Agency.

362. The **Executive Secretaries of CMS and AEWA** presented Champion Certificates to:

- The European Commission, recognised as a ‘Champion Plus’ for its support of efforts to address the “Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean during the period 2015–2018”. The certificate was accepted on behalf of the European Commission by Ms Marita Arvela and Mr Anne-Theo Seinen, both of DG Environment.
- The Government of Germany recognised as a ‘Champion Plus’ in recognition of its commitment to “Reconciling Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation during the Triennium 2015–2017”. The certificate was received on behalf of the Government of Germany by Ms Rita Schwarzelühr-Sutter, Parliamentary State Secretary for the Environment.

363. The **AEWA Technical Officer**, Mr Sergey Dereliev, outlined three specific AEWA initiatives where it was hoped additional support might be forthcoming through the Species Champion Programme:

- Grey Crowned-crane - leading the way for sustainable development in Africa;
- Bringing back the waterbirds of the Caspian Sea; and
- The AEWA African Initiative – Support for a Haven for Migratory Waterbirds.

364. It was hoped that not only new Species Champions would step up to the challenge, but that existing Champions would consider extending and intensifying their support.

### AEWA’s 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration (Monday 9 November)

365. The session was opened by the **Chair of MOP6**, Mr Fernando Spina.

366. The keynote address was made by **Ms Rita Schwarzelühr-Sutter, Parliamentary State Secretary for the Environment, Government of Germany**. She considered that AEWA had been ahead of its time when it was established in 1995 and remained a very modern treaty in three respects: coverage of the entire African–Eurasian Flyway; taking of a population-level approach, rather than a species-level approach; and the fact that many of AEWA’s provisions were mandatory under international law. Looking to the future two key priorities were to increase the number of Contracting Parties and to build on current knowledge of waterbirds and key sites to develop and implement effective conservation measures. Promising initiatives to date included the Wings Over Wetlands project, the AEWA African Initiative, and the Wadden Sea Flyway initiative. From Germany’s perspective, three crucial threats to migratory waterbirds were climate change; unsustainable hunting in the Mediterranean region; and energy infrastructure, including powerlines. The EU was engaged in a review of the effectiveness of the Birds and Habitats Directives. Germany had spoken out against any possible merger of the two Directives, which could potentially lead to a lowering of bird protection standards within the EU, and was seeking support from the other member States.

367. Ms Schwarzelühr-Sutter was delighted to announce that with effect from 2016 Germany would provide support for a JPO (P2) to expand the CMS Secretariat's capacity to work on the Landbird Action Plan, illegal killing and poisoning. Though assigned primarily to CMS, the new position would also be also beneficial for AEWA since it would work on cross-cutting issues of importance to both CMS and AEWA.

368. Under the Chairmanship of **Mr Aboulaye Ndiaye** (Senegal), presentations were made by:

- **Mr Gerard C. Boere**, Honorary Patron of AEWA: *Looking Back – Looking Forward*
- **Ms Melissa Lewis**, PhD Researcher, Department of European and Environmental Law, Tilburg University; legal expert on AEWA Technical Committee: *Reflecting on AEWA's Unique Place in International Environmental Law*
- **Mr Jesper Madsen**, Professor in the Department of Bioscience at Aarhus University, Denmark; Chair of Waterbird Harvest Specialist Group of Wetlands International; Coordinator of AEWA International Working Group for the Pink-footed Goose: *AEWA – Championing Sustainable Harvest of Waterbirds with the African–Eurasian Region*
- **Mr Aboulaye Ndiaye**, Department of National Parks, Senegal; Senior Expert in African Wetlands Conservation; Member of AEWA African Initiative Technical Support Unit (TSU): *The African Perspective on AEWA*
- **Ms Nicola Crockford**, Senior International Species Policy Officer, RSPB/BirdLife International – *AEWA and NGOs: the International Conservation Community*

369. These presentations will be made available to participants through the AEWA website.

### **Signing ceremony for the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Wednesday 11 November)**

370. **Mr Nick Williams, Programme Officer, Coordination Unit for the Raptors MOU**, announced that the signing of the Raptors MOU by two new Signatories, namely Croatia and Israel, would bring the total number of Signatories to 55.

371. **Mr Bradnee Chambers, CMS Executive Secretary**, thanked the meeting for allowing the signing ceremony to take place at MOP6. The CMS Family was delighted to welcome new Signatories to the Raptors MOU, so soon after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Signatories, which had been held recently in Trondheim, Norway.

372. The Raptors MOU was signed by the **Ambassador of Croatia to Germany**.

373. **The Ambassador** confirmed that Croatia was committed, through the CMS and its instruments, to increasing efforts for the conservation of migratory species. Due to its specific geographical position, Croatia was one of the richest countries in Europe in terms of biodiversity. Many raptors nested, passed through or wintered in the country. Croatia shared responsibility for their protection and conservation with other Range States and would continue to improve implementation and enforcement of relevant legal, regulatory and administrative measures.

374. The Raptors MOU was signed by **Israel**, represented by **Mr Ohad Hatzofe, Israel Nature & Parks Authority**.

375. **Mr Hatzofe** was honoured and glad to sign the MOU as an “ambassador for the birds”, which had no words to explain their situation. He noted that in certain parts of Israel the Rift Valley and the Mediterranean Sea were separated by a mere 40km. In autumn 2015, some 122,000 Lesser Spotted Eagles had been counted taking this route on their southbound migration. About half of the species covered by the Raptors MOU occurred in Israel and the Government invested significant resources in raptor conservation.



## APPENDIX 1 TO THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

### Intervention of UNEP on agenda item 9 e

9 November 2015

#### **Progress report of the Executive Director on resolution 1/12 of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements to the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds at its sixth session**

#### **Note by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme**

Thank you, Mr. President, for giving UNEP an opportunity to intervene on this agenda item.

Dear delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

You have in front of you the respective Progress report of the work of the Task Team on effectiveness of administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements to which UNEP provides secretariat services as requested by the resolution 1/12 of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-1) in June 2014. The UNEP Executive Director is requested to submit a final report to the open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its next session in February 2016, with a view to putting the issue before the Environment Assembly at its second session in May 2016 (UNEA-2). The secretariat was also requested to submit information on the progress made by the Task Team and its two working groups to the relevant conferences of the Parties to MEAs to be held in the period before the second session of the Environment Assembly, i.e. also the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Parties to AEWA.

The Task Team, established by the Executive Director in February 2014, comprised of the representatives of the conventions for which UNEP provides secretariat services and the relevant offices of the UNEP secretariat. The Deputy Executive Director chairs the Task Team and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species serves as Vice-Chair.

The Task Team established two working groups to facilitate its work: the working group on administrative arrangements, chaired by a representative of the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and the working group on programmatic cooperation, chaired by a representative of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The task team was established to fulfil two objectives.

The first, on **administrative arrangements**, involved clarifying the administrative relationship between UNEP, the United Nations Office at Nairobi, the United Nations Office at Geneva and the convention secretariats; identifying the range of administrative services required by the convention secretariats, while assessing whether such services are currently provided; and identifying service providers for specific services and funding sources for procuring such services.

The second objective, on strengthening **programmatic cooperation** between UNEP and the convention secretariats, involved identifying priority areas for programmatic cooperation based on



directions from the relevant governing bodies and general and specific mandates, including identifying thematic and functional areas for potentially greater synergies.

**The working group on programmatic cooperation** finalized its work in May 2015. The group developed a comprehensive and inclusive overview of on-going collaboration and possible future collaboration intended to inform the report to be submitted to the UNEA-2 and to enable a strategic consideration of the recommendations of the task team in on-going planning processes within UNEP, such as the development of programmes of work and the Medium-term Strategy of UNEP for the period 2018–2021 and related Programmes of Work in particular in sub-programmes Healthy and Productive Ecosystems, Environmental Governance and Climate Change. The Task Team found that a significant amount of fruitful programmatic cooperation already exists between UNEP and the Convention Secretariats. Such cooperation should be further pursued and strengthened at various levels and on numerous issues.

**Possible areas for renewed and strengthened cooperation** – with mutual benefits for UNEP and the Conventions Secretariats in the future – include: timely coordination on programmatic matters, including preparation of work programs, support to governments and technical assistance at the national level, regional delivery as well as communications and outreach. One of the most important actions to improve programmatic cooperation would be for UNEP to incorporate the priorities of the conventions into its own programme, insofar as they relate to the mandate of UNEP. A process for determining these priorities, and for facilitating UNEP's consideration of these priorities, in order to build them into its programme of work, would enable better alignment between convergent priorities. UNEP and the Conventions Secretariats should each bring to this discussion what they see as relevant priorities and projects, through an open and transparent process that allows both sets of entities to build stronger and more aligned cooperation.

**The working group on administrative arrangements** finalized its work in September 2015. The consultation on regular basis between UNEP and the Conventions Secretariats should be essential. Written and agreed administrative arrangements with the relevant governing bodies, and delegations of authority between the Executive Director of UNEP and the executive heads of the Conventions Secretariats, help to clarify the administrative relationship between them. UNEP and each secretariat should work together to develop custom-fit arrangements for the delivery of needed administrative services in line with UN regulations, rules, and core values and UNEP's and MEAs' accountability requirements.

Since the last AEWA MOP, UNEP has at the global level continued to strengthen its programmatic support to the work of biodiversity-related MEAs, including AEWA. UNEP finalized the project entitled **“Improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies”** as part of a wider strategy aimed at addressing the mandate provided by the UNEP Governing Council to the Executive Director to undertake activities to improve the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements (decision SS.XII/3) as well as paragraph 89 of the “The future we want” on enhancing their collaboration and coordination.

Through this project, funded by the European Union, the Governments of Finland and Switzerland, UNEP carried out online surveys and convened two expert meetings to discuss and elaborate options for identifying potential ways of enhancing synergies in implementation of biodiversity-related conventions. Participants in the surveys and at the expert meetings included UNEP Secretariat staff, representatives of convention secretariats, national focal points for the conventions and other experts. Concurrent with this, UNEP also reviewed guidance, experience and lessons learned at the national level with respect to coherent implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions, working closely with both convention secretariats and national focal points and authorities.



Experts group chaired by Ghana and Finland elaborated options for enhancing synergies across the biodiversity-related conventions. **The Options Paper sets out 28 recommended options, under which 88 action points** in total have been identified for various actors which include: Parties; MEAs secretariats; UNEP and other relevant UN bodies; and others. These options and actions take into account relevant completed, existing and planned initiatives undertaken by a number of actors. The focus of the Options Paper is on programmatic cooperation, for which National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets provide a fundamental basis and where strategic and action plans of all biodiversity-related MEAs are reflected.

The options are proposed to achieve two main outcomes: a) Implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions carried out in an increasingly coherent manner, involving greater collaboration and cooperation amongst convention parties, convention secretariats and key partners, leading to more efficiency and effectiveness in achieving the aims of those conventions; b) Increased collaboration and cooperation in implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions at all levels, facilitated engagement with other sectors, and improved opportunities for mainstreaming biodiversity objectives into other policies and sectors (including through the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and in furtherance of the Sustainable Development Goals).

Specific options for action with respect to improving synergies and coherence in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions were identified in the Options paper under seven related themes:

### **1 NBSAPs, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets** **Options:**

- 1.1 Taking into account already existing materials, prepare streamlined and simple guidance and tools for facilitating the development, revision and implementation of NBSAPs across the conventions.
- 1.2 Support the integration of NBSAPs and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets into different sectors, UNDAF and sustainable development instruments at all levels.
- 1.3 Support parties in accessing timely GEF-funding for the development, revision and implementation of NBSAPs, through promotion of coherent implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions in a coordinated manner among their respective national authorities.
- 1.4 Support experience exchange on the development and implementation of NBSAPs and voluntary 'peer review' of NBSAPs, including through the NBSAP Forum, with a particular focus on the coherent implementation of biodiversity-related conventions.
- 1.5 Explore the use of regional approaches to address transboundary issues identified in NBSAPs, by focusing efforts on collaboration between national focal points and authorities and stakeholders involved in the implementation of NBSAPs in different countries.
- 1.6 Elaborate on the role of each convention and UN body in contributing to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.



## 2 Reporting, monitoring and indicators

### *Options:*

- 2.1 Building on existing work, and recognising the existing reporting obligations under each of the conventions, explore the possible benefits of using a shared modular reporting approach, and develop and test such an approach based on addressing the identified benefits.
- 2.2 Further enhance coherence in reporting through supporting indicator development and monitoring, building on existing work, including that of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP).
- 2.3 Further develop online reporting and information management systems and continue working to ensure their interoperability.
- 2.4 Continue support to reporting processes through joint (regional) capacity building activities.
- 2.5 Increase reporting on enhanced synergies across the conventions.

## 3 IPBES and strengthening the Science-Policy Interface

### *Options:*

- 3.1 Conventions should continue a close dialogue with IPBES on the timely communication of key findings coherently across the governing bodies and scientific advisory bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions.
- 3.2 Conventions should consider and identify common issues for closer cooperation in developing and making future requests of IPBES, so that priorities requested address areas of common interest.
- 3.3 Strengthen efforts to ensure that the governing and subsidiary bodies of conventions and convention secretariats interact with IPBES in a coherent and timely manner.

## 4 Information management and awareness raising

### *Options:*

- 4.1 Develop shared approaches to use more effectively global information management tools.
- 4.2 Deliver joint information and awareness campaigns, including in the context of the UN Decade of Biodiversity.

## 5 Capacity building

### *Options:*

- 5.1 Strengthen the support provided by UNEP regional offices for implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions, and secure funding for sustaining the functions of the MEA focal points.
- 5.2 Identify immediate opportunities for collaboration on capacity development activities and develop harmonised and possible common approaches.
- 5.3 Promote ways to strengthen coherent system-wide action on capacity building for facilitating cooperation and collaboration in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions.



## 6 Funding and resource efficiency

### *Options:*

- 6.1 Convention secretariats to collaborate on new initiatives for obtaining additional financial resources.
- 6.2 Pursue a coordinated approach to accessing GEF and Green Climate Fund (GCF) funding among the biodiversity-related conventions.
- 6.3 Encourage donors, particularly those concerned with development assistance, to contribute to the creation of enhanced opportunities for, and to incentivise, coordination and synergies.
- 6.4 Share information on work to support parties on resource mobilisation, including in relation to innovative financial mechanisms that promote cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions.
- 6.5 Review and share past and ongoing experiences on MEA synergies and on wider mainstreaming efforts to identify means to increase the cost-effectiveness of synergistic action on biodiversity.

## 7 Institutional Collaboration

### *Options:*

- 7.1 Focus and enhance the work of UNEP in supporting the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions at national, regional and global levels, including, where appropriate, by promoting and facilitating collaboration and cooperation in their implementation, in those areas that fall within its mandate, through its various programmes, initiatives and policies.
- 7.2 Strengthen the BLG as a mechanism for promoting collaboration and cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions within its mandate.
- 7.3 Encourage mutually supportive decisions and possible common decisions across the governing bodies of biodiversity-related conventions for achieving coherence at all levels, including further developing and strengthening joint work programmes and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs).
- 7.4 Develop mechanisms to share expertise across the biodiversity-related conventions in order to seek and identify common issues to address, and actions to undertake, at programmatic and political level to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in a coordinated manner.

In addition to the specific options, the co-chairs of expert group (Ghana and Finland) identified **five overarching considerations** which came out through the process:

- a) the benefits to be gained by implementing the biodiversity-related conventions in a synergistic and coherent manner, so as to increase their national implementation, efficiency and effectiveness; the importance of acknowledging and building on the past, existing and planned activities of biodiversity-related conventions and others to identify and address opportunities to build synergies and increase coherence in implementation of the conventions;
- b) the value of engaging with the activities of UNEP (and other relevant entities) to identify and address opportunities to further build synergies and increase coherence in implementation of the conventions;
- c) the potential opportunities for further promoting synergies among the biodiversity related conventions in the context of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including global Sustainable Development Goals and their targets; and



- d) the need for all actors, including governments, MEAs and their secretariats, United Nations bodies, and other stakeholders, to continue to promote and undertake mutually supportive efforts and approaches aimed at enhancing coordinated and coherent implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions at all levels, building on existing activities and experience.

The Options Paper that was already shared with involved biodiversity-related conventions will be useful for discussion and possible further action in a number of fora. This includes, *inter alia*, the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP, the governing and advisory bodies of each biodiversity-related MEA and their Parties and members, the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions and the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions. The document was already shared with AEWA secretariat for sharing with the Parties.

**CBD also has a decision on synergies (XII/6)** that created an informal advisory group that works on synergies, taking into account the UNEP-led project and building on its work. In September, the first meeting of the informal advisory group met in Geneva where UNEP was invited to make a presentation on the outcome of its project to the advisory group. All options that came out of the UNEP project will be discussed at a workshop in the first quarter of 2016.

In this regard, let me take this opportunity **to commend the AEWA and CMS Secretariats for the efforts they have taken, or are planning to take further, to explore opportunities for creating more efficiencies and effectiveness in the conservation of migratory species when implementing the resolution 11.3 of CMS COP-11 on “Enhancing Synergies and Common Services among CMS Family Instruments”** and through targeted on the CMS/AEWA Common Information Management, Communication and Awareness Raising. I believe the two Secretariats with the support of and guidance from the Parties will be able to successfully complete this task.

UNEP launched the **Sourcebook of Opportunities for Enhancing Cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at National and Regional Levels**, published in May 2015. The Sourcebook was developed closely with the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions, including CMS family, and with national focal points in many countries. Its aim is to provide national focal points and other stakeholders working on those conventions with options to achieve enhanced implementation of the conventions through enhanced cooperation. An e-learning module, based on chapter 6 of the Sourcebook, is currently being developed.

Regarding **enhancing synergies and common services among CMS family instruments**, UNEP is currently working on an improved **online reporting system** to support national reporting processes to MEAs. That work is being carried out as part of phase II of the EU-funded ACP-MEAs project. Updates include improved speed and a solid code foundation to facilitate the further development and implementation of a more intuitive user design. UNEP-WCMC is consulting with a number of secretariats to MEAs (including CMS and AEWA) and with parties to inform the development process through group meetings and one-to-one interviews through an online reporting system user steering group.

UNEP also continues to provide training and support on the use of the current system to the secretariat staff of the CMS, the AEWA and CITES.

UNEP-WCMC continues to maintain and update **Species+**, which provides information relevant to the implementation of CITES and the CMS. Species+, developed by UNEP-WCMC in conjunction with the CITES secretariat, was launched in November 2013 to assist parties in implementing CITES, the CMS and other MEAs.



Regarding **synergies and partnerships**, UNEP-WCMC organized a meeting entitled “Expert meeting on enhancing efficiency and effectiveness of MEA implementation: interoperability between reporting systems” in Geneva on 15 and 16 December 2014. The meeting was co-hosted by the CITES secretariat and UNEP-WCMC, under the auspices of the Multilateral Environmental Agreement Information and Knowledge Management (MEA-IKM) initiative and was made possible through the generous support of the Federal Office for the Environment of Switzerland.

The **NBSAP Forum**, launched in 2013 and hosted by UNEP, the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNDP and UNEP-WCMC, continues to provide ongoing support to national capacity and knowledge-sharing in the revision and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAP) and has rapidly become the global, one-stop shop for finding NBSAP-related resources and for learning and knowledge-sharing between countries, and also a means to promote coherence in the national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements.

The UNEP-WCMC project entitled “**Mapping MEAs to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets**”, commissioned by the Ministry of Environment of Finland, seeks to start the process of developing a coherent, up-to-date compilation of all the guidance related to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets provided through the decisions and related programmes and plans of six biodiversity-related conventions, including CMS and AEW. The final report of the project that will be distributed in the forthcoming days, can serve as an important support tool to identify opportunities for addressing each Aichi Biodiversity target in a manner that enables the objectives of the biodiversity-related agreements, including AEW, to be addressed coherently.

UNEP in cooperation with UNEP-WCMC and CBD Secretariat carried out the review of progress towards Aichi biodiversity targets through the **reports of the state of biodiversity in Africa, West Asia, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and Caribbean** that will be presented at the forthcoming UNEA-2 and COP-13 of CBD. The reports provide analysis and assessment also of ecosystems and habitats for waterbirds.

The UNEA-1 through its resolutions inter alia assists with implementation of the goals of biodiversity related MEAs, including AEW, such examples are **the resolution 1/3 on Illegal Trade in Wildlife**. In that regard, UNEP is using its comparative advantage in terms of regional coordination, policy support and implementation of relevant MEAs, including programmatic support to the CMS and its agreements on species subject to illegal trade. The work is under way on an analysis compiling and synthesizing available and updated information on the environmental impact of the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products for consideration by the UNEA-2. UNEP continues to support national Governments, upon their request, to develop and implement rule of law. UNEP works with a wide variety of actors across the judiciary system to strengthen judicial, prosecutorial sectors and law enforcement to curb illegal wildlife trade, identifying obstacles, strategies and promote collaboration between the different actors. In July 2015, in Nairobi, Kenya, UNEP and the Conservation Council of Nations along with experts in the prosecution of international crime hosted an East Africa Regional Judiciary and Law Enforcement Workshop on Wildlife / Environmental Crime. In November 2015, UNEP and INTERPOL will co-organise the second International Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Conference in Singapore to identify key strategies on law enforcement and demand reduction. UNEP provided technical support to the African Union/Republic of Congo International Conference on illegal wildlife trade in wild flora and fauna (April 2015). The support included the preparation of the elements of a declaration affirming Africa’s commitment to combatting illegal wildlife trade and; the preparation of a draft strategy titled “African Common Strategy on Combatting Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora”.

**UNEP Live** has been progressing and is providing near real-time data on key environmental issues, **access to scientific findings**, and up-to-date information on **progress towards achieving Global**



**Environmental Goals.** In addition, the Country pages in UNEP Live are linked to an on-line reporting obligations database of internationally agreed reporting obligations, which shows when these are due and the formats to be used. As a member of **key scientific bodies** such as the Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability, UNEP is ensuring that it links to the best available science to support policy-making.

As requested by UNEA-1 resolution 4, UNEP has been *actively promoting and augmenting the science policy interface* through the development of six GEO 6 Regional Assessments which will inform and support the deliberations at UNEA-2 and development of the global GEO-6 assessment. The GEO 6 Regional Assessments have been developed through a new, innovative approach, using an e-book format in all UN languages as the primary medium for communicating the findings of these assessments. The e-book format allows the direct integration of UNEP Live data, graphics and multi-media to enhance the user experience and make the scientific findings more attractive and understandable to different audiences, including policy makers. The enhanced interactivity of the e-book along with the condensed textual assessment format in all UN languages make the messages clearer and more authoritative, while allowing the findings to be directly linked to social media platforms, thus increasing the reach of the findings to help environmental literacy and debate on the issues.

At the same time, the development of the global GEO 6 assessment is being guided by a High Level Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Advisory Group (HLG) and a Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP). Over 1100 experts have been nominated to participate in the development of the both the regional and global assessments. With this broad representation of experts from more than 130 countries, the regional and global assessments are underpinned by a wide body of knowledge, both scholarly and indigenous/local in nature. The global assessment will be supported by the regional assessment outcomes thus providing more targeted and relevant information to decision makers at national and regional levels. The global assessment also draws on the latest findings from the international science policy arena, including *inter alia* thematic assessments, such as the Global Sustainable Development Report, Global Gender and Environment Outlook (GGEO), World Oceans Assessment, World Water Quality Assessment, Global Waste Management Outlook, IPBES assessments, IPCC 5th Assessment Report, the update to the Global Burden of Disease report, and various UN reports that are currently being developed to support the Sustainable Development Goals, leading to greater collaboration with partners, including UN agencies and MEA secretariats, and greater exchange of expertise and information than has ever happened before.

In line with the UNEA-1 resolution 1/5 on chemicals and waste, UNEP continues to strengthen the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term and with the resolution 1/6: Marine plastic debris and microplastics the work is underway to prepare the **UNEA-2 Study on marine plastic debris and microplastics**. This will be assisting also the implementation of relevant resolutions of CMS and AEW. UNEP is ready to **provide additional support to the development and implementation of action plans and national activities**. In this regard, discussions are underway with the Mediterranean Action Plan, Black Sea Commission, Caribbean Environment Programme, Nairobi Convention, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, etc. Supporting activities related to education and awareness raising include **the first Massive Open Online Course on Marine Litter (MOOC) and the development of a Global Campaign on Marine Litter**. Coordination has taken place with our partners such as. UN-Oceans and MEA Secretariats including CBD, CMS, IWC, Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, and BRS.

Using its network of regional biodiversity multilateral environmental agreements focal points, UNEP is planning a **South-South knowledge-sharing workshop** on the legal preparedness for NBSAP implementation, focusing on selected countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific in the fourth quarter



of 2015. The purpose of the workshop is to strengthen existing biodiversity-specific legislation and to develop new legislation that is required to ensure the effective implementation of NBSAPs in those countries.

Regarding **work on climate change and migratory species**, knowledge of marine and coastal data sets tends to be fragmented and/or difficult to access for the non-expert or ad hoc data user. In 2014, in order to address this lack of information, UNEP-WCMC released the Manual of Marine and Coastal Datasets of Biodiversity Importance which provides an overview (including gaps and limitations) of global marine and coastal data sets of biodiversity importance.

On **renewable energy and migratory species**, including waterbirds, UNEP-WCMC Ocean Data Viewer provides easy access to more than 30 global data sets that are useful for informing decisions regarding the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity, including migratory species.

### **Administrative support**

Since 1 June 2015, UNEP, including the MEAs for which it provides secretariat functions, has been operating with the support of the new enterprise resource planning system “Umoja”. Umoja has facilitated automation, which has had a positive impact on workflows and reporting. The introduction of Umoja has necessitated certain changes in processes and procedures, particularly with respect to procurement and travel.

With regard to Resolution 5.21, and the Parties request for UNEP to consider the feasibility of providing gratis personnel, UNEP has listed 4 Junior Professional Officers, but to-date none of the positions have been selected by governments for sponsorship.

The two AEWA trust funds continue to be administered by the Executive Director of UNEP and have been extended to 31 December 2017 by resolution 1/16 on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions, adopted by the UNEA at its first session.

In the last few months since the deployment of Umoja, there have been a number of challenges, primarily at operational levels. UNEP has been working with UNON and Department of Management in New York to expedite lasting solutions. These include the establishment of the Umoja Competence Centre, to log, track and resolve issues. Additionally, UN Department of Management (NY) has also established an Umoja Post-Implementation Review Task Force. The goal of the Task Force is to promptly address outstanding issues and to ensure business continuity.

## APPENDIX 2 TO THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

### **Administrative support to AEWA**

Thank you Mr. Chair,

Since we are talking about administrative matters, UNEP would like to provide additional information related to these matters.

Since 1 June 2015, UNEP, including the MEAs for which it provides secretariat functions, has been operating with the support of the new enterprise resource planning system “Umoja”. As mentioned by the Executive Officer, Umoja has facilitated automation, which has had a positive impact on workflows and reporting. The introduction of Umoja has necessitated certain changes in processes and procedures, particularly with respect to procurement and travel.

With regard to Resolution 5.21, and the Parties request for UNEP to consider the feasibility of providing gratis personnel, UNEP has listed 4 Junior Professional Officers, and we note with pleasure the German Minister’s confirmation that Germany will sponsor one JPO for CMS and AEWA.

As already mentioned by the Executive Officer, the two AEWA trust funds continue to be administered by the Executive Director of UNEP and UNEA has approved the extension of the trust funds to 31 December 2017 by resolution 1/16 on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions, adopted by the UNEA at its first session.

In the last few months since the deployment of Umoja, there have been a number of challenges, primarily at operational levels. UNEP has been working with UNON and Department of Management in New York to expedite lasting solutions. These include the establishment of the Umoja Competence Centre, to log, track and resolve issues. Additionally, UN Department of Management (NY) has also established an Umoja Post-Implementation Review Task Force. The goal of the Task Force is to promptly address outstanding issues and to ensure business continuity.

I would also like to take the opportunity to remind Parties that the salary scales for UN staff are determined by the Secretary – General in UN Regulations and Rules.

Thank you Mr. Chair.

## APPENDIX 3 TO THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

### **UNEP intervention on the Admin and budgetary committee:**

Mr. Chair.

I am taking the floor on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP. I would like to request that this intervention be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

The Executive Officer of AEWA has reiterated again this morning in his housekeeping announcement that UNEP will be invited in the Administrative and budgetary committee only for the financial aspects of the discussion.

This is unacceptable to UNEP and I want to reiterate again that UNEP, as the Secretariat of the Convention, must be privy to the discussions taking place regarding all administrative aspects of the convention.

In line with MOP decision 1.1, The Executive Director of UNEP is accountable to the Parties for the administration of the convention, including the Human resources, procurement and finance aspects, and any attempt to limit UNEP's interactions in the working group to finance only is unconscionable.

Administration of the AEWA Secretariat must be in line with UN Regulations and Rules and UNEP must therefore participate fully in the working group to advise on those Regulations and Rules, to ensure that Parties' decisions do not result in contravention of the same.

We have experienced in the past cases where Parties to a UNEP-administered Conventions have taken decisions in the absence of UNEP that have had serious consequences for UNEP and ended up costing serious amounts of money to the organization. We would not want to see such a precedent be repeated in the future.

The Executive Director of UNEP has been requested by the Parties to provide a secretariat and he remains accountable for it. In order to discharge the duties and responsibilities assigned to UNEP, the Executive Director has recruited and appointed dedicated staff members that perform the relevant secretariat functions.

We would like to remind you that in accordance with the Parties decision 1.1, UNEP provides the Secretariat of the Convention and that the convention staff have UNEP contracts, and that the AEWA Executive Officer is accountable to the UNEP Executive Director for financial and administrative matters with respect to the operations of the Secretariat and is recruited by UNEP according to UN Rules and Regulations.

In that regard, any administrative decisions made by the AEWA Executive Officer are by virtue of authority delegated to him by the Executive Director.

On the other hand, UNEP of course recognizes that all technical, programmatic and substantive matters related to the convention are in the full powers of the Parties and that UNEP would not get involved in those aspects, should the Parties decide to follow that path.

Mr. Chair, I would like to reiterate that UNEP is providing the secretariat to the convention. UNEP is therefore accountable and will discharge its duties and responsibilities accordingly.

Thank you Mr. Chair.

ANNEX 1

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY MOP6



## 6<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

9-14 November 2015, Bonn, Germany

*“Making flyway conservation happen”*

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### RESOLUTION 6.1

#### ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE AEWA ANNEXES

*Recalling* Article X of the Agreement concerning the procedures for amendments to the Agreement and its annexes,

*Further recalling* Resolution 4.11 which, *inter alia*, requested the Technical Committee to review taxonomic classifications of birds and suggest the most appropriate classification for the purposes of the Agreement, including application to Annex 2,

*Recognising* the work of the Technical Committee and the Secretariat over the past two triennia to address this request and their involvement and input into the work of the CMS Scientific Council Intersessional Working Group on Bird Taxonomy and Nomenclature from 2009 to 2011 and the Ad Hoc Meeting on Harmonisation of Bird Taxonomy which was convened by the Chair of the CMS Scientific Council in Formia, Italy on 8 October 2013,

*Noting* the CMS Resolution 11.19 on the Taxonomy and Nomenclature of Birds Listed on the CMS Appendices adopted by COP11 (4-9 November 2014, Quito, Ecuador),

*Taking into account* the recommendation of the Technical Committee, provided at its 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting on 3-6 March 2015 in Bonn, Germany, on the most appropriate classification for the purposes of the Agreement,

*Taking into account* the findings of the sixth edition of the Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds in the Agreement Area (document AEWA/MOP 6.14),

*Acknowledging* the proposals for amendments to Annex 2 and Annex 3 (Table 1) submitted by the Government of Norway and the comments received from Contracting Parties concerning these proposals, all of which are presented in the document AEWA/MOP 6.22,

*Acknowledging* the recent global Red Listing of the Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*), Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*), Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*), Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*), Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*), Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*), Armenian Gull (*Larus armenicus*), Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) and Razorbill (*Alca torda*), and *noting* the importance of considering the implications of these changes in listings for MOP7.

*The Meeting of the Parties:*

1. *Adopts* the reference recommended by the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Technical Committee as the AEWA standard reference for waterbird species taxonomy and nomenclature:

Handbook of the Birds of the World/BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World, Volume 1: Non-passerines, by Josep del Hoyo, Nigel J. Collar, David A. Christie, Andrew Elliot and Lincoln D.C. Fishpool (2014);

2. *Decides* to amend the list of waterbird species to which the Agreement applies in Annex 2 to the Agreement, as presented in Appendix I to this Resolution, following the adoption of the new standard reference for waterbird species taxonomy and nomenclature;
3. *Decides* to amend Annex 3 to the Agreement by replacing the current Table 1 of the Action Plan and the associated explanatory text with the Table and explanatory text set out in Appendix II to this Resolution;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat and the Depositary to incorporate all approved amendments into Annexes 2 and 3 to the Agreement and to update and disseminate the revised English and French language (online and hard copy) versions in a timely manner and *encourages* the Secretariat and the Depositary to have the Arabic and Russian language versions revised, according to resources available;
5. *Requests* the Technical Committee to monitor the changes in the waterbird species taxonomy and nomenclature to be reflected in the adopted AEWA standard taxonomic and nomenclature reference and to advise on the updates of Annex 2 to the Agreement, when appropriate.

## Annex 2

### Waterbird species to which the Agreement applies

#### Family ANATIDAE (ducks, geese, swans)

<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	White-faced Whistling-duck
<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>	Fulvous Whistling-duck
<i>Thalassornis leuconotus</i>	White-backed Duck
<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>	Maccoa Duck
<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	White-headed Duck
<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Mute Swan
<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Whooper Swan
<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	Tundra Swan
<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Brent Goose
<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Barnacle Goose
<i>Branta ruficollis</i>	Red-breasted Goose
<i>Anser anser</i>	Greylag Goose
<i>Anser fabalis</i>	Bean Goose
<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Pink-footed Goose
<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Greater White-fronted Goose
<i>Anser erythropus</i>	Lesser White-fronted Goose
<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Long-tailed Duck
<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	King Eider
<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Common Eider
<i>Polysticta stelleri</i>	Steller's Eider
<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	Velvet Scoter
<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Common Scoter
<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Common Goldeneye
<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	Smew
<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Goosander
<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Red-breasted Merganser
<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	Egyptian Goose
<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Common Shelduck
<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Ruddy Shelduck
<i>Tadorna cana</i>	South African Shelduck
<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>	Spur-winged Goose
<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	African Comb Duck
<i>Nettapus auritus</i>	African Pygmy-goose
<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	Marbled Teal
<i>Netta rufina</i>	Red-crested Pochard
<i>Netta erythrophthalma</i>	Southern Pochard
<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Common Pochard
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Ferruginous Pochard
<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Tufted Duck
<i>Aythya marila</i>	Greater Scaup
<i>Spatula querquedula</i>	Garganey
<i>Spatula hottentota</i>	Hottentot Teal
<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	Northern Shoveler
<i>Mareca strepera</i>	Gadwall
<i>Mareca penelope</i>	Eurasian Wigeon
<i>Anas undulata</i>	Yellow-billed Duck
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard
<i>Anas capensis</i>	Cape Teal
<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>	Red-billed Teal
<i>Anas acuta</i>	Northern Pintail
<i>Anas crecca</i>	Common Teal

**Family PODICIPEDIDAE (grebes)**

<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Little Grebe
<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	Red-necked Grebe
<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Great Crested Grebe
<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	Horned Grebe
<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Black-necked Grebe

**Family PHOENICOPTERIDAE (flamingos)**

<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	Greater Flamingo
<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>	Lesser Flamingo

**Family PHAETHONTIDAE (tropicbirds)**

<i>Phaethon aetheras</i>	Red-billed Tropicbird
<i>Phaethon rubricauda</i>	Red-tailed Tropicbird
<i>Phaethon lepturus</i>	White-tailed Tropicbird

**Family RALLIDAE (rails, gallinules, coots)**

<i>Sarothrura elegans</i>	Buff-spotted Flufftail
<i>Sarothrura boehmi</i>	Streaky-breasted Flufftail
<i>Sarothrura ayresi</i>	White-winged Flufftail
<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	Western Water Rail
<i>Rallus caerulescens</i>	African Rail
<i>Crex egregia</i>	African Crake
<i>Crex crex</i>	Corncrake
<i>Porzana porzana</i>	Spotted Crake
<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>	Black Crake
<i>Zapornia parva</i>	Little Crake
<i>Zapornia pusilla</i>	Baillon's Crake
<i>Amaurornis marginalis</i>	Striped Crake
<i>Porphyrio alleni</i>	Allen's Gallinule
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Common Moorhen
<i>Gallinula angulata</i>	Lesser Moorhen
<i>Fulica cristata</i>	Red-knobbed Coot
<i>Fulica atra</i>	Common Coot

**Family GRUIDAE (cranes)**

<i>Balearica regulorum</i>	Grey Crowned-crane
<i>Balearica pavonina</i>	Black Crowned-crane
<i>Leucogeranus leucogeranus</i>	Siberian Crane
<i>Buggeranus carunculatus</i>	Wattled Crane
<i>Anthropoides paradiseus</i>	Blue Crane
<i>Anthropoides virgo</i>	Demoiselle Crane
<i>Grus grus</i>	Common Crane

**Family GAVIIDAE (loons / divers)**

<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Red-throated Loon
<i>Gavia arctica</i>	Black-throated Loon
<i>Gavia immer</i>	Common Loon
<i>Gavia adamsii</i>	Yellow-billed Loon

**Family SPHENISCIDAE (penguins)**

*Spheniscus demersus* African Penguin

**Family CICONIIDAE (storks)**

*Leptoptilos crumenifer* Marabou  
*Mycteria ibis* Yellow-billed Stork  
*Anastomus lamelligerus* African Openbill  
*Ciconia nigra* Black Stork  
*Ciconia abdimii* Abdim's Stork  
*Ciconia microscelis* African Woollyneck  
*Ciconia ciconia* White Stork

**Family THRESKIORNITHIDAE (ibises, spoonbills)**

*Platalea alba* African Spoonbill  
*Platalea leucorodia* Eurasian Spoonbill  
*Threskiornis aethiopicus* African Sacred Ibis  
*Geronticus eremita* Northern Bald Ibis  
*Plegadis falcinellus* Glossy Ibis

**Family ARDEIDAE (herons)**

*Botaurus stellaris* Eurasian Bittern  
*Ixobrychus minutus* Common Little Bittern  
*Ixobrychus sturmii* Dwarf Bittern  
*Nycticorax nycticorax* Black-crowned Night-heron  
*Ardeola ralloides* Squacco Heron  
*Ardeola idae* Madagascar Pond-heron  
*Ardeola rufiventris* Rufous-bellied Heron  
*Bubulcus ibis* Cattle Egret  
*Ardea cinerea* Grey Heron  
*Ardea melanocephala* Black-headed Heron  
*Ardea purpurea* Purple Heron  
*Ardea alba* Great White Egret  
*Ardea brachyrhyncha* Yellow-billed Egret  
*Egretta ardesiaca* Black Heron  
*Egretta vinaceigula* Slaty Egret  
*Egretta garzetta* Little Egret  
*Egretta gularis* Western Reef-egret

**Family BALAENICIPITIDAE (shoebill)**

*Balaeniceps rex* Shoebill

**Family PELECANIDAE (pelicans)**

*Pelecanus crispus* Dalmatian Pelican  
*Pelecanus rufescens* Pink-backed Pelican  
*Pelecanus onocrotalus* Great White Pelican

**Family FREGATIDAE (frigatebirds)**

*Fregata ariel* Lesser Frigatebird  
*Fregata minor* Great Frigatebird

**Family SULIDAE (gannets, boobies)**

<i>Morus bassanus</i>	Northern Gannet
<i>Morus capensis</i>	Cape Gannet
<i>Sula dactylatra</i>	Masked Booby

**Family PHALACROCORACIDAE (cormorants)**

<i>Microcarbo coronatus</i>	Crowned Cormorant
<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>	Pygmy Cormorant
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Great Cormorant
<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>	Cape Cormorant
<i>Phalacrocorax nigrogularis</i>	Socotra Cormorant
<i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i>	Bank Cormorant

**Family BURHINIDAE (thick-knees)**

<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>	Senegal Thick-knee
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**Family PLUVIANIDAE (Egyptian plover)**

<i>Pluvianus aegyptius</i>	Egyptian Plover
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**Family HAEMATOPODIDAE (oystercatchers)**

<i>Haematopus moquini</i>	African Oystercatcher
<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Eurasian Oystercatcher

**Family RECURVIROSTRIDAE (avocets, stilts)**

<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	Pied Avocet
<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Black-winged Stilt

**Family CHARADRIIDAE (plovers)**

<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Grey Plover
<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Eurasian Golden Plover
<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	Pacific Golden Plover
<i>Eudromias morinellus</i>	Eurasian Dotterel
<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Common Ringed Plover
<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Little Ringed Plover
<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>	Kittlitz's Plover
<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>	African Three-banded Plover
<i>Charadrius forbesi</i>	Forbes's Plover
<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>	White-fronted Plover
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Kentish Plover
<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>	Chestnut-banded Plover
<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	Lesser Sandplover
<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	Greater Sandplover
<i>Charadrius asiaticus</i>	Caspian Plover
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Northern Lapwing
<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	Spur-winged Lapwing
<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>	White-headed Lapwing
<i>Vanellus lugubris</i>	Senegal Lapwing
<i>Vanellus melanopterus</i>	Black-winged Lapwing
<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>	Crowned Lapwing
<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>	Wattled Lapwing
<i>Vanellus superciliosus</i>	Brown-chested Lapwing
<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>	Sociable Lapwing

*Vanellus leucurus* White-tailed Lapwing

**Family SCOLOPACIDAE (sandpipers, snipes, phalaropes)**

<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Whimbrel
<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>	Slender-billed Curlew
<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Eurasian Curlew
<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Bar-tailed Godwit
<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Black-tailed Godwit
<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Ruddy Turnstone
<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	Great Knot
<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Red Knot
<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	Ruff
<i>Calidris falcinellus</i>	Broad-billed Sandpiper
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	Temminck's Stint
<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling
<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Dunlin
<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Purple Sandpiper
<i>Calidris minuta</i>	Little Stint
<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Eurasian Woodcock
<i>Gallinago stenura</i>	Pintail Snipe
<i>Gallinago media</i>	Great Snipe
<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Common Snipe
<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	Jack Snipe
<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Red-necked Phalarope
<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Red Phalarope
<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	Terek Sandpiper
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper
<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Green Sandpiper
<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	Spotted Redshank
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Common Greenshank
<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Common Redshank
<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Wood Sandpiper
<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	Marsh Sandpiper

**Family DROMADIDAE (crab-plover)**

*Dromas ardeola* Crab-plover

**Family GLAREOLIDAE (coursers, pratincoles)**

<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	Collared Pratincole
<i>Glareola nordmanni</i>	Black-winged Pratincole
<i>Glareola ocularis</i>	Madagascar Pratincole
<i>Glareola nuchalis</i>	Rock Pratincole
<i>Glareola cinerea</i>	Grey Pratincole

**Family LARIDAE (gulls, terns, skimmers)**

<i>Anous stolidus</i>	Brown Noddy
<i>Anous tenuirostris</i>	Lesser Noddy
<i>Rynchops flavirostris</i>	African Skimmer
<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	Little Gull
<i>Xema sabini</i>	Sabine's Gull
<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Black-legged Kittiwake
<i>Larus genei</i>	Slender-billed Gull
<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Black-headed Gull
<i>Larus hartlaubii</i>	Hartlaub's Gull

<i>Larus cirrocephalus</i>	Grey-headed Gull
<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>	Pallas's Gull
<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	Mediterranean Gull
<i>Larus hemprichii</i>	Sooty Gull
<i>Larus leucophthalmus</i>	White-eyed Gull
<i>Larus audouinii</i>	Audouin's Gull
<i>Larus canus</i>	Mew Gull
<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	Kelp Gull
<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Lesser Black-backed Gull
<i>Larus argentatus</i>	European Herring Gull
<i>Larus armenicus</i>	Armenian Gull
<i>Larus michahellis</i>	Yellow-legged Gull
<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	Caspian Gull
<i>Larus glaucoides</i>	Iceland Gull
<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Glaucous Gull
<i>Larus marinus</i>	Great Black-backed Gull
<i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i>	Sooty Tern
<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>	Bridled Tern
<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	Little Tern
<i>Sternula saundersi</i>	Saunders's Tern
<i>Sternula balaenarum</i>	Damara Tern
<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	Common Gull-billed Tern
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian Tern
<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	Whiskered Tern
<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	White-winged Tern
<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Black Tern
<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	Roseate Tern
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common Tern
<i>Sterna repressa</i>	White-cheeked Tern
<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Arctic Tern
<i>Sterna vittata</i>	Antarctic Tern
<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>	Lesser Crested Tern
<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	Sandwich Tern
<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	Royal Tern
<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	Greater Crested Tern

**Family STERCORARIIDAE (skuas)**

<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Long-tailed Jaeger
<i>Catharacta skua</i>	Great Skua

**Family ALCIDAE (auks)**

<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Atlantic Puffin
<i>Cepphus grylle</i>	Black Guillemot
<i>Alca torda</i>	Razorbill
<i>Alle alle</i>	Little Auk
<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Thick-billed Murre
<i>Uria aalge</i>	Common Murre

## Annex 3

Table 1 <sup>a/</sup>

### 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.
- 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 fulfil the conditions in respect of Category 1, 2 or 3, as described above, and which are pertinent for international action.

For species listed in Categories 2, 3 and 4 above, see paragraph 2.1.1 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, which do not fulfil the conditions in respect of Column A, 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.

#### 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.

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<sup>a/</sup>Table 1, "Status of the populations of migratory waterbirds" forms part of the Action Plan contained in Annex 3 to the Agreement.

## 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, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia.
West Africa	Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cabo 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, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania.
North-west Africa	Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia.
North-east Africa	Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, 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.
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 and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, The former Yugoslav Republic of 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 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, hunting may continue 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).

## 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 most recently published 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 categorisations, the obligations of the Action Plan relate to the strictest category listed.

Populations	A	B	C
<b>Family ANATIDAE (ducks, geese, swans)</b>			
<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i> (White-faced Whistling-duck)			
- West Africa (Senegal to Chad)			1
- Eastern & Southern Africa			1
<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i> (Fulvous Whistling-duck)			
- West Africa (Senegal to Chad)		1	
- Eastern & Southern Africa			(1)
<i>Thalassornis leuconotus leuconotus</i> (White-backed Duck)			
- West Africa	1c		
- Eastern & Southern Africa	2*		
<i>Oxyura maccoa</i> (Maccoa Duck)			
- Eastern Africa	1c		
- Southern Africa	1c		
<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i> (White-headed Duck)			
- West Mediterranean (Spain & Morocco)	1a 1b 1c		
- Algeria & Tunisia	1a 1b 1c		
- East Mediterranean, Turkey & South-west Asia	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Cygnus olor</i> (Mute Swan)			
- North-west Mainland & Central Europe			1
- Black Sea		1	
- West & Central Asia/Caspian		2a 2d	
<i>Cygnus cygnus</i> (Whooper Swan)			
- Iceland/UK & Ireland		1	
- North-west Mainland Europe		1	
- N Europe & W Siberia/Black Sea & E Mediterranean	2		
- West & Central Siberia/Caspian	2		
<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> (Tundra Swan, Bewick's Swan)			
- Western Siberia & NE Europe/North-west Europe	2		
- Northern Siberia/Caspian	1c		
<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> (Brent Goose, Dark-bellied Brent Goose)			
- Western Siberia/Western Europe		2b	
<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> (Brent Goose, Pale-bellied Brent Goose)			
- Svalbard/Denmark & UK	1c		
- Canada & Greenland/Ireland	3a		
<i>Branta leucopsis</i> (Barnacle Goose)			
- East Greenland/Scotland & Ireland		1	
- Svalbard/South-west Scotland	3a		
- Russia/Germany & Netherlands			1
<i>Branta ruficollis</i> (Red-breasted Goose)			
- Northern Siberia/Black Sea & Caspian	1a 1b 3a 3c		
<i>Anser anser anser</i> (Greylag Goose, Western Greylag Goose)			
- Iceland/UK & Ireland			1
- NW Europe/South-west Europe			1
- Central Europe/North Africa		1	
<i>Anser anser rubrirostris</i> (Greylag Goose, Eastern Greylag Goose)			
- Black Sea & Turkey		1	
- Western Siberia/Caspian & Iraq			1
<i>Anser fabalis fabalis</i> (Bean Goose, Taiga Bean Goose)			
- North-east Europe/North-west Europe	3c*		
<i>Anser fabalis johanseni</i> (Bean Goose)			
- West & Central Siberia/Turkmenistan to W China	1c		
<i>Anser fabalis rossicus</i> (Bean Goose, Tundra Bean Goose)			

Populations	A	B	C
- West & Central Siberia/NE & SW Europe			(1)
<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> (Pink-footed Goose)			
- East Greenland & Iceland/UK		2a	
- Svalbard/North-west Europe		1	
<i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i> (Greater White-fronted Goose, European White-fronted Goose)			
- NW Siberia & NE Europe/North-west Europe			1
- Western Siberia/Central Europe			1
- Western Siberia/Black Sea & Turkey			1
- Northern Siberia/Caspian & Iraq	2		
<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> (Greater White-fronted Goose, Greenland White-fronted Goose)			
- Greenland/Ireland & UK	2*		
<i>Anser erythropus</i> (Lesser White-fronted Goose)			
- NE Europe & W Siberia/Black Sea & Caspian	1a 1b 2		
- Fennoscandia	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Clangula hyemalis</i> (Long-tailed Duck)			
- Iceland & Greenland (bre) <sup>1</sup>	1b		
- Western Siberia/North Europe (bre)	1b		
<i>Somateria spectabilis</i> (King Eider)			
- East Greenland, NE Europe & Western Siberia			1
<i>Somateria mollissima mollissima</i> (Common Eider)			
- Baltic, Denmark & Netherlands		2c 2d	
- Norway & Russia			1
<i>Somateria mollissima borealis</i> (Common Eider)			
- Svalbard & Franz Joseph (bre)		1	
<i>Polysticta stelleri</i> (Steller's Eider)			
- Western Siberia/North-east Europe	1a 1b		
<i>Melanitta fusca</i> (Velvet Scoter)			
- Western Siberia & Northern Europe/NW Europe	1b		
- Black Sea & Caspian	1b 1c		
<i>Melanitta nigra</i> (Common Scoter)			
- W Siberia & N Europe/W Europe & NW Africa		2a	
<i>Bucephala clangula clangula</i> (Common Goldeneye)			
- 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> (Smew)			
- North-west & Central Europe (win)	3a		
- North-east Europe/Black Sea & East Mediterranean	2		
- Western Siberia/South-west Asia		1	
<i>Mergus merganser merganser</i> (Goosander)			
- North-west & Central Europe (win)			1
- North-east Europe/Black Sea	2		
- Western Siberia/Caspian	2		
<i>Mergus serrator</i> (Red-breasted Merganser)			
- North-west & Central Europe (win)	3c		
- North-east Europe/Black Sea & Mediterranean		1	
- Western Siberia/South-west & Central Asia	1c		
<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i> (Egyptian Goose)			
- West Africa	1c		

<sup>1</sup> There is significant overlap between populations in winter.

Populations	A	B	C
- Eastern & Southern Africa			1
<i>Tadorna tadorna</i> (Common Shelduck)			
- North-west Europe		2a	
- Black Sea & Mediterranean			1
- Western Asia/Caspian & Middle East	3c		
<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i> (Ruddy Shelduck)			
- North-west Africa	1c		
- East Mediterranean & Black Sea/North-east Africa	2		
- Western Asia & Caspian/Iran & Iraq	3c		
<i>Tadorna cana</i> (South African Shelduck)			
- Southern Africa	3c		
<i>Plectropterus gambensis gambensis</i> (Spur-winged Goose)			
- West Africa		1	
- Eastern Africa (Sudan to Zambia)			1
<i>Plectropterus gambensis niger</i> (Spur-winged Goose)			
- Southern Africa	3c		
<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i> (African Comb Duck)			
- West Africa	3c		
- Southern & Eastern Africa			1
<i>Nettapus auritus</i> (African Pygmy-goose)			
- West Africa	1c		
- Southern & Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i> (Marbled Teal)			
- West Mediterranean/West Medit. & West Africa	1a 1b 1c		
- East Mediterranean	1a 1b 1c		
- South-west Asia	1a 1b 3c		
<i>Netta rufina</i> (Red-crested Pochard)			
- South-west & Central Europe/West Mediterranean		1	
- Black Sea & East Mediterranean	3c		
- Western & Central Asia/South-west Asia		2c	
<i>Netta erythrophthalma brunnea</i> (Southern Pochard)			
- Southern & Eastern Africa	3c		
<i>Aythya ferina</i> (Common Pochard)			
- North-east Europe/North-west Europe		2c	
- Central & NE Europe/Black Sea & Mediterranean		2c	
- Western Siberia/South-west Asia		2c	
<i>Aythya nyroca</i> (Ferruginous Duck)			
- West Mediterranean/North & West Africa	1a 1c		
- Eastern Europe/E Mediterranean & Sahelian Africa	1a 4		
- Western Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa	1a 3c		
<i>Aythya fuligula</i> (Tufted Duck)			
- North-west Europe (win)			1
- Central Europe, Black Sea & Mediterranean (win)		2c	
- Western Siberia/SW Asia & NE Africa		2c	
<i>Aythya marila marila</i> (Greater Scaup)			
- Northern Europe/Western Europe		2c	
- Western Siberia/Black Sea & Caspian			1
<i>Spatula querquedula</i> (Garganey)			
- Western Siberia & Europe/West Africa			1
- Western Siberia/SW Asia, NE & Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Spatula hottentota</i> (Hottentot Teal)			
- Lake Chad Basin	1c		
- Eastern Africa (south to N Zambia)		1	
- Southern Africa (north to S Zambia)		1	

Populations	A	B	C
<i>Spatula clypeata</i> (Northern Shoveler)			
- North-west & Central Europe (win)		1	
- W Siberia, NE & E Europe/S Europe & West Africa			1
- W Siberia/SW Asia, NE & Eastern Africa		2c	
<i>Mareca strepera strepera</i> (Gadwall)			
- North-west Europe			1
- North-east Europe/Black Sea & Mediterranean			1
- Western Siberia/SW Asia & NE Africa		(2c)	
<i>Mareca penelope</i> (Eurasian Wigeon)			
- Western Siberia & NE Europe/NW Europe			1
- W Siberia & NE Europe/Black Sea & Mediterranean			1
- Western Siberia/SW Asia & NE Africa		2c	
<i>Anas undulata undulata</i> (Yellow-billed Duck)			
- Southern Africa			1
<i>Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos</i> (Mallard)			
- North-west Europe			1
- Northern Europe/West Mediterranean			1
- Eastern Europe/Black Sea & East Mediterranean		2c	
- Western Siberia/South-west Asia		2c	
<i>Anas capensis</i> (Cape Teal)			
- Eastern Africa (Rift Valley)	1c		
- Lake Chad basin <sup>2</sup>	1c		
- Southern Africa (N to Angola & Zambia)		1	
<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i> (Red-billed Teal)			
- Southern Africa			1
- Eastern Africa			1
- Madagascar	2		
<i>Anas acuta</i> (Northern Pintail)			
- North-west Europe		1	
- W Siberia, NE & E Europe/S Europe & West Africa			1
- Western Siberia/SW Asia & Eastern Africa		2c	
<i>Anas crecca crecca</i> (Common Teal)			
- North-west Europe			1
- W Siberia & NE Europe/Black Sea & Mediterranean			1
- Western Siberia/SW Asia & NE Africa		2c	
<b>Family PODICIPEDIDAE (grebes)</b>			
<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis ruficollis</i> (Little Grebe)			
- Europe & North-west Africa			1
<i>Podiceps grisegena grisegena</i> (Red-necked Grebe)			
- North-west Europe (win)		1	
- Black Sea & Mediterranean (win)	3c		
- Caspian (win)	2		
<i>Podiceps cristatus cristatus</i> (Great Crested Grebe, Eurasian Crested Grebe)			
- North-west & Western Europe			1
- Black Sea & Mediterranean (win)			1
- Caspian & South-west Asia (win)	3c		
<i>Podiceps cristatus infuscatus</i> (Great Crested Grebe, African Crested Grebe)			
- Eastern Africa (Ethiopia to N Zambia)	1c		
- Southern Africa	1c		
<i>Podiceps auritus auritus</i> (Horned Grebe)			
- North-west Europe (large-billed)	1c		

<b>Populations</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
- North-east Europe (small-billed)	2		
- Caspian & South Asia (win)	1c		
<i>Podiceps nigricollis nigricollis</i> (Black-necked Grebe)			
- Europe/South & West Europe & North Africa			1
- Western Asia/South-west & South Asia		1	
<i>Podiceps nigricollis gurneyi</i> (Black-necked Grebe)			
- Southern Africa	2		
<b>Family PHOENICOPTERIDAE (flamingos)</b>			
<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i> (Greater Flamingo)			
- West Africa	3a		
- Eastern Africa	3a		
- Southern Africa (to Madagascar)		2a	
- West Mediterranean		2a	
- East Mediterranean		2a	
- South-west & South Asia		2a	
<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i> (Lesser Flamingo)			
- West Africa	2		
- Eastern Africa	4		
- Southern Africa (to Madagascar)	3a		
<b>Family PHAETHONTIDAE (tropicbirds)</b>			
<i>Phaethon aetherus aetherus</i> (Red-billed Tropicbird)			
- South Atlantic	1c		
<i>Phaethon aetherus indicus</i> (Red-billed Tropicbird)			
- Persian Gulf, Gulf of Aden, Red Sea	1c		
<i>Phaethon rubricauda rubricauda</i> (Red-tailed Tropicbird)			
- Indian Ocean		1	
<i>Phaethon lepturus lepturus</i> (White-tailed Tropicbird)			
- W Indian Ocean		1	
<b>Family RALLIDAE (rails, gallinules, coots)</b>			
<i>Sarothrura elegans reichenovi</i> (Buff-spotted Flufftail)			
- S West Africa to Central Africa			(1)
<i>Sarothrura elegans elegans</i> (Buff-spotted Flufftail)			
- NE, Eastern & Southern Africa			(1)
<i>Sarothrura boehmi</i> (Streaky-breasted Flufftail)			
- Central Africa	1c		
<i>Sarothrura ayresi</i> (White-winged Flufftail)			
- Ethiopia	1a 1b 1c		
- Southern Africa	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Rallus aquaticus aquaticus</i> (Western Water Rail)			
- Europe & North Africa		2c	
<i>Rallus aquaticus korejewi</i> (Western Water Rail)			
- Western Siberia/South-west Asia			(1)
<i>Rallus caerulescens</i> (African Rail)			
- Southern & Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Crex egregia</i> (African Crake)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa			(1)
<i>Crex crex</i> (Corncrake)			
- Europe & Western Asia/Sub-Saharan Africa			1
<i>Porzana porzana</i> (Spotted Crake)			
- Europe/Africa		2d	
<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i> (Black Crake)			

<b>Populations</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
- Sub-Saharan Africa			1
<i>Zapornia parva</i> (Little Crane)			
- Western Eurasia/Africa		2c	
<i>Zapornia pusilla intermedia</i> (Baillon's Crane)			
- Europe (bre)	1c		
<i>Amaurornis marginalis</i> (Striped Crane)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa	(2)		
<i>Porphyrio alleni</i> (Allen's Gallinule)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa			(1)
<i>Gallinula chloropus chloropus</i> (Common Moorhen)			
- Europe & North Africa			1
- West & South-west Asia			(1)
<i>Gallinula angulata</i> (Lesser Moorhen)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa			(1)
<i>Fulica cristata</i> (Red-knobbed Coot)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa			1
- Spain & Morocco	1c		
<i>Fulica atra atra</i> (Common Coot)			
- North-west Europe (win)		2c	
- Black Sea & Mediterranean (win)			1
- South-west Asia (win)			(1)
<b>Family GRUIDAE (cranes)</b>			
<i>Balearica regulorum regulorum</i> (Grey Crowned-crane, South African Crowned-crane )			
- Southern Africa (N to Angola & S Zimbabwe)	1b 1c		
<i>Balearica regulorum gibbericeps</i> (Grey Crowned-crane, East African Crowned-crane )			
- Eastern Africa (Kenya to Mozambique)	1b 3c		
<i>Balearica pavonina pavonina</i> (Black Crowned-crane, West African Crowned-crane )			
- West Africa (Senegal to Chad)	1b 1c		
<i>Balearica pavonina ceciliae</i> (Black Crowned-crane, Sudan Crowned-crane)			
- Eastern Africa (Sudan to Uganda)	1b 3c		
<i>Leucogeranus leucogeranus</i> (Siberian Crane)			
- Iran (win)	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Bugeranus carunculatus</i> (Wattled Crane)			
- Central & Southern Africa	1b 1c		
<i>Anthropoides paradiseus</i> (Blue Crane)			
- Extreme Southern Africa	1b 3c		
<i>Anthropoides virgo</i> (Demoiselle Crane)			
- Black Sea (Ukraine)/North-east Africa	1c		
- Turkey (bre)	1c		
- Kalmykia/North-east Africa		1	
<i>Grus grus grus</i> (Common Crane)			
- North-west Europe/Iberia & Morocco			1
- North-east & Central Europe/North Africa			1
- Eastern Europe/Turkey, Middle East & NE Africa			1
- Western Siberia/South Asia		(1)	
<i>Grus grus archibaldi</i> (Common Crane)			
- Turkey & Georgia (bre)	1c		

<b>Family GAVIIDAE (loons / divers)</b>			
<i>Gavia stellata</i> (Red-throated Loon)			
- North-west Europe (win)		2c	
- Caspian, Black Sea & East Mediterranean (win)	1c		
<i>Gavia arctica arctica</i> (Arctic Loon)			
- Northern Europe & Western Siberia/Europe		2c	
- Central Siberia/Caspian	1c		
<i>Gavia immer</i> (Common Loon)			
- Europe (win)	1c		
<i>Gavia adamsii</i> (Yellow-billed Loon)			
- Northern Europe (win)	1c		
<b>Family SPHENISCIDAE (penguins)</b>			
<i>Spheniscus demersus</i> (African Penguin)			
- Southern Africa	1b		
<b>Family CICONIIDAE (storks)</b>			
<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i> (Marabou)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa			1
<i>Mycteria ibis</i> (Yellow-billed Stork)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa (excluding Madagascar)			1
<i>Anastomus lamelligerus lamelligerus</i> (African Openbill)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa			1
<i>Ciconia nigra</i> (Black Stork)			
- Southern Africa	1c		
- South-west Europe/West Africa	1c		
- Central & Eastern Europe/Sub-Saharan Africa		1	
<i>Ciconia abdimii</i> (Abdim's Stork)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa & SW Arabia		(2c)	
<i>Ciconia microscelis</i> (African Woollyneck)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa		(1)	
<i>Ciconia ciconia ciconia</i> (White Stork)			
- Southern Africa	1c		
- W Europe & North-west Africa/Sub-Saharan Africa		2b	
- Central & Eastern Europe/Sub-Saharan Africa			1
- Western Asia/South-west Asia	3c		
<b>Family THRESKIORNITHIDAE (ibises, spoonbills)</b>			
<i>Platalea alba</i> (African Spoonbill)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa		1	
<i>Platalea leucorodia leucorodia</i> (Eurasian Spoonbill)			
- West Europe/West Mediterranean & West Africa	2		
- C & SE Europe/Mediterranean & Tropical Africa	2		
- Western Asia/South-west & South Asia	2		
<i>Platalea leucorodia balsaci</i> (Eurasian Spoonbill)			
- Coastal West Africa (Mauritania)	1c		
<i>Platalea leucorodia archeri</i> (Eurasian Spoonbill)			
- Red Sea & Somalia	1c		
<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i> (African Sacred Ibis)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa			1
- Iraq & Iran	1c		
<i>Geronticus eremita</i> (Northern Bald Ibis)			
- Morocco	1a 1b 1c		
- South-west Asia	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> (Glossy Ibis)			

- Sub-Saharan Africa (bre)		1	
- Black Sea & Mediterranean/West Africa	3c		
- South-west Asia/Eastern Africa		(1)	
<b>Family ARDEIDAE (herons)</b>			
<i>Botaurus stellaris stellaris</i> (Eurasian Bittern)			
- 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> (Eurasian Bittern)			
- Southern Africa	1c		
<i>Ixobrychus minutus minutus</i> (Common Little Bittern)			
- W Europe, NW Africa/Subsaharan Africa	2		
- C & E Europe, Black Sea & E Mediterranean/Sub-saharan Africa		2c	
- West & South-west Asia/Sub-Saharan Africa		(1)	
<i>Ixobrychus minutus payesii</i> (Common Little Bittern)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa		(1)	
<i>Ixobrychus sturmii</i> (Dwarf Bittern)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa		(1)	
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax</i> (Black-crowned Night-heron)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa & Madagascar			1
- W Europe, NW Africa (bre)	3c		
- C & E Europe/Black Sea & E Mediterranean (bre)			1
- Western Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa		(1)	
<i>Ardeola ralloides ralloides</i> (Squacco Heron)			
- SW Europe, NW Africa (bre)	1c		
- C & E Europe, Black Sea & E Mediterranean (bre)	3c		
- West & South-west Asia/Sub-Saharan Africa		(1)	
<i>Ardeola ralloides paludivaga</i> (Squacco Heron)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa & Madagascar			(1)
<i>Ardeola idae</i> (Madagascar Pond-heron)			
- Madagascar & Aldabra/Central & Eastern Africa	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Ardeola rufiventris</i> (Rufous-bellied Heron)			
- Central, Eastern & Southern Africa		(1)	
<i>Bubulcus ibis ibis</i> (Cattle Egret)			
- Southern Africa			1
- Tropical Africa			1
- South-west Europe			1
- North-west Africa			1
- East Mediterranean & South-west Asia		1	
<i>Ardea cinerea cinerea</i> (Grey Heron)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa			1
- Northern & Western Europe			1
- Central & Eastern Europe			1
- West & South-west Asia (bre)		(1)	
<i>Ardea melanocephala</i> (Black-headed Heron)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa			(1)
<i>Ardea purpurea purpurea</i> (Purple Heron)			
- Tropical Africa		1	
- West Europe & West Mediterranean/West Africa	3c		
- East Europe, Black Sea & Mediterranean/Sub-Saharan Africa		(2c)	
<i>Ardea alba alba</i> (Great White Egret, Western Great Egret)			
- W, C & SE Europe/Black Sea & Mediterranean		1	
- Western Asia/South-west Asia	3c		

<i>Ardea alba melanorhynchos</i> (Great White Egret, African Great Egret)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa & Madagascar			(1)
<i>Ardea brachyrhyncha</i> (Yellow-billed Egret)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa		1	
<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i> (Black Heron)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa		1	
<i>Egretta vinaceigula</i> (Slaty Egret)			
- Central Southern Africa	1b 1c		
<i>Egretta garzetta garzetta</i> (Little Egret)			
- 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> (Western Reef-egret)			
- West Africa	2		
<i>Egretta gularis schistacea</i> (Western Reef-egret)			
- North-east Africa & Red Sea	2		
- South-west Asia & South Asia	2		
<i>Egretta gularis dimorpha</i> (Western Reef-egret)			
- Coastal Eastern Africa	2		
<b>Family BALAENICIPITIDAE (shoebill)</b>			
<i>Balaeniceps rex</i> (Shoebill)			
- Central Tropical Africa	1b 1c		
<b>Family PELECANIDAE (pelicans)</b>			
<i>Pelecanus crispus</i> (Dalmatian Pelican)			
- Black Sea & Mediterranean (win)	1a 1b 1c		
- South-west Asia & South Asia (win)	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i> (Pink-backed Pelican)			
- Tropical Africa & SW Arabia		1	
<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i> (Great White Pelican)			
- Southern Africa		1	
- West Africa		1	
- Eastern Africa		2c	
- Europe & Western Asia (bre)	1a 3c		
<b>Family FREGATIDAE (frigatebirds)</b>			
<i>Fregata ariel iredalei</i> (Lesser Frigatebird)			
- W Indian Ocean	2		
<i>Fregata minor aldabrensis</i> (Great Frigatebird)			
- W Indian Ocean	2		
<b>Family SULIDAE (gannets, boobies)</b>			
<i>Morus bassanus</i> (Northern Gannet)			
- North Atlantic			1
<i>Morus capensis</i> (Cape Gannet)			
- Southern Africa	1b		
<i>Sula dactylatra melanops</i> (Masked Booby)			
- W Indian Ocean	3c		
<b>Family PHALACROCORACIDAE (cormorants)</b>			
<i>Microcarbo coronatus</i> (Crowned Cormorant)			
- Coastal South-west Africa	1c		

<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i> (Pygmy Cormorant)			
- Black Sea & Mediterranean		1	
- South-west Asia		1	
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo carbo</i> (Great Cormorant, Common Great Cormorant)			
- North-west Europe			1
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i> (Great Cormorant)			
- Northern & Central Europe			1
- Black Sea & Mediterranean			1
- West & South-west Asia			(1)
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo lucidus</i> (Great Cormorant, White-breasted Cormorant)			
- Coastal West Africa		1	
- Central & Eastern Africa			1
- Coastal Southern Africa	2		
<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i> (Cape Cormorant)			
- Coastal Southern Africa	1b		
<i>Phalacrocorax nigrogularis</i> (Socotra Cormorant)			
- Arabian Coast	1b		
- Gulf of Aden, Socotra, Arabian Sea	1b		
<i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i> (Bank Cormorant)			
- Coastal South-west Africa	1b 2		
<b>Family BURHINIDAE (thick-knees)</b>			
<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i> (Senegal Thick-knee)			
- West Africa		1	
- North-east & Eastern Africa		1	
<b>Family PLUVIANIDAE (Egyptian plover)</b>			
<i>Pluvianus aegyptius</i> (Egyptian Plover)			
- West Africa		(1)	
- Eastern Africa	1c		
- Lower Congo Basin	1c		
<b>Family HAEMATOPODIDAE (oystercatchers)</b>			
<i>Haematopus moquini</i> (African Oystercatcher)			
- Coastal Southern Africa	1c		
<i>Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus</i> (Eurasian Oystercatcher)			
- Europe/South & West Europe & NW Africa		2c	
<i>Haematopus ostralegus longipes</i> (Eurasian Oystercatcher)			
- SE Eur & W Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa		2c	
<b>Family RECURVIROSTRIDAE (avocets, stilts)</b>			
<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> (Pied Avocet)			
- Southern Africa	2		
- Eastern Africa		(1)	
- Western Europe & North-west Africa (bre)		1	
- South-east Europe, Black Sea & Turkey (bre)		1	
- West & South-west Asia/Eastern Africa	2		
<i>Himantopus himantopus himantopus</i> (Black-winged Stilt)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa (excluding south)			(1)
- Southern Africa	2		
- SW Europe & North-west Africa/West Africa			1
- Central Europe & E Mediterranean/N-Central Africa		1	
- W, C & SW Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa		(1)	

<b>Family CHARADRIIDAE (plovers)</b>			
<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (Grey Plover)			
- W Siberia & Canada/W Europe & W Africa			1
- C & E Siberia/SW Asia, Eastern & Southern Africa		1	
<i>Pluvialis apricaria apricaria</i> (Eurasian Golden Plover)			
- Britain, Ireland, Denmark, Germany & Baltic (bre)		2c	
<i>Pluvialis apricaria altifrons</i> (Eurasian Golden Plover)			
- Iceland & Faroes/East Atlantic coast			1
- Northern Europe/Western Europe & NW Africa			1
- Northern Siberia/Caspian & Asia Minor		(1)	
<i>Pluvialis fulva</i> (Pacific Golden Plover)			
- North-central Siberia/South & SW Asia, NE Africa		(1)	
<i>Eudromias morinellus</i> (Eurasian Dotterel)			
- Europe/North-west Africa	3c		
- Asia/Middle East		(1)	
<i>Charadrius hiaticula hiaticula</i> (Common Ringed Plover)			
- Northern Europe/Europe & North Africa		1	
<i>Charadrius hiaticula psammodytes</i> (Common Ringed Plover)			
- Canada, Greenland & Iceland/W & S Africa			(1)
<i>Charadrius hiaticula tundrae</i> (Common Ringed Plover)			
- NE Europe & Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa			(1)
<i>Charadrius dubius curonicus</i> (Little Ringed Plover)			
- Europe & North-west Africa/West Africa			1
- West & South-west Asia/Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i> (Kittlitz's Plover)			
- Southern & Eastern Africa			(1)
- West Africa		(1)	
<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i> (African Three-banded Plover)			
- Southern & Eastern Africa			1
<i>Charadrius forbesi</i> (Forbes's Plover)			
- Western & Central Africa	2		
<i>Charadrius marginatus hesperius</i> (White-fronted Plover)			
- West Africa	2		
<i>Charadrius marginatus mechowii</i> (White-fronted Plover)			
- Inland East & Central Africa	2		
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus</i> (Kentish Plover)			
- West Europe & West Mediterranean/West Africa		1	
- Black Sea & East Mediterranean/Eastern Sahel	3c		
- SW & Central Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa		(1)	
<i>Charadrius pallidus pallidus</i> (Chestnut-banded Plover)			
- Southern Africa	2		
<i>Charadrius pallidus venustus</i> (Chestnut-banded Plover)			
- Eastern Africa	1c		
<i>Charadrius mongolus pamirensis</i> (Lesser Sandplover)			
- West-central Asia/SW Asia & Eastern Africa			1
<i>Charadrius leschenaultii leschenaultii</i> (Greater Sandplover)			
- Central Asia/Eastern & Southern Africa		(1)	
<i>Charadrius leschenaultii columbinus</i> (Greater Sandplover)			
- Turkey & SW Asia/E. Mediterranean & Red Sea	1c		
<i>Charadrius leschenaultii scythicus</i> (Greater Sandplover)			
- Caspian & SW Asia/Arabia & NE Africa		(1)	
<i>Charadrius asiaticus</i> (Caspian Plover)			
- SE Europe & West Asia/E & Central Southern Africa	3c		
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i> (Northern Lapwing)			

- Europe, W Asia/Europe, N Africa & SW Asia			1
<i>Vanellus spinosus</i> (Spur-winged Lapwing)			
- Black Sea & Mediterranean (bre)		1	
<i>Vanellus albiceps</i> (White-headed Lapwing)			
- West & Central Africa		(1)	
<i>Vanellus lugubris</i> (Senegal Lapwing)			
- Southern West Africa	2		
- Central & Eastern Africa		1	
<i>Vanellus melanopterus minor</i> (Black-winged Lapwing)			
- Southern Africa	1c		
<i>Vanellus coronatus coronatus</i> (Crowned Lapwing)			
- Eastern & Southern Africa			1
- Central Africa	(1c)		
- South-west Africa		(1)	
<i>Vanellus senegallus senegallus</i> (Wattled Lapwing)			
- West Africa		(1)	
<i>Vanellus senegallus lateralis</i> (Wattled Lapwing)			
- Eastern & South-east Africa		1	
<i>Vanellus superciliosus</i> (Brown-chested Lapwing)			
- West & Central Africa	(1c)		
<i>Vanellus gregarius</i> (Sociable Lapwing)			
- SE Europe & Western Asia/North-east Africa	1a 1b 2		
- Central Asian Republics/NW India	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Vanellus leucurus</i> (White-tailed Lapwing)			
- SW Asia/SW Asia & North-east Africa	2		
- Central Asian Republics/South Asia		(1)	
<b>Family SCOLOPACIDAE (sandpipers, snipes, phalaropes)</b>			
<i>Numenius phaeopus phaeopus</i> (Whimbrel)			
- Northern Europe/West Africa			(1)
- West Siberia/Southern & Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Numenius phaeopus islandicus</i> (Whimbrel)			
- Iceland, Faroes & Scotland/West Africa			1
<i>Numenius phaeopus alboaxillaris</i> (Whimbrel)			
- South-west Asia/Eastern Africa	1c		
<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i> (Slender-billed Curlew)			
- Central Siberia/Mediterranean & SW Asia	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Numenius arquata arquata</i> (Eurasian Curlew)			
- Europe/Europe, North & West Africa	4		
<i>Numenius arquata suschkini</i> (Eurasian Curlew)			
- South-east Europe & South-west Asia (bre)	1c		
<i>Numenius arquata orientalis</i> (Eurasian Curlew)			
- Western Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa	3c		
<i>Limosa lapponica lapponica</i> (Bar-tailed Godwit)			
- Northern Europe/Western Europe		2a	
<i>Limosa lapponica taymyrensis</i> (Bar-tailed Godwit)			
- Western Siberia/West & South-west Africa		2a 2c	
- Central Siberia/South & SW Asia & Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Limosa limosa limosa</i> (Black-tailed Godwit)			
- Western Europe/NW & West Africa	4		
- Eastern Europe/Central & Eastern Africa	3c		
- West-central Asia/SW Asia & Eastern Africa	4		
<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> (Black-tailed Godwit)			
- Iceland/Western Europe	4		
<i>Arenaria interpres interpres</i> (Ruddy Turnstone)			

- 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> (Great Knot)			
- Eastern Siberia/SW Asia & W Southern Asia	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Calidris canutus canutus</i> (Red Knot)			
- Northern Siberia/West & Southern Africa		2a 2c	
<i>Calidris canutus islandica</i> (Red Knot)			
- NE Canada & Greenland/Western Europe		2a	
<i>Calidris pugnax</i> (Ruff)			
- Northern Europe & Western Siberia/West Africa		2c	
- Northern Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa			1
<i>Calidris falcinellus falcinellus</i> (Broad-billed Sandpiper)			
- Northern Europe/SW Asia & Africa		2c	
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i> (Curlew Sandpiper)			
- Western Siberia/West Africa		2c	
- Central Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa		2c	
<i>Calidris temminckii</i> (Temminck's Stint)			
- Fennoscandia/North & West Africa	3c		
- NE Europe & W Siberia/SW Asia & Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Calidris alba alba</i> (Sanderling)			
- East Atlantic Europe, West & Southern Africa (win)			1
- South-west Asia, Eastern & Southern Africa (win)			1
<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> (Dunlin)			
- NE Europe & NW Siberia/W Europe & NW Africa			1
<i>Calidris alpina arctica</i> (Dunlin)			
- NE Greenland/West Africa	3a		
<i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i> (Dunlin)			
- Iceland & Greenland/NW and West Africa			1
- Britain & Ireland/SW Europe & NW Africa		1	
- Baltic/SW Europe & NW Africa	1c		
<i>Calidris alpina centralis</i> (Dunlin)			
- Central Siberia/SW Asia & NE Africa			(1)
<i>Calidris maritima</i> (Purple Sandpiper)			
- N Europe & W Siberia (breeding)		1	
- NE Canada & N Greenland (breeding)	2		
<i>Calidris minuta</i> (Little Stint)			
- N Europe/S Europe, North & West Africa		(2c)	
- Western Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa			(1)
<i>Scolopax rusticola</i> (Eurasian Woodcock)			
- Europe/South & West Europe & North Africa			1
- Western Siberia/South-west Asia (Caspian)			(1)
<i>Gallinago stenura</i> (Pintail Snipe)			
- Northern Siberia/South Asia & Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Gallinago media</i> (Great Snipe)			
- Scandinavia/probably West Africa	2		
- Western Siberia & NE Europe/South-east Africa	4		
<i>Gallinago gallinago gallinago</i> (Common Snipe)			
- Europe/South & West Europe & NW Africa			1
- Western Siberia/South-west Asia & Africa			1
<i>Gallinago gallinago faeroensis</i> (Common Snipe)			
- Iceland, Faroes & Northern Scotland/Ireland			1
<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i> (Jack Snipe)			
- Northern Europe/S & W Europe & West Africa		2b	1
- Western Siberia/SW Asia & NE Africa			1

<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i> (Red-necked Phalarope)			
- Western Eurasia/Arabian Sea			1
<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i> (Red Phalarope)			
- Canada & Greenland/Atlantic coast of Africa		2c	
<i>Xenus cinereus</i> (Terek Sandpiper)			
- NE Europe & W Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa			1
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> (Common Sandpiper)			
- West & Central Europe/West Africa		2c	
- E Europe & W Siberia/Central, E & S Africa			(1)
<i>Tringa ochropus</i> (Green Sandpiper)			
- Northern Europe/S & W Europe, West Africa			1
- Western Siberia/SW Asia, NE & Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Tringa erythropus</i> (Spotted Redshank)			
- N Europe/Southern Europe, North & West Africa		(1)	
- Western Siberia/SW Asia, NE & Eastern Africa		(1)	
<i>Tringa nebularia</i> (Common Greenshank)			
- Northern Europe/SW Europe, NW & West Africa			1
- Western Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa			(1)
<i>Tringa totanus totanus</i> (Common Redshank)			
- Northern Europe (breeding)			1
- Central & East Europe (breeding)		2c	
<i>Tringa totanus totanus</i> (Common Redshank)			
- Britain & Ireland/Britain, Ireland, France	3c		
<i>Tringa totanus robusta</i> (Common Redshank)			
- Iceland & Faroes/Western Europe			1
<i>Tringa totanus ussuriensis</i> (Common Redshank)			
- Western Asia/SW Asia, NE & Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Tringa glareola</i> (Wood Sandpiper)			
- North-west Europe/West Africa			1
- NE Europe & W Siberia/Eastern & Southern Africa			(1)
<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i> (Marsh Sandpiper)			
- Eastern Europe/West & Central Africa		(1)	
- Western Asia/SW Asia, Eastern & Southern Africa	3c		
<b>Family DROMADIDAE (crab-plover)</b>			
<i>Dromas ardeola</i> (Crab-plover)			
- North-west Indian Ocean, Red Sea & Gulf		1	
<b>Family GLAREOLIDAE (coursers, pratincoles)</b>			
<i>Glareola pratincola pratincola</i> (Collared Pratincole)			
- Western Europe & NW Africa/West Africa		1	
- Black Sea & E Mediterranean/Eastern Sahel zone	2		
- SW Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa		(1)	
<i>Glareola nordmanni</i> (Black-winged Pratincole)			
- SE Europe & Western Asia/Southern Africa	4		
<i>Glareola ocularis</i> (Madagascar Pratincole)			
- Madagascar/East Africa	1b 1c		
<i>Glareola nuchalis nuchalis</i> (Rock Pratincole, White-collared Pratincole)			
- Eastern & Central Africa		(1)	
<i>Glareola nuchalis liberiae</i> (Rock Pratincole, Rufous-collared Pratincole)			
- West Africa			1
<i>Glareola cinerea</i> (Grey Pratincole)			
- SE West Africa & Central Africa	(2)		

<b>Family LARIDAE (gulls, terns, skimmers)</b>			
<i>Anous stolidus plumbeigularis</i> (Brown Noddy)			
- Red Sea & Gulf of Aden		1	
<i>Anous tenuirostris tenuirostris</i> (Lesser Noddy)			
- Indian Ocean Islands to E Africa			1
<i>Rynchops flavirostris</i> (African Skimmer)			
- Coastal West Africa & Central Africa	1c		
- Eastern & Southern Africa	1c		
<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i> (Little Gull)			
- Central & E Europe/SW Europe & W Mediterranean		1	
- W Asia/E Mediterranean, Black Sea & Caspian		(1)	
<i>Xema sabini sabini</i> (Sabine's Gull)			
- Canada & Greenland/SE Atlantic			(1)
<i>Rissa tridactyla tridactyla</i> (Black-legged Kittiwake)		2c	
<i>Larus genei</i> (Slender-billed Gull)			
- West Africa (bre)		1	
- Black Sea & Mediterranean (bre)		2a	
- West, South-west & South Asia (bre)			1
<i>Larus ridibundus</i> (Black-headed Gull)			
- W Europe/W Europe, W Mediterranean, West Africa		2c	
- East Europe/Black Sea & East Mediterranean			1
- West Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa			(1)
<i>Larus hartlaubii</i> (Hartlaub's Gull)			
- Coastal South-west Africa		1	
<i>Larus cirrocephalus poiocephalus</i> (Grey-headed Gull)			
- West Africa		(1)	
- Central, Eastern and Southern Africa			(1)
<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i> (Pallas's Gull)			
- Black Sea & Caspian/South-west Asia	3a		
<i>Larus melanocephalus</i> (Mediterranean Gull)			
- W Europe, Mediterranean & NW Africa		2a	
<i>Larus hemprichii</i> (Sooty Gull)			
- Red Sea, Gulf, Arabia & Eastern Africa			1
<i>Larus leucophthalmus</i> (White-eyed Gull)			
- Red Sea & nearby coasts	1a	1	
<i>Larus audouinii</i> (Audouin's Gull)			
- Mediterranean/N & W coasts of Africa	1a 3a		
<i>Larus canus canus</i> (Mew Gull)			
- NW & C Europe/Atlantic coast & Mediterranean			1
<i>Larus canus heinei</i> (Mew Gull)			
- NE Europe & Western Siberia/Black Sea & Caspian			1
<i>Larus dominicanus vetula</i> (Kelp Gull)			
- Coastal Southern Africa		1	
- Coastal West Africa	1c		
<i>Larus fuscus fuscus</i> (Lesser Black-backed Gull, Baltic Gull)			
- NE Europe/Black Sea, SW Asia & Eastern Africa	3c		
<i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i> (Lesser Black-backed Gull)			
- Western Europe/Mediterranean & West Africa			1
<i>Larus fuscus intermedius</i> (Lesser Black-backed Gull)			
- S Scandinavia, Netherlands, Ebro Delta, Spain			1
<i>Larus fuscus heuglini</i> (Lesser Black-backed Gull, Heuglin's Gull)			
- NE Europe & W Siberia/SW Asia & NE Africa			(1)
<i>Larus fuscus barabensis</i> (Lesser Black-backed Gull, Steppe Gull)			
- South-west Siberia/South-west Asia			(1)

<i>Larus argentatus argentatus</i> (European Herring Gull)			
- North & North-west Europe			1
<i>Larus argentatus argenteus</i> (European Herring Gull)			
- Iceland & Western Europe		2c	
<i>Larus armenicus</i> (Armenian Gull)			
- Armenia, Eastern Turkey & NW Iran	3a		
<i>Larus michahellis</i> (Yellow-legged Gull)			
- Mediterranean, Iberia & Morocco			1
<i>Larus cachinnans</i> (Caspian Gull)			
- Black Sea & Western Asia/SW Asia, NE Africa			1
<i>Larus glaucooides glaucooides</i> (Iceland Gull)			
- Greenland/Iceland & North-west Europe			1
<i>Larus hyperboreus hyperboreus</i> (Glaucous Gull)			
- Svalbard & N Russia (bre)			(1)
<i>Larus hyperboreus leucetetes</i> (Glaucous Gull)			
- Canada, Greenland & Iceland (bre)			(1)
<i>Larus marinus</i> (Great Black-backed Gull)			
- North & West Europe			1
<i>Onychoprion fuscata nubilosa</i> (Sooty Tern)			
- Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, E to Pacific		2a	
<i>Onychoprion anaethetus melanopterus</i> (Bridled Tern)			
- W Africa	1c		
<i>Onychoprion anaethetus antarcticus</i> (Bridled Tern)			
- Red Sea, E Africa, Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea to W India			1
- W Indian Ocean	2		
<i>Sternula albifrons albifrons</i> (Little Tern)			
- Europe north of Mediterranean (bre)	2		
- West Mediterranean/ W Africa (bre)	3b		
- Black Sea & East Mediterranean (bre)	3b 3c		
- Caspian (bre)	2		
<i>Sternula albifrons guineae</i> (Little Tern)			
- West Africa (bre)	1c		
<i>Sternula saundersi</i> (Saunders's Tern)			
- W South Asia, Red Sea, Gulf & Eastern Africa	2		
<i>Sternula balaenarum</i> (Damara Tern)			
- Namibia & South Africa/Atlantic coast to Ghana	1c		
<i>Gelochelidon nilotica nilotica</i> (Common Gull-billed Tern)			
- Western Europe/West Africa		1	
- Black Sea & East Mediterranean/Eastern Africa	3c		
- West & Central Asia/South-west Asia	2		
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i> (Caspian Tern)			
- Southern Africa (bre)	1c		
- West Africa (bre)		1	
- Baltic (bre)	1c		
- Black Sea (bre)	1c		
- Caspian (bre)	2		
<i>Chlidonias hybrida hybrida</i> (Whiskered Tern)			
- Western Europe & North-west Africa (bre)		1	
- Black Sea & East Mediterranean (bre)			(1)
- Caspian (bre)		(1)	
<i>Chlidonias hybrida delalandii</i> (Whiskered Tern)			
- Eastern Africa (Kenya & Tanzania)	2		
- Southern Africa (Malawi & Zambia to South Africa)	(2)		
<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i> (White-winged Tern)			
- Eastern Europe & Western Asia/Africa			(1)

<i>Chlidonias niger niger</i> (Black Tern)			
- Europe & Western Asia/Atlantic coast of Africa		2c	
<i>Sterna dougallii dougallii</i> (Roseate Tern)			
- Southern Africa	1c		
- East Africa	2		
- Europe (bre)	1c		
<i>Sterna dougallii arideensis</i> (Roseate Tern)			
- Madagascar, Seychelles & Mascarenes	2		
<i>Sterna dougallii bangsi</i> (Roseate Tern)			
- North Arabian Sea (Oman)	1c		
<i>Sterna hirundo hirundo</i> (Common Tern)			
- Southern & Western Europe (bre)			1
- Northern & Eastern Europe (bre)			1
- Western Asia (bre)			(1)
<i>Sterna repressa</i> (White-cheeked Tern)			
- W South Asia, Red Sea, Gulf & Eastern Africa			1
<i>Sterna paradisaea</i> (Arctic Tern)			
- Western Eurasia (bre)			1
<i>Sterna vittata vittata</i> (Antarctic Tern)			
- P.Edward, Marion, Crozet & Kerguelen/South Africa	1c		
<i>Sterna vittata tristanensis</i> (Antarctic Tern)			
- Tristan da Cunha & Gough/South Africa	1c		
<i>Thalasseus bengalensis bengalensis</i> (Lesser Crested Tern)			
- Gulf/Southern Asia			1
- Red Sea/Eastern Africa			1
<i>Thalasseus bengalensis emigratus</i> (Lesser Crested Tern)			
- S Mediterranean/NW & West Africa coasts	1c		
<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis sandvicensis</i> (Sandwich Tern)			
- Western Europe/West Africa			1
- Black Sea & Mediterranean (bre)		2a	
- West & Central Asia/South-west & South Asia			1
<i>Thalasseus maximus albidorsalis</i> (Royal Tern)			
- West Africa (bre)		2a	
<i>Thalasseus bergii bergii</i> (Greater Crested Tern)			
- Southern Africa (Angola – Mozambique)	2		
<i>Thalasseus bergii velox</i> (Greater Crested Tern)			
- Red Sea & North-east Africa	2		
<i>Thalasseus bergii thalassinus</i> (Greater Crested Tern)			
- Eastern Africa & Seychelles	1c		
<i>Thalasseus bergii enigma</i> (Greater Crested Tern)			
- Madagascar & Mozambique/Southern Africa	1c		
<b>Family STERCORARIIDAE (skuas)</b>			
<i>Stercorarius longicaudus longicaudus</i> (Long-tailed Jaeger)			1
<i>Catharacta skua</i> (Great Skua)		1	
<b>Family ALCIDAE (auks)</b>			
<i>Fratercula arctica</i> (Atlantic Puffin)			
- Hudson bay & Maine E to S Greenland, Iceland, Bear Is, Norway to S Novaya Zemlya			1
- NE Canada, N Greenland, to Jan Mayen, Svalbard, N Novaya Zemlya	3a		
- Faeroes, S Norway & Sweden, Britain, Ireland, NW France			1
<i>Cephus grylle grylle</i> (Black Guillemot)			
- Baltic Sea		1	
<i>Cephus grylle mandtii</i> (Black Guillemot)			

- Arctic E North America to Greenland, Jan Mayen & Svalbard E through Siberia to Alaska		1	
<i>Cephus grylle arcticus</i> (Black Guillemot)			
- N America, S Greenland, Britain, Ireland, Scandinavia, White Sea		1	
<i>Cephus grylle islandicus</i> (Black Guillemot)			
- Iceland	3c		
<i>Cephus grylle faeroeensis</i> (Black Guillemot)			
- Faeroes		1	
<i>Alca torda torda</i> (Razorbill)			
- E North America, Greenland, E to Baltic & White Seas			1
<i>Alca torda islandica</i> (Razorbill)			
- Iceland, Faeroes, Britain, Ireland, Helgoland, NW France			1
<i>Alle alle alle</i> (Little Auk)			
- High Arctic, Baffin Is – Novaya Zemlya			1
<i>Uria lomvia lomvia</i> (Thick-billed Murre)			
- E North America, Greenland, E to Severnaya Zemlya		2c	
<i>Uria aalge aalge</i> (Common Murre)			
- E North America, Greenland, Iceland, Faeroes, Scotland, S Norway, Baltic		2c	
<i>Uria aalge albionis</i> (Common Murre)			
- Ireland, S Britain, France, Iberia, Helgoland			1
<i>Uria aalge hyperborea</i> (Common Murre)			
- Svalbard, N Norway to Novaya Zemlya			1

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### RESOLUTION 6.2

#### ADOPTION OF THE NEW ARABIC VERSION OF THE AGREEMENT TEXT

*Recalling* that in accordance with Article XVII of the Agreement, the original of this Agreement, in the Arabic, English, French and Russian languages, each version being equally authentic, have been deposited with the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in its capacity as Depository of the Agreement, and that certified copies of these versions have been transmitted to all States,

*Noting* that the Secretariat has commissioned a new translation in the framework of the AEWA project on “*Strengthening waterbird and wetland conservation capacities in North Africa*” (WetCap) in 2009 to replace the Arabic text,

*Recalling* that the new translation was circulated for comments among Arabic-speaking Parties and non-Party Range States to AEWA in 2011, and approved by the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the AEWA Standing Committee for submission to the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA (MOP5) for adoption, and finally submitted for adoption to MOP5,

*Further recalling* that MOP5 decided not to approve the new translation as further adjustments were still required, and entrusted the AEWA Standing Committee with the finalization of the text,

*Acknowledging the effort that has been made by the Arabic-speaking countries in reviewing the Arabic version that was submitted to MOP5,*

*Noting* that the translation has been finalised in consultation with the Arabic-speaking Parties and approved by the AEWA Standing Committee by correspondence in April 2015,

*Also noting* that certified copies of the finalised translation have not been transmitted to all States by the Depository after internal consultation with the Depository’s translation bureau, but that the Depository instead kindly offered to provide a new translation through its translation bureau.

#### *The Meeting of the Parties:*

1. *Welcomes and accepts* the kind offer of the Depository to provide a new Arabic translation of the Agreement text and its annexes, requests it to finalise the new translation through its translation bureau and to incorporate all approved amendments to Annexes 2 and 3 to the Agreement as adopted in Resolution 6.1 into this new Arabic language version, according to resources available and in close consultation with the Secretariat and the Arabic-speaking countries;
2. *Requests* the Secretariat to circulate the final draft to Arabic-speaking Contracting Parties for clearance before its submission to the Standing Committee;
3. *Mandates* the Standing Committee to approve the finalised translation as the new Arabic text;
4. *Invites* the Depository to transmit certified copies of the new Arabic version to all Range States in accordance with Article XVII of the Agreement upon approval by the Standing Committee;

5. *Urges* all Contracting Parties to replace the former official version by this new translation with respect to AEWA-related matters at all levels, *invites* Non-Party Range States to take note of the new official Arabic text and to use it as official text for the purpose of acceding to AEWA and *instructs* the Secretariat to publish and disseminate the new Arabic language (online and hard copy) version in a timely manner, as soon as it becomes available.

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### RESOLUTION 6.3

#### STRENGTHENING MONITORING OF MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

*Recalling* Resolution 5.2 “*Addressing gaps in knowledge of and conservation action for waterbird populations and sites important for them*”, and further recalling Resolution 5.22 “*Establishing a long-term basic structural funding regime for the International Waterbird Census in the African-Eurasian region*”,

*Taking note* of the Report on the *Development of Waterbird Monitoring along the African-Eurasian Flyways* and the progress made towards achieving Targets 3.1. of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 with respect to waterbird monitoring data gathering and *being aware* that sustainable funding is yet to be secured (document AEWA/MOP 6.24),

*Gratefully acknowledging* the contributions to the objectives of AEWA made by Contracting Parties, international donors, national and international non-governmental organisations, particularly through the AEWA African Initiative, the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative, the *Conserving Migratory Waterbirds in West Africa* project, the *Mediterranean Waterbird Monitoring* project, the *Strengthening Waterbird Monitoring in the African-Eurasian Flyway* project, the *Adriatic Flyway Initiative*, the *Migratory Soaring Birds* project, and the *From the Arctic to Africa* project as examples of strategic regional initiatives for the conservation of waterbirds and their habitats,

*Taking full account* of document AEWA/MOP 6.14 “*Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds in the Agreement Area - 6<sup>th</sup> edition*” (aka CSR6),

*Noting* that the preliminary “*Report on the Site Network for Waterbirds in the Agreement Area - 1st edition*” (document AEWA/MOP 5.15) was not revised and finalised during the last triennium due to lack of funding,

*Further noting* that also due to lack of funding, the Technical Committee could not provide advice at MOP6 on the monitoring of seabirds and colonial breeding waterbirds, identify priorities for the systematic development of waterbird monitoring in order to reach the targets of the Strategic Plan 2009-2017, or revise the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on Waterbird Monitoring (document AEWA/MOP 6.7 *Report of the Technical Committee*),

*Aware* that only modest improvement of the knowledge of population sizes, with regard to quantity and quality, has been achieved since the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the CSR (CSR4), with 2% of populations still lacking size estimates, only 12% of size estimates based on census data, and the remaining being either “best guess” (26%) or expert opinion (60%),

*Further aware* that the assessment of population trends shows that 28% of populations still lack any trend estimates, with most of the available estimates being poor (38%), only 28% reasonable and just 6% of good quality,

*Concerned* that a high proportion (36%) of populations with known trends continue to show declines compared to the 25% of populations which are increasing,

*Noting* that the International Waterbird Census (IWC) and the related schemes could provide a good basis for estimating population size and trends for 32% and 52% of the waterbird populations in the Agreement area respectively, provided that the coverage of these schemes is improved,

*Further noting* that the population size and trends estimates could be based on colonial breeding bird schemes in the Agreement area in the case of 32% and 27% of the populations, provided a comprehensive scheme covering the region existed,

*Noting* that the species with the least exhaustive or non-existent population size and trend estimates are usually those which cannot be covered by generic monitoring schemes, such as the IWC,

*Further noting* that the West and Central Asian regions, alongside the Afrotropical region, have the least exhaustive population size estimates, population trend estimates and highest proportion of declining populations,

*Acknowledging* that in CSR6, the increase of populations whose status is assessed on the basis of regular monitoring data has increased from 102 to 180, i.e. by 75% compared to CSR4, and thus exceeds the Strategic Plan target of 50%, but still represents only 32% of the populations listed in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan,

*Extremely concerned* that none of the eight status-related targets of the Strategic Plan were reached so far and in the case of five of the eight targets, the situation has worsened,

*Acknowledging* the usefulness of the Critical Site Network Tool for a number of international and national processes under the Agreement *but noting* that the Tool is gradually becoming outdated both technologically and data-wise,

*Recognising* that other MEAs, particularly the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Convention on Migratory Species, as well as the EU Birds Directive, require regular waterbird monitoring data for their operations, such as Ramsar criteria 5 and 6 for the designation of wetlands of international importance whose applicability is linked to the Waterbird Population Estimates which is largely derived from IWC data,

*Taking into account* the conclusions and recommendations of the Standing Committee report to MOP6 on the *Progress of implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017* (document AEWA/MOP 6.12),

*Being aware* that the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat is represented in the African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership<sup>2</sup>.

#### *The Meeting of the Parties:*

1. *Urges* the Contracting Parties to ensure that the objectives of AEWA are incorporated into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and other strategic planning processes;
2. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Waterbird Monitoring Partnership and *encourages* the Partnership to continue its work;
3. *Invites* the organisations participating in the African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership to jointly establish a Fund to resource waterbird monitoring activities and *urges* Parties to regularly contribute to it;
4. *Invites* the Strategic Working Group of the Waterbird Monitoring Partnership to decide priorities for using the resources of the Fund in consultation with the AEWA Technical Committee;

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.wetlands.org/AfricanEurasianWaterbirdCensus/WaterbirdMonitoringPartnership/tabid/2789/Default.aspx>

5. *Invites* the Waterbird Monitoring Partnership to inform the MOP at each of its sessions on amounts raised, the use of the resources and remaining gaps as part of broader reporting on the development of waterbird monitoring;
6. *Invites* Contracting Parties, non-governmental organisations and other organisations to use the World Migratory Bird Day events as fundraising opportunities and to contribute to the Fund;
7. *Urges* Contracting Parties and requests other stakeholders to incorporate waterbird monitoring into the twinning schemes they were encouraged to establish under Resolution 5.20 or other flyway-related collaborative programmes;
8. *Requests* the Waterbird Monitoring Partnership to identify funding needs for waterbird monitoring development and through the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat inform Contracting Parties and other stakeholders about gaps to be filled on an annual basis;
9. *Encourages* Contracting Parties to prioritise and allocate funding for waterbird monitoring at the national level;
10. *Urges* Contracting Parties and organisations to provide financial support for the development of advice to MOP7 on the monitoring of seabirds and colonial breeding waterbirds, the revision of the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on waterbird monitoring, and the identification priorities for the systematic development of waterbird monitoring;
11. *Further urges* Contracting Parties and organisations to provide financial support for the further development of the draft “*Report on the Site Network for Waterbirds in the Agreement area – 1st edition*”, including the development of a site reporting module in the national report format to facilitate work on the Report, so as to allow its submission to MOP7;
12. *Requests* the Wings Over Wetlands Partnership to undertake a process of revamping the Critical Site Network Tool and to establish a procedure for its regular technological maintenance and data update;
13. *Urges* Contracting Parties, the Standing and Technical Committees, and the Secretariat to provide for the implementation of the recommendations of the Standing Committee report to MOP6 on the *Progress of implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017* (document AEWA/MOP 6.12), as necessary;
14. *Invites* the Technical Committee and the Secretariat to work with the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel and the Ramsar Convention Secretariat to identify possible synergies with respect to waterbird monitoring, taking into account the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2021, Targets 11 and 13, and the possible development of further indicators for Target 5 related to coverage of wetland-dependent bird populations by designated Ramsar Sites.



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RESOLUTION 6.4

**CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS**

*Recalling* Article III 2b of the Agreement requires that Parties shall “ensure that any use of migratory waterbirds is based on an assessment of the best available knowledge of their ecology and is sustainable for the species as well as for the ecological systems that support them”,

*Recalling also* that Section 2.1 of the Agreement’s Action Plan provides a regulatory framework to identify those species and populations which should be subject to legal protection as well as those which may be subject to harvest management, and that the triennial *Conservation Status Review* (AEWA/MOP 6.14) is a review process which enables Table 1 of the Action Plan to reflect the most recent information on the population status (Resolution 6.1),

*Noting* that Target 1.1 of Objective 1 of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 is that “Full legal protection is provided to all Column A species”,

*Further noting* that Objective 2 of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 is “To ensure that any use of waterbirds in the Agreement area is sustainable” and the five associated targets relate to the phase out of lead shot in wetlands; the implementation of internationally coordinated harvest data collection; the elimination of illegal taking of waterbirds, including poison baits and non-selective methods of taking; the development and promotion of best practice codes and standards for hunting; and the implementation of adaptive harvest management at international scale,

*Aware however*, that some Parties have yet to ensure that their national legislation gives full protection to those populations occurring within their territory which are listed in Column A of Table 1 of the Action Plan, in order to ensure their fulfilment of obligations under the Agreement in this regard,

*Noting* that, under the African Initiative, national lists of Column A populations have been generated for the current African Contracting Parties, and after checking by the Technical Committee, these lists will assist African Contracting Parties to analyse any gaps in their national legislation with regard to the conservation of such high priority species,

*Conscious* of the social and economic importance of waterbird harvests for local communities in many parts of the Agreement area and of archaeological evidence which extends back to the earliest periods of human history, and that such harvests are a valuable ecosystem service derived from wetlands and other habitats,

*Aware* that there is little information about the nature and extent of waterbird harvests, and its legal and cultural regulation in Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia on which assessments of sustainability can be based, and that accordingly the Technical Committee has identified the need for such data and information as being a strategic priority in order to be able to better advise Parties on this issue,

*Noting* that the need to ensure the sustainability of any use of migratory waterbirds, is a central theme of the Agreement's Action Plan, and has been the focus of much consideration by the Meeting of Parties, *inter alia* in the contexts of ensuring the protection of threatened species under national legalisation; phasing out the use of lead shot; reducing disturbance from hunting as well as other activities; suspending hunting during emergency situations, such as periods of extreme cold; and the need to assess and report on bags and hunting mortality,

*Welcoming* the continued collaboration with, and active support for AEWA from international organisations concerned with hunting and, through them, with their national partner organisations,

*Noting* that for quarry species with an unfavourable conservation status, the drivers of population change may be incompletely understood; hunting may or may not be a key driver of population change, or may be one of a number of factors influencing population change,

*Aware* that biological assessments of sustainability rely on population-scale measures of mortality and productivity, information about which is rarely available, and *further aware* that the need for internationally harmonised programmes to collate relevant data and information has long been a priority on the list of AEWA International Implementation Tasks (document AEWA/MOP6.18 and Resolution 6.13), but has yet to be realised,

*Noting* from the synthesis of National Reports submitted to MOP6 (document AEWA/MOP 6.13), that, of the 39 Parties submitting reports:

- a total of 29 (74%) confirmed the existence of a scheme to collect harvest data, but that 42 Parties either provided no report (32) or did not indicate the presence of such a national scheme (10),
- a total of 22 reported that lead shot has now been fully (17) or partially (5) phased out, another 12 confirmed that further work is needed to achieve Strategic Plan Target 2.1, but that 44 Parties either provided no report (32) or reported no progress (12) to this end, and
- a total of 37 confirmed that measures are in place to reduce or eliminate illegal taking of waterbirds within their country, however, 34 other Parties either provided no report (32) or reported no such measures (2),

*Recalling* that the deadline established by the Strategic Plan for the phase out of lead shot for hunting in wetlands by all Contracting Parties is 2017, and *welcoming* the adoption of the *CMS Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds*, through CMS Resolution 11.15,

*Welcoming* also the revised AEWA Guidelines on Sustainable Harvest of Migratory Waterbirds, adopted by Resolution 6.5, which provide a major impetus for further development of sustainable use initiatives under AEWA,

*Welcoming* the Guidance on Measures in National Legislation for Different Populations of the Same Species, Particularly with Respect to Hunting and Trade adopted by Resolution 6.7 and the draft Guidance on Dealing with the Accidental Shooting of Look-Alike Species in the Western Palearctic which is to be further elaborated and extended by the Technical Committee for submission to MOP7 (document AEWA/MOP Inf. 6.1),

*Noting* the relevance of Resolution 6.12 on avoiding unnecessary additional mortality for migratory waterbirds in respect of measures to eliminate illegal killing,

*Further noting* the conclusions of the international conference on goose management in Europe that was hosted by the Danish Nature Agency and Aarhus University on 27-29 October 2015 (document AEWA/MOP Inf. 6.14) and *recognising* the need for a coordinated management approach to the Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) as well as other goose species in Europe, particularly those with overabundant populations,

*Taking into account* the conclusions and recommendations of the Update on the Status of Non-native Waterbird Species within the AEWA Area (document AEWA/MOP 6.15),

*Concerned* that a number of non-native waterbird species appear to have increased substantially in several countries since 2008 and, in particular, those identified as posing high or very high risks still have well-established populations and some continue to increase in numbers and distribution,

*Acknowledging* that many Contracting Parties have legal and practical frameworks in place to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive alien species.

*The Meeting of the Parties:*

1. *Urges* Parties as a matter of high priority and urgency to ensure that their legislative lists of protected species are fully in conformity with the requirements of section 2.1 of the Agreement's Action Plan, such that where populations listed in Column A of Table 1 regularly occur within their territories they are subject to full legal protection or, when applicable, that harvesting is undertaken only in conformity with the recommendations of the respective International Species Action Plans established in application of paragraphs 2.1.1 and 2.2.2 of the AEWA Action Plan for Column A Category 2 and 3 populations marked with an asterisk and Column A Category 4 populations;
2. *Requests* the Technical Committee and Secretariat, resources permitting, to develop national lists of Column A populations for all Parties in the Middle East, Europe and Central Asia and communicate these with the respective countries to assist any necessary process of national legislative revision for the species concerned, while recognising that the Critical Site Network Tool<sup>3</sup> can provide the Parties with the possibility of generating such national lists by themselves if such a functionality is built in and datasets are regularly updated;
3. *Requests* Parties to provide the Technical Committee with further national examples of policies and other means of reducing the risk of accidental shooting of look-alike species such that fully elaborated guidance can be brought to MOP7, pursuant to Resolution 6.7;
4. *Calls* on Parties to ensure that the revised AEWA Guidelines on Sustainable Harvest of Migratory Waterbirds (Resolution 6.5 and document AEWA/MOP 6.36) are fully employed in the implementation of the Agreement, and that further sustainable use and adaptive harvest management initiatives are developed to support AEWA's goal that all use of migratory waterbirds is sustainable and based on relevant, available data;
5. *Welcomes* the action of Switzerland to ban the use of lead shot for waterbird hunting and *urges* those Parties that have not done so yet to similarly publish timetables for the phasing out of lead shot use for hunting in wetlands, in accordance with paragraph 4.1.4 of the AEWA Action Plan, and to inform the Secretariat to that end;
6. *Recognises* that for undertaking adaptive management of harvest, the minimum data required are population size and trends and amount of harvest, and *urges* the Parties and other Range States to strengthen their waterbird monitoring schemes and to establish or step up harvest data collection, ideally through a coordinated international approach, as well as to reduce to a minimum the time lag between data recording and reporting;
7. *Requests* Parties, through the provision of data and information, to assist the Technical Committee in the review of nature and extent of waterbird harvests, and its legal and cultural regulation especially in, but not restricted to, Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia, in particular with information about waterbird harvests as a wetland ecosystem service;
8. *Requests* the Technical Committee, subject to the availability of financial resources, to seek information from Parties and stakeholders as to which further tools and guidance would be helpful to them in the context of ensuring that hunting is sustainable, together with seeking a better understanding as to which audiences these tools should be targeted at and the most appropriate means by which this could be undertaken, and to build this information into future planning of the Committee's own work;

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<sup>3</sup> <http://wow.wetlands.org/INFORMATIONFLYWAY/CRITICALSITENETWORKTOOL/tabid/1349/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

9. *Requests* the Secretariat to facilitate, subject to the availability of financial resources, the establishment of a European multispecies goose management platform and process to address sustainable use of goose populations and to provide for the resolution of human-goose conflicts, targeting as a matter of priority, Barnacle (*Branta leucopsis*) and Greylag (*Anser anser*) Geese populations for which management plans are yet to be developed as well as the Svalbard population of the Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) and the Taiga Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis fabalis*) for which plans are already in place, and *invites* interested Parties, Range States and other stakeholders to engage pro-actively in this initiative, including by providing appropriate resources for the maintenance and the functioning of the platform and report progress to MOP7;
10. *Urges* the Range States of the high and very high risk non-native waterbird species populations to increase and coordinate their efforts to contain, control and as much as possible eradicate these populations, in particular the Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) in Southern Africa, the Greater Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*), the Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*) and the Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*) in a number of European countries the Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) in Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands, the Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) throughout Europe, and the Sacred Ibis (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*) mostly in south-central Europe;
11. *Encourages* Contracting Parties to align species lists established under their regional or national frameworks for the prevention of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species within the context of AEWA priorities in order to provide effective means of coordinated action within the AEWA area;
12. *Encourages* Contracting Parties to align action plans to address priority pathways for the prevention of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species with the AEWA Action Plan, the AEWA International and National Single Species Action Plans and other relevant national, regional and international plans, as necessary;
13. *Urges* Contracting Parties to support research on risks posed by non-native waterbirds and further detailed analysis of the population status of the non-native waterbird species identified within the AEWA area, including the adverse impacts they have on AEWA native species and their habitats;
14. *Requests* the Technical Committee to contribute to the development of internationally-agreed standards and guidance for risk assessment with respect to non-native waterbirds in order to facilitate the implementation of the Agreement and related legal instruments.

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### RESOLUTION 6.5

#### REVISION AND ADOPTION OF CONSERVATION GUIDELINES

*Recalling* Article IV paragraph 4 of the Agreement, and paragraph 7.3 of the Agreement’s Action Plan, which require the development and review of conservation guidelines in order to assist Contracting Parties with their implementation of the Agreement,

*Further recalling* Resolutions 1.10, 2.3 and 4.13 and 5.10, which adopted 14 conservation guidelines focusing on various aspects of waterbird conservation practice,

*Noting* that these conservation guidelines, although legally non-binding, provide a common framework for action, which aids the coherent implementation of the Agreement by the Contracting Parties to the Agreement, as well as other Range States and interested parties and that it is for each Party to determine whether or how to implement the recommended guidance, whilst having regard to their international obligations and commitments,

*Recalling* the request to the Technical Committee by MOP5 for a fundamental review of the format of AEWA’s conservation guidance so as to ensure that this information is easily understood and accessible by Contracting Parties and other stakeholders, and is presented in ways that make best use of new communication technologies,

*Recalling* also the potential to develop joint guidance with other bodies on matters of mutual concern, including with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU) and the Ramsar Convention,

*Acknowledging* the financial and in-kind support provided by the Governments of the Czech Republic, Germany and Norway, BirdLife International through the UNDP/GEF Migratory Soaring Bird project, the Aarhus University, the Danish Hunters’ Association, Foundation François Sommer for Hunting and Nature and the IUCN Environmental Law Centre (IUCN-ELC), which enabled the revision of previously-adopted and the development of additional guidelines.

#### *The Meeting of the Parties:*

1. *Adopts* the following newly developed and revised conservation guidelines:
  - a) Guidelines on National Legislation for the Protection of Species of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats (document AEWA/MOP 6.35),
  - b) Guidelines on Sustainable Harvest of Migratory Waterbirds (document AEWA/MOP 6.36), and
  - c) Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment (document AEWA/MOP 6.37),

in accordance with Article IV.4 of the Agreement, as guidance for the Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Agreement and its Action Plan;

2. *Calls upon* Contracting Parties to utilise these guidelines in a practical way that leads to a minimum of additional bureaucracy and that recognises the different social, economic and environmental conditions within the Agreement area;

3. *Instructs* the Secretariat to disseminate these guidelines to all Range States, and relevant international governmental and non-governmental organisations, and to promote and monitor their use to the extent that this is possible;

4. *Requests* the Technical Committee, as a matter of priority to:

- Complete its review of the style and format of AEWA Conservation Guidelines as outlined by Resolution 5.10;
- Make inter-sessional recommendations regarding any proposed changes to the Standing Committee; and
- Following the Standing Committee's approval and resources permitting, put in place a rolling programme to revise and update existing guidelines, as necessary, and developing any new guidelines according to new formats as agreed.

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### RESOLUTION 6.6

#### UPDATED ADVICE ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION MEASURES FOR WATERBIRDS

*Recalling* the need, expressed in Article III of the Agreement, for Contracting Parties to identify networks of sites and habitats for migratory waterbirds, and to protect, manage, rehabilitate and restore these as essential actions to maintain the favourable conservation status of species,

*Recalling again* Resolution 3.17 on *Climate Change and Migratory Waterbirds*, Resolution 4.14 on *The Effects of Climate Change on Migratory Waterbirds* and Resolution 5.13 on *Climate Change Adaptation Measures of Waterbirds*, the latter of which requested the Technical Committee to review and summarise relevant studies and policies related to climate change and migratory waterbird conservation and management, especially with respect to the creation and management of networks of protected and managed sites and other adequately managed sites, and in the light of this work, to propose to MOP6 which additional complementary approaches - if necessary - should be taken,

*Further recalling* the adoption in Resolution 5.13 of the AEWA guidance framework for climate change adaptation relevant to migratory waterbirds as guidance for the Contracting Parties, which encourages Parties to:

- Maintain and increase ecological resilience to climate change to support the widest range of biodiversity to survive and adapt,
- Conserve the range and ecological variability of habitats and species, to increase the chances that species whose current habitat becomes inhospitable will be able to spread locally into newly favourable habitat,
- Maintain existing ecological networks *and* establish ecological networks through habitat restoration and creation, to promote the success of species dispersal,
- Integrate adaptation and mitigation measures into conservation management to complement existing policies, and
- Undertake vulnerability assessments of biodiversity and associated ecosystem goods and services without delay to prioritise and develop appropriate actions,

*Noting* the publication in 2014 of the *Fifth Assessment Report* by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)<sup>4</sup> which concluded that climate change associated with medium- to high-emission scenarios poses an “*increased risk of abrupt and irreversible [...] change in the composition, structure, and functions of [...] freshwater ecosystems, including wetlands,*”

*Aware* of Resolution 11.26 of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) which sets out a *Programme of work on climate change and migratory species* in response to Resolution 10.19 on *Migratory species conservation in the light of climate change*, which *inter alia*, called on CMS Parties and others to:

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.ipcc.ch>

- Improve the resilience of migratory species and their habitats to climate change, and ensure habitat availability for the full life-cycle of the species, now and in the future,
- Identify and promote a standardised methodology for evaluating species' vulnerability to climate change and evaluate species' vulnerability on this basis,
- Develop and implement monitoring regimes that are adequate to distinguish declines in populations from transboundary range shifts; diagnose the causes of decline, and to help analyse the impact of climate change on migratory species, and
- Identify, evaluate, prioritise and reduce the additional impacts on migratory species resulting from changes in human behaviour due to climate change,

*Aware also of the Ramsar Convention's Resolution XI.14 (2012) on Climate change and wetlands which inter alia, urged or encouraged Ramsar Parties to:*

- Maintain or improve the ecological character of wetlands, including their ecosystem services, to enhance the resilience of wetlands as far as possible in the face of climate-driven ecological changes including, where necessary, to promote the restoration of degraded wetlands, and further to promote the ability of wetlands to contribute to nature-based climate change adaptation, and
- Develop and implement policies that promote opportunities to take advantage of the regulatory services already provided by wetlands to the global climate system, while at the same time contributing to improving human livelihoods, eradicating poverty, and meeting biodiversity goals, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets,

*Aware of the increasing number of assessments of the modelled changes in future distributions of migratory waterbirds consequent on changed climate, and the implications such changes have for national, and hence international networks of protected areas, and a growing body of research findings that have relevance to this topic,*

*Conscious that adaptation measures that help maintain and improve the quality of wetland ecosystems for migratory waterbirds also directly benefit human communities dependent on those wetlands through ensuring continued provision of ecosystem services, such as water, food and fibre, disaster risk reduction and thus aware that climate change adaptation measures are a critical element in strategies that build resilience of human communities to the consequences of changing climate – especially, although not restricted to, those that are most impoverished,*

*Noting that, as reflected by national reports submitted to MOP6, only a small number of Parties have yet taken actions to adapt to climate change impacts on waterbirds, either through systematic assessment of vulnerability of key habitats (11 Parties) or species (10 Parties), and consequent review of relevant national conservation policies (7 Parties) and/or national climate change action plan (4 Parties), but welcoming those actions that have been undertaken as an important source of experience for other countries,*

*Noting with appreciation the generous support to the project *Climate Resilient Site Network in the African-Eurasian Flyway* through the International Climate Initiative provided by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Parliament.*

*The Meeting of the Parties:*

1. *Adopts* the revised framework for adaptation measures for migratory waterbirds – 2015, as presented in Appendix I to this Resolution as further guidance for actions related to national adaptation measures related to the conservation of waterbirds and their wetland, and other habitats; and *urges* Contracting Parties to implement these principles in their implementation of the Agreement as a matter of priority;

2. *Encourages again* Contracting Parties to complete the identification of relevant areas and build national networks of protected areas and other adequately managed areas; to undertake national assessments of the resilience of these sites both individually and collectively; and to report such assessments to future Meetings of the Parties thus sharing this experience;
3. *Urges* Contracting Parties and others to make full use of existing guidance from the Ramsar Convention on the wise use of wetlands (available in Ramsar's *Handbooks for the Wise Use of Wetlands*), much of which is directly applicable to many of the threats and impacts to wetlands important to waterbirds arising from climate change, in developing their policies and adaptations to climate change impacts on wetlands;
4. *Recalling* CBD Decision XII/19 on Ecosystem conservation and restoration and Ramsar Resolution 12.13 on Wetlands and Disaster Risk Reduction, which emphasise the critical importance of coastal wetlands for ecosystem services including of climate change resilience and biodiversity conservation, and conscious of the challenge to Parties to re-plan their coasts in response to sea level rise and other climate change effects, *welcomes* initiatives that support the conservation and restoration of coastal wetlands, including options to build a "Caring for Coasts"<sup>5</sup> initiative as part of a global movement to restore coastal wetlands and *encourages* Contracting Parties to consider engaging in the development and implementation of the proposed initiative;
5. *Requests* the Technical Committee to continue to periodically update AEWA's Guidance framework for climate change adaptation to ensure that it summarises contemporary knowledge of this rapidly developing area, and especially to seek both relevant guidance in French, and that which is relevant to non-European situations.

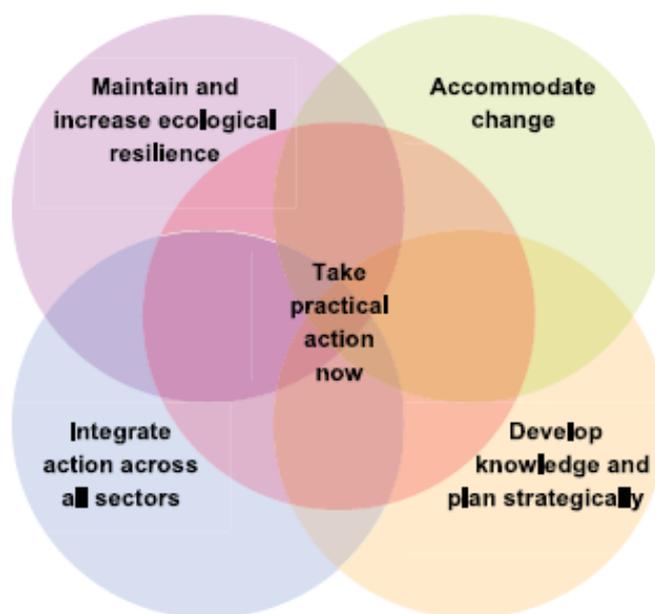
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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.birdlife.org/content/caring-coasts-initiative>

## APPENDIX I

### An AEWA guidance framework for climate change adaptation – 2015 update<sup>6</sup>

Five main adaptation principles are fundamental to conserving biodiversity in a time of rapid climate change:



The precautionary principle should underpin all of these.

Many elements of these principles are neither new nor specific to climate change adaptation; they underpin existing policy and practice in nature conservation. However, climate change creates a new imperative to understand and work with the dynamics of natural systems. The complex interactions between people and their natural environment must be managed to maintain the services and benefits that society derives from biodiversity and ecosystems. These will be increasingly important and threatened as the climate changes.

Principle	Existing relevant AEWA and other guidance	Brief Overview
<b>Principle 1: Take practical action now</b>		
<p>The speed and scale of climate change require action <u>now</u>. We cannot know exactly how the climate will change or how it will impact directly or indirectly on species, habitats and ecosystems, particularly at a local scale. We cannot wait until the evidence demonstrates greater certainty, as delay will result in more severe impacts, fewer available options for action and increased costs of damage and intervention (if restoration is possible at all). This is because of the length of time it will take to implement adaptation action and for biodiversity to respond. Moreover often there are low-regret, flexible adaptation measures, including ecosystem-based adaptation, for which there is no reason to wait with implementation. Existing conservation efforts are insufficient and there is a need to act now with greater vigour to:</p>		

<sup>6</sup>This framework is developed, with acknowledgement, from Smithers, R.J., Cowan, C., Harley, M., Hopkins, J.J., Pontier, H. & Watts, O. 2008. *England Biodiversity Strategy: Climate Change Adaptation Principles. Conserving biodiversity in a changing climate*. DEFRA, UK.  
<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/documents/ebs-ccap.pdf>

Principle	Existing relevant AEWA and other guidance	Brief Overview
<p><b>Conserve existing biodiversity</b></p> <p>The richness of future biodiversity, even in a changing world, will depend largely upon the biodiversity we conserve today.</p>	<p>Resolution XI.14 Climate change and wetlands: implications for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands<sup>1</sup></p>	<p>This Resolution sets out Ramsar’s approach to accounting for, mitigating and adapting to climate change in wetlands.</p>
<p><b>Conserve protected areas and all other high quality habitats</b></p> <p>These areas will remain important because they have characteristics that will continue to favour high levels of biodiversity. They are key ecological components of wider terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems.</p>	<p>Paragraph 3.2 of AEWA’s Action Plan in relation to conservation of areas</p>	
	<p>Ramsar Handbook for the wise-use of wetlands no. 17: <i>Designating Ramsar Sites</i><sup>2</sup></p>	<p>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</p>
	<p>Ramsar Handbook for the wise-use of wetlands no. 18: <i>Managing wetlands</i><sup>3</sup></p>	<p>Frameworks for managing Ramsar Sites and other wetlands</p>
	<p>Ramsar Handbook for the wise-use of wetlands no. 19: <i>Addressing change in wetland ecological character</i><sup>4</sup></p>	<p>Addressing change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites and other wetlands</p>
	<p>Statement 6. (CMS COP 11 Doc 23.4.2 Annex Draft Resolution<sup>5</sup>)</p>	<p>Statement Six provides a definition of “favourable conservation status” in the light of climate change</p>
	<p>Measures to facilitate species adaptation in response to climate change. (Para.2. Bullet. 2. CMS COP 11 Doc 23.4.2 Annex to the Draft Resolution<sup>5</sup>)</p>	<p>This bullet point stresses the need to ensure that individual sites hold a variety of habitats and topography.</p>
	<p>Observed and predicted effects of climate change on species abundance in protected areas (Johnston <i>et al</i> 2013)<sup>6</sup></p>	<p>This paper investigates the capacity of the UK’s current protected area network to provide protection for migratory species under future climate change.</p>

Principle	Existing relevant AEWA and other guidance	Brief Overview
<p><b>Reduce sources of harm not linked to climate</b></p> <p>Climate change is one of many threats to biodiversity. By reducing other sources of harm we will help natural systems maintain their biodiversity in the face of climate change.</p>	<p>Measures to facilitate species adaptation in response to climate change. (Para.2. Bullet .5. CMS COP 11 Doc 23.4.2 Annex to the Draft Resolution<sup>5</sup>)</p>	<p>This bullet point sets out the following action to undertake specific management to eliminate, counteract or compensate for impacts of climate change and other threats.</p>
	<p>Climate change mitigation, human adaptation, and land use. (Para. 1. CMS COP 11 Doc 23.4.2 Annex to the Draft Resolution<sup>5</sup>)</p>	<p>This paragraph calls for the identification, evaluation, prioritising and reduction of additional impacts on migratory species resulting from human behavioural change to climate change</p>
	<p>Sec III. A.17. Vulnerability [...] Report on the technical workshop on ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation to climate change<sup>7</sup></p>	<p>Recognises that climate change exacerbates pressures on ecosystems which are already negatively affected by other stressors including deforestation.</p>
<p><b>Use existing biodiversity legislation and international agreements</b></p> <p>Existing legal and policy frameworks should be used to enable effective action now while working with policy-makers to remedy any potential shortcomings.</p>	<p>Ramsar Handbook for the wise-use of wetlands no. 20: <i>International cooperation</i><sup>8</sup></p>	<p>Guidelines and other support for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands</p>

**Principle 2: Maintain and increase ecological resilience**

Increasing the resilience of ecosystems to the impacts of climate change, will help the widest range of biodiversity to survive and adapt. Ecological resilience ‘depends on a dynamic relationship within species, among species and between species and their abiotic environment, as well as the physical and chemical interactions within the environment’ (Convention on Biological Diversity, 2000). It is vital to continue and extend current efforts to:

<b>Principle</b>	<b>Existing relevant AEWA and other guidance</b>	<b>Brief Overview</b>
<p><b>Conserve range and ecological variability of habitats and species</b></p> <p>It is impossible to predict which localities will continue to have climatic conditions suitable for a given species or habitat. Diversity of terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, in terms of physical features and habitats, should be maintained. This will increase the chances that species whose current habitat becomes inhospitable will be able to spread locally into newly favourable habitat.</p>	<p>Observed and predicted effects of climate change on species abundance in protected areas (Johnston <i>et al</i> 2013)<sup>6</sup></p>	<p>This paper investigates the capacity of the UK's current protected area network to provide protection for migratory species under future climate change.</p>
	<p>Sec III. A.18. Vulnerability [...] Report on the technical workshop on ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation to climate change<sup>7</sup></p>	<p>Recognises the role of healthy ecosystems in increasing resilience.</p>
<p><b>Maintain existing ecological networks</b></p> <p>Further habitat fragmentation and isolation should be avoided by maintaining management of terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems maintaining the ecological character of these habitats and implementing appropriate spatial planning.</p>	<p>Ramsar Handbook for the wise-use of wetlands no. 17: <i>Designating Ramsar Sites</i><sup>2</sup></p>	<p>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</p>
	<p>AEWA Strategic Plan 2009 – 2017 (Objective 1 Target 1.2)<sup>9</sup></p>	<p>The Strategic Plan provides context for implementation of the Agreement by setting the overall goal, the objectives and targets for a period of nine years. Target 1.2 concerns the establishment of an ecological network of sites for migratory waterbirds.</p>
	<p>Observed and predicted effects of climate change on species abundance in protected areas (Johnston <i>et al</i> 2013)<sup>6</sup></p>	<p>This paper investigates the capacity of the UK's current protected area network to provide protection for migratory species under future climate change.</p>
<p><b>Create buffer zones around high quality habitats</b></p>	<p>Paragraph 3.3 of AEWA's Action Plan in relation to rehabilitation and restoration</p>	

<b>Principle</b>	<b>Existing relevant AEWAs and other guidance</b>	<b>Brief Overview</b>
<p>High quality habitats can be buffered from potential negative edge effects by reducing the occurrence of damaging activities in their immediate vicinity. For example, this may be achieved on land by creating the same or complementary habitats adjacent to them.</p>	<p>Measures to facilitate species adaptation in response to climate change. (Para.2. Bullet .7. CMS COP 11 Doc 23.4.2 Annex to the Draft Resolution<sup>5</sup>)</p>	<p>Calls for action to integrate protected areas into wider landscapes/ seascapes</p>
<p><b>Take prompt action to control spread of invasive species</b></p> <p>The establishment of invasive species known to cause significant habitat degradation or loss of other species should be prevented where action can be sustained.</p>	<p>AEWA Guidelines on Avoidance of Introductions of non-native Waterbird Species<sup>10</sup></p>	<p>This technical report provides guidelines for parties relating to the avoidance of introducing non-native waterbirds.</p>
	<p>Invasive Alien Species: Review of work and considerations for future work. (CBD COP 12 Decision XII/17<sup>11</sup>)</p>	<p>This CBD Decision reviews progress made and future work needed relating to the introduction of invasive alien species.</p>
	<p>Invasive alien species: management of risks associated with introduction of alien species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and as live bait and live-food, and related issues. (CBD COP 12 Decision X11/16<sup>12</sup>)</p>	<p>This CBD Decision gives guidance on devising and implementing measures to address risk relating to introduction of alien species as well as setting out progress made and future work relating to this subject.</p>
<p><b>Principle 3: Accommodate change</b></p>		
<p>Climate change brings into sharp focus the need to manage for the future and adopt an increasingly dynamic approach to conservation. Both gradual change and extreme weather events will shape the places where species occur. Species populations will change and move, affecting other species and habitats. The past will provide no, or limited, guidance to the future due to the rate and magnitude of change expected. There is a need to:</p>		
<p><b>Understand that change is inevitable</b></p> <p>The structure and composition of habitats has never been static. Species will respond</p>	<p>This was thought to be widely accepted and therefore assisting documentation is not provided.</p>	

<b>Principle</b>	<b>Existing relevant AEWA and other guidance</b>	<b>Brief Overview</b>
<p>individualistically to climate change and we should seek to work with the grain of change and natural processes.</p>		
<p><b>Make space for the natural development of rivers and coasts</b></p> <p>Changing rainfall patterns and rising sea levels will affect our rivers and coasts. By recognising the role of erosion and deposition in shaping the environment, we can increase the potential for species and habitats to adapt naturally to these changes.</p>		
<p><b>Establish ecological networks through habitat restoration and creation</b></p> <p>Some species will need to move some distance from their current locality if they are to survive climate change. The success of species dispersal can be promoted by enhancing protected areas and creating new habitat, restoring degraded habitat, and sympathetically managing areas between existing habitats in the wider environment.</p>	<p>Paragraph 3.3 of AEWA's Action Plan in relation to rehabilitation and restoration</p>	
	<p>AEWA Strategic Plan 2009 – 2017 (Objective 1, Target 1.2)<sup>9</sup></p>	<p>The Strategic Plan provides context for implementation of the Agreement by setting the overall goal, the objectives and targets for a period of nine years. Target 1.2 concerns the establishment of an ecological network of sites for migratory waterbirds.</p>
	<p>Measures to facilitate species adaptation in response to climate change. (Para.2. Bullet. 3. CMS COP 11 Doc 23.4.2 Annex to the Draft Resolution<sup>5</sup>)</p>	<p>This bullet point outlines the following action to ensure connectivity between sites to aid species dispersal and colonization with distribution shifts.</p>
	<p>Measures to facilitate species adaptation in response to climate change. (Para.2. Bullet .10. CMS COP 11 Doc 23.4.2 Annex to the Draft Resolution<sup>5</sup>)</p>	<p>This bullet point calls for action to identify species which have special connectivity needs i.e. dispersal limited</p>

Principle	Existing relevant AEWA and other guidance	Brief Overview
	Observed and predicted effects of climate change on species abundance in protected areas (Johnston <i>et al</i> 2013) <sup>6</sup>	This paper investigates the capacity of the UK's current protected area network to provide protection for migratory species under future climate change.
<p><b>Aid gene flow</b></p> <p>The ability of a species to adapt to change is correlated with genetic diversity and population size, so conservation should seek to maintain or create large populations. Gene flow between populations is desirable but care may be required where small populations have been isolated for a long period and local genetic variation may be swamped.</p>		
<p><b>Consider the role of species translocation and ex-situ conservation</b></p> <p>Translocation (introduction, reintroduction and restocking) and captive-breeding programmes may be used to conserve some species, as appropriate. Large-scale translocations may be impractical.</p>	<p>AEWA Recommended best practice for the conservation of threatened waterbirds through action planning and re-establishment (Resolution 4.4)<sup>13</sup> which was based on Review of waterbird re-establishment projects<sup>12a</sup></p>	
	<p>AEWA Guidelines for the Translocation of Waterbirds for Conservation Purposes: Complementing the IUCN Guidelines<sup>14</sup></p>	<p>This technical report provides guidelines on translocation of waterbirds providing details on planning translocations as well as best practice case studies.</p>
	<p>Measures to facilitate species adaptation in response to climate change. (Para.3. CMS COP 11 Doc 23.4.2 Annex to the Draft Resolution<sup>5</sup>)</p>	<p>This paragraph asks that ex-situ and assisted colonization are recognised as appropriate for species severely threatened by climate change.</p>

<b>Principle</b>	<b>Existing relevant AEWA and other guidance</b>	<b>Brief Overview</b>
<p><b>Develop the capacity of institutions and administrative arrangements to cope with change and learn from experience</b></p> <p>We must learn to be effective in a changing and uncertain world. This will require a cultural shift to work positively towards a future of potentially different circumstances, learning from experience, and sharing information more widely within and between organisations, whilst retaining consistent objectives.</p>	<p>AEWA Conservation Guideline series<sup>15</sup></p>	<p>A series of 14 guideline documents which provide advice on a range of waterbird conservation topics.</p>
	<p>African Initiative for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in Africa (Resolution 4. 9)<sup>16</sup></p>	<p>Set up a mechanism by which the AEWA secretariat was instructed to support the African range states to enhance cooperation and communication.</p>
	<p>Statement 9. CMS COP 11 Doc 23.4.2 Annex Draft Resolution<sup>5</sup></p>	<p>This statement requests liaison between the Secretariat and other MEAs.</p>
<p><b>Respond to changing conservation priorities</b></p> <p>Conservation targets need to be regularly reviewed to ensure resources are directed towards conservation priorities as some species increase, others decline and habitats change in character.</p>	<p>Ramsar Handbook for the wise-use of wetlands no. 3: <i>Laws and institutions</i><sup>17</sup></p>	<p>Reviewing laws and institutions to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands</p>
<p><b>Principle 4: Integrate action across partners and sectors</b></p>		
<p>Adaptation policy across all sectors needs to be built on a foundation of healthy and resilient ecosystems. Different sectors of society view biodiversity and ecosystems in terms of their own economic, cultural and societal needs. Biodiversity is critical both for its intrinsic value and because of the key role it plays in providing the ecosystem and other services upon which we all ultimately depend. Yet competing economic uses of land, water resources and the marine environment usually undervalue biodiversity and natural systems, sometimes with widespread incentives and subsidies that lead to damage to the environment. The scale of adaptation required demands that biodiversity conservation is integrated with economic activities on land and at sea. There is a need to:</p>		
<p><b>Integrate adaptation and mitigation measures</b></p> <p>Biodiversity conservation can contribute to carbon management; for example, as a</p>	<p>Monitoring and research. (Para.7. CMS COP 11 Doc 23.4.2 Annex to the Draft Resolution<sup>5</sup>)</p>	<p>This paragraph calls for continued research to make explicit the associated synergies and trade-off between biodiversity</p>

Principle	Existing relevant AEWA and other guidance	Brief Overview
<p>result of peatland restoration or native woodland creation. Mitigation should not harm biodiversity and should recognise opportunities for biodiversity, thereby contributing to adaptation.</p>		conservation, mitigation and adaptation efforts.
	<p>Climate change mitigation, human adaptation, and land use. (CMS COP 11 Doc 23.4.2 Annex to the Draft Resolution<sup>5</sup>)</p>	<p>This section draws on the relationship between climate change mitigation and adaptation and land-use and further its potential impacts on biodiversity.</p>
	<p>Biodiversity and climate change and disaster risk reduction. (CBD COP 12 Decision XII/20<sup>18</sup>)</p>	<p>This CBD Decision seeks to make explicit the link between conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem restoration and mitigation of climate change and the reduction of disaster risk.</p>
	<p>Sec III. A.18. Vulnerability [...] Report on the technical workshop on ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation to climate change<sup>7</sup></p>	<p>Recognises the role of healthy ecosystems in increasing resilience.</p>
<p><b>Integrate policy and practice across relevant economic sectors</b></p> <p>Adaptation measures for biodiversity should be explicitly linked with the wider benefits that they bring. Governments should ensure that planning for national adaptation is integrated across different sectors and that adequate environmental safeguards are built into adaptation responses across all policy sectors. Projected needs of migratory species should be integrated within all relevant policies especially National Biodiversity and Species Action Plans, Protected Area policy and management plans, and National Adaptation Policies and plans. Conservation organisations can</p>	<p>Ramsar Handbook for the wise-use of wetlands no. 5: <i>Partnerships</i><sup>19</sup></p>	<p>Key partnerships for implementation of the Ramsar Convention</p>
	<p>Biodiversity and climate change and disaster risk reduction. (CBD COP 12 Decision XII/20<sup>18</sup>)</p>	<p>This CBD Decision seeks to make explicit the link between conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem restoration and mitigation of climate change and the reduction of disaster risk.</p>
	<p>Ten steps to Biodiversity Mainstreaming<sup>20</sup></p>	<p>This guide presents ten key steps to biodiversity mainstreaming derived from the experience and good practice of participants of the first NBSAPs 2.0 Mainstreaming</p>

<b>Principle</b>	<b>Existing relevant AEWA and other guidance</b>	<b>Brief Overview</b>
<p>assist in demonstrating and catalysing action for biodiversity across all relevant economic sectors. In this way, conservation can be interwoven with other activities for effective delivery of ecosystem goods and services.</p>		<p>Biodiversity and Development project workshop.</p>
	<p>Sec III C. Integration of ecosystem-based approaches into adaptation policies and programmes. Report on the technical workshop on ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation to climate change<sup>7</sup></p>	<p>This section provides examples of the integration of ecosystem-based approaches into policy.</p>
<p><b>Build and strengthen partnerships</b></p> <p>Partnerships between the public and private sectors should form a fundamental part of the process of developing climate change adaptation strategies from the outset. Engagement with stakeholders and local communities is crucial to developing adaptation actions that will work best on the ground.</p>	<p>Ramsar Handbook for the wise-use of wetlands no. 5: <i>Partnerships</i><sup>19</sup></p>	<p>Key partnerships for implementation of the Ramsar Convention</p>
	<p>Ramsar Handbook for the wise-use of wetlands no. 7: <i>Participatory skills</i><sup>21</sup></p>	<p>Establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands</p>
	<p>Knowledge exchange and capacity-building. (Para. 5. CMS COP 11 Doc 23.4.2 Annex to the Draft Resolution<sup>5</sup>)</p>	<p>This paragraph calls for establishment of regional/ sub-regional workshops between actors for knowledge exchange.</p>
	<p>Sec III. E. Knowledge management and stakeholder engagement. Report on the technical workshop on ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation to climate change<sup>7</sup></p>	<p>Provides cases studies of knowledge management, capacity building and stakeholder engagement to promoting ecosystem-based approaches.</p>
<p><b>Raise awareness of benefits of the natural environment to society and adopt an ecosystem approach to conservation</b></p> <p>Wider appreciation that adaptation for biodiversity is in the interests of individuals,</p>	<p>AEWA Communications Strategy<sup>22</sup></p>	<p>This document sets out a communication strategy for AEWA.</p>
	<p>Ramsar Handbook for the wise-use of wetlands no. 6: <i>Wetland CEPA</i><sup>23</sup></p>	<p>The Convention's Programme on communication, education, participation,</p>

Principle	Existing relevant AEWA and other guidance	Brief Overview
<p>communities and businesses will lead to demand and support for implementation. This should build on recognition of environmental services provided by biodiversity and ecosystems and an appreciation that safeguarding ecosystems supporting migratory birds can reduce vulnerability and enhance adaptive capacity of people to climate change.</p>		and public awareness (CEPA) 2009-2015
	Biodiversity and climate change and disaster risk reduction. (CBD COP 12 Decision XII/20 <sup>18</sup> )	This CBD Decision seeks to make explicit the link between conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem restoration and mitigation of climate change and the reduction of disaster risk.
	Developing a 'business case' for biodiversity	This paper sets out the rationale for placing biodiversity at the heart of policy, legislation, plans and projects and further, how to develop a business case to encourage business to adopt this message.
	The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) for Water and Wetland Summary <sup>24</sup>	This report seeks to generate a better understanding of the ecosystem service values of water and wetlands and encourage improved decision making and business commitment for their conservation, investment and wise use.
	Sec III. A.18. Vulnerability [...] Report on the technical workshop on ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation to climate change <sup>7</sup>	Recognises the role of healthy ecosystems in increasing resilience of communities.

**Principle 5: Develop knowledge and plan strategically**

We cannot know exactly how the climate will change or its precise impacts on biodiversity but we do know the general trends and some specific species responses.

We have to plan for the future with available information, developing techniques that will enable us to move forward with actions that we will not regret whatever the future may bring. Simultaneously, we must strive to learn more about the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystems and to monitor the effectiveness of adaptation.

<b>Principle</b>	<b>Existing relevant AEWA and other guidance</b>	<b>Brief Overview</b>
<p><b>Undertake vulnerability assessments of biodiversity and associated ecosystem goods and services without delay</b></p> <p>Vulnerability to climate change is ‘the degree to which a system is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes’ (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2007). Assessing vulnerability will help to identify priorities and develop appropriate actions.</p>	<p>Measures to facilitate species adaptation in response to climate change. (Para.1. CMS COP 11 Doc 23.4.2 Annex to the Draft Resolution<sup>5</sup>)</p> <p>Vulnerability Assessment. (CMS COP 11 Annex to the Draft Resolution<sup>5</sup>)</p> <p>A Framework for assessing the vulnerability of wetlands to climate change<sup>25</sup></p> <p>Section III. A. Vulnerability [...] diagram &amp; Section. D. Methodological, technical and scientific aspects of ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation. Report on the technical workshop on ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation to climate change<sup>7</sup></p>	<p>This paragraph calls for the preparation of species actions plans for those species considered most vulnerable.</p> <p>This sections calls for vulnerability assessments of migratory species to be carried out in a consistent way.</p> <p>This technical report identifies knowledge gaps and sets out a framework for vulnerability assessment</p> <p>A. This section provides the diagram ‘Effect and feedback loops in coupled human-environment systems.’</p> <p>D. Discussing lessons learned and good practices on relevant tools and approaches.</p>
<p><b>Undertake scenario planning and implement no regrets actions</b></p> <p>There is a need to make strategic decisions by embracing uncertainty and addressing the full range of likely variation in projected changes and their impacts. It is important to avoid selection of one preferred future in the hope that it will become true.</p>	<p>Observed and predicted effects of climate change on species abundance in protected areas (Johnston <i>et al</i> 2013)<sup>6</sup></p>	<p>This paper investigates the capacity of the UK’s current protected area network to provide protection for migratory species under future climate change.</p>
<p><b>Pilot new approaches and monitor</b></p> <p>New approaches to conservation management need to be piloted</p>	<p>Measures to facilitate species adaptation in response to climate change Para.4. (CMS COP 11 Annex to the Draft Resolution<sup>5</sup>)</p>	<p>This paragraph calls for the monitoring of conservation action to guide ongoing efforts</p>

<b>Principle</b>	<b>Existing relevant AEWA and other guidance</b>	<b>Brief Overview</b>
and monitored at a large scale and within a time period commensurate with the challenge.		and apply suitable adaptive responses.
<p><b>Monitor actual impacts and research likely future impacts</b></p> <p>Gaining knowledge of actual and projected impacts of climate change on biodiversity is essential to help shape and adapt conservation action.</p>	Monitoring and research Para.5.Bullet.6. (CMS COP 11 Doc 23.4.2 Annex to the Draft Resolution <sup>5</sup> )	This paragraph calls for the development and implementation of monitoring regimes to diagnose changes in species populations etc.
	Observed and predicted effects of climate change on species abundance in protected areas (Johnston <i>et al</i> 2013) <sup>6</sup>	This paper investigates the capacity of the UK's current protected area network to provide protection for migratory species under future climate change.
<p><b>Improve understanding of the role of biodiversity in ecosystem services</b></p> <p>Implementing an ecosystems approach requires a better understanding of the benefits provided by biodiversity and ways in which ecosystem services will be affected by climate change.</p>	Monitoring and research Para.5.Bullet.1. & Para. 6. (CMS COP 11 Doc 23.4.2 Annex to the Draft Resolution <sup>5</sup> )	Paragraph 5 calls for the development and implementation of monitoring regimes to diagnose changes in species populations etc. Paragraph 6 calls for research relating to testing the effectiveness of species adaptation methods and associated risks.
	Knowledge exchange and capacity-building. (Para. 7. Bullet CMS COP 11 Doc 23.4.2 Annex to the Draft Resolution <sup>5</sup> )	This paragraph calls for the increased support for natural resources managers and other decision makers.
<p><b>Research knowledge gaps with stakeholder participation</b></p> <p>Climate change adaptation has cross-sectoral implications. Ensuring stakeholders have a common understanding of and commitment to new evidence is</p>	The BioDiversa Stakeholder Engagement Handbook <sup>26</sup>	The handbook provides best practice guidelines for stakeholder engagement in research projects

<b>Principle</b>	<b>Existing relevant AEWA and other guidance</b>	<b>Brief Overview</b>
essential to develop policy and practice.		

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## 6<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

9-14 November 2015, Bonn, Germany

*“Making flyway conservation happen”*

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### RESOLUTION 6.7

#### ADOPTION OF GUIDANCE IN THE CONTEXT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AEWA ACTION PLAN

*Recalling* Resolution 4.3 which requested the Technical Committee, amongst other things, to advise on a more adequate implementation of the AEWA Action Plan’s population approach in the national legislation, particularly with regard to a ban on hunting and trade,

*Further recalling* Resolution 4.3 which requested the Technical Committee also to provide guidance on a species-by-species basis to the Parties on how to deal with look-alike species with regard to hunting,

*Noting the Guidance on Dealing with Accidental Shooting of Look-alike Species in Western Palearctic* presented in document AEWA/MOP Inf. 6.1, and *further noting* the need for additional work on developing and extending the geographical scope of this guidance,

*Recalling* Resolution 5.24 which requested the Technical Committee, amongst other things, to propose definitions of the terms “*disturbance*” and the “*significant*” nature of any disturbance that may negatively affect the conservation of waterbirds, at the individual and population levels, in the context of applying the AEWA Action Plan,

*Thanking* the Technical Committee for its work over the past triennium to deliver on the requests of the Meeting of the Parties.

#### *The Meeting of the Parties:*

1. *Adopts the Guidance on Measures in National Legislation for Different Populations of the Same Species, Particularly with Respect to Hunting and Trade* as presented in document AEWA/MOP6.34 Rev.1 and *requests* the Technical Committee to propose any relevant changes to the analysis in Appendix 1 to that guidance for consideration by each Meeting of the Parties;
2. *Urges* Parties to implement this guidance as a matter of priority and review the need for potential adjustments of their national legislation, and other relevant actions to reduce the risk of accidental shooting of protected waterbirds, after each MOP in accordance with this guidance;
3. *Adopts* the guidance on meaning of “*disturbance*”, “*deliberate*” disturbance, “*significant*” disturbance and “*serious*” disturbance in the context of the implementation of the AEWA Action Plan as presented in Appendix I to this Resolution;
4. *Requests* the Technical Committee to further work on the *Guidance on Dealing with Accidental Shooting of Look-alike Species in Western Palearctic* and present a revised and extended version for consideration by MOP7.

## APPENDIX I

### Guidance on meaning of “disturbance”

This guidance relates to definitions of disturbance. The issue of what the appropriate response to disturbance should be is a separate one.

#### **Background: disturbance within the context of AEWA’s Action Plan**

#### **“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

...

“2.1.2 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...,

(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:

...

“4.3.6 In cases where human **disturbance** threatens the conservation status of waterbird populations listed in Table 1, Parties should endeavour to take measures to limit the level of threat. Special attention should be given to the problem of human **disturbance** at breeding colonies of colonially-nesting waterbirds, especially when they are situated in the areas which are popular for outdoor recreation. Appropriate measures might include, *inter alia*, the establishment of **disturbance-free zones** in protected areas where public access is not permitted.

“5.6 Parties shall endeavour to undertake studies on the effects of wetland loss and degradation and **disturbance** on the carrying capacity of wetlands used by the populations listed in Table 1 and on the migration patterns of such populations.”

#### **Issues arising from the use of these terms**

**2.1.1. b** refers to “deliberate disturbance” which is a subset of all types of disturbance.

**2.1.2. b** uses the additional term “serious disturbance”.

**4.3.6** is essentially about management planning. There is much guidance on this topic e.g. Spray et al. 2004; Chatterjee et al. 2008; Ramsar Convention Secretariat 2010.

## 1. Definition of “disturbance”

In the context of the implementation of AEWA’s Action Plan, the following widely accepted definition drawn from Fox & Madsen (1997) should be used:

“Any human-induced activity that constitutes a stimulus (equivalent to a predation threat) sufficient to disrupt normal activities and/or distribution of waterbirds relative to the situation in the absence of that activity.”

### **Additional guidance as to the interpretation of “disturbance” in the context of AEWA’s Action Plan**

- a. “Where the intensity of disturbance results in an under-exploitation of resources otherwise available to waterbirds under undisturbed conditions, such a process can be seen to equate to net (albeit potentially only temporarily) habitat loss.” (Fox & Madsen 1997)
- b. Disturbance effects (i.e. changes in the local behaviour, distribution and abundance of birds in response to human activity) are not the same as disturbance impacts (i.e. modifications to population dynamics through changes in breeding success and/or mortality). Typically, the latter is rarely possible to assess in contrast to the former. The definition relates to effects which may or may not comprise impacts on the birds concerned.
- c. “Disturbance varies in its magnitude, frequency, predictability, spatial distribution and duration. Moreover, species (and individuals within species) vary greatly in their susceptibility to disturbance and this susceptibility is likely to vary with age, season, weather and the degree of previous exposure (habituation)” (Cayford 1993). This means disturbance cannot always be detected, or thresholds in the ability to detect it may vary through the annual cycle of a waterbird.
- d. Further, the species that are least susceptible to disturbance may be those that are most sensitive. If a species flushes at great distances and appears sensitive to disturbance, it may be because they have the ability to move between many sources of food, water, refuge, or other limiting resource. In contrast, the reason others may appear insensitive may be because they have nowhere else to go. This gradient can apply across the spectrum of responses as well, from ceasing to feed, to abandoning sites (Gill *et al.* 2001). Note also that frequent, predictable stimuli can also lead to habituation – adding further complexity.
- e. Whilst disturbance is defined as being a response to human-induced activity, the consequences of human disturbance may be additional to the disturbing effects of predation or other negative impacts on populations (Ydenberg *et al.* 2004; Goss-Custard *et al.* 2006).
- f. Whether disturbance effects ultimately impact on population size depends not only on whether these affect survival and/or reproductive success, but also whether density-dependent processes operate within the population. This will determine whether the population will ‘compensate’ for losses through better survival and/or reproduction of remaining birds (Gill *et al.* 2001). In most cases other than for highly studied populations, this will not be possible to determine directly.
- g. The wording ‘human-induced’ is intended to cover those circumstances where the direct or indirect consequences of human activity may cause damaging disturbance. Examples might be the failure to keep dogs under control near colonies of breeding terns, or overflights of flamingo colonies by hot-air balloons causing nesting failure.

## **2. Definition of “deliberate” [in the context of “prohibit deliberate disturbance in so far as such disturbance...”]**

In the context of the implementation of AEWA’s Action Plan, the following definition, proposed by the European Commission (European Commission 2007) in the context of the interpretation of the same term in the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), should be used:

“Deliberate actions are to be understood as actions by a person who knows, in the light of the relevant legislation that applies to the species involved, and general information delivered to the public, that their actions will most likely lead to an offence against a species, but intends this offence or, if not, consciously accepts the foreseeable results of their actions”.

### **Additional guidance as to the interpretation of “deliberate disturbance” in the context of AEWA’s Action Plan**

a. The definition of ‘deliberate’ proposed includes those actions which, although disturbance to waterbirds is not their primary motivation, it would be the probable consequence of the action or human behaviour concerned. Thus, for example, it is not the purpose of kite surfing or other recreation activities such as jet-skiing on the coast to disturb waterbirds, but this will be the consequence of using such equipment within a breeding seabird colony and indeed could readily be avoided.

## **3. Definition of “significant” [in the context of whether “such disturbance would be significant for the conservation of the population concerned”]**

In the context of the implementation of AEWA’s Action Plan the following definition should be used:

“Disturbance should be judged as significant if an action (alone or in combination with other effects) impacts on waterbirds in such a way as to be likely to cause impacts on populations of a species through either

- (i) changed local distribution on a continuing basis; and/or
- (ii) changed local abundance on a sustained basis; and/or
- (iii) the reduction of ability of any significant group of birds to survive, breed, or rear their young.”

### **Additional guidance as to the interpretation of “significant” in the context of AEWA’s Action Plan**

a. There are three elements. The first is that significant disturbance may be likely to have an impact on the waterbirds by resulting in changed distribution on a persistent basis. Secondly, it may reduce numbers in a locality on a continuing basis. Thirdly, it may have adverse ecological impacts on the birds involved through changes to mortality or productivity. For significant disturbance to occur, any one of these three conditions must be met.

b. Reference to ‘species’ throughout this guidance also includes the units of sub-species and populations as specified in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan.

c. Significant disturbance does not necessarily directly affect the physical integrity of a species but can nevertheless have an indirect negative impact on the species. The intensity, duration and frequency of repetition of disturbances are important parameters in assessments. Different species will have different sensitivities or reactions to the same type of disturbance, which needs to be taken into account assessing significance. Factors causing significant disturbance for one species might not create disturbance for another (or disturbance that is insignificant i.e. temporary in its effects). Also, the sensitivity of a single species might be different depending on the season or on certain

periods in its life cycle (e.g. breeding period). A species-by-species approach is needed to determine in detail the meaning of “significant disturbance”.

d. Reflecting Article II.2 of the Agreement, which states that in implementing measures under the Agreement, “Parties should take account of the precautionary principle”, thresholds of ‘significance’ should take account of the biological status of a species either locally or globally. Thus, where feasible, they should be more precautionary for species with unfavourable or threatened conservation status recognising the practical problems in situations with multiple species present. Typically, in these and other situations, management of disturbance at wetlands should take place within a management planning context (see Ramsar Convention Secretariat 2010).

e. Conceptually, the definition of significant disturbance can be thought of as follows:

Type of response:	Disturbance	Significant disturbance
Consequences:	<b>Effect</b>	<b>Impact</b>
Description <b>Distribution</b>	Temporarily changed distribution	Long-term or continuing change distribution including exclusion from sites or habitats that would otherwise be used
<b>Abundance</b>	Temporary reduction in numbers at a location	Long-term or permanent reduction in numbers at a location
<b>Mortality</b>	No change to mortality	Noting that it is not always possible to assess, enhanced mortality as a result of exclusion from favoured habitats or other ‘fitness’ consequences
<b>Productivity</b>	No change to productivity	Noting that it is not always possible to assess, reduced productivity as a result of failure to nest, direct or indirect nest losses, or other factors

#### 4. Definition of “serious” [in the context of “serious disturbance to”]

In the context of the implementation of AEWA’s Action Plan, the following definition should be used:

“Serious disturbance should be interpreted as meaning disturbance which is defined as being significant (as defined) in its outcome.”

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## 6<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

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### RESOLUTION 6.8

#### ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL SINGLE SPECIES AND MULTI-SPECIES ACTION AND MANAGEMENT PLANS

*Recalling* that paragraph 2.2.1 of the Action Plan of the Agreement states that the Parties shall cooperate with a view to developing and implementing International Single Species Action Plans (ISSAPs), as a priority for those populations in Category 1 on Column A of Table 1 and those marked with an asterisk,

*Further recalling* that although ISSAPs are not directly binding, Parties are under a legal obligation to cooperate with a view to implementing such plans and that ISSAPs are, therefore, not merely recommendations, and that Parties shall make every effort to implement such plans as an extension of their obligations under the Agreement,

*Noting* that in accordance with target 1.4 of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017, ISSAPs shall be developed and implemented for most threatened species listed in Category 1 and in Categories 2 and 3, marked with an asterisk, on Column A of Table 1,

*Further noting* the new Category 4 of Column A of AEWA Table 1 added to the AEWA Action Plan under Resolution 5.6 for species/populations categorised by IUCN as Near Threatened, for which hunting may continue on a sustainable use basis within the framework of an ISSAP,

*Referring* to the revised priority list of species/populations for elaboration of new ISSAPs and the list of species for revision of ISSAPs as adopted by the AEWA Technical Committee for the period 2012-2015 as instructed by the Meeting of the Parties in Resolution 5.8,

*Recalling* paragraph 4.3.4 of the Action Plan of the Agreement whereby Parties shall also cooperate with a view to developing action plans for populations which cause significant damage, in particular to crops and fisheries,

*Further noting* that in accordance with target 2.5 of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017, international harvest management plans should be developed and implemented for at least two quarry populations,

*Following* the positive recommendations from both the Technical and Standing Committees concerning the need to approve and implement a further five new ISSAPs, one revised ISSAP, and the first AEWA International Multi-Species Action Plan (IMSAP),

*Further recalling* Resolution 3.12, operative paragraphs 4 and 5, and *noting* that the Standing Committee has approved the ISSAP for the Shoebill *Balaeniceps rex* on an interim basis at its 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting,

*Recognising* the progress made in establishing AEWA International Species Working Groups and AEWA International Species Expert Groups to coordinate the implementation of ISSAPs and the International Single Species Management Plan (ISSMP) and the increased implementation of ISSAPs and the ISSMP as a result of the operations of such International Species Working and Expert Groups,

*Also recognising* the need to develop and adopt further criteria and guidance to streamline the action- and management planning process under the Agreement including the revision and possible retirement of ISSAPs,

*Noting* the recommendations of the overview of the stage of preparation and implementation of AEWA International Single Species Action and Management Plans presented in Appendix 1 and document AEWA/MOP 6.16 and *acknowledging* that despite progress made, continued efforts are necessary to ensure the long-term conservation and/or sustainable use of prioritized species/populations,

*Thanking* all Parties for the funding provided towards the development of new Action Plans as well as the work of AEWA International Species Working and Expert Groups to implement existing ISSAPs and the ISSMP,

*Further thanking* all governmental and non-governmental organisations which provide support to the development, coordination and implementation of ISSAPs and the ISSMPs.

#### *The Meeting of the Parties:*

1. *Adopts* the International Single Species Action Plans for the following species/populations:
  - a) Grey Crowned-crane *Balearica regulorum* (document AEWA/MOP 6.25 Rev.1),
  - b) Taiga Bean Goose *Anser f. fabalis* (document AEWA/MOP 6.26 Rev. 1),
  - c) Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* (document AEWA/MOP 6.27),
  - d) Eurasian Curlew *Numenius a. arquata*, *N. a. orientalis* and *N. a. suschkini* (document AEWA/MOP 6.28 Rev. 1),
  - e) Shoebill *Balaeniceps rex* (document AEWA/MOP 6.29),
  - f) Northern Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita* (revision of the 2005 ISSAP) (document AEWA/MOP 6.32);
2. *Adopts* the International Multi-Species Action Plan for Benguela Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds (African Penguin *Spheniscus demersus*, Cape Gannet *Morus capensis*, Crowned Cormorant *Phalacrocorax coronatus*, Cape Cormorant *Phalacrocorax capensis*, Bank Cormorant *Phalacrocorax neglectus*, African Oystercatcher *Haematopus moquini*, Damara Tern *Sternula balaenarum*, Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*, Great Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*, document AEWA/MOP 6.30);
3. *Calls on* Parties to implement these and previously adopted ISSAPs as well as the International Single Species Management Plan pursuant to paragraph 2.2.1 of the Agreement's Action Plan and in accordance with the recommendations outlined in Appendix 1;
4. *Encourages* Range States that are not yet Contracting Parties to the Agreement to also implement these as well as previously adopted ISSAPs;
5. *Instructs* the Secretariat to convene, as a priority, AEWA International Species Working Groups to coordinate the implementation of ISSAPs for globally threatened and Near Threatened species as well as for the Taiga Bean Goose, an ISSAP with elements of adaptive harvest management, and for the International Multi-species Action Plan for Benguela Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds;
6. *Calls upon* all Range States, relevant governmental and non-governmental organisations and bilateral and multilateral donors to provide assistance for the coordination and implementation of ISSAPs and the Multi-Species Action Plan that have been adopted, in particular through active participation in, and funding of, AEWA International Species Working and Expert Groups;
7. *Encourages* Parties and Range States that are not yet Party to the Agreement, as well as relevant non-governmental organisations and bilateral and multilateral donors to continue providing assistance for the development of new ISSAPs, ISSMPs and IMSAPs as prioritised by the Technical Committee;
8. *Instructs* the Secretariat to disseminate these new ISSAPs, and the Multi-Species Action Plan to relevant Parties and organisations, to monitor their implementation, and to report to the Meeting of the Parties

as specified in paragraph 7.4 of the Agreement's Action Plan and through the international review on the stage of preparation and implementation of single species action plans;

9. *Calls upon* the Technical Committee to also produce a priority list and subsequent selection of species/populations for the development of International Single Species Management Plans or Multi-species Action Plans at its first meeting after each MOP, while anticipating the forthcoming possible changes of AEWA listing of species due to recent changes in the global Red Listing;

10. *Adopts* the decision-making process for the revision and retirement of ISSAPs as outlined in Appendix 2 and in document AEWA/MOP 6.33 and, *instructs* the Technical Committee to continue monitoring the implementation of ISSAPs and present proposals for the revision or retirement of specific ISSAPs to each Meeting of the Parties as appropriate;

11. *Encourages* the Technical Committee to revise the AEWA conservation guidelines on the preparation of National Single Species Action Plans for Migratory Waterbirds as well as to revise the format for ISSAPs and to consider the need for such a format for ISSMPs and IMSAPs;

12. *Requests* Parties as well as the AEWA International Species Working and Expert Groups to follow, as appropriate, the adopted AEWA conservation guidelines when implementing ISSAPs, the International Management Plan and the International Multi-Species Action Plan, stressing the need for this best practice, and *stresses* in particular the obligation to inform the Secretariat in advance of any re-establishment programmes for populations listed in Table 1 of the Action Plan.

**Appendix 1.** Recommendations following from the overview of the stage of preparation and implementation of AEWA International Single Species Action and Management Plans

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Essential priorities:

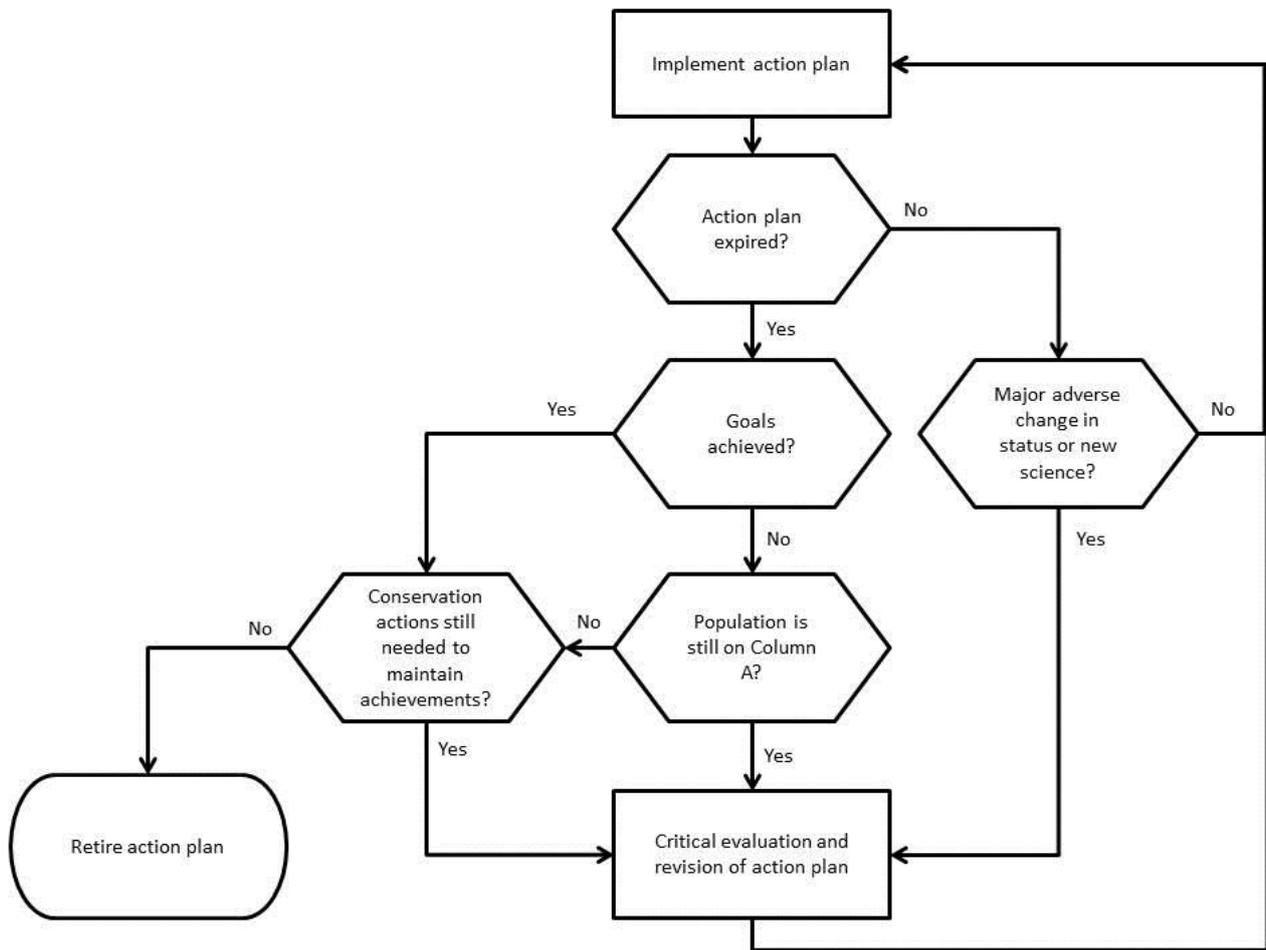
- Urgently **step-up the implementation of existing Action Plans** – with an emphasis on the need for much **stronger government involvement and commitment** including the establishment of **National Working Groups** and the adoption of **National Action Plans** in key Principal Range States as appropriate;
- Urgently **source more funding, human capacity and technical know-how** for the implementation of critical and high priority Action Plan activities with a focus on globally threatened species;
- Urgently **step-up the work of the existing AEWA International Species Working and Expert Groups and their coordination** for example by:
  - **re-launching currently inactive Working Groups;**
  - ensuring **Working/Expert Group membership of all Principal Range States** (in particular of appropriate government representatives);
  - providing **sufficient and active international coordination;**
  - facilitating **increased cooperation and exchange with other relevant government and economic sectors**, in particular with regard to hunting, agriculture and the extraction of natural resources;
  - ensuring that **sufficient guidance and mentoring** regarding the implementation of Action/Management Plans under AEWA is provided by the Secretariat and the Technical Committee, as necessary;
  - Ensure **conclusive monitoring of implementation progress** by undertaking in-depth reviews of Action and Management Plans on the basis of the indicators and sources of (independent) verification listed therein - in addition to information provided by the range states - within the framework of the Working/Expert Groups;
- Urgently **step-up the recruitment of new Contracting Parties to AEWA** - particularly from Central Asia and the Middle East – in order to further enhance implementation.

### High priorities:

- Continue the establishment of **AEWA International Species Working and Expert Groups** for new and revised Plans;
- Undertake an **assessment of the existing AEWA Action Plans currently without international coordination mechanisms and suggest their revision or retirement;**
- **Continue the development of the action- and management planning process** under the Agreement, for example by:
  - **revising the current AEWA Action Plan format** in an attempt to ensure that Action Plans have the potential to deliver on their goals, are more targeted and implementable and more practical especially for implementing agencies and policy-makers – including a better correspondence between Action Plan goals and activities and by restricting the number of included Principal Range States;
  - developing **format(s) for AEWA Management and AEWA Multi-Species Action Plans;**

- **revising the AEWA Guidelines for the development of National Action Plans**, including guidance on the establishment of National Working Groups;
- **Promote the development of further International Management Plans** under the Agreement on the basis of the example of the AEWA International Management Plan for the Pink-footed Goose and the revised AEWA Guidelines on the Sustainable Harvest of Migratory Waterbirds;
- Ensure that **adopted AEWA guidelines are also taken into account** during the preparation of Action Plans as well as during their implementation, as appropriate.

**Appendix 2.** Decision-making process for the assessment of AEWA International Single Species Action Plans for revision and retirement (as outlined in document AEWA/MOP 6.33)



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### RESOLUTION 6.9

#### IMPROVING THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN SEABIRDS

Aware that seabirds are one of the most threatened groups of birds, and concerned that of the 84 seabird species listed by AEWA, many are threatened and/or have declining populations at both regional and global level, including four species listed on the IUCN Global Red List as Endangered, four species listed as Vulnerable, five species as Near Threatened, and 29 species which are listed as Least Concern although with decreasing global population trends,

Noting the findings on threats to seabirds, the current knowledge gaps and recommendations of the *Review of the Status, Threats and Conservation Action Priorities for the Seabird Populations Covered by the Agreement* (document AEWA/MOP6.40), the *Review of potential impacts of marine fisheries on migratory seabirds within the Afro-Tropical Region* (document AEWA/MOP6.39) and the *Multi-species Action Plan for the Conservation of Benguela Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds* (document AEWA/MOP6.30),

Further noting the findings and knowledge gaps in BirdLife International’s 2013 review of gillnet bycatch, *The incidental catch of seabirds in gillnet fisheries: A global review*<sup>7</sup> on the by-catch susceptibility of many AEWA seabird species, the findings in BirdLife International’s 2011 *Review Global seabird bycatch in longline fisheries*<sup>8</sup>, the findings of the review “*Best practices to mitigate seabird bycatch in longline, trawl and gillnet fisheries – efficiency and practical applicability*”<sup>9</sup> and in the work of the Albatross Task Force across Africa which has highlighted regions where knowledge of seabird bycatch by longline fisheries vessels is poor,

Recognising the lack of knowledge on the scale and severity of impact from threats to AEWA seabirds across their life cycle, including from climate change, unsustainable fisheries, legal and illegal hunting in the Arctic, bycatch in fisheries and in particular by gillnets, chronic and episodic pollution events, and marine debris,

Recalling the relevance of Aichi 2020 Biodiversity Target no. 11 related to protected areas, and further recalling CMS Resolution 11.25 on the need to advance ecological networks of protected sites for migratory species and Article III 2(c) of the Agreement which requires Parties to “*identify sites and habitats for migratory waterbirds occurring within their territory and encourage the protection, management, rehabilitation and restoration of these sites*”, Article III 2(d) which requires parties to “*coordinate their efforts to ensure that a network of suitable habitats is maintained or, where appropriate, re-established throughout the entire range of each migratory waterbird species concerned*”, and Article III 2(e) which requires Parties to “*investigate*

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<sup>7</sup> Żydelis, R., Small, C. and French, G. (2013) The incidental catch of seabirds in gillnet fisheries: A global review. *Biological Conservation* 162: 76–88. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320713000979>

<sup>8</sup> Anderson, O.R.J., Small, C.J., Croxall, J.P., Dunn, E.K., Sullivan, B.J., Yates, O., Black, A., 2011. Global seabird bycatch in longline fisheries. *Endangered Species Research*, 14, 91–106. <http://www.int-res.com/abstracts/esr/v14/n2/p91-106/>

<sup>9</sup> Best practices to mitigate seabird bycatch in longline, trawl and gillnet fisheries – efficiency and practical applicability, Sven Lokkeborg, Fish Capture Division, Institute of Marine Research, 5817 Bergen, Norway, *Marine Ecology Progress series*, Vol. 435, p. 285-303, 2011.

*problems that are posed or are likely to be posed by human activities and endeavour to implement remedial measures’...’*,

*Recalling* also CMS Resolutions 10.19 and 11.26, AEWA Resolution 5.13 and AEWA Strategic Plan Objective 1, Target 1.2 on climate change urging Parties to maximise species and habitat resilience to climate change through appropriate design of ecological networks, and acknowledging that this is of particular importance for areas where rapid changes and ecosystem shifts are occurring,

*Referring to* the 1999 FAO International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (IPOA-Seabirds) and *acknowledging* the European Union’s Common Fisheries Policy, and its goals to achieve sustainable fisheries across the EU by 2020 and beyond,

*Recalling* the CMS Resolution 10.14 on bycatch of CMS-listed species in gillnet fisheries and *welcoming* the European Commission’s 2012 Action Plan for reducing incidental catches of seabirds in fishing gears, and the existing National Plans of Action implemented by a number of Parties, and *noting* the information presented in the 2015 BirdLife International Workshop Report: *By-catch Mitigation Measures in Gillnet Fisheries*<sup>10</sup>, which highlights urgent priorities for gillnet bycatch mitigation research and identifies major data gaps, particularly in Africa and in the Arctic,

*Recalling* the resolution 1/6 of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme on marine plastic debris and microplastics that requested the Executive Director, in consultation with other relevant institutions and stakeholders, to undertake a study on marine plastic debris and marine microplastics, building on existing work and taking into account the most up-to-date studies and data and to present the study to the second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly,

*Aware of* potential impacts to migratory seabirds resulting from the ingestion of plastics, microplastics and other forms of marine litter (marine debris) and *recalling* the CMS Resolutions 10.4 and 11.30 on marine debris, requiring Parties to work collectively and with the relevant Regional Seas Conventions on reducing the impacts of marine debris on migratory species,

*Recognising* the central role and responsibilities of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations to minimise catch of non-target species in their fisheries, as established in the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, and the role of CMS, its other related Agreements and multiple other international actors in addressing these issues,

*Noting* the lack of AEWA Conservation Guidelines to help implement obligations with respect to minimising effects of fisheries on migratory waterbirds but *aware of* much other relevant guidance,

*Highlighting* the need for strengthened regional collaboration in responding to both acute and chronic oil pollution and oil spills within the region, particularly where capacity is low to deal with emergency mitigation especially in respect of rapid response measures,

*Welcoming* the work already being undertaken by many Contracting Parties to reduce the impact on seabirds from introduced predators and invasive alien species especially on breeding islands, but *emphasising* that more work is urgently needed to eliminate these impacts,

*Recognising* the joint issues of concern and potential linkages and synergies that exist between AEWA and the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP).

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<sup>10</sup> Wiedenfeld, D.A., Crawford, R. & Pott, C.M. (2015). *Workshop Report: Reducing the Bycatch of Seabirds, Sea Turtles, and Marine Mammals in Gillnets*. National Conservation Training Center, USA. 36 pp.  
[http://www.birdlife.org/sites/default/files/Workshop-Report\\_Reducing-Bycatch-in-Gillnets\\_Jan-2015\\_BirdLife\\_ABC.pdf](http://www.birdlife.org/sites/default/files/Workshop-Report_Reducing-Bycatch-in-Gillnets_Jan-2015_BirdLife_ABC.pdf)

*The Meeting of the Parties:*

1. *Calls upon* Parties and *encourages* non-Party Range States and other relevant international fora to endeavour to identify important sites for AEWA-listed seabirds including areas at sea which are managed to protect such seabirds across all life cycle stages, which contribute to achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target no.11;
2. *Encourages* Parties to implement the recommendations of the *Review of the Status, Threats and Conservation Action Priorities for the Seabird Populations Covered by the Agreement* notably in respect of the following issues:
  - 2.1 Strengthen cooperation in providing reliable and quantified reporting of seabird harvest data, including egg harvesting in order to assess the annual legal harvest of seabird populations and provide estimates of illegal catch statistics;
  - 2.2 Strengthen efforts to quantify gillnet fishing effort within the Agreement area, and to work towards quantifying the scale and impacts of bycatch in both small and large scale fisheries;
  - 2.3 In the context of AEWA priorities for International Single Species Action Plans, develop or update plans for priority seabirds, incorporating detailed information and mapping of where threats are occurring, to facilitate coherent regional management of species-specific threats;
  - 2.4 Ensure that national coastal and marine spatial planning initiatives prioritise the collection, collation and integration of seabird data, including marine Important Bird Areas, Marine Protected Areas, temporal/spatial usage and species sensitivity mapping outputs, during the planning process and that human impacts on AEWA listed seabirds is minimised;
  - 2.5 Strengthen national fisheries management processes, and provide adequate capacity for enforcing compliance to regulations, monitoring of catch and surveillance of vessels in relation to protected areas for AEWA listed seabirds;
  - 2.6 Ensure that the collection of seabird bycatch data is integrated into existing bycatch observer programmes on vessels;
  - 2.7 Develop and implement National Plans of Action for seabird bycatch;
  - 2.8 Promote work to understand the long term impacts of marine debris on seabird species;
  - 2.9 Support and contribute to filling knowledge gaps on AEWA-listed seabird species, including by sharing information and facilitating research on relevant threats and priority areas in relation to such species;
  - 2.10 Encourage continued monitoring programmes for assessing and updating the conservation status of AEWA-listed seabird species;
3. *Calls upon* Parties, as appropriate, to implement the *International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (IPOA-Seabirds)* and comply with all current binding and recommendatory measures aimed at the protection of seabirds, adopted by RFMOs;
4. *Calls upon* relevant Parties to implement the recommendations of the *Review of Potential impacts of marine fisheries on migratory seabirds within the Afro-Tropical Region as well as the Multi-species Action Plan for the Conservation of Benguela Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds*;
5. *Determines that* in addressing seabird conservation issues, AEWA's priority should be those species, regions, or threats not already the subject of pre-existing international or conservation frameworks, for example - but not restricted to - tropical seabirds or those impacted by small or artisanal fisheries not regulated by RFMOs, and subject to the availability of financial resources, requests the Technical Committee to provide advice on most urgent priorities in this regard;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of financial resources, and in consultation with the Technical Committee, to facilitate the development of an implementation process for this resolution focused on the added value that AEWA can bring to addressing priority recommendations of the *Review of the status, threats and conservation action priorities for the seabird populations covered by the Agreement* and the *Review of potential impacts of marine fisheries on migratory seabirds within the Afrotropical region* complementarily

to the proposed Working Group for the *Multi-species Action Plan for the Conservation of Benguela Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds*;

7. *Requests* the Technical Committee, subject to the availability of financial resources, in consultation with CMS, ACAP and other relevant bodies (in particular relevant RFMOs) and expertise, to facilitate Parties' implementation of paragraph 4.3.7 of the Action Plan by compiling existing and, where necessary, complementing or developing user-friendly conservation guidelines and recommendations based on the priorities identified in paragraph 5 and best available science, and to bring these to the next session of the Meeting of Parties;

8. *Also requests* the Technical Committee, subject to the availability of financial and in-kind resources, in consultation with CMS, to assess any threats posed to migratory seabirds listed by AEWA from the ingestion of plastics, of microplastics and other forms of marine litter (marine debris) and to provide advice on appropriate responses in this regard to the Meeting of Parties.

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### RESOLUTION 6.10

#### COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

*Aware* of the importance of communication as a central and cross-cutting element for the implementation of the Agreement and *further aware* that most waterbird conservation issues essentially revolve around human involvement, and that communication plays a critical role in human behaviour and management strategies,

*Conscious* that communication needs to be targeted, planned and delivered according to the particular change sought, and that therefore the modes, styles and content of communications need to be flexible both with regard to different audiences and purpose,

*Mindful* that Article III, paragraph 2 of the Agreement notes that AEWA Parties shall “*develop and maintain programmes to raise awareness and understanding of migratory waterbird conservation issues in general and of the particular objectives and provisions of this Agreement*”,

*Underlining* the need to raise greater public awareness of migratory waterbirds, the multiple threats they face and the obstacles to their migration, yet *recognising* that ‘raising awareness’ on its own is generally insufficient, and is a first step of a suite of actions to change or influence human behaviour, which requires a strategic approach to communications, long-term interventions and the cooperation of multiple stakeholders,

*Recognising* the goals set out in the AEWA Strategic Plan, the CMS Strategic Plan for Migratory Species, and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, all of which set the target of improving public awareness and support and engagement at the public and political level,

*Recalling* Article VIII, paragraphs (e) and (j) of the Agreement, which state that the Agreement Secretariat shall “*provide information for the general public concerning the Agreement and its objectives*” and “*gather and evaluate information which will further the objectives and implementation of the Agreement and to arrange for appropriate dissemination of such information*” and *noting* that other functions of the Secretariat such as those outlined in Article VIII, paragraphs (c) and (d) of the Agreement, are also supported by communication,

*Aware* of CMS COP10 Resolution 10.9 on Future Structure and Strategies of CMS and the CMS Family which endorses enhanced communication and seeks opportunities to develop awareness of CMS and the CMS Family, and coordinated strategic plans for the CMS Family and *noting with satisfaction* the initiative of the CMS and AEWA Executive Secretaries to develop a global communication strategy for CMS in parallel to the revision of AEWA’s Communication Strategy,

*Also aware* of CMS COP11 Resolution 11.8 which requests the CMS Executive Secretary to present the new CMS communication strategy to the 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee for adoption and invites AEWA Parties to adopt a new strategically aligned AEWA communication strategy at AEWA MOP6,

*Recalling* Resolution 3.10 through which the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA adopted the first Communication Strategy for AEWA, and *further recalling* Resolution 5.5 which instructs the Secretariat, taking into account CMS Resolution 10.9, to prepare a full revision of the Communication Strategy for adoption by the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA,

*Welcoming* the initiative of the CMS Executive Secretary and the Acting Executive Secretary of AEWA to establish a joint Communication, Information Management and Awareness-raising Unit in January 2014, serving the UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWA Secretariats as a pilot demonstrating enhanced synergies within the CMS Family through joint services in the area of communications, outreach and information management,

*Taking note* of the process underway to develop a global Communication Strategy for CMS,

*Thanking* the Government of Germany, for having generously contributed funds towards the development of a global communication strategy for CMS and a new strategically-aligned communication strategy for AEWA.

*The Meeting of the Parties:*

1. *Adopts* the new AEWA Communication Strategy (document AEWA/MOP6.21) as an instrument to guide communication efforts in support of implementation of the Agreement;
2. *Instructs* the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat to implement the Communication Strategy to the extent possible and taking into account available financial and human resources, to monitor and review its effectiveness regularly, and to report on its implementation at each Meeting of the Parties;
3. *Urges* all Parties to develop “*programmes to raise awareness and understanding of migratory waterbird conservation issues*” that they maintain as per Article III, paragraph 2 of the Agreement, and to report on their activities conducted in support of the implementation of the Communication Strategy as part of their national report to each Meeting of the Parties (MOP);
4. *Requests* the AEWA Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Focal Points, AEWA Technical Committee and its CEPA Expert, to provide active support to the communication work of the Agreement, especially with regards to supporting the Secretariat in the identification of priority issues for communication, development of key messages, communication plans and products as well as in the identification of communication partners and target audiences;
5. *Urges* Parties and other stakeholders working for the conservation of migratory waterbirds, to assist actively in the implementation of the Communication Strategy, *inter alia*, by establishing new or reinforcing existing strategic partnerships, acting as public advocates and spokespeople, and through voluntary contributions and in-kind support;
6. *Requests* Parties and other donors to consider providing voluntary contributions towards implementation of the Communication Strategy and invites all Parties, Range States and other stakeholders to support its implementation with the expertise, networks, skills and resources they have at their disposal.

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### RESOLUTION 6.11

#### ADDRESSING IMPACTS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY DEPLOYMENT ON MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

*Recognising* the importance to society of an adequate and stable energy supply and that renewable energy sources can significantly contribute to achieving this, and *aware* that renewable power generation, especially from wind energy, large solar panel power stations and biomass production, is projected by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) to increase four- to six-fold by 2030,

*Recognising also* that increased use of technologies to exploit renewable energy may potentially affect migratory waterbird species listed by AEW A, and *concerned* about the cumulative effects of such technology on the movement of migratory waterbirds, their ability to utilize critical staging areas, the loss and fragmentation of their habitats, and mortality from collisions with infrastructural developments,

*Recalling* Article III 2(e) of the Agreement in accordance with which Parties shall, *inter alia*, “investigate problems that are posed or are likely to be posed by human activities and endeavour to implement remedial measures” and *noting* the relevance of this obligation to renewable energy developments, especially given that adverse impacts of renewable energy technologies can be substantially minimised through careful site selection and planning, thorough Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), and good post-construction monitoring to learn from experience,

*Recalling also* previous decisions by AEW A and aware of those of the CMS and other MEAs, as well as of relevant guidelines, on reconciling renewable energy developments with the conservation of migratory species, in particular birds, including:

- AEW A Resolution 5.16 on ‘Renewable Energy and Migratory Waterbirds’ which stressed the need to address or avoid adverse effects on migratory waterbirds and contains operational recommendations of relevance to many other migratory species;
- AEW A’s ‘Guidelines on How to Avoid, Minimize or Mitigate Impact of Infrastructural Developments and Related Disturbance Affecting Waterbirds’ (Conservation Guidelines no. 11);
- CMS Resolution 7.5 on ‘Wind Turbines and Migratory Species’;
- CMS Resolution 10.19 on ‘Migratory Species Conservation in the Light of Climate Change’;
- Bern Convention Recommendation No. 109 on minimising adverse effects of wind power generation on wildlife and the guidance of 2003 on environmental assessment criteria and site selection issues related to wind-farming as well as the best practice guidance on integrated wind farm planning and impact assessment presented to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Bern Convention Standing Committee in 2013;
- Ramsar Resolution XI.10 ‘Guidance for Addressing the Implications for Wetlands of Policies, Plans and Activities in the Energy Sector’;
- SBSTTA 16 Recommendation XVI/9 ‘Technical and Regulatory Matters on Geoengineering in Relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity’; and
- Guidance on wind and solar energy, developed in the framework of the BirdLife International UNDP/GEF Migratory Soaring Bird project;

and *recognising* the need for closer cooperation and synergetic implementation amongst the CMS Family, other MEAs and relevant national and international stakeholders of decisions and guidelines to reconcile energy sector developments with migratory species conservation needs,

*Acknowledging* the critical need for liaison, communication and strategic planning to be jointly undertaken by the government authorities responsible for environmental protection and energy development respectively, to avoid or mitigate negative consequences for migratory and other species and their habitats,

*Taking note* of document AEWA/MOP 6.38: '*Renewable Energy Technology Deployment and Migratory Species: an Overview*', which summarizes knowledge of actual and possible effects of renewable energy installations on migratory waterbirds amongst other migratory species, *noting* its conclusion that relatively few scientific studies are available on the short-term, long-term and cumulative impacts of renewable energy technologies, and *acknowledging* the urgent need for further research on the impact on migratory species of renewable energy technologies particularly in relation to ocean and solar energy,

*Noting also* that document AEWA/MOP 6.38 highlights the urgent need to collect data on the distribution of migratory waterbirds amongst other migratory species, their population size and migration routes as an essential part of any strategic planning and impact assessment, prior to and/or during the planning phase of development of renewable energy deployments, and also stresses the need to monitor regularly mortality arising from those developments,

*Recognising* that '*Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment*' (document AEWA/MOP 6.37) adopted by Resolution 6.5 is of high relevance for the implementation of the Agreement while *noting* that this is the first version of the Guidelines, as adopted also by the CMS COP11, which is aimed to be reviewed in consultation with IRENA, so as to deliver a second version of the Guidelines to a future CMS COP and AEWA MOP,

*Recalling* past AEWA decisions and adopted guidelines and other relevant international decisions and guidance with regard to mitigating the specific impacts of power lines on birds, including:

- AEWA Resolution 5.11 '*Power Lines and Migratory Waterbirds*';
- CMS Resolution 10.11 on '*Power Lines and Migratory Birds*';
- '*Guidelines on How to Avoid or Mitigate the Impact of Electricity Power Grids on Migratory Birds in the African-Eurasian Region*' adopted by CMS COP10, AEWA MOP5 and the CMS Raptors MoU MOS1;
- Bern Convention Recommendation No. 110 on minimising adverse effects of above-ground electricity transmission facilities (power lines) on birds;
- The Budapest Declaration on bird protection and power lines adopted in 2011 by the Conference '*Power Lines and Bird Mortality in Europe*'; and
- Guidance on wind and solar energy, developed in the framework of the BirdLife International UNDP/GEF Migratory Soaring Bird project,

*Welcoming* the good cooperation and partnerships already established at both international and national levels between stakeholders including governments and their institutions, energy companies, non-government organisations (NGOs) and Secretariats of MEAs, and the concerted efforts made to address energy developments which conflict with species conservation,

*Taking note* of the CMS Resolution 11.27 on renewable energy and migratory species adopted by COP11 (4-9 November 2014, Quito, Ecuador),

*Acknowledging with thanks* the financial support of the Governments of Germany and Norway through the UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWA Secretariats, and of BirdLife International through the BirdLife UNDP/GEF Migratory Soaring Birds project towards the compilation of the report '*Renewable Energy Technology Deployment and Migratory Species: an Overview*' and the guidelines document '*Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment*'.

*The Meeting of the Parties:*

1. *Urges* Parties and *encourages* non-Party Range States, notwithstanding the call of Resolution 5.16, to implement the provisions of document *Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment* (document AEW/MOP 6.37) adopted by Resolution 6.5, as applicable, depending on the particular circumstances of each Party, including to:
  - 1.1 apply Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) and EIA procedures or similar procedures involving assessment of impacts on protected areas and other sensitive areas of importance to migratory waterbirds, as appropriate, when planning the use of renewable energy technologies;
  - 1.2 undertake appropriate survey and monitoring both before and after deployment of renewable energy technologies to identify impacts on migratory waterbird species and their habitats in the short- and long-term, as well as to evaluate mitigation measures; and
  - 1.3 apply appropriate cumulative impact studies to describe and understand impacts at a larger scale, such as at population level or along entire flyway;
2. *Urges* Parties, notwithstanding the call of Resolution 5.16, to implement, as appropriate, the following priorities in their development of renewable energy technologies:
  - 2.1 **wind energy**: undertake careful physical planning with special attention to the mortality (in particular of species that are long-lived and have low fecundity) and resulting from collisions with wind turbines, and consider means of reducing disturbance and displacement effects on relevant species, including deploying measures such as ‘shutdown on demand’ as appropriate;
  - 2.2 **solar energy**: avoid deployment in, or near, protected areas and other sensitive areas where this would be of significance for migratory waterbirds so as to limit further the impacts of solar power plants; undertake careful planning to reduce disturbance and displacement effects on relevant species, as well as to minimise the risks of solar flux and trauma-related injuries which could be a consequence of a number of solar energy technologies;
  - 2.3 **ocean energy**: give attention to possible impacts on migratory waterbird species, particularly loss of coastal inter-tidal habitats;
  - 2.4 **hydro-power**: undertake measures to reduce or mitigate known serious impacts, such as habitat loss and degradation;
  - 2.5 **geoenergy**: avoid habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation, and disturbance in order to continue to keep the overall environmental impacts at their current low level;
  - 2.6 **bioenergy**: approach with special care and attention the planning of bioenergy production in order to prevent large-scale impact of habitat loss;
3. *Instructs* the Secretariat to stay involved in the multi-stakeholder *Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation* (the Energy Task Force) to be convened by the CMS Secretariat following a decision of CMS COP11;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to participate in the review of and the production of the second version of the document ‘*Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment*’ in consultation with the UNEP/CMS Secretariat, IRENA and BirdLife International.

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### RESOLUTION 6.12

#### AVOIDING ADDITIONAL AND UNNECESSARY MORTALITY FOR MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

*Conscious* that changes in levels of mortality can result in changes in waterbird population sizes, sometimes leading to consequences for their conservation status, as well as – for species subject to consumptive use – reduced potential harvests,

*Aware* that many human activities can result in additional direct mortality of migratory waterbirds including illegal killing; trade; lead poisoning; poisoning resulting from the use and abuse of pesticides and other agricultural chemicals; incidental killing from agricultural practices; incidental killing from fisheries including through bycatch in fishing gear such as gill nets, longlines and trawling; and mortality from oil, ingestion of plastics and other forms of marine litter; collisions with energy infrastructures such as power-lines and wind turbines; introduced non-native species on islands; and that additional indirect mortality may also arise, *inter alia*, from human-induced changes to land-use and climate, and *also aware* that multiple causes of mortality can act cumulatively to influence population dynamics,

*Aware also* that addressing causes of additional and unnecessary mortality of migratory waterbirds is central to the implementation of the Agreement and its Action Plan, and has been the subject of discussion and decisions at every Meeting of the Parties (Appendix 1 to this Resolution),

*Recalling* Recommendation No. 164 of the Bern Convention’s Standing Committee, adopted on 6 December 2013, on the implementation of the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020<sup>11</sup> for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds, and which, *inter alia*, called for the establishment of a Pan-Mediterranean Working Group to eradicate these activities,

*Recalling also* Resolutions adopted at the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) in 2014, which directly address issues that result in unnecessary additional mortality of waterbirds and which make recommendations concerning legislative and non-legislative actions to reduce or eliminate such impacts, including:

- Resolution 11.15 on *Preventing poisoning of migratory birds* addressing issues in its appended Guidelines on preventing risk from insecticides and rodenticides to protect crops, poison-baits for predator control and harvesting, veterinary pharmaceuticals to treat livestock, and lead ammunition and fishing weights, and which *inter alia* mandates the continued work of the CMS Preventing Poisoning Working Group to provide further guidance and support in relation to the implementation of the Resolution;
- Resolution 11.16 on *The prevention of illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds*; which, *inter alia*, establishes an Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean as called for by the Bern Convention, on a joint basis;

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<sup>11</sup> [http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/nature/Bern/Institutions/Documents/2013/Misc\\_2013\\_33rdSC\\_E%20final.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/nature/Bern/Institutions/Documents/2013/Misc_2013_33rdSC_E%20final.pdf)

- Resolution 11.27 on Renewable energy and migratory species, addressing issues of the appropriate deployment of sustainable energy technologies,

*Recalling* also the 2014 AEWA/CMS *Plan of Action to Address Bird Trapping Along the Mediterranean Coasts of Egypt and Libya* which addresses the wide-scale, non-selective killing of birds, and *noting*, with the issues addressed in CMS Resolutions 11.15, 11.16 and 11.27, its high relevance for the implementation of the Agreement and the achievement of its strategic and other objectives,

*Noting* the slow progress made by most Parties to eliminate the use of lead gunshot from wetlands, although with welcome recent policy initiatives to this end by Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia and Switzerland,

*Conscious* of the considerable body of guidance on how to address the issues listed in Appendix 1 that has now been developed and adopted by AEWA and CMS, as well as much other technical guidance prepared by others, *inter alia* the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, the European Union, and the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP),

*Noting also* Resolution 6.9 on *Improving the conservation of seabird species in the African-Eurasian region* and Resolution 6.11 on *Addressing impacts of renewable energy deployment on migratory waterbirds*.

#### *The Meeting of the Parties:*

1. *Urges* Parties to give priority to utilising the large body of guidance summarised in Appendix 1, as necessary or appropriate, in their implementation of the Agreement;
2. *Thanks* the European Union for its financial support of the implementation of CMS Resolution 11.16 which will allow the creation of the Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat, involving expertise from the Technical Committee, as appropriate, to continue to contribute to the work of the CMS Preventing Poisoning Working Group, and to contribute to the work of the Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean in the light of the importance of these issues for migratory waterbirds and the implementation of AEWA's Action Plan;
4. *Encourages* Contracting Parties which are also Parties to CMS to implement, as a matter of priority, CMS Resolution 11.15 on *Preventing poisoning of migratory birds* and utilise, as appropriate, its appended guidance to address risks from:
  - the incidental poisoning of birds through the use and/or abuse of insecticides and rodenticides to protect crops;
  - the deliberate and/or incidental killing of birds through the use of poison baits for predator control and harvesting; and
  - the use of lead ammunition and fishing weights;
5. *Invites* those Contracting Parties which are not Parties to CMS to implement, as appropriate, CMS Resolution 11.15 on Preventing poisoning of migratory birds and utilise its appended guidance.

## Appendix 1

**AEWA and CMS Resolutions and adopted guidance that address issues which cause unnecessary additional mortality for migratory waterbirds. Note that additionally, many Single Species Action Plans also address these causes of mortality and provide guidance for the species concerned.**

Cause of additional unnecessary mortality	Strategic guidance and objectives agreed by AEWA Parties	Relevant AEWA & CMS Resolutions	Relevant AEWA & CMS Guidance
Mortality through collision with, or electrocution by power generation infrastructure including that related to renewable energy	AEWA Action Plan para 4.3.5	<p>CMS Res. 7.4 Electrocution of migratory birds</p> <p>CMS Res 7.5 Wind turbines and migratory species</p> <p>CMS Res 10.11 Power lines and migratory birds</p> <p>CMS Res. 11.27 Renewable energy and migratory species</p> <p>AEWA Res. 5.11 Power lines and migratory waterbirds</p> <p>AEWA Res. 5.16 Renewable energy and migratory waterbirds</p>	<p>AEWA Conservation Guidelines (No. 11) on how to avoid, minimise or mitigate impact of infrastructural developments and related disturbance affecting waterbirds</p> <p>AEWA Conservation Guidelines (No. 14) on how to avoid or mitigate impact of electricity power grids on migratory birds in the Africa-Eurasian region</p> <p>AEWA Conservation Guidelines (No. 8) on reducing damage, damage to fisheries, bird strikes and other forms of conflict between waterbirds and human activities)</p> <p>CMS/AEWA Guidance on renewable energy technologies and migratory species: guidelines for sustainable deployment (document AEWA/MOP 6.37)</p>
Poisoning through the use of lead gunshot in wetlands	<p>AEWA Action Plan para 4.1.4</p> <p>Strategic Plan 2.1: “By 2017 the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands is phased out by all Contracting Parties.”</p>	<p>AEWA Res 1.14 Phasing out of lead shot in wetlands</p> <p>AEWA Res. 2.2 Phasing out lead shot for hunting in wetlands</p> <p>AEWA Res. 3.4 Submission of national reports to MOP3 and MOP4 and reports on</p>	<p>AEWA Conservation Guidelines (No. 5) on sustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds (document AEWA/MOP 6.36)</p> <p>AEWA 2009. <i>Non-toxic shot. A pathway towards sustainable use of the waterbird resource.</i> AEWA Technical Series No. 3</p>

		<p>the phase out of lead shot in wetlands</p> <p>AEWA Res. 4.1 Phasing out lead shot for hunting in wetlands</p> <p>CMS Res. 10.26 Minimising the risk of poisoning to migratory birds</p> <p>CMS Res. 11.15 Preventing poisoning of migratory birds</p>	<p>AEWA 2009. <i>Phasing out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands. Experiences made and lessons learned by AEWA Range States.</i> 30 pp.</p> <p>CMS Res. 11.15 Guidelines to prevent the risk of poisoning to migratory birds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendations to prevent risk from lead ammunition and fishing weights</li> </ul>
Poisoning through the use of lead fishing weights	AEWA Action Plan para 4.3.12	<p>CMS Res. 10.26 Minimising the risk of poisoning to migratory birds</p> <p>CMS Res. 11.15 Preventing poisoning of migratory birds</p>	<p>CMS Res. 11.15 Guidelines to prevent the risk of poisoning to migratory birds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendations to prevent risk from lead ammunition and fishing weights</li> </ul>
Deliberate poisoning through the use of baits	<p>AEWA Action Plan paras 2.1.1 &amp; 2.1.2</p> <p>Strategic Plan 2.3: “Measures to reduce, and as far as possible eliminate, illegal taking of waterbirds, the use of poison baits and non-selective methods of taking are developed and implemented.”</p>	<p>CMS Res. 10.26 Minimising the risk of poisoning to migratory birds</p> <p>CMS Res. 11.15 Preventing poisoning of migratory birds</p>	<p>CMS Res. 11.15 Guidelines to prevent the risk of poisoning to migratory birds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendations to prevent risk from poison baits used for predator control and harvesting</li> </ul>
Poisoning resulting from the use and/or abuse of agricultural chemicals	AEWA Action Plan paras 2.1.1 & 2.1.2	<p>CMS Res. 10.26 Minimising the risk of poisoning to migratory birds</p> <p>CMS Res. 11.15 Preventing poisoning of migratory birds</p> <p>AEWA Res. 5.1 Adverse effects of agrochemicals on migratory waterbirds in Africa</p> <p>CMS Res. 11.15 Preventing poisoning of migratory birds</p>	<p>CMS Res. 11.15 Guidelines to prevent the risk of poisoning to migratory birds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendations to prevent risk from insecticides used to protect crops</li> </ul>
Illegal killing or taking of waterbirds (for consumption or trade)	AEWA Action Plan paras 2.1.1 & 2.1.2	CMS Res. 11.16 The prevention of illegal killing, taking and	Plan of Action to Address Bird Trapping Along the Mediterranean

through trapping or shooting	<p>Strategic Plan 2.3: “Measures to reduce, and as far as possible eliminate, illegal taking of waterbirds, the use of poison baits and non-selective methods of taking are developed and implemented.”</p> <p>Plan of Action for Africa: “By 2017: All CPs have pertinent legislation in place to reduce , and as far as possible eliminate illegal taking of waterbirds, the use of poison baits and other non-selective methods of taking, and illegal trade, which is being fully enforced.”</p>	<p>trade of migratory birds</p> <p>CMS Res. 10.26 Minimising the risk of poisoning to migratory birds</p>	<p>Coasts of Egypt and Libya</p> <p>AEWA Conservation Guidelines (No. 6) on regulating trade in migratory waterbirds</p> <p>AEWA Conservation Guidelines (No. 5) on sustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds (document AEWA/MOP 6.36)</p>
Incidental killing including through bycatch in fishing gear such as gill nets, longlines and trawling	AEWA Action Plan paras 4.3.7 & 4.3.8		Much relevant guidance from the CMS Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels
Mortality from oil and other forms of pollution	AEWA Action Plan para 4.3.9	<p>CMS Res. 7.3 Oil pollution and migratory species</p> <p>CMS Res. 11.30 Management of marine debris</p>	AEWA Conservation Guidelines (No. 2) on identifying and tackling emergency situations for migratory waterbirds

## 6<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

9-14 November 2015, Bonn, Germany

*“Making flyway conservation happen”*

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### RESOLUTION 6.13

#### **AEWA INTERNATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TASKS FOR 2016-2018**

*Recalling* Resolution 5.3 on International Implementation Tasks (IITs) for the Agreement for the period 2012-2015,

*Noting* the limited support provided by Contracting Parties, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations for the implementation of the International Implementation Tasks 2012-2015,

*Expressing concern* about the low level of implementation of International Implementation Tasks in the three triennia since 2006,

*Noting* the conclusions and recommendations of the *Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds within the Agreement Area – 6<sup>th</sup> Edition* (document AEWA/MOP 6.14), the *Report on the Status of Preparation and Implementation of AEWA International Single Species Action Plans, International Single Species Management Plans, as well as Multi-species Action Plans - 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (document AEWA/MOP 6.16), the update of the *Report of the Status of Introduced Non-native Waterbird Species and Hybrids Thereof* (document AEWA/MOP 6.15) and the *Review of the Occurrence and Magnitude of the Conflict between Migratory Animals of all Taxa and Renewable Technologies Deployment* (document AEWA/MOP 6.38),

*Noting again* the contribution these International Implementation Tasks will make to the objectives of AEWA’s Strategic Plan,

*Taking into account* the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa adopted by Resolution 5.9,

*Recalling* the need for proactive and targeted conservation measures in order to achieve the CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2020 as outlined by Resolution 5.23,

*Recalling* resolution A/Res/70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly on “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” including 17 Sustainable Development Goals,

*Aware* of the Technical Committee’s recommendation of the benefits of having a shorter, more focussed list of projects, which is better aligned with the priorities of AEWA’s Strategic Plan, and which identifies small, more fundable modules of large projects,

*Reaffirming* the particular importance of:

- a) the contribution that conservation of migratory waterbirds and the wise use of their wetland habitats can make to sustainable development, especially in developing countries;
- b) the need to identify functional networks of key sites through an understanding of the migratory flyways of populations covered by the Agreement; and

- c) the need to support the maintenance of the International Waterbird Census in Europe and to further its development in Africa, the Middle East, East and Central Asia as the basis of assessing the international status and trends of waterbird populations and thus the effective implementation of the Agreement as noted by Resolutions 3.11, 4.10 and 5.22.

*The Meeting of the Parties:*

1. *Adopts* the International Implementation Tasks for 2016-2018 appended to this Resolution, which are updated and amended on the basis of the International Implementation Tasks adopted for 2012-2015 as the medium-term priorities for international cooperation activities for implementation of the Agreement;
2. *Urges* Contracting Parties and specialised international organisations to support ongoing projects and, where appropriate, to develop new international cooperation projects for the implementation of the Agreement, according to the priorities outlined in the Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa, to keep the Agreement Secretariat fully informed of progress, and to report conclusions at future sessions of the Meeting of the Parties;
3. *Further urges* Contracting Parties, *instructs* the Agreement Secretariat and *invites* specialised international organisations to seek innovative mechanisms and partnerships, including with the business sector, to enable implementation of the priorities listed in the Appendix, including joint ventures, twinning arrangements, secondments and exchange programmes, corporate sector sponsorships and species adoption programmes;
4. *Requests* bilateral and multilateral donors to provide financial assistance to developing countries for the implementation of the Agreement, by supporting implementation of the priorities listed in the Appendix;
5. *Instructs* the Agreement Secretariat to disseminate the International Implementation Tasks for 2016-2018, to coordinate closely with related conventions and international organisations for their implementation, and to seek appropriate donors; and
6. *Agrees* that future lists of International Implementation Tasks be more closely aligned to the strategic priorities of the Agreement, more limited in extent and presented as projects that are more feasible to fund, and *requests* that the Tasks for the period 2019-2021 be developed accordingly as part of the process to draft AEWA's next Strategic Plan (Resolution 6.14).

## **AEWA INTERNATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TASKS (IIT) FOR 2016-2018**

### **Introduction**

1. The following list of priority activities has been established to assist Contracting Parties, donors and other stakeholders to further the international implementation of the Action Plan of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds during the period 2016-2018.
2. Since the first Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Agreement, which took place in November 1999 in Cape Town (South Africa), when the International Implementation Priorities (IIP) for 2000-2004 were adopted in Resolution 1.4, priorities have been revised and updated by each MOP. The current proposal for IIT 2016-2018 represents a revised list of activities based on the MOP5-approved IITs 2012-2015.

### **Order and format of presentation**

3. As in the previous versions, the presentation of the tasks in the present document follows the headings of the Action Plan to the Agreement. The number(s) in parentheses after each task title refer(s) to the relevant paragraph of the Agreement's Action Plan.
4. The order of presentation does not reflect any order of priority.
5. Each section starts with a brief outline of relevant high priority projects, followed by a list of other relevant projects; further information on these is available from the Secretariat, upon request.
6. For each task, an indicative budget and timescale is presented for guidance, along with the types of activity involved. It should be noted that the budgets are only indicative. Detailed project proposals and budgets to meet each task will be required at a later stage and should be the basis for the final fund-raising.
7. The tasks include only those requiring international cooperation, and are not intended to reflect national implementation priorities, which must be determined by each Contracting Party and could include more on-the-ground conservation activities. A number of the proposals underlined the importance of such activities. Five types of international cooperation will be appropriate in addressing these priorities:
  - (a) Exchange/transfer of information;
  - (b) Research, surveys and monitoring;
  - (c) Exchange/transfer of expertise;
  - (d) Financial assistance; and
  - (e) Transboundary drafting and implementation of action plans.

### **Collaboration**

8. A number of Implementation Tasks, especially where these relate to reviews of data and information and for the production of guidance, could and should be undertaken collaboratively with other relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and international organisations. In particular, these should include the Ramsar Convention (and its Scientific and Technical Review Panel) as noted by Resolution XII.3 of Ramsar Convention COP 12 and AEWa Resolution 5.19, the Convention on Migratory Species (including its Scientific Council) and other CMS instruments, regional conventions related to marine areas and fisheries management, such as OSPAR, HELCOM, Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions, and the European Union.

The benefits of such joint and harmonised working include potential cost-sharing, wider inputs to technical work and greater outreach to a wider range of interested parties and stakeholders. In planning the implementation of each IIT, active collaboration with other relevant MEAs will be sought as appropriate and possible.

## A. Species Conservation

### 1. **Implement existing international species action and management plans (AP 2.2.1, 7.4)**

Prior to the entry into force of the Agreement, a number of international single species action plans relevant to Paragraph 2.2.1 of the Agreement's Action Plan had already been developed (by BirdLife International, Wetlands International and the International Crane Foundation). These include action plans for: *Microcarbo pygmaeus*, *Pelecanus crispus*, *Botaurus stellaris*, *Marmaronetta angustirostris*, *Polysticta stellerii*, *Leucogeranus*, *Fulica cristata*, *Numenius tenuirostris*, *Larus audouinii*, and *Sterna dougallii*. (NB: Several of these action plans cover the European part of the range of the species only, and a priority is to extend them to cover their full range within the Agreement area (see next item)). More than 20 international single species action plans and one multi-species action plan were also adopted by the MOP, as well as a Species Management Plan for *Anser brachyrhynchus* (Svalbard population). Whilst many of the actions identified for these species will have to be undertaken and financed at national or local level, a budget is required for international coordination and promotion, and to provide small grants for national and local initiatives.

Indicative budget: € 60,000 min./species/year (for coordination/grants)  
Duration: Annual, ongoing  
Activities: Coordination, small grants, evaluation, reporting

### 2. **Develop new International Species Action and Management Plans (AP 2.2.1, 7.4)**

New International Single Species Action Plans need to be developed as a priority for the populations listed in category 1, column A, Table 1 to the Agreement Action Plan, and for those species listed with an asterisk in column A of Table 1. Production and format of the action plans should follow the recommendations given in the MOP-approved guidelines. Following the example of the first multi-species action plan under AEWA for Benguela upwelling system coastal seabirds further multi-species action plans can be considered for development where deemed feasible and appropriate. With the successful pilot management plan for the Svalbard population of the Pink-footed Goose other species/populations will be prioritised for planning of management actions. As soon as the new action and management plans are completed, implementation should begin. It is recommended that individual Range States agree to take the lead on development of individual action and management plans (as an in-kind contribution to the Agreement), in close cooperation with the other Range States of each species (coordination of plan development including workshops, drafting, consultation and publication of each plan). Plans should be submitted to the Technical Committee in draft form for consultation, to ensure harmonisation and quality control.

Indicative budget: € 50,000 max. /per species for action plan preparation  
Duration: 12 months per plan  
Activities: Coordination, workshop, planning, publication

## B. Habitat Conservation

### 3. Maintain overview of the sites of international importance for AEWAs species (AP 3.1.2, 7.4)

A vital piece of information for the conservation of any migratory species is an understanding of the network of key sites required to sustain their populations throughout the year. The Critical Site Network Tool web-portal, developed under the framework of the Wings Over Wetlands – African-Eurasian Flyway Project, has brought together the already existing information concerning key sites for migratory waterbirds that meet recognised criteria of being internationally important building primarily on the data collected through the International Waterbird Census of Wetlands International and through the Important Bird Areas programme of BirdLife International. The web-portal already provides access to information on site networks by species and populations and highlights the internationally important populations of any internationally important sites. The members of the WOW Partnership (*i.e.* the AEWAs and Ramsar Secretariats, BirdLife International and Wetlands International) have committed themselves to continue updating the parent datasets and making the information accessible through the CSN Tool. However, the CSN Tool in its current form is getting technologically obsolete seven years after its launch. It will be necessary to redevelop the portal focusing on improving interoperability between individual datasets and enabling – in future – routine updating of relevant data to ensure that the data presented is always the most recent available..

Indicative budget: € 150,000

Duration: 2 years

Activities: Redevelopment, database update and maintenance, web site maintenance

### 4. Identification of important sites vulnerable to climate change (AP 3.2, 7.4)

Climate change vulnerability is an important element of the assessment of the sufficiency of the international network of sites for the protection of migratory waterbirds. While the first edition of the AEWAs International Site Review, as required by the AEWAs Action Plan paragraph 7.4, submitted to MOP5 have assessed the protection and management status of the internationally important sites identified by the Critical Site Network Tool, the climate change vulnerability of the network has not been estimated. Such an assessment can be undertaken through a flyway-scale approach using the available CSN data and other existing information and overlaying spatial data to identify the vulnerability of individual sites. Despite some limitations, such an exercise will be a useful guidance on the priority sites for climate adaptation action.

Indicative budget: € 350,000

Duration: 3 years

Activities: Desk study

## C. Management of Human Activities

### 5. Increase the knowledge on waterbird harvests in the Agreement area (AP 4.1, 5.7)

Waterbirds are harvested widely throughout the Agreement area for recreation, trade and livelihoods. Little is known of the scale of such harvesting, nor of the impacts that such harvesting has on waterbird populations. The development of a programme aiming at accurately evaluating the harvest of waterbirds at the scale of the AEWA range is a huge task that would require a consequent amount of financial resources and would also require setting up a mechanism for regular monitoring of waterbird harvest. It will be critical to work with and through organisations and networks which have involvement with this issue including Wetland International's Hunting Specialist Group and relevant representative organisations. It is therefore proposed to run a series of sub-regional projects, which amongst other things should:

- gather and analyse existing information on harvest data within the AEWA range;
- assess sustainability of the harvest according to the AEWA provisions;
- establish links with organisations gathering this type of information;
- suggest appropriate methodology; and
- convene working groups involving partners involved or interested in harvest monitoring and set up monitoring schemes.

Indicative budget: € 100,000 per sub-region  
Duration: 1-2 years per sub-region  
Activities: Reviews, research, survey, publications

### 6. Evaluation of socio-economic values of waterbirds (AP 4.2.2)

In line with the developments brought about through the process of the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) process there is a need to evaluate the consumptive and non-consumptive use of waterbirds. These values have the potential to contribute substantially to sustainable rural development throughout the Agreement area. Yet very little is known of these values in different regions and their potential contribution to species and habitat conservation. Given the enormous scope of this work and the need for generating resource efficiency, it is proposed that this work is conducted through offering placements to students studying for masters or PhD degrees, supported by an active Technical Committee expert on rural development and economics. The results should be presented as case studies at appropriate workshops (e.g. IUGB, EAERE etc.) and published to advise future sustainable rural development initiatives. The work should be conducted in line with methodologies developed by the TEEB process and thus feed into policy decisions.

Indicative budget: € 20,000 p/a  
Duration: Ongoing  
Activities: Research, socio-economic surveys, workshop, publication

## D. RESEARCH AND MONITORING

### INTEGRATED WATERBIRD MONITORING

#### 7. International Waterbird Census – regional coordination and support surveys in developing countries(AP 5.2, 5.3, 7.4)

The International Waterbird Census, organised by Wetlands International, and conducted in most countries within the Agreement area, is one of the key tools for monitoring the conservation status of the populations covered by AEWA. It is based on annual non-breeding season surveys at a sample of sites, by an extensive network of, mainly, volunteer counters. Unfortunately, the financial and technical capacity to coordinate and to implement the national surveys is very unevenly distributed across the Agreement area. Experience shows that most developing countries in the Agreement area are not able to regularly cover the key sites without some basic support to cover travel costs. These constraints present a major limitation to understanding the conservation status of AEWA populations.

Indicative budget: € 66,000 p.a. regional coordination + € 80,000 p.a. for January counts  
Duration: Annual  
Activities: Coordination, field surveys, publication of national totals annually

#### 8. Special non-breeding waterbird counts (AP 5.2, 5.3, 7.4)

Although the International Waterbird Census can cover a significant proportion of the waterbird populations, the adequate monitoring of certain species would require special counts to cover their specific habitats which are usually not well covered during the regular IWC counts. These groups include geese and swans, seaducks, non-wetland waders and the poorly covered large tidal wetlands in Africa and South-west Asia.

Indicative budget: Goose and swan counts: € 50,000 p.a.  
Seaduck counts: € 14,000 p.a. + € 85,000 p. 3 years to cover the Black Sea and Caspian Sea  
Tidal wetlands in Africa and South-west Asia: € 93,000 p. 3 years  
Non-wetland waders: € 10,000 p. 3 years  
Duration: 3 years with annual activities  
Activities: Coordination, field surveys, publication of results

#### 9. Monitoring of colonial waterbirds (AP 3.1.2, 3.2, 4.2, 5)

A large proportion of the migratory water- and seabird species covered by the Agreement nest in colonies (particularly of the families: *Spheniscidae*, *Phaethontidae*, *Pelecanidae*, *Sulidae*, *Phalacrocoracidae*, *Fregatidae*, *Ardeidae*, *Ciconiidae*, *Threskiornithidae*, *Phoenicopteridae*, *Laridae*, *Sternidae*, *Alcidae*). Colonial waterbirds can be best monitored during the breeding season because a very significant proportion of the population of a species may be concentrating on a few localities at one time. In the meantime, many of these species are not adequately covered by the existing International Waterbird Census, which is based on non-breeding season surveys partly because they are widely distributed in areas that are difficult to access such as open sea. Good information about the colonies is also fundamental to identify and address factors that may threaten their populations. Although some national programmes already exist and even some international coordination takes place in certain subregions of the Agreement area, the Conservation Status Report has highlighted the need for more adequate international coordination of the monitoring of colonial water- and seabirds. Therefore, a desk study shall produce an overview of on-going initiatives, explore options, priorities and costing for coordinated international monitoring of colonial waterbirds during the breeding season.

Indicative budget: € 25,000 (monitoring study)  
Duration: 2 years  
Activities: Review, analysis, consultation, recommendations

#### 10. Pilot demographic monitoring of waterbird populations (AP 3.1.2, 3.2, 4.2, 5)

Indicative budget: € 50,000  
Duration: per year  
Activities: Review, analysis, consultation, publication

## RESEARCH

### 11. Survey work in poorly-known areas (AP 5.1)

Indicative budget: € 50,000 p.a. (€ 2-10,000 per survey depending on location, size, accessibility)  
Duration: Ongoing  
Activities: Field survey, training, publication.

## **E. EDUCATION AND INFORMATION**

### **12. Improving survey and monitoring capacity for migratory waterbirds (AP 6.2)**

Indicative budget: € 40,000 p.a. for small grants to support national capacity building schemes  
Duration: 5 years in total, 2-3 years per country, depending on the needs  
Activities: Fieldwork, training, supply of equipment (first year)

### **13. Regional training programmes in Africa and Eurasia for implementation of the Agreement (AP 6.1, 6.2)**

Indicative budget: € 175,000 per year, per regional programme  
Duration: 5 years  
Activities: Coordination, training courses, materials, follow-up

### **14. Training programme for National Implementation Agencies for AEWA in the Contracting Parties (AP 6.1, 6.2)**

Indicative budget: € 100,000 for training per workshop (two workshops in Africa and two in Eurasia)  
Duration: 5 years  
Activities: Coordination, training courses, materials, follow-up

### **15. Training course on the flyway approach to the conservation and wise use of waterbirds and wetlands (AP 6.1)**

Indicative budget: € 35,000 per group (average)  
Duration: 1 year  
Activities: Training

### **16. Regional workshops for the promotion of the Agreement (AP 6.3)**

Indicative budget: € 75,000 per regional workshop  
Duration: 1 per year  
Activities: Regional workshop and follow-up

### **17. Making guidance more accessible (AP 6.3)**

Indicative budget: € 5,000 per guidance document/language  
Duration: ongoing  
Activities: Translation and dissemination of documents

## 6<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

9-14 November 2015, Bonn, Germany

*“Making flyway conservation happen”*

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### RESOLUTION 6.14

#### **EXTENSION AND REVISION OF THE AEWA STRATEGIC PLAN AND THE AEWA PLAN OF ACTION FOR AFRICA**

*Recalling* Resolution 4.7 through which, *inter alia*, the Meeting of the Parties adopted the first AEWA Strategic Plan for the period 2009-2017,

*Noting* the limited progress of implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan so far as reported by the Standing Committee (documents AEWA/MOP 5.11 and AEWA/MOP 6.12) and *further noting* the incomplete national reports submitted by some Contracting Parties preventing full assessment of implementation,

*Recalling* Resolution 5.9 through which the Meeting of the Parties adopted the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017 as a guide to the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 in the African Region,

*Recognising* the positive results from the implementation of the Plan of Action for Africa during the period of 2012-2015 (document AEWA/MOP 6.11),

*Expressing appreciation* to the Governments of France and Senegal for generously providing substantial contributions to the implementation of the Plan of Action for Africa through the Technical Support Unit hosted by the Fondation Tour du Valat in France and the Department of National Parks in Senegal and also supported by the Department of Water and Biodiversity of the French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy (MEDDE) and the French hunting and wildlife agency (ONCFS),

*Equally expressing appreciation* to the Government of Switzerland for generously co-funding the position of a Coordinator for the AEWA African Initiative over the past triennium,

*Also expressing appreciation* to the Government of Germany for generously funding the position of the Programme Assistant for the AEWA African Initiative over the past triennium,

*Further expressing appreciation* to the Governments of Botswana, France, Germany, Kenya, Rwanda, the United Kingdom, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, South Africa, and Switzerland, to the European Commission, as well as to AEWA partners including the African Crane Conservation Programme (ACCP), BirdLife International, the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, the French hunting and wildlife agency (ONCFS), Naturschutzbund Deutschland (NABU - the BirdLife Partner in Germany) and Wetlands International for providing voluntary financial and substantial contributions to support activities conducted under the AEWA African Initiative over the period of 2012-2015,

*Further acknowledging* the collaboration and support to the African Initiative from the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and other partner Multilateral Environmental Agreements, particularly the Ramsar Convention,

*Recognising* the need to further mobilise significant amounts of financial and other resources for the effective implementation of the activities outlined in the AEWA Plan of Action 2012-2017,

*Acknowledging* Resolution 11.2 of the Convention on Migratory Species which adopted the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023, urged the CMS Family of instruments, amongst others, to integrate the goals and targets of this Strategic Plan within relevant policy and planning instruments and invited the decision-making bodies of CMS instruments to consider this Strategic Plan for adoption at their next meetings,

*Noting* that the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA (MOP7) will not take place before 2018.

*The Meeting of the Parties:*

1. *Extends* the AEWA Strategic Plan and the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa until MOP7;
2. *Urges* all Contracting Parties and other stakeholders to step up the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa and *invites* Non-party Range States to consider implementing both policy processes;
3. *Calls* upon donor countries and organisations to further support the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action of Africa through financial and in-kind contributions;
4. *Further urges* all Contracting Parties to provide complete and thorough national reports to MOP7 to allow a comprehensive assessment of the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa;
5. *Decides* that the deadline for submission of national reports by Contracting Parties to MOP7 shall be 180 days before the opening date of MOP7;
6. *Instructs* the Standing Committee, working with the Technical Committee and supported by the Secretariat, to revise the AEWA Strategic Plan taking into account the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023, and to present a draft plan for the period 2019-2027 for consideration and adoption by MOP7;
7. *Further instructs* the Standing Committee, working with the Technical Committee and supported by the Secretariat, to revise the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa alongside the revision of the AEWA Strategic Plan and present a draft plan for the period 2019-2027 for consideration and adoption by MOP7.

## 6<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

9-14 November 2015, Bonn, Germany

*“Making flyway conservation happen”*

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### RESOLUTION 6.15

#### **UPDATE ON AEWA’S CONTRIBUTION TO DELIVERING THE AICHI 2020 BIODIVERSITY TARGETS AND THE RELEVANCE OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

*Recalling* Decision X/2 of the tenth Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Nagoya, Japan, 2010, establishing a Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 which “*represents a useful flexible framework that is relevant to all biodiversity-related conventions*”, and which includes 20 ‘Aichi’ Targets, which are addressed to all relevant intergovernmental organisations and other processes related to biodiversity,

*Recalling also* Resolution 5.23 which outlined AEWA’s past and future contribution to the delivery of the Aichi 2020 Biodiversity Targets,

*Noting* the relevance of the full implementation of the Convention on Migratory Species’ (CMS) Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 which already includes reference to the Aichi Targets to help guide the future strategy and goals of the CMS Family over the next eight years,

*Recalling* the request from MOP5 to the Technical and Standing Committees to work together to assess progress on issues relevant to the Aichi Targets, and that they should present triennial assessments of AEWA’s contribution to each of the relevant Aichi Targets, elaborating further needs as necessary and appropriate, as an agenda item for each future MOP through to 2020,

*Recalling again* the request from MOP5 that the UNEP/AEWA and UNEP/CMS Secretariats work together with the CBD Secretariat to ensure that information on the status of migratory species including waterbirds are fully included in future CBD assessments of progress against relevant Aichi Targets, and that progress to this end should be reported to the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA,

*Welcoming* the agreement by the United National General Assembly of *Transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for sustainable development*<sup>12</sup> which presents 17 Goals to guide global sustainable development until 2030: “*a charter for people and the planet in the twenty-first century*”,

*Conscious* that – as outlined in Annex 3 – the full implementation of the Agreement, at all scales and by both Contracting Parties and other actors, has the potential to directly contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) *inter alia* through actions related to the reduction of biodiversity loss; protection and restoration of habitats; climate change adaptation measures; education and awareness building; capacity development; contributing to food security and poverty reduction through the sustainable harvesting of waterbirds and the wise-use use of wetlands; and actions to address illegally taking, killing and trade,

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<sup>12</sup> [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/L.1&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/L.1&Lang=E)

*Noting particularly that Transforming our world stresses that “Regional and sub-regional frameworks can facilitate the effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at national level”, and noting also the need – by March 2016 – to develop indicators to assess progress towards SDG goals and targets, drawn where possible from existing reporting mechanisms,*

*Conscious of the opportunities and benefits that arise from collaborative working between the different multi-lateral environmental agreements and their secretariats to deliver actions to achieve both the Aichi Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals.*

*The Meeting of the Parties:*

1. *Notes* the assessment of the Technical Committee in Annex 1 to this Resolution as to priority needs with respect of AEWA’s contribution to the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in regard to migratory waterbirds and their habitats;
2. *Adopts* the actions within Annex 2 to this Resolution as an updated assessment of AEWA’s contribution to the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;
3. *Urges again* that Contracting Parties ensure that those national authorities responsible for AEWA implementation are fully involved in the process to update national biodiversity strategies and action plans as requested by CBD Decision X/2 so as to further promote synergies between biodiversity-related treaties;
4. *Urges* Contracting Parties to highlight to their development agencies, as appropriate, the relevance of AEWA implementation in the context of SDG-delivery, and to stress the need to better integrate actions for waterbird and wetland conservation within relevant development projects so as to achieve benefits, not just for waterbirds but also for human communities;
5. *Requests* the Biodiversity Liaison Group, through the UNEP/CMS Secretariat, to consider the extent to which existing data and information reported to relevant multi-lateral environment agreements, *inter alia* that related to migratory waterbirds reported to AEWA and held by the International Waterbird Census, may contribute to the development of appropriate high-level indicators of sustainable development as envisaged by *Transforming our world*.

**Annex 1: The Technical Committee’s assessment as to priority needs with respect of AEWA’s Contribution to the Strategic Goals and Aichi Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2012-2020 with regard to migratory waterbirds and their habitats**

Aichi Target	Technical Committee’s assessment of priority needs in respect of delivery of Aichi Targets (with regard to migratory waterbirds)
<i>Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society</i>	
<p><b>Target 1</b></p> <p>By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.</p>	<p><b>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</b></p> <p>A central target as reflected in the emphasis that has been placed on Communications, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA).</p> <p>Waterbird migratory movements and the international context provided by flyway systems are inherently interesting and give major opportunities for communicating biodiversity conservation at multiple scales.</p> <p><b>TC assessment of needs:</b></p> <p>AEWA is revising its Communications Strategy, and CEPA issues are also central to the Plan for Africa, however much more needs to be undertaken, particularly in developing countries, to implement the identified needs.</p> <p>Continued input to and development of World Migratory Bird Day provides relevant opportunities.</p> <p>MOP6 National Reports indicate good progress to develop education and awareness programmes by some Parties but significant resource and other constraints in many countries.</p> <p>Note that measuring progress against this target is inherently difficult other than using indirect metrics.</p>
<p><b>Target 2</b></p> <p>By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>	<p><b>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</b></p> <p>Directly relevant to AEWA in the context of the socio-economic values of migratory waterbirds, their consumptive and non-consumptive uses, and the benefits that also derive from the conservation of their wetland habitats. Particularly but not exclusively relevant in Africa in the context of integration of migratory waterbird conservation within poverty reduction strategies.</p> <p><b>TC assessment of needs:</b></p>

Aichi Target	Technical Committee's assessment of priority needs in respect of delivery of Aichi Targets (with regard to migratory waterbirds)
	<p>Further also to CMS Resolution 10.18<sup>13</sup>, there is particular need to include these issues within National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to ensure the values of waterbirds are fully recognised nationally. Noting that some guidance has already been developed by CMS<sup>14</sup>, consideration of further guidance specific to migratory waterbirds would be valuable.</p> <p>Issue gives particular opportunities for joint working with those responsible for implementation of related MEAs in particular CBD, Ramsar and the CMS Action Plan for the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds.</p>
<p><b>Target 3</b></p> <p>By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimise or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio-economic conditions.</p>	<p><b>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</b></p> <p>Indirectly relevant to AEWA via impacts on habitats and species.</p> <p><b>TC assessment of needs:</b></p> <p>Best delivered through national and international actions and the activity of other MEAs and international processes that influence land-uses, fisheries and other relevant activities (e.g. the international financial sector).</p>
<p><b>Target 4</b></p> <p>By 2020, at the latest, governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.</p>	<p><b>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</b></p> <p>Highly relevant. The issue of ensuring the sustainable use/harvest of waterbirds is central to AEWA's objectives. AEWA can play a particularly significant role in assisting the delivery of related initiatives initiated by CMS. Ensuring that land-uses are fully compatible with sustaining migratory waterbird populations is critical to delivering Article III of the Agreement.</p> <p><b>TC assessment of needs:</b></p> <p>Needs significantly more attention from Parties especially with respect of the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• developing, implementing and enforcing national legislation on hunting and trade;</li> <li>• ensuring that consumptive uses of waterbirds are sustainable, <i>inter alia</i> through implementation of adaptive management systems of regulating harvests;</li> </ul>

<sup>13</sup> Resolution 10.18. Guidelines on the integration of migratory species into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and other outcomes from CBD COP10. [http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/10\\_18\\_nsbaps\\_e\\_0\\_0.pdf](http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/10_18_nsbaps_e_0_0.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> [http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/doc\\_27\\_guidelines\\_nbsap\\_e\\_0\\_0.pdf](http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/doc_27_guidelines_nbsap_e_0_0.pdf)

Aichi Target	Technical Committee's assessment of priority needs in respect of delivery of Aichi Targets (with regard to migratory waterbirds)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• collating and reporting data on harvest levels;</li> <li>• establishing of international processes to share harvest information and making assessments of the sustainability of levels of take at biogeographic population scale;</li> <li>• implementing the revised <i>Guidelines on sustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds</i>;</li> <li>• eliminating illegal killing and/or illegal taking of migratory waterbirds where this occurs;</li> <li>• phasing out the use of lead shot where this is still used, as an unnecessary cause of additional mortality;</li> <li>• addressing inherently unsustainable uses of habitats; and</li> <li>• implementing relevant AEWA guidance on all the above issues.</li> </ul> <p>Provides major opportunities to work with a range of stakeholders at various scales.</p> <p>Full implementation of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 is highly relevant.</p> <p>Further development of management plans for priority exploited species including principles of adaptive management would be valuable at appropriate scales.</p>
<p><b>Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use</b></p>	
<p><b>Target 5</b></p> <p>By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.</p>	<p><b>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</b></p> <p>Highly relevant. The issue of habitat loss and degradation is central to delivering AEWA's objectives.</p> <p><b>TC assessment of needs:</b></p> <p>Needs significantly more attention from Parties especially with respect of the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• establishing schemes to monitor and report on the extent of wetlands and other habitats – and change over time – jointly with Ramsar and other relevant international processes;</li> <li>• identifying and addressing the main drivers of habitat loss at flyway level;</li> <li>• ensuring that important natural habitats of waterbirds are protected through legislative or other means; and</li> <li>• developing a shared and evidence-based understanding of regional rates of wetland habitat loss as the basis for prioritised actions to address the drivers of such loss and degradation in the context of impacts on sustaining flyway populations.</li> </ul>

Aichi Target	Technical Committee's assessment of priority needs in respect of delivery of Aichi Targets (with regard to migratory waterbirds)
	Provides major opportunities <sup>15</sup> to work with those involved with delivering the Ramsar Convention at various scales.
<p><b>Target 6</b></p> <p>By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.</p>	<p><b>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</b></p> <p>Highly relevant. The issue of eliminating negative impacts from fisheries is central to AEWA's objectives with respect of both marine and freshwater fish-eating birds. Issues include bycatch of waterbirds, impacts on bird populations, depletion of fish stocks (including shell-fisheries), and habitat destruction or degradation arising from destructive fishing techniques such as bottom-trawling.</p> <p><b>TC assessment of needs:</b></p> <p>The issues of eliminating bycatch from fisheries and of sustaining fish stocks are of major importance. For migratory seabirds in particular the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) provide a mechanism for AEWA Parties to promote best practice standards to that end.</p> <p>Similarly, these issues are also relevant to freshwater fisheries (some of which are of major significance both for waterbirds and people), and where conflicts can exist between birds and fishermen.</p> <p>It is a priority to ensure that the scale and extent of shell-fisheries do not impact on food resources for waterbirds (as a key element of ecosystem function).</p> <p>Typically many of the negative impacts arise from the lack of implementation of established good practice(s).</p> <p>There are opportunities for joint work with a range of other international processes including RFMOs and the Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative.</p>
<p><b>Target 7</b></p> <p>By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.</p>	<p><b>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</b></p> <p>Highly relevant. The need to ensure that agricultural and other wider habitats (outside protected areas) are managed sustainably for waterbirds is central to AEWA's objectives.</p> <p><b>TC assessment of needs:</b></p> <p>Needs significantly more attention from Parties especially with respect of the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensuring that agricultural and land-use policies adequately provide for the needs of migratory</li> </ul>

<sup>15</sup> Particularly in the context of Resolution 5.19.

Aichi Target	Technical Committee's assessment of priority needs in respect of delivery of Aichi Targets (with regard to migratory waterbirds)
	<p>waterbirds (and other biodiversity) alongside the need for food production and other land-uses;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensuring that changes of land-use, for example from wetlands to intensive agriculture, or loss of extensive agriculture (via land abandonment), do not negatively impact on migratory waterbirds; and</li> <li>• ensuring that appropriate policies (and/or the actions of decision makers) take full account of the ecological needs of migratory waterbirds thus providing benefits both to birds and people.</li> </ul> <p>A major opportunity to work with the CMS Action Plan for the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds.</p>
<p><b>Target 8</b></p> <p>By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.</p>	<p><b>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</b></p> <p>Highly relevant. In particular, the lethal and sub-lethal effects of direct and indirect pollution are a significant issue for many waterbirds.</p> <p><b>TC assessment of needs:</b></p> <p>Pollution control (notably through the discharge of wastes and industrial effluents into the environment) needs attention in many developing countries, whilst the ecological effects of air-borne nutrient pollution are significant factors altering habitats across much of north-west Europe. Nutrient pollution arising from excess use of agricultural fertilizers can also have major ecological consequences for wetland habitats.</p> <p>Much more rapid progress is needed to phase out the use of lead shot.</p> <p>Pollution from oil spills and discharges can have devastating local impacts on waterbirds and other wildlife. Much guidance exists related to reducing this risk and needs to be more widely implemented.</p> <p>The need to address causes of pollution from plastic debris and micro plastics in the marine environment is being taken forward by a range of international processes and needs support from Contracting Parties.</p>
<p><b>Target 9</b></p> <p>By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritised, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.</p>	<p><b>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</b></p> <p>Highly relevant. The need to control and eliminate established invasive alien species, and prevent the establishment of others, is central to AEWA's objectives. This issue is especially significant in the context of introduced predators on seabird breeding</p>

Aichi Target	Technical Committee's assessment of priority needs in respect of delivery of Aichi Targets (with regard to migratory waterbirds)
	<p>islands. As in the case of Ruddy Duck <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>, hybridisation with non-natives can be a major threat to the genetic integrity of native waterbirds species.</p> <p><b>TC assessment of needs:</b></p> <p>Urgent attention by relevant Contracting Parties is needed to eliminate the Ruddy Duck from the Agreement area.</p> <p>More attention needs to be given by Parties to prevent the establishment and spread of other invasive alien species (particularly aquatic plants) which could jeopardize migratory waterbirds or the ecological integrity of their habitats.</p> <p>Existing AEWA guidance needs to be better implemented.</p> <p>Priority attention should be given to better harmonising international reporting mechanisms for non-native waterbirds, including opportunities presented by AEWA, the EU Birds Directive, EU Regulation No 1143/2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species, and the International Waterbird Census. Better coordination between these instruments would be valuable.</p> <p>Noting considerable work by CBD on this topic<sup>16</sup>, internationally-agreed standards and guidance for risk assessment specifically with respect to non-native waterbirds would be useful.</p> <p>There are important education and public awareness messages concerned with the risk of keeping and release of non-native waterbirds with which AEWA could assist.</p> <p>MOP6 National Reports note significant activity by many Parties but also the non-implementation of relevant legislation by some Parties.</p>
<p><b>Target 10</b></p> <p>By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.</p>	<p><b>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</b></p> <p>Highly relevant. The need to put in place climate change adaption measures related to the waterbird habitats (especially but not restricted to wetlands) is central to AEWA's objectives.</p>

<sup>16</sup> 2014. Analysis on pathways for the introduction of invasive Alien species: Updates. UNEP/CBD/COP/12/INF/10 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-12/information/cop-12-inf-10-en.doc>

Aichi Target	Technical Committee's assessment of priority needs in respect of delivery of Aichi Targets (with regard to migratory waterbirds)
	<p><b>TC assessment of needs:</b></p> <p>MOP6 National Reports indicate only a small number of Parties have yet taken actions to adapt to climate change impacts on waterbirds, either through systematic assessment of vulnerability of key habitats or species, and consequent review of relevant national conservation policies and/or national climate change action plan.</p> <p>Higher priority needs to be given by Parties to climate change adaptation measures so as to reduce climate change impacts through the protection and management of networks of key habitats and sites for waterbirds.</p>
<p><b>Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity</b></p>	
<p><b>Target 11</b></p> <p>By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.</p>	<p><b>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</b></p> <p>Highly relevant. The need to establish and appropriately manage networks of protected areas – in both the terrestrial and marine environments – is central to AEWA's objectives. The issue is a major focus of the Plan of Action for Africa.</p> <p><b>TC assessment of needs:</b></p> <p>Much higher priority needs to be given by Parties to the completion of national networks of protected areas important for migratory waterbirds both in terrestrial and marine environments.</p> <p>With the additional of many seabird species to AEWA, there is particular need to identify and implement relevant marine protected areas and guidance to this end would be valuable especially for Parties outside Europe (where significant activity is already occurring).</p> <p>There is urgent need to complete the “<i>Report on the Site Network for waterbirds in the Agreement area</i>” as a critical source of knowledge on the management and conservation status of key sites. There is also a need to revitalize the Wings over Wetlands Partnership so as to update the Critical Site Network Tool with contemporary data and information in order to be able to track progress at flyway scales.</p> <p>Much guidance on protected area management already exists and this needs to be used. Similarly, the simple framework for site monitoring<sup>17</sup> developed for</p>

<sup>17</sup> [http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/userfiles/file/IBAs/MonitoringPDFs/IBA\\_Monitoring\\_Framework.pdf](http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/userfiles/file/IBAs/MonitoringPDFs/IBA_Monitoring_Framework.pdf)

<b>Aichi Target</b>	<b>Technical Committee's assessment of priority needs in respect of delivery of Aichi Targets (with regard to migratory waterbirds)</b>
	<p>Important Bird Areas provides an important relevant tool for Parties to use to assess progress.</p> <p>Delivering this Target provides major opportunities<sup>18</sup> to work with those involved with delivering the Ramsar Convention at various scales, as well as other relevant processes including the World Heritage Convention and the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative.</p> <p>MOP6 National Reports indicate the considerable work still needed to develop as coherent overview of nationally and internationally important sites for waterbirds within the Agreement Area.</p>
<p><b>Target 12</b></p> <p>By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.</p>	<p><b>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</b></p> <p>Highly relevant. The need to prevent species extinctions and to reverse declines is central to AEWA's objectives and the continued declining status of many species means the issue is of high priority.</p> <p><b>TC assessment of needs:</b></p> <p>As shown by the overall poor status of AEWA-listed populations (document AEWA/MOP 6.14 – CSR6) and continuing declines, much higher priority needs to be given by Parties to the conservation of threatened species, notably, but not restricted to the full implementation of relevant Species Action Plans.</p> <p>Full legal protection needs to be given to all relevant species listed in Column A of AEWA's Action Plan with action taken to address illegal killing and/or illegal taking.</p> <p>As necessary, national legislation on hunting and trade needs to be developed, implemented and enforced.</p>
<p><b>Target 13</b></p> <p>By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimising genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.</p>	<p><b>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</b></p> <p>Only indirectly relevant to AEWA's objectives, although there are potentially issues related to hybridisation between wild and domestic-bred waterbirds.</p> <p><b>TC assessment of needs:</b></p> <p>Little that AEWA can directly contribute to this Target.</p>

<sup>18</sup> in the context of Resolution 5.19 especially.

Aichi Target	Technical Committee's assessment of priority needs in respect of delivery of Aichi Targets (with regard to migratory waterbirds)
<i>Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services</i>	
<p><b>Target 14</b></p> <p>By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.</p>	<p><b>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</b></p> <p>Highly relevant. The need to ensure that important habitats for waterbirds are subject to wise and multifunctional use is central to AEWA's objectives and will best ensure their long-term survival in the face of multiple pressures. The restoration of degraded habitats is particularly important to reverse past losses.</p> <p>It is critical to involve local populations in wetland protection and management not just in the context of biodiversity conservation but with respect to livelihood needs. This issue is particularly, but by no means exclusively, relevant in Africa (where the issue is a focus of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa<sup>19</sup>).</p> <p><b>TC assessment of needs:</b></p> <p>Especially, with ever growing water resource demand, more attention needs to be given to ensuring that demand for ecosystem services is integrated – on a sustainable basis - into the management of important areas for waterbirds.</p> <p>There are important training needs and the Wings over Wetlands Flyways Training Kit<sup>20</sup> is highly relevant and needs wider dissemination and use.</p> <p>It would be useful to develop a number of case studies summarising the socio-economic benefits (including food security and other livelihood requirements) accruing to local populations from the sustainable management of wetlands and the sustainable use of the waterbirds that depend on these areas.</p> <p>The issue provides a major opportunity to work with both the Ramsar Convention and the CMS Action Plan for the conservation of African-Eurasian migratory landbirds.</p>
<p><b>Target 15</b></p> <p>By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.</p>	<p><b>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</b></p> <p>Highly relevant. The restoration of degraded wetland and other ecosystems will directly benefit waterbird populations and thus significantly contribute to AEWA's objectives. Given the importance of some wetlands (notably peatlands and inter-tidal mudflats and mangrove swamps) as both carbon stores and as</p>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.unep-aewa.org/en/node/1935>

<sup>20</sup> <http://tinyurl.com/mpfm8a8>

<b>Aichi Target</b>	<b>Technical Committee's assessment of priority needs in respect of delivery of Aichi Targets (with regard to migratory waterbirds)</b>
	<p>bird habitats, restoration of these areas will have major benefits for migratory waterbirds.</p> <p><b>TC assessment of needs:</b></p> <p>Parties should give particular attention to the restoration of peatlands and coastal wetlands (including mangroves) in particular, as habitats of particular importance for migratory waterbirds. In the latter context, BirdLife International's Caring for Coasts Initiative<sup>21</sup> may provide opportunities.</p> <p>The issue provides a significant opportunity to work with both the Ramsar Convention and the CMS Action Plan for the conservation of African-Eurasian migratory landbirds.</p>
<p><b>Target 16</b></p> <p>By 2015, the <i>Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization</i> is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.</p>	<p><b>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</b></p> <p>Only indirectly relevant to AEWA's objectives.</p> <p><b>TC assessment of needs:</b></p> <p>Little that AEWA can directly contribute to this Target.</p>
<p><b>Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building</b></p>	
<p><b>Target 17</b></p> <p>By 2015, each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.</p>	<p><b>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</b></p> <p>Highly relevant. Theoretically aims to facilitate the development of national policies for AEWA implementation, but not all NBSAPs have relevant content, nor have all countries yet completed plans.</p> <p><b>TC assessment of needs:</b></p> <p>High priority should be given to the completion of NBSAPs by the three Parties still to do this, and the full implementation of such plans once adopted.</p> <p>As relevant, Parties should use the guidance adopted by CMS<sup>22,23</sup> on integration of migratory species issues with NBSAPs when these are being revised.</p> <p>In the context of national implementation of AEWA, synergies should always be sought with the</p>

<sup>21</sup> [http://www.birdlife.org/content/caring-coasts-initiative#\\_edn2](http://www.birdlife.org/content/caring-coasts-initiative#_edn2)

<sup>22</sup> Resolution 10.18. Guidelines on the integration of migratory species into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and other outcomes from CBD COP10.

[http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/10\\_18\\_nsbaps\\_e\\_0\\_0.pdf](http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/10_18_nsbaps_e_0_0.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> [http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/doc\\_27\\_guidelines\\_nsbap\\_e\\_0.pdf](http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/doc_27_guidelines_nsbap_e_0.pdf)

<b>Aichi Target</b>	<b>Technical Committee's assessment of priority needs in respect of delivery of Aichi Targets (with regard to migratory waterbirds)</b>
	implementation of other MEA obligations – as already stressed in the context of Ramsar by Resolution 5.19.
<p><b>Target 18</b></p> <p>By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.</p>	<p><b>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</b></p> <p>Very relevant. Traditional knowledge of waterbirds is important in many parts of the Agreement area with respect to the use and management of migratory waterbirds which – where relevant - always needs to involve local communities.</p> <p><b>TC assessment of needs:</b></p> <p>A better understanding of the traditional knowledge, practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of waterbirds is needed.</p>
<p><b>Target 19</b></p> <p>By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.</p>	<p><b>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</b></p> <p>Highly relevant. Knowledge of the status and trends of waterbird populations, factors affecting these, and their habitat requirements are fundamental to the implementation of the Agreement.</p> <p><b>TC assessment of needs:</b></p> <p>Needs significantly more attention from Parties especially with respect of the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensuring that the International Waterbird Census (as the primary means by which AEWA undertakes status assessments) is adequately, and sustainably funded;</li> <li>• ensuring national inventories of wetland and other habitats exist in each Contracting Party; and</li> <li>• ensuring that policies and practices for the conservation and management of migratory waterbirds are always based on best available scientific evidence.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Target 20</b></p> <p>By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the <i>Strategy for Resource Mobilization</i>, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource</p>	<p><b>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</b></p> <p>Highly relevant. Adequate funding to implement the Agreement is critical to ensure its ultimate effectiveness.</p>

<b>Aichi Target</b>	<b>Technical Committee's assessment of priority needs in respect of delivery of Aichi Targets (with regard to migratory waterbirds)</b>
needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.	<b>TC assessment of needs:</b> Parties should provide funding adequate to fully implement the Agreement.

**Annex 2: AEWA's Contribution to the Strategic Goals and Aichi Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2012-2020**

**Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society**

**Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use**

**Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity**

**Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services**

**Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building**

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2011)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2012-2015	AEWA's future contribution (2016-2020)
<b>Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society</b>			
<p><b>Target 1</b></p> <p>By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.</p>	<p>Adoption of a Communications Strategy by MOP3 (Resolution 3.10)</p> <p>Strategic Plan agreed (2008) with relevant objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Objective 4: To improve Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) about migratory waterbird species, their flyways, their role in alleviating poverty, threats to them and the needs for measures to conserve them and their habitats.</i></li> <li>● Adoption of <i>Guidelines on the development of ecotourism at wetlands</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Communications Strategy implemented</li> <li>● Annual organisational support provided for World Migratory Bird Day</li> <li>● [Adopted Resolution 6.6 – revising AEWA's Communication Strategy]</li> </ul>	<p><b>Implement Targets for AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 Objective 4:</b></p> <p>4.1 Support for the implementation of the Communication Strategy (CS) is secured.</p> <p>4.2 The AEWA Communication Strategy is implemented.</p> <p>4.3 Awareness and understanding of waterbird conservation issues in general and of AEWA in particular are increased at all levels within the Contracting Parties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Implement relevant actions from AEWA's Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017</li> </ul>

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2011)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2012-2015	AEWA's future contribution (2016-2020)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adoption of <i>Guidelines on reducing crop damage, damage to fisheries, bird strikes and other forms of conflict between waterbirds and human activities</i></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued annual organisational support provided for World Migratory Bird Day</li> </ul>
<p><b>Target 2</b></p> <p>By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Started to implement relevant actions from AEWA's Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement relevant actions from AEWA's Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017</li> <li>Contracting Parties to develop national implementation working groups, in cooperation with relevant implementation of other multi-lateral environmental agreements such as the Ramsar Convention: Resolution 5.19 <i>Encouragement of Further Joint Implementation of AEWA and the Ramsar Convention</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Target 3</b></p> <p>By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimise or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio-economic conditions.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopted and implemented Resolution 5.16 <i>Renewable Energy and Migratory Waterbirds</i> [and adopted Resolution 6.11 on <i>Addressing impacts of renewable energy deployment on migratory waterbirds</i>]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement Resolution 5.16 <i>Renewable Energy and Migratory Waterbirds</i> [and Resolution 6.11 on <i>Addressing impacts of renewable energy deployment on migratory waterbirds</i>]</li> </ul>

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2011)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2012-2015	AEWA's future contribution (2016-2020)
<p><b>Target 4</b></p> <p>By 2020, at the latest, governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of International Species Management Plan for the Svalbard population of the Pink-footed Goose <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i></li> <li>• Adoption of Resolution 3.19 <i>Implementing the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the sustainable use of biodiversity</i></li> <li>• Adoption of <i>Guidelines on sustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds</i></li> <li>• Adoption of <i>Guidelines on how to avoid, minimise or mitigate impact of infrastructural developments and related disturbance affecting waterbirds</i></li> <li>• Adoption of <i>Guidelines on the development of ecotourism at wetlands</i></li> <li>• Adoption of <i>Guidelines on regulating trade in migratory waterbirds</i></li> <li>• Adoption of <i>Guidelines on the management of key sites for migratory waterbirds</i></li> <li>• Strategic Plan agreed (2008) with relevant objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Objective 2:</b> <i>To ensure that any use of waterbirds in the</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commenced implementation of International Species Management Plan for the Svalbard population of the Pink-footed Goose <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> based on adaptive management principles</li> <li>• 71 AEWA Parties that are Parties to CMS adopted Resolution 11.15 on <i>Preventing poisoning of migratory birds</i> addressing, <i>inter alia</i>, the need to prevent waterbird poisoning by agricultural chemicals, poison baits; and the use of toxic lead shot and fishing weights;</li> <li>• Lead gunshot fully phased out in wetlands in Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia and Estonia with a timetable established to this end in Switzerland</li> <li>• Adoption of revised <i>Guidelines on regulating trade in migratory waterbirds</i></li> <li>• [Adoption of <i>Guidelines on national legislation for the protection of species of</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Implement Targets for Strategic Plan Objective 2:</b></p> <p>2.1 By 2017 the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands is phased out by all Contracting Parties,</p> <p>Parties should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate the effectiveness of national measures already taken to phase out the use of lead shot and to phase in non-toxic alternatives in wetlands; and</li> <li>• Engage with all relevant stakeholders, <i>inter alia</i> hunters and the manufacturing industry, to understand and address barriers to implementation; and to establish and implement joint communication strategies,</li> <li>• Where requested, the Secretariat and the Technical Committee will provide support to individual Parties conducting such evaluation and engagement.</li> </ul> <p>2.2 Internationally coordinated collection of harvest data is developed and implemented and used to inform harvest management regimes.</p>

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2011)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2012-2015	AEWA's future contribution (2016-2020)
	<p><i>Agreement area is sustainable</i></p>	<p><i>migratory waterbirds and their habitats</i> (updating and revising the former <i>Guidelines on Hunting and Trade legislation</i>)]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[Adoption of revised <i>Guidelines on sustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds</i>]</li> </ul>	<p>2.3 Measures to reduce, and as far as possible eliminate, illegal taking of waterbirds, the use of poison baits and non-selective methods of taking are developed and implemented.</p> <p>2.4 Best practice codes and standards, such as bird identification, are developed and promoted, in order to achieve proper enforcement of legally binding provisions.</p> <p>2.5 Adaptive harvest management<sup>24</sup> of quarry populations is ensured at international scale.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement CMS Resolution 11.15 on <i>Preventing poisoning of migratory birds</i> addressing, <i>inter alia</i>, the need to prevent waterbird poisoning by agricultural chemicals, poison baits; and the use of lead shot and fishing weights.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use</b>			
<p><b>Target 5</b></p> <p>By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action Plan urges establishment of site networks to protect important wetland habitats</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopted the African Initiative for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in Africa</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of the AEWA Action Plan, Strategic Plan and Plan of Action for Africa</li> </ul>

<sup>24</sup> 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.

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2011)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2012-2015	AEWA's future contribution (2016-2020)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of the AEWA Action Plan and Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Adoption of <i>Guidelines on how to avoid or mitigate impact of electricity power grids on migratory birds in the African-Eurasian region</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>Target 6</b></p> <p>By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.</p>	<p>International Single Species Action Plans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalised [and adopted] Multi-species Action Plan for Benguela Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement Multi-species Action Plan for Benguela Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds</li> <li>• Develop active collaboration with other international processes, including the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, to promote conservation measures to benefit AEWA-listed seabirds</li> </ul>
<p><b>Target 7</b></p> <p>By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of <i>Guidelines on the management of key sites for migratory waterbirds</i></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noting the value of waterbirds as indicators of wider environmental conditions especially with respect to agriculture (e.g. lowland breeding waders), AEWA Technical Committee to work with Ramsar, the EU and other international actors to assess the potential utility of policy-related guidance for sustainable management of agriculture and</li> </ul>

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2011)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2012-2015	AEWA's future contribution (2016-2020)
			aquaculture and make recommendations to MOP7 as appropriate.
<p><b>Target 8</b></p> <p>By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement Resolution 5.12 “<i>Adverse Effects of Agrochemicals on Migratory Waterbirds in Africa</i>” engaging with the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pesticides and other relevant international processes as appropriate, such as the CMS Scientific Council Working Group on minimising the risk of poisoning to migratory birds.</li> <li>• Support implementation of conclusions from 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> meetings of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (2009 &amp; 2011) especially as regards chemical management/pollution issues relevant to waterbirds, notably with regards to lead.</li> <li>• Implement CMS Resolution 11.15 on <i>Preventing poisoning of migratory birds</i> addressing, <i>inter alia</i>, the need to prevent waterbird poisoning by agricultural chemicals, poison baits; and the use of toxic lead shot and fishing weights.</li> </ul>

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2011)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2012-2015	AEWA's future contribution (2016-2020)
<p><b>Target 9</b></p> <p>By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritised, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of <i>Guidelines on Avoidance of Introductions of non-native Waterbird Species</i></li> <li>• Adoption of Resolution 4.5 <i>Introduced non-native waterbirds in the Agreement area</i></li> <li>• <i>Review on the Status of Introduced Non-native Species of Waterbirds</i> (AEWA/MOP 4.12; 2008)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued very good progress to eradicate the Ruddy Duck <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i> from the UK. Control measures also undertaken in Belgium and France, planned in Switzerland, but with no implementation of planned controls in Morocco and Sweden.</li> <li>• Adopted Resolution 5.15 <i>Impact of invasive alien aquatic weeds on waterbird habitats in Africa</i></li> <li>• Adoption of revised <i>Guidelines on avoidance of introductions of non-native waterbird species</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eradication of the Ruddy Duck <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i> from the AEWA region, per Resolution 4.5, before 2020</li> <li>• Enhanced activity to control invasive non-native waterbirds, notably Sacred Ibis <i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i> where it is non-native (per Resolution 4.5)</li> </ul> <p><b>Implement Target for Strategic Plan Objective 1:</b></p> <p>1.5 Waterbirds are considered thoroughly in the context of the delivery of National Action Plans on non-native species by other international fora, such as CBD, Bern Convention, and GISP.</p>
<p><b>Target 10</b></p> <p>By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of Resolution 3.17 <i>Climate change and migratory waterbirds</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt Resolution 5.13 <i>Climate Change Adaptation Measures for Waterbirds</i> [and Resolution 6.6 <i>Updated advice on climate change adaptation measures for waterbirds</i>]</li> <li>• Limited progress to start to assess analyses of habitat and species vulnerability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [Implement Resolution 6.6 <i>Updated advice on climate change adaptation measures for waterbirds</i>]</li> </ul>

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2011)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2012-2015	AEWA's future contribution (2016-2020)
		develop adaptation programmes accordingly.	
<b>Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity</b>			
<p><b>Target 11</b></p> <p>By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action Plan urges establishment of site networks to protect important wetland habitats</li> <li>• Adoption of <i>Guidelines on the management of key sites for migratory waterbirds</i></li> <li>• Adoption of <i>Guidelines on the preparation of site inventories for migratory waterbirds</i></li> <li>• <i>Report on the Site Network for Waterbirds in the Agreement Area</i> (document AEWA/MOP 5.15)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MOP6 National Reports report a total of 128,422 nationally important sites (covering 88.46 million ha) for migratory waterbirds, of which all but 478 are legally protected. Of legally protected sites, 68% have management plans in place.</li> <li>• MOP6 National Reports report a total of 1,356 internationally important sites (covering 25.75 million ha) for migratory waterbirds of which 51% have management plans in place.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Parties should address site management issues and which sites to prioritise for designation, including consideration of the tentative conclusions and recommendations of the preliminary report on the Site Network in the Agreement Area.</li> <li>• The Technical Committee, working with other relevant organisations and processes, to have further developed understanding of the scope and content of protected area networks within the Agreement area for migratory waterbirds, and to make clear recommendations to MoP6 concerning the sufficiency of current provision in the context of Aichi Target 11 and necessary national and international responses</li> <li>• CSN Tool and Flyway Training Kit need to be used</li> </ul>
<p><b>Target 12</b></p> <p>By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Plan agreed (2008) with the over-arching goal: <i>To maintain or restore migratory</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of <i>Guidelines for the translocation of waterbirds for conservation</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Implement Targets for Strategic Plan Objective 1:</b></p>

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2011)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2012-2015	AEWA's future contribution (2016-2020)
<p>of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.</p>	<p><i>waterbird species and their populations at a favourable conservation status throughout their flyways</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Objective 1:</b> <i>To undertake conservation measures so as to improve or maintain conservation status of waterbird species and their populations</i></li> <li>• Adoption of <i>Guidelines on the preparation of National Single Species Action Plans for migratory waterbirds</i></li> <li>• Single Species Action Plans developed for 15 species and implemented for six globally threatened species</li> <li>• Adoption of <i>Guidelines for a waterbird monitoring protocol</i></li> <li>• Reporting of status of migratory waterbirds via triennial AEWA Conservation Status Reviews</li> </ul>	<p><i>purposes: complementing the IUCN guidelines</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of revised <i>Guidelines on identifying and tackling emergency situations for migratory waterbirds</i></li> <li>• Single Species Action Plans (SSAPs) adopted for Greenland White-fronted Goose <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>, Slaty Egret <i>Egretta vinaceigula</i>, Bewick's Swan <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> (W Siberian &amp; NE/NW European population), Red-breasted Goose <i>Branta ruficollis</i>, and Sociable Lapwing <i>Vanellus gregarius</i> at MOP 5.</li> <li>• [At MOP 6, SSAPs adopted for Shoebill <i>Balaeniceps rex</i>, Grey Crowned Crane <i>Balearica regulorum</i>, Taiga Bean Goose <i>Anser f. fabalis</i>, Long-tailed Duck <i>Clangula hyemalis</i>, Eurasian Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>, Northern Bald Ibis <i>Geronticus eremita</i>, and Lesser White-fronted Goose <i>Anser erythropus</i>. International multi-species Action Plan for Benguela Upwelling</li> </ul>	<p>1.1 Full legal protection is provided to all Column A species [by MOP6].</p> <p>1.2 A comprehensive and coherent flyway network of protected and managed sites, and other adequately managed sites, of international and national importance for waterbirds is established and maintained, while taking into account the existing networks and climate change.</p> <p>1.3 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) &amp; Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) are used to reduce the impact of new developments on waterbird species and populations.</p> <p>1.4 Single Species Action Plans (SSAPs) are developed and implemented for most threatened species listed in category 1 and categories 2 and 3 marked with an asterisk on column A of Table 1.</p> <p>[Single Species Action Plans adopted for Shoebill <i>Balaeniceps rex</i>, Grey Crowned Crane <i>Balearica regulorum</i>, Taiga Bean Goose <i>Anser f. fabalis</i>, Long-tailed Duck <i>Clangula hyemalis</i>, Eurasian Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>, Northern Bald Ibis <i>Geronticus eremita</i>, and Lesser White-fronted Goose <i>Anser erythropus</i>. International multi-species Action Plan for Benguela</p>

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2011)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2012-2015	AEWA's future contribution (2016-2020)
		<p>System Coastal Seabirds adopted.]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support given for implementation of existing SSAPs.</li> </ul>	<p>Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds adopted.]</p> <p>Reports made to each MOP on the status of species for which Single Species Action Plans (SSAP) have been developed</p> <p>Seek to establish international coordination mechanisms for each SSAP</p>
<p><b>Target 13</b></p> <p>By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimising genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.</p>			
<p><b>Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services</b></p>			
<p><b>Target 14</b></p> <p>By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including provide services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commenced implementation of relevant actions from AEWA's Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement relevant actions from AEWA's Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017</li> </ul>

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2011)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2012-2015	AEWA's future contribution (2016-2020)
<p><b>Target 15</b></p> <p>By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical Committee to work <i>inter alia</i>, with the Ramsar Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and relevant CBD's Programmes of Work, to make recommendations as to priorities for wetland conservation and management recommendations that would both benefit migratory waterbirds, and contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and/or to combating desertification</li> </ul>
<p><b>Target 16</b></p> <p>By 2015, the <i>Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization</i> is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.</p>			
<p><b><i>Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building</i></b></p>			
<p><b>Target 17</b></p> <p>By 2015, each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 72 AEWA Contracting Parties have adopted NBSAPs whilst those for for Cyprus, Libya and Monaco are currently under development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that those authorities responsible for AEWA implementation are fully involved in the process to update national biodiversity strategies and action plans so as further to promote synergies between biodiversity-related treaties</li> </ul>

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2011)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2012-2015	AEWA's future contribution (2016-2020)
<p><b>Target 18</b></p> <p>By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical Committee to develop understanding of implications of traditional harvest methodologies and the implications these may have for AEWA implementation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Target 19</b></p> <p>By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Plan agreed (2008) with relevant objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Objective 3: To increase knowledge about species and their populations, flyways and threats to them as a basis for conservation action</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Triennial publication of Conservation Status Review summarises knowledge of AEWA-listed migratory waterbirds</li> <li>• CSN Tool and Flyway Training Kit published</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waterbird Monitoring Partnership developed to take forward the development of the International Waterbird Census (IWC)</li> <li>• By MoP6 Parties should decide on options for the establishment of a long-term basic structural funding regime for the IWC and take a strengthened strategic approach to its development and maintenance</li> <li>• Publication of fifth and sixth editions of AEWA's <i>Conservation Status Review</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Implement Targets for Strategic Plan Objective 3:</b></p> <p>3.1 Necessary resources are in place to support the international processes for gathering monitoring data for status assessment, on a long-term basis.</p> <p>3.2 Capacity of national monitoring systems to assess the status of the waterbirds is established, maintained and further developed.</p> <p>3.3 Nationally responsible state agencies, academic and other wildlife related research institutions are encouraged to establish research programmes to</p>

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2011)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2012-2015	AEWA's future contribution (2016-2020)
			<p>support implementation of waterbird conservation priorities.</p> <p>3.4 Best practices, including in particular traditional knowledge, for waterbird conservation programmes are collated and incorporated.</p> <p>3.5 Sharing and accessibility of relevant data and information are enhanced so as to underpin relevant conservation decision-making.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical Committee to make proposals as to further needs regarding implementation of Objective 3 of the Strategic Plan in the context of the needs to improve, widely share and transfer, and apply scientific information on waterbirds.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Target 20</b></p> <p>By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the <i>Strategy for Resource Mobilization</i>, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopted Resolutions 5.21 and [6.18] on <i>Financial and administrative matters</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parties and other stakeholders are encouraged to consider increasing funding and other capacity needs for the implementation of the Single Species Action Plans for globally threatened species and develop such plans for all globally threatened species.</li> <li>• Implementation of a long-term basic structural funding regime</li> </ul>

<b>Aichi Target</b>	<b>AEWA's past contribution (1999-2011)</b>	<b>AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2012-2015</b>	<b>AEWA's future contribution (2016-2020)</b>
			for the IWC and strengthened strategic approach to IWC development and maintenance.

### Annex 3: A summary of AEWA's contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals<sup>25</sup>

Those Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) which are highlighted below in bold and shaded are those for which the full implementation of AEWA can make specific contributions.

<b>Sustainable Development Goals</b>
<b>Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere</b>
<b>Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</b>
Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
<b>Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</b>
Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
<b>Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</b>
<b>Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*</b>
* Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.
<b>Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</b>
<b>Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</b>
Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
<b>Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development</b>

<sup>25</sup> Note that this analysis is based on the finalised text for adoption (1 August 2015): [Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). Following agreement by UNGA of final text in late September, any changes will be incorporated and a revised version of this Annex will be tabled as a Rev 1 for MOP6 as necessary

## Summary of those SDG targets to which full implementation of AEWA can contribute.

Relevance is indicated as either:

- **Direct (higher) relevance** – where actions to implement the Agreement will directly contribute to the relevant target; or
- **Indirect relevance** – where actions are of indirect (or lower) significance.

Target	Relevance	Nature of AEWA's contribution
<b>Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere</b>		
<b>1.4</b> By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance	Direct	Objective 4 of AEWA's <i>Strategic Plan 2009-2016</i> stresses the need to improve communication, education and public awareness about migratory waterbird species <i>inter alia</i> their role in alleviating poverty  Complementary Target 2 of the <i>Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017</i> calls for community based natural resource management strategies based on wetlands and waterbirds to be developed to sustain rural development and improve conservation
<b>Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</b>		
<b>2.4</b> By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality	Indirect	Many waterbirds benefit from sustainable, low-intensity agriculture (which benefits land and soil quality), whilst wetland wise-use (including restoration and conservation of coastal habitats) helps adapt to climate change (Resolution 6.6) and reduce disaster risks
<b>Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</b>		
<b>6.1</b> By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	Indirect	Wise-use of wetlands consistent with AEWA obligations can facilitate water supply as an ecosystem service to human communities
<b>6.3</b> By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally	Direct	Actions to implement AEWA's Action Plan para 4.3.9 will reduce pollution, oil spillages and waste discharge, whilst para 3.2.3, <i>inter alia</i> , addresses the need to regulate the use of agricultural chemicals and waste water which relates to impacts of nitrogen pollution (both eutrophication and hypertrophication) impacting on waterbirds, their habitats, and drinking water supplies
<b>6.5</b> By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate	Indirect	Article III.2d (General Conservation Measures) requires that Parties co-ordinate their efforts to protect wetlands "in particular where wetlands extend over the area of more than one Party". The protection of such

Target	Relevance	Nature of AEWA's contribution
		shared wetlands <sup>26</sup> will typically support the provision of water as a relevant ecosystem service to all concerned Parties
<b>6.6</b> By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes	Direct	<p>Although the habitats of importance to waterbirds are not restricted to water-related ecosystems, wetlands are of major significance as noted in the Preamble to the Agreement</p> <p>Article III.2c (General Conservation Measures) and Action Plan sections 3.2 (Conservation of Areas) and 3.3 (Rehabilitation and Restoration) require Parties to establish a network of sites and habitats and “encourage the protection, management, rehabilitation and restoration of these sites”</p>
<b>Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</b>		
<b>12.2</b> By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources	Direct	Article III.2b (General Conservation Measures) requires that Parties “ensure that any use of migratory waterbirds ... is sustainable for the species as well as for the ecological systems that support them”
<b>12.4</b> By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment	Indirect	<p>The Parties have set as an objective that “The use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands is phased out in all Contracting Parties” {Strategic Plan Target 2.1}</p> <p>Actions to implement AEWA's Action Plan para 4.3.9 will reduce pollution, oil spillages and discharge of wastes whilst para 3.2.3, <i>inter alia</i>, addresses the need to regulate the use of agricultural chemicals and discharges of waste water</p>
<b>12.8</b> By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature	Direct	Actions to implement AEWA's Action Plan section 6 (Education and Information) are especially targeted at wetland uses to promote the sustainability-based objectives of the Agreement
<b>12.a</b> Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production	Indirect	Hunting according to AEWA's principles will result in sustainable harvesting and thus socio-economic benefits for some communities
<b>12.b</b> Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products	Indirect	Actions to implement AEWA's Action Plan section 4.2 on ecotourism are supportive in seeking to encourage sensitive and appropriate <sup>27</sup> eco-tourism at wetlands holding concentrations of waterbirds

<sup>26</sup> The Trilateral Waddensea Cooperation between Germany, Denmark and The Netherlands is a good example of such functional coordination

<sup>27</sup> which must ensure sufficiently large, disturbance-free, areas for the survival of particularly sensitive species

Target	Relevance	Nature of AEWA's contribution
<b>Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*</b>		
<i>* Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.</i>		
<b>13.1</b> Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries	Indirect	Climate change adaptation measures for waterbirds will reduce climate-related disaster risks Resolution 6.6
<b>13.2</b> Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning	Direct	Resolutions 5.13 and 6.6 seek to ensure that climate change adaptation measures are integrated within national policies, strategies and planning, and these will benefit both waterbirds and human communities
<b>13.3</b> Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning	Direct	Responses to changing climate are an important component of actions to implement Action Plan section 6 (Education and Information) and AEWA's Communications Strategy Resolution 6.10
<b>Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</b>		
<b>14.1</b> By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution	Indirect	Actions to implement Action Plan para 4.3.9 will reduce pollution (including nutrient pollution), oil spillages and discharge of wastes whilst para 3.2.3, <i>inter alia</i> , addresses the need to regulate the use of agricultural chemicals and discharges of waste water
<b>14.2</b> By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans	Direct	Article III.2c (General Conservation Measures) and Action Plan sections 3.2 (Conservation of Areas) and 3.3 (Rehabilitation and Restoration) require Parties to establish a network of sites and habitats and "encourage the protection, management, rehabilitation and restoration of these sites"
<b>14.5</b> By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information	Direct	Article III.2c (General Conservation Measures) and Action Plan section 3.2 (Conservation of Areas) require Parties to establish a network of sites and habitats and encourage their protection and management
<b>Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</b>		
<b>15.1</b> By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements	Direct	Article III.2c (General Conservation Measures) and Action Plan sections 3.2 (Conservation of Areas) and 3.3 (Rehabilitation and Restoration) require Parties to establish a network of sites and habitats and "encourage the protection, management, rehabilitation and restoration of these sites" in liaison with relevant international frameworks

Target	Relevance	Nature of AEWA's contribution
<p><b>15.5</b> Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species</p>	Direct	<p>The central objective of the Agreement expressed in the broad objective of Article II.1 is to restore and maintain the conservation status of migratory waterbirds</p> <p>Article III.2c (General Conservation Measures) and Action Plan sections 3.2 (Conservation of Areas) and 3.3 (Rehabilitation and Restoration) require Parties to establish a network of sites and habitats and “encourage the protection, management, rehabilitation and restoration of these sites” in liaison with relevant international frameworks</p> <p>Article III.1 requires Parties to “take measures to conserve migratory waterbirds, giving special attention to endangered species and well as those with an unfavourable conservation status”</p>
<p><b>15.7</b> Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products</p>	Direct	<p>Section 2.1 (Legal measures) of the Action Plan specifically requires Parties to give legal protection for relevant waterbirds, and relevant International Single Species Action Plans address the issues of poaching and trafficking.</p> <p>Action Plan para 4.1.6, requiring Parties to ‘develop and implement measures to reduce, and as far as possible eliminate, illegal taking’, is especially relevant.</p>
<p><b>15.8</b> By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species</p>	Direct	<p>Article III.2g (General Conservation Measures) and Action Plan section 2.5 (Introductions) require Parties to prohibit the deliberate introduction, and take all appropriate measures to prevent the unintentional release into the environment of non-native species of animals and plants detrimental to waterbirds.</p> <p>This issue has been a major focus of attention with triennial reporting required of the Parties. Both Article III.2g and section 2.5 call for measures to control non-native species – such as predators – that have been already introduced. Paras 3.3, 4.3.10 &amp; 4.3.11 of the Action Plan are also relevant</p>
<p><b>15.a</b> Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems</p>	Direct	<p>Actions to resource conservation actions for waterbirds and their habitats will also benefit other species, wider ecosystems and human communities</p>
<p><b>15.c</b> Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities</p>	Direct	<p>Relevant International Single Species Action Plans address the issues of poaching and trafficking.</p> <p>AEWA is contributing to relevant international Task Forces convened by CMS on the illegal killing of birds and related</p>

Target	Relevance	Nature of AEWA's contribution
		issues, and leads the development of the Plan of Action, and Task Force, on bird trapping in Egypt and Libya
<b>Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development</b>		
<b>Capacity-building</b> <b>17.9</b> Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation	Direct	National development of capacity and expertise within developing countries for waterbird and wetland conservation will also contribute to wider attainment of SDGs. This is addressed in Article III.2i (General Conservation Measures) and paras 6.1 & 6.2 of the Action Plan
<b>Systemic issues</b> <i>Multi-stakeholder partnerships</i> <b>17.16</b> Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries	Indirect	Multi-stakeholder partnerships, for example as involved in waterbird monitoring are crucial to waterbird conservation
<b>17.17</b> Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships	Direct	Effective implementation of AEWA critically depends on the development and nurturing of such partnerships

## 6<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

9-14 November 2015, Bonn, Germany

*“Making flyway conservation happen”*

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### RESOLUTION 6.16

#### INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS: STANDING COMMITTEE

*Recalling* Resolution 2.6 regarding the establishment of the Standing Committee and, in particular, the composition of its membership,

*Further recalling* the tasks given to the Standing Committee as laid down in Resolutions 2.6, 4.6, 4.17 and 5.17,

*Acknowledging* the active role the Standing Committee has played in overseeing, as representatives of the Meeting of the Parties, the implementation of the Agreement and the functioning of the Secretariat,

*Further acknowledging* that the Standing Committee has provided guidance and advice to the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat on the implementation of the Agreement, on the preparation of meetings and any other matters,

#### *The Meeting of the Parties:*

1. *Approves* the list of elected or reconfirmed regional representatives for the Standing Committee, as follows:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Europe and Central Asia (1)	France	Croatia
Europe and Central Asia (2)	Georgia	Norway
Middle East and Northern Africa	Libya	Algeria
Western and Central Africa	Ghana	Senegal
Eastern and Southern Africa	Uganda	South Africa

2. *Re-confirms* that the Standing Committee should also include a representative of the host country for the next session of the Meeting of Parties as well as a representative of the Depositary;

3. *Agrees* that the Standing Committee will meet at least once between the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties;

4. *Decides* to make a provision in the Budget 2016-2018 for payment, upon request, of reasonable and justifiable travel expenses of appointed Standing Committee members from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, within the policy agreed by the Meeting of Parties;

5. *Requests* Contracting Parties to provide financial assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition that are Parties to the Agreement, to be represented at meetings of the Standing Committee by an observer.

## 6<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

9-14 November 2015, Bonn, Germany

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### RESOLUTION 6.17

#### **INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS: TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

*Pursuant to* Article VII of the Agreement, the first Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP), through Resolution 1.8, established and determined the composition of the Technical Committee,

*Considering* that at the present 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the MOP, the terms of office of two members of the Technical Committee expire - the regional representatives for North & Southwestern Europe and Northern Africa, the regional representatives for Southern Africa had to step down in advance of the expiration of his terms of office and that the position of the regional representative for Central Africa remained vacant in the past triennium; the terms of office of the three thematic experts (game management, environmental law, and rural development) expire too and that the position of a CEPA expert, as per Resolution 5.18, was not filled during the past triennium,

*Further considering* the recommendation of the Advisory Group, as per Rule 8 of the Modus Operandi of the Technical Committee, regarding the nominated candidates for the vacant positions,

*Thanking* members of the Technical Committee for their work in fulfilling the task stipulated by Article VII.2 of the Agreement, thereby contributing to the implementation of the Agreement over the past triennium,

*Noting* the relatively limited implementation of the Technical Committee work plan for 2012-2015 due to the growing volume of requests to the Committee by the Meeting of Parties, the lack of any earmarked resources with which to contract significant elements of work (e.g. technical reviews) and thus consequent reliance on prior fundraising by the Secretariat to progress these work areas, and the heavy constraints on the amount of *pro bono* input to the Committee’s work by its members as a consequence of economic austerity measures – as outlined in the Report of the Technical Committee to MOP6, document AEW A/MOP 6.7,

*Recognising* the need of prior strategic review by the Meeting of the Parties of Technical Committee tasks for the forthcoming triennium in order to allow prioritisation, and resource provision and mobilisation so as to ensure adequate work allocation and implementation,

*Further recognising* that the Technical Committee is a subsidiary and advisory body to the Agreement and the importance of its members being able to distance themselves from the possibility of a conflict of interest(s) between their personal and professional interests and their responsibilities to AEW A.

#### *The Meeting of the Parties:*

1. *Appoints* to the Technical Committee the members and alternates named in Appendix I to the present Resolution, taking into account terms of office in accordance with Rule 5 of the Modus Operandi of the Technical Committee and the geographical representation as laid down in its Annex;

2. *Approves* the work plan, summarising the scientific and technical tasks for the AEWA Technical Committee for 2016-2018 and their prioritisation as presented in Appendix II to this Resolution;
3. *Instructs* the Secretariat to provide the necessary support to the Technical Committee in accordance with Article VII of the Agreement, as well as the provisions in the budget for the Agreement and the activities of the Technical Committee or the Agreement Secretariat, as adopted under Resolution 6.18 on Financial and Administrative Matters;
4. *Encourages* Contracting Parties to include members of the Technical Committee in their delegations to the Meeting of the Parties, finances permitting, in order to enhance synergies between the bodies of the Agreement;
5. *Requests* the Technical Committee to create and maintain, as per Appendix III to this Resolution, a register whereby relevant interest(s) can be declared by its members (regional representatives, thematic experts, representatives of international organisations), observers from specialised inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, and other appointed and invited experts.

## Appendix I

### AEWA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

#### REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

#### ALTERNATES

##### **NORTH AND SOUTHWESTERN EUROPE**

Ms Ruth Cromie (UK)

Vacant

##### **CENTRAL EUROPE**

Mr Lorenzo Serra (Italy)

Mr Darko Saveljic (Montenegro)

##### **EASTERN EUROPE**

Mr Saulius Svazas (Lithuania)

Mr Gleb Gavryts (Ukraine)

##### **SOUTHWESTERN ASIA**

Mr Sharif Jbour (Jordan)

Vacant

##### **NORTHERN AFRICA**

Mr Sidi Imad Cherkaoui (Morocco)

Mr Wed Abdou (Egypt)

##### **WESTERN AFRICA**

Mr Erasmus Owusu (Ghana)

Vacant

##### **CENTRAL AFRICA**

Vacant

Vacant

##### **EASTERN AFRICA**

Mr Muchai S. Muchane (Kenya)

Vacant

##### **SOUTHERN AFRICA**

Ms Lizanne Roxburgh (South Africa)

Vacant

#### REPRESENTATIVES OF ORGANISATIONS <sup>1</sup>

##### **IUCN**

Mr Jean-Christophe Vié

Vacant

##### **WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL**

Mr Szabolcs Nagy

Mr Taej Mundkur

##### **CIC**

Mr Arto Marjakangas

Vacant

#### THEMATIC EXPERTS

##### **RURAL ECONOMICS**

Mr Philippe Karpe

##### **ENVIRONMENTAL LAW**

Ms Melissa Lewis

##### **GAME MANAGEMENT**

Mr Pierre Defos du Rau

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<sup>1</sup> Term of office to be decided by the Organisation.

## Appendix II

### Work Plan for the AEWA Technical Committee 2016-2018

#### Introduction

1. This section provides explanatory notes concerning the two attached documents (Appendix II, Parts 1 and 2).
2. Part 1 provides a summary list of proposed top priority scientific and technical tasks for the 2016-2018 triennium. This is drawn from Part 2 which provides a summary of the full list of proposed scientific and technical tasks for the work of the Technical Committee in 2016-2018.
3. Themes relate largely to the structure of the AEWA Action Plan as follows:
  - a) **Field of application**<sup>29</sup>
    - issues of the taxonomic and geographic scope of the Agreement
  - b) **Species conservation**<sup>30</sup>
    - including issues of legal regulation of taking; international single species action plans and their implementation; emergency measures; re-establishments; and introductions.
  - c) **Habitat conservation**<sup>31</sup>
    - including issues of habitat and site inventories; conservation of areas; habitat rehabilitation and restoration; and climate change adaptation and mitigation
  - d) **Management of human activities**<sup>32</sup>
    - including hunting (including lead issues); disturbance; species-conflicts and management of other human activities (e.g. impacts of energy generation and transmission, development, etc.)
  - e) **Research and monitoring**<sup>33</sup>
    - including planning and funding of surveys and monitoring
  - f) **Education and information**<sup>34</sup>
    - including all Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) issues
  - g) **Implementation**<sup>35</sup>
    - including Conservation Guidelines; Action Plan para 7.4 international reviews; and other implementation issues
  - h) **Strategic, reporting, emerging and other issues**<sup>36</sup>
    - including strategic, reporting and other planning issues; emerging issues and horizon scanning
4. The 14 top priority tasks listed in Part 1 below have been identified from the full range of proposed scientific and technical tasks listed in Part 2. These include all 'Essential' tasks and a few additional 'High priority' tasks.

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<sup>29</sup> includes some of the issues covered by TC Working Group 10: Emerging issues (in relation to taxonomy)

<sup>30</sup> includes some of the issues covered by TC Working Group 1: Lead, hunting and trade and TC Working Group 10: Emerging issues

<sup>31</sup> includes some of the issues covered by TC Working Group 11: Habitat loss & degradation

<sup>32</sup> includes work currently undertaken by TC Working Group 1: Lead, hunting and trade; TC Working Group 8: Renewable energy and migratory waterbirds; TC Working Group 9: Disturbance; and TC Working Group 10: Emerging issues (in relation to seabird bycatch etc.)

<sup>33</sup> includes work currently undertaken by TC Working Group 4: Waterbird monitoring

<sup>34</sup> includes work currently undertaken by TC Working Group 5: CEPA & Communication Strategy and Plan

<sup>35</sup> includes work currently undertaken by TC Working Group 3: International Reviews, and TC Working Group 6: Conservation Guidelines

<sup>36</sup> includes work currently undertaken by TC Working Group 2: National reporting, Strategic Plan and Aichi Targets; Plan of Action for Africa; TC Working Group 7: Climate change; and some of the issues covered by TC Working Group 10: Emerging issues

5. The provisional figure for the total estimated funds needed for full implementation of the recommended 2016-2018 top priority tasks is € 561,000 over the triennium, whilst the total cost of the implementation of the full work plan is € 869,000.
6. Part 2 provides further details of all proposed scientific and technical implementation support tasks for the Technical Committee during 2016-2018. It provides a summary description of each task, with its anticipated outcomes and outputs, and provisional estimated costs.
7. As indicated in Part 2, a number of the tasks listed are either ongoing or have been carried forward from the task adopted by previous MOPs, but for which capacity or funding has been insufficient in the previous triennia to undertake or complete them.
8. Provisional estimated costs in Part 2 are based on each task requiring the engagement of an expert (or experts) to undertake the work required. These provisional estimated costs have been prepared by the Technical Committee and Secretariat to provide Contracting Parties with an initial assessment of delivery needs – more precise costings and the scope and ways and means for the delivery of each of the tasks will be developed at the beginning of the 2016-2018 cycle and reported to the Standing Committee at that time.

It is recognized that much of the funding estimated as being needed to enable further scientific and technical implementation support for the Agreement will need to be found from sources other than the Agreement's core budget.

9. Please note that some significant tasks and costings given, relate to the work involved in developing Terms of Reference for the respective project (including the assessment of full costs), not the cost of delivery of the project for which funding will need to be sought.

## Appendix II - Part 1

### Recommended Top Priority Scientific and Technical Tasks for the 2016-2018 Triennium

Recommended Top Priority Tasks 2016-2018 (summary of task only)	Indicative cost
<b>1. Field of application</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Population definitions.</b> Review of delineation of population boundaries for a small number of species and assessment of implications for listing by AEWA.</li> </ul>	€ 5,000
<b>2. Species Conservation</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Harvests and sustainability.</b> Develop Terms of Reference for possible project(s) on the sustainable harvesting of migratory waterbirds that promote interdisciplinary approaches to livelihood needs, including the development of alternative food resources and awareness raising.</li> </ul>	€ 2,000 (to develop project proposals)
<b>3. Habitat Conservation</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Site network review.</b> Finalise Report on the Site Network for waterbirds in the Agreement area a draft of which was presented to MOP5.</li> </ul>	€ 80,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wetland loss as it impacts migratory waterbirds.</b> Through an initial assessment of the very rapid rates of inter-tidal habitat loss within the West Asian – East African Flyway, collate data on regional rates of wetland habitat loss and use this to prioritise actions to address the drivers of such loss and degradation as they impact migratory waterbirds.</li> </ul>	€ 20,000
<b>4. Management of human activities</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Management of disturbance.</b> Produce simple guidance on management of disturbance to waterbirds targeted at wetland site managers and translated into French, Arabic and Russian.</li> </ul>	€ 76,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Illegal killing.</b> Support implementation of CMS Resolution 11.16 on prevention of illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds and AEWA/CMS Plan of Action to Address Bird Trapping Along the Mediterranean Coasts of Egypt and Libya.</li> </ul>	€ 8,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reducing the impact of fisheries.</b> Assess how AEWA can best work through, and enhance the activities of other actors engaged with reducing the impact of both freshwater and marine fisheries on migratory waterbirds.</li> </ul>	€ 10,000
<b>5. Research and monitoring</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Targeting of monitoring schemes.</b> Complete additional guidance on how to ensure that populations (including of seabirds and colonial breeding waterbirds) are covered by international monitoring schemes to produce reliable international population size and trend estimates.</li> </ul>	€ 10,000
<b>7. Implementation</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Conservation Status Review 7.</b> Guide the process of preparation of Conservation Status Review 7 for submission to MOP7.</li> </ul>	€ 100,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Other international reviews.</b> Guide the process of preparation of a) updated review of information from surveys, b) updated review of pertinent hunting and trade legislation and c) updated review of re-establishment projects.</li> </ul>	€ 130,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Conservation Guidelines.</b> Review Conservation Guidelines nos. 1, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9 to ensure they continue to reflect best conservation practice, and reformat as necessary following conclusion of ongoing review of format.</li> </ul>	€ 60,000

<b>Recommended Top Priority Tasks 2016-2018</b> (summary of task only)	<b>Indicative cost</b>
<b>8. Strategic, reporting, emerging and other issues</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>National reports.</b> Revise the national report format and make necessary adjustments on the basis of received feedback after the MOP6 reporting cycle and address necessary changes following MOP6.</li> </ul>	€ 20,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Population reporting for MOP 7.</b> Develop module for reporting on population status for MOP7.</li> </ul>	€ 20,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Review of Aichi Target delivery.</b> Assess progress on issues relevant to the Aichi Targets, and present triennial assessments of AEWA's contribution to each relevant Target, elaborating further needs as necessary and appropriate, for MOP7.</li> </ul>	€ 20,000

## Appendix II – Part 2

### Summary of Scientific and Technical Tasks for the AEW Technical Committee: 2016-2018

- A. The scientific and technical tasks for the Technical Committee are organized under eight broad themes, as follows:
- Field of application
  - Species conservation
  - Habitat conservation
  - Management of human activities
  - Research and monitoring
  - Education and information
  - Implementation
  - Strategic, reporting, emerging or other issues
- B. Prioritisation of tasks is as follows:
- Essential** (highest priority) – other MOP processes depend on the task being undertaken *e.g.* reporting to MOP 7
- High** – important to progress before MOP 7 i.e. to start work within the next two years
- Other** – important but initiation could take place on a longer timescale
- Rolling** – important and ongoing or soon-to-be-launched long-term activity
- C. The categorization of types of tasks is coded in the tables below as follows:
1. New or revised guidance for Contracting Parties
  2. Technical support and advice – ongoing and *ad hoc*
  3. Advice on new and emerging issues
  4. Input to scientific or technical products/initiatives undertaken by other relevant organizations
  5. Review of knowledge as a basis for developing guidance for Parties and others.
- D. Note that costs are significantly approximate and not derived from detailed costing of the specific tasks. Costs are for broad planning purposes only at this stage and will be further refined.

**Theme: Field of application**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Priority for delivery</b>	<b>Category of task</b>	<b>Collaboration with other organisations</b>	<b>Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:</b>	<b>Provisional estimated cost (€) – see note above</b>
<b>Taxonomy &amp; nomenclature:</b> Maintain overview of taxonomic and nomenclatural issues and advise on the need to update Annex 2 to the Agreement as necessary. (Resolution 6.1)	Other	2	CMS Scientific Council	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 3 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 19	–
<b>Taxonomic (and geographic) scope of AEWA:</b> The Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways adopted at CMS COP11 envisages the preparation of a review to explore options to extend AEWA as a framework for other migratory bird species/species groups in the Africa-Eurasian region so as to cover all African-Eurasian bird MoUs and Action Plans. Contribute to this as necessary. (Resolution 11.14, Annex 1, point 19).	High	4	CMS Flyways Working Group and collaboration with Raptors MOU and Landbirds Action Plan as appropriate	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 5.7 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 12	–
<b>Population definitions:</b> Early in the triennium, consider evidence supporting the delineation of current population boundaries for the following species and TC13 to make any recommendations to Standing Committee 12 for interim approval such that any changes can be included within work to develop proposals for MOP7 (CSR 7 and proposed changes to Table 1 of AEWA's Action Plan):  Lesser White-fronted Goose <i>Anser erythropus</i> – status of birds in Fennoscandia Little Crane <i>Porzana parva</i> Sociable Lapwing <i>Vanellus gregarius</i> White-tailed Lapwing <i>Vanellus leucurus</i> Whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus rogachevae</i> Black-legged Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> Guillemot <i>Uria a. aalge</i> & <i>U. aalge albionis</i> Puffin <i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Essential	2	Wetlands International and its relevant Specialist Groups, CAFF CBird Group	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 3	[€5,000]
<b>Technical Committee procedures:</b> Consider and implement appropriate, cost-neutral review procedures related to major outputs arising from the Committee to ensure maintenance of high scientific standards	Other	–			–

**Theme: Species conservation**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Priority for delivery</b>	<b>Category of task</b>	<b>Collaboration with other organisations</b>	<b>Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:</b>	<b>Provisional estimated cost (€)</b>
<b>Guidance on derogation issues</b> Provide guidance concerning measures that should be taken in order to prevent exemptions listed in AP paragraph 2.1.3 operating to the detriment of species listed in Table 1. (Resolution 4.3) (carried over from Work Plan 2009-2012)	High	1		<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 1 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 12	[€30,000]
<b>Regional multi-species declines</b> Continue to develop ideas as to how multi-species and regional-scale declines (such as Baltic seaducks) might be addressed through a combination of appropriate national and international measures, and consider most appropriate means of issuing this as guidance. (Resolution 5.6) (carried over from Work Plan 2012-2015)	Other	1		<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 1 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 12	[€5,000]
<b>Breeding &amp; pre-nuptial migration periods</b> Continue to provide relevant information on African species, as mentioned in Appendix 1 of Resolution 5.10, as knowledge of these improves through the implementation of the Action Plan for Africa and bring elaborated guidance to a future MOP. (Resolution 5.10)	Other Rolling	1, 5		<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objectives 2 & 3.5 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 4	[€3,000]
<b>Invasive aquatic weeds as they impact waterbirds</b> Compile a guide to the available guidelines on the issue. (carried over from Work Plan 2009-2012)	High	1	Ramsar STRP	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objectives 1 & 3 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 9	[€20,000]

<b>Task</b>	<b>Priority for delivery</b>	<b>Category of task</b>	<b>Collaboration with other organisations</b>	<b>Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:</b>	<b>Provisional estimated cost (€)</b>
<p><b>Promoting better recognition of waterbird socio-economic importance</b>            In the context of both Aichi Target 2 and CMS Resolution 10.18<sup>37</sup>, consider the need to develop appropriate guidance concerning the recognition of the socio-economic values of migratory waterbird consumptive and non-consumptive uses within NBSAPs and elsewhere to ensure that the economic and cultural values of waterbirds are fully recognised nationally and integrated within poverty reduction strategies. (Resolution 6.4 &amp; 6.15)</p>	High		CMS, CBD	<p><b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objectives 1.5, 2 &amp; 4</p> <p><b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 2</p>	[€30,000]
<p><b>Harvests and sustainability</b>            Develop Terms of Reference for possible project(s) on the sustainable harvesting of migratory waterbirds that promote interdisciplinary approaches to livelihood needs, including development of alternative food resources and awareness raising. [CMS Flyways Programme of Work #12]</p>	High	1	CMS Flyways Working Group	<p><b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 2</p> <p><b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 4</p>	[€2,000] Costings for projects to be developed
<p><b>Understanding harvest issues</b>            Seek information from Parties and stakeholders as to which further tools and guidance would be helpful to them in the context of ensuring that hunting is sustainable, together with seeking a better understanding as to which audiences these tools should be targeted at and the most appropriate means by which this could be undertaken, and to build this information into future planning of the Committee's own work. (Resolution 6.4)</p>	Other	2		<p><b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 2</p> <p><b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 4</p>	-
<p><b>Traditional knowledge and harvest</b>            Finalise the delayed review on this issue and make recommendations for further work. Consider whether existing work can be included within conceptually related task (above) on promoting socio-economic benefits of waterbirds.</p>	Other	5		<p><b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objectives 2 &amp; 3.4</p> <p><b>Aichi Target:</b> Targets 12 &amp; 18</p>	[€20,000]
<p><b>Red List assessments</b>            Consider any needs to promote streamlining of the process to ensure prompt IUCN Red List assessment of migratory birds that feed into the</p>	High	4	CMS Flyways Working Group and BirdLife International	<p><b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 3</p> <p><b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 12</p>	[€5,000]

<sup>37</sup> Resolution 10.18. Guidelines on the integration of migratory species into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and other outcomes from CBD COP10. [http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/10\\_18\\_nsbaps\\_e\\_0\\_0.pdf](http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/10_18_nsbaps_e_0_0.pdf)

<b>Task</b>	<b>Priority for delivery</b>	<b>Category of task</b>	<b>Collaboration with other organisations</b>	<b>Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:</b>	<b>Provisional estimated cost (€)</b>
prioritization of AEWA listings. [CMS Flyways Programme of Work #12]					
<b>Development of Management Plans</b> Produce a priority list and subsequent selection of species/populations for the development of International Single Species Management Plans at its first meeting after each MOP. (Resolution 6.8)	Other	2		<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 2 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 4	-

### Theme: Habitat conservation

<b>Task</b>	<b>Priority for delivery</b>	<b>Category of task</b>	<b>Collaboration with other organisations</b>	<b>Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:</b>	<b>Provisional estimated cost (€)</b>
<b>Site network review</b> Continue to develop the “ <i>Report on the Site Network for waterbirds in the Agreement area</i> ” so as to better reflect information on the management and conservation status of key sites, to further develop ways of summarising this information accessibly (Resolution 5.2) while taking into account reporting needs for the AEWA Strategic Plan and assessment against relevant Aichi Targets (Resolution 5.23) (carried over from Work Plan 2012-2015)	Essential	1	Wetlands International	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 1.2 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 11	[€80,000]
<b>Site conservation and AEWA</b> In view of the multiple (international) initiatives associated with the identification, designation and management of important sites for waterbirds, critically assess the added value (if any) that AEWA can bring and bring proposals for any specific activities or initiatives arising from this review to MOP 7.	High	5	Potentially all those involved with protected areas		[€20,000]

<b>Task</b>	<b>Priority for delivery</b>	<b>Category of task</b>	<b>Collaboration with other organisations</b>	<b>Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:</b>	<b>Provisional estimated cost (€)</b>
<p><b>Wetland loss as it impacts waterbirds</b> Develop a shared and evidence based understanding of regional rates of wetland habitat loss as the basis for prioritised actions to address the drivers of such loss and degradation as they impact migratory waterbirds. Initial work should focus on assessing the very rapid rates of inter-tidal habitat loss within the West Asian – East African Flyway and implications for waterbirds using these areas.</p>	High	3	Joint with Ramsar Convention (STRP)	<p><b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 3</p> <p><b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 5</p>	[€20,000]
<p><b>Socio-economic importance of waterbirds</b> Explore the potential to develop a number of case studies summarising the socio-economic benefits (including food security) accruing to local populations from the sustainable management of wetlands and the sustainable use of the waterbirds that depend on these areas. (Resolution 5.13)</p>	Other	4	<p>Joint with Ramsar Convention (STRP)</p> <p>Note links to related tasks in <i>Species conservation</i> Theme</p>	<p><b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 4</p> <p><b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 14</p>	[€5,000]
<p><b>Net Positive Impact</b> Investigate the feasibility and develop a proposal for international Net Positive Impact including offsetting approaches that involve the corporate sector and governments in order to support flyway conservation. [CMS Flyways Programme of Work #7]</p>	Other	3	CMS Flyways Working Group; CMS Scientific Council; Wetlands International; BirdLife International; corporate sector	<p><b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 5</p> <p><b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 4 &amp; 5</p>	[€2,000]

### Theme: Management of human activities

<b>Task</b>	<b>Priority for delivery</b>	<b>Category of task</b>	<b>Collaboration with other organisations</b>	<b>Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:</b>	<b>Provisional estimated cost (€)</b>
<p><b>Management of disturbance</b> Commission simple but comprehensive guidance on the management of disturbance in a form that may be widely translated and disseminated, and submit to MOP7 for consideration. Produce versions in English, French, Arabic and Russian. (Resolution 5.24) (carried over from Work Plan 2012-2015)</p>	High	1	Joint with Ramsar Convention (STRP)	<p><b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objectives 1, 2.4 &amp; 5.6</p> <p><b>Aichi Target:</b> Targets 11 &amp; 12</p>	<p>[€76,000]</p> <p>€30,000 to draft plus translation at €2,000/language, plus production costs at €10,000/language</p>

<b>Task</b>	<b>Priority for delivery</b>	<b>Category of task</b>	<b>Collaboration with other organisations</b>	<b>Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:</b>	<b>Provisional estimated cost (€)</b>
<p><b>Disturbance</b> Commission a synthesis of scientific knowledge of disturbance, including activities that are significant and widespread sources of disturbance, and dealing both with the effects of disturbance and with the possible mechanisms of adaptation, mitigation and compensation, and where relevant, summarising those studies that have evaluated the short-term effects of disturbance and its long-term impact on bird productivity and survival, both at the individual and population levels, and submit to MOP7 for consideration (Resolution 5.24) (carried over from Work Plan 2012-2015)</p>	Other	5		<p><b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objectives 2 &amp; 3.5</p> <p><b>Aichi Target:</b> Targets 12 &amp; 19</p>	[€40,000]
<p><b>Reducing energy impacts – Energy Task Force</b> Collaborate on implementation of CMS Resolution 11.27 on <i>Renewable energy and migratory species</i>. Task includes participation in the CMS Energy Task Force to provide further guidance and support in relation to the implementation of CMS Resolution 11.27. Task also involves providing further guidance when relevant new developments on reducing the impact of power lines on birds become available, such as improved mitigation techniques (Resolution 5.11). [Also CMS Flyways Programme of Work #13]</p>	Other Rolling	2	CMS Scientific Council and others	<p><b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objectives 1.3 &amp; 5.7</p> <p><b>Aichi Target:</b> Targets 2, 4 &amp; 12</p>	[€10,000] (T&S for meetings)
<p><b>Reducing energy impacts – sensitivity mapping tool</b> In the context of the implementation of CMS Resolution 11.27 and Resolution 6.7, develop Terms of Reference and costings to further develop a sensitivity-mapping tool (as already developed for the Red Sea-Rift Valley flyway) to indicate risk to migratory birds from potential infrastructure development. [CMS Flyways Programme of Work #13]</p>	Other	2	CMS Scientific Council and others	<p><b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objectives 1.3 &amp; 5.7</p> <p><b>Aichi Target:</b> Targets 2, 4 &amp; 12</p>	[€2,000]
<p><b>Extractive industries – cumulative impact assessment</b> Work with the Ramsar STRP and other interested parties to develop guidance for assessing the significance of cumulative impacts of multiple wetland losses along species' flyways, and the implications for EIA, SEA and other assessment processes. (Resolution 5.14) (carried over from Work Plan 2012-2015)</p>	High	1, 4	Ramsar STRP and possibly also CMS. Possible interest from stakeholders involved in the CMS Energy Task Force	<p><b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objectives 1.3 &amp; 3</p> <p><b>Aichi Target:</b> Targets 4 &amp; 19</p>	[€30,000]

<b>Task</b>	<b>Priority for delivery</b>	<b>Category of task</b>	<b>Collaboration with other organisations</b>	<b>Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:</b>	<b>Provisional estimated cost (€)</b>
<b>Extractive industries – Guide to guidance</b> Work with the Ramsar STRP to finalise the <i>Guide to Guidance on Extractive Industries</i> and to disseminate this to Contracting Parties. (Resolution 5.14, Resolution 5.3 & IIT No. 11) (carried over from Work Plan 2012-2015)	Other	1, 4	Ramsar STRP	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 3.5 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Targets 4 & 19	[€10,000]
<b>Extractive industries – development of analytical tools</b> Continue to collaborate with the Ramsar STRP on these issues, in particular jointly working with other interested organisations to further develop geospatial analytical tools for identifying those areas where potential conflicts may arise regarding impacts of extractive industry processes on wetlands of importance for migratory waterbirds. (Resolution 5.14) (carried over from Work Plan 2012-2015)	Other	4	Ramsar STRP and others	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 3 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Targets 4 & 19	[€20,000]
<b>Poisoning and agrochemicals</b> Collaborate on implementation of CMS Resolution 11.15 on <i>Preventing poisoning of migratory birds</i> . Task includes participation in the CMS Poisoning Working Group to provide further guidance and support in relation to the implementation of CMS Resolution 11.15. [CMS Flyways Programme of Work #14] (Resolution 6.12)	High Rolling	2	CMS Scientific Council and others	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 1, 2.3 & 3 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 12	[€5,000] (T&S for meetings)
<b>Poisoning by lead shot</b> Collaborate on implementation of CMS Resolution 11.15 on <i>Preventing poisoning of migratory birds</i> . Task includes participation in the CMS Poisoning Working Group to provide further guidance and support in relation to the implementation of CMS Resolution 11.15. (Resolution 6.12)	High Rolling	2	CMS Scientific Council and others	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 2 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Targets 4 & 12	{Costs included in poisoning and agrochemicals task above}
<b>Illegal killing</b> Collaborate on implementation of CMS Resolution 11.16 on the prevention of illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds. Task includes participation in the Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean and technical support for implementation of AEWA/CMS Plan of Action to Address Bird Trapping Along the Mediterranean Coasts of Egypt and Libya.	High	2	CMS Scientific Council and others	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 2.3 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Targets 1 & 12	[€8,000] (T&S for attendance at Task Force meetings)
<b>Illegal killing – pilot project</b>	Other	2	CMS Scientific Council and others	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objectives 1.3 & 5.7	[€2,000]

<b>Task</b>	<b>Priority for delivery</b>	<b>Category of task</b>	<b>Collaboration with other organisations</b>	<b>Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:</b>	<b>Provisional estimated cost (€)</b>
In the context of the implementation of CMS Resolution 11.16 and Resolution 6.12, develop Terms of Reference and costings for a pilot project to be implemented in Africa (e.g. possibly relating to Ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> in the Sahel). [CMS Flyways Programme of Work #15]			Seek joint funding for project(s)	<b>Aichi Target:</b> Targets 2, 4 & 12	
<b>Reducing the impact of fisheries</b> Compile existing – and where necessary complement – conservation guidelines and recommendations based on the priorities identified in paragraph 5 [of Resolution 6.9] and best available science and bring these to MOP7. (Resolution 6.9)	High	1	ACAP, RFMOs, European Commission, BirdLife Seabird Programme, Albatross Task Force, ICES and other relevant bodies and expertise	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 1 & 3 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Targets 6 & 12	[€10,000]
<b>Threats from marine litter</b> Assess any threats posed to migratory seabirds listed by AEWA from the ingestion of plastics, of microplastics and other forms of marine litter (marine debris) and to provide advice on appropriate responses to the MOP. (Resolution 6.9)	Other	3, 5	ICES and other relevant bodies and expertise	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 8	-

### Theme: Research and monitoring

<b>Task</b>	<b>Priority for delivery</b>	<b>Category of task</b>	<b>Collaboration with other organisations</b>	<b>Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:</b>	<b>Provisional estimated cost (€)</b>
<b>Targeting of monitoring schemes</b> Complete additional guidance to the Parties on how to ensure that populations are covered by international monitoring schemes which are appropriate both in their scopes and methods to produce reliable international population size and trend estimates, including monitoring of seabirds and colonial breeding waterbirds. (Resolution 5.2) (carried over from Work Plan 2012-2015)	High	1 & 5		<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 3.2 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Targets 12 & 19	[€10,000]
<b>Conservation Guidelines on monitoring</b> Develop Conservation Guidelines in order to provide guidance to the Parties on how to develop individual monitoring programmes which are	High	1 & 5		<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 3.2	[€30,000]

<b>Task</b>	<b>Priority for delivery</b>	<b>Category of task</b>	<b>Collaboration with other organisations</b>	<b>Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:</b>	<b>Provisional estimated cost (€)</b>
appropriate in their scope and methods to obtain reliable estimates of population sizes and trends of waterbird populations breeding or wintering in their territories while striving towards a harmonised methodology. (Resolution 5.2) (carried over from Work Plan 2012-2015)				<b>Aichi Target:</b> Targets 12 & 19	
<b>Monitoring priorities</b> Identify priorities for the systematic development of waterbird monitoring, in order to reach the target of a 50% increase by 2017 in the number of populations whose status is assessed on the basis of regular monitoring data, as per the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017, taking into account the conservation status of the populations, their geographic representativeness and other factors (Resolution 5.2) (carried over from Work Plan 2012-2015)	High	2		<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 3.2 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 19	[€5,000]
<b>Sustainable funding of waterbird monitoring</b> Work with the Waterbird Monitoring Partnership to make progress towards the monitoring related targets of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 and to report to MOP7 and, if required, to propose this issue to be revisited at MOP7 with the aim to secure a long-term, sustainable solution for international waterbird monitoring (Resolution 5.22)	Other	4		<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 3.1 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 19	-
<b>Waterbird monitoring synergies with Ramsar</b> Work with Ramsar to identify possible synergies with respect to waterbird monitoring in the context of Ramsar Strategic Plan Targets 11 & 13 and possible development of further indicators for Target 5 related to coverage of wetland dependent bird populations by designated Ramsar Sites. (Resolution 6.3)	Other	4, 5	Ramsar Secretariat and STRP	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 3 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 11	-

## Theme: Education and information

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Collaboration with other organisations	Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:	Provisional estimated cost (€)
<b>Communication Strategy implementation</b> Provide advice and prioritisation on the ongoing implementation of the Communication Strategy. (Resolution 6.10)	Other	2		<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 4 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 1	–
<b>Global Interflyway Network</b> Engage in the future implementation of the Global Interflyway Network (GIN) <sup>38</sup> to ensure that best practice is shared between the various international conservation initiatives for migratory birds in different parts of the world. (carried over from Work Plan 2012-2015)	Other	4	Ramsar, CMS, EAAFP, WHSRN and others	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 5.7 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 19	[€10,000] (T&S for meetings)

## Theme: Implementation

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Collaboration with other organisations	Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:	Provisional estimated cost (€)
<b>Conservation Status Review 7</b> Guide the process of preparation of Conservation Status Review 7 (Action Plan 7.4a) while taking into account reporting needs on the AEWA Strategic Plan and assessment against relevant Aichi Targets (Resolution 5.23)	Essential	2 & 5	Wetlands International and its Specialist Groups	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 3 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Targets 12 & 19	[€100,000]
<b>Other international reviews</b> Guide the process of preparation of a) updated review of information from surveys (Action Plan 7.4b); b) updated review of pertinent hunting and trade legislation (Action Plan 7.4d) and c) updated review of re-establishment projects (Action Plan 7.4f)	Essential	2 & 5		<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 3 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Targets 12 & 19	[€130,000] 7.4b) [€40,000] 7.4d) [€60,000] 7.4f) [€30,000]
<b>Information on Column A species</b>	Essential	2 & 5		<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 1.1	–

<sup>38</sup> [http://www.eaaflyway.net/documents/resources/globalflyway2011/eaafp-tech-01\\_GIN-report-sml.pdf](http://www.eaaflyway.net/documents/resources/globalflyway2011/eaafp-tech-01_GIN-report-sml.pdf)

<b>Task</b>	<b>Priority for delivery</b>	<b>Category of task</b>	<b>Collaboration with other organisations</b>	<b>Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:</b>	<b>Provisional estimated cost (€)</b>
Develop national lists of Column A populations for all Parties in the Middle East, Europe and Central Asia and communicate these with the respective countries to assist any necessary process of national legislative revision for the species concerned (Resolution 6.4)				<b>Aichi Target:</b> Targets 12	
<b>Review and reformatting of existing Conservation Guidelines</b> Review AEWA Conservation Guidelines (CG) nos. 1, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9 <sup>39</sup> to ensure they continue to reflect best conservation practice. Ensure that revision of CG 9 on waterbird monitoring covers guidance on a) colonial waterbird monitoring, and b) demographic monitoring.  Undertake any necessary updates or revision, and reformat in the context of any new CG format agreed by Standing Committee 11 (following the current review of CG format). Submit any revised CGs to MOP 7.	High	1	Wetlands International and others	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 4.3 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 1	[€60,000]  six x [€10,000]
<b>Non-native species risk assessment</b> Contribute to the development of internationally-agreed standards and guidance for risk assessment with respect to non-native waterbirds in order to facilitate the implementation of the Agreement and related legal instruments. (Resolution 6.4)	Other	2, 5		<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 1.5 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 9	-
<b>Climate change adaptation guidance</b> Continue to periodically update AEWA's Guidance framework for climate change adaptation to ensure that it summarises contemporary knowledge and especially to seek both relevant guidance in French, and that which is relevant to non-European situations. (Resolution 6.6)	Other	2, 5		<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 1.2 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 10	-
<b>Guidance on look-alike species</b> Complete work on the <i>Guidance on Dealing with Accidental Shooting of Look-alike Species in Western Palearctic</i> and present a revised and extended version for consideration by MOP7. (Resolution 6.7)	High	1		<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 2.4 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 12	-
<b>Revision of format for plans</b> Revise the format for International Single Species Action Plans (ISSAPs) and consider the need for such a format for International Single Species	Essential	2		<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 1.4 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 12	-

<sup>39</sup> Guidelines = 1. National Single Species Action Plans; 3. Preparation of site inventories; 4. Management of key sites; 7. Ecotourism; 8. Reducing crop damage, damage to fisheries, bird strikes and other forms of conflict; and 9. Waterbird monitoring protocol.

<b>Task</b>	<b>Priority for delivery</b>	<b>Category of task</b>	<b>Collaboration with other organisations</b>	<b>Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:</b>	<b>Provisional estimated cost (€)</b>
Management Plans and International Multi-Species Action Plans. (Resolution 6.8)					
<b>Overview of ISSAPs</b> Continue monitoring the implementation of ISSAPs and present proposals for the revision or retirement of specific plans to each MOP. (Resolution 6.8)	Essential	2		<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 1.4 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 12	-
<b>Overview of the procedure for amending listing of populations in AEW Table 1</b> Prepare with existing resources, an information document summarizing and explaining the current procedure of introducing changes in species conservation status to the AEW Action Plan, including relevant consultation and review processes (including the IUCN Red List, Wetlands International, AEW Technical Committee) as well as timelines and data dependencies. Submit to the 12 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the AEW Standing Committee, and then circulate to Contracting Parties in advance of MoP7.	High	1	Wetlands International, BirdLife International, IUCN	-	-
<b>Advice on AEW priorities for seabird conservation</b> Provide advice to MOP on which are the most urgent seabird conservation priorities in the context of the implementation of the Agreement. (Resolution 6.9)	High	2, 3		-	-

**Theme: Strategic, reporting, emerging and other issues**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Priority for delivery</b>	<b>Category of task</b>	<b>Collaboration with other organisations</b>	<b>Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:</b>	<b>Provisional estimated cost (€)</b>
<b>Update of Strategic Plan</b> Input to the revision of the updated Strategic Plan to go to MOP7. (Resolution 6.14)	Essential	2		<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Operational Principle 1 <b>Aichi Target:</b> All relevant Targets	-

<b>Task</b>	<b>Priority for delivery</b>	<b>Category of task</b>	<b>Collaboration with other organisations</b>	<b>Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:</b>	<b>Provisional estimated cost (€)</b>
<b>Strategic Plan Targets</b> Further consider how to assess progress towards reaching Strategic Plan (2009-2017) Targets 3.4 and 5.8 (Resolution 5.2).	Essential	2		<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objectives 3.2, 3.4, 4.3, 4.4, 5.7 & 5.8 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 11	[€10,000]
<b>Revision of POAA</b> Input to the revision of the Plan of Action for Africa. (Resolution 6.14)	Essential	2		<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 3.5 <b>Aichi Target:</b> All relevant Targets	–
<b>National Reports</b> Revise the national report format and make the necessary adjustments on the basis of received feedback after the MOP6 reporting cycle and address necessary changes following MOP6, including work to develop an initial reporting format related to the draft revised Strategic Plan. (Resolution 6.14)	Essential	2		<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objectives 3 & 5.5 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 12	€20,000
<b>Population status module for national reports</b> Further develop a modular approach to national reporting with modules reported at different intervals including development of a module on population status for MOP 7 national reports.	Essential	2		<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 5.7 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 19	[€20,000]
<b>Harmonisation of reporting</b> Continue to promote synchronised timing and other synergies with the reporting cycles of CMS, Ramsar, EU Birds Directive (Article 12) and others as opportunities permit.	High	2	CMS Scientific Council; Ramsar Secretariat and STRP; European Commission and others	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 5.7 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 19	–
<b>Common implementation indicators</b> Consider developing common implementation indicators for AEWA and Ramsar, if appropriate, based, for example on the TEMATEA tool (Resolution 5.19). (carried over from Work Plan 2012-2015) Will need also to consider relationship with the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species.	Other	2	Ramsar (STRP); CMS Scientific Council	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 5.7 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 19	[€10,000]
<b>Delivery of Aichi Targets</b> Continue to assess progress on issues relevant to the Aichi Targets, and to present triennial assessments of AEWA's contribution to each of the	Essential	2		<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 5.7	[€20,000]

<b>Task</b>	<b>Priority for delivery</b>	<b>Category of task</b>	<b>Collaboration with other organisations</b>	<b>Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:</b>	<b>Provisional estimated cost (€)</b>
relevant Aichi Targets, elaborating further needs as necessary and appropriate, as an agenda item for each future MOP through to 2020. (Resolution 5.23)				<b>Aichi Target:</b> All relevant Targets	
<b>Emerging diseases</b> Continue to participate in the CMS Scientific Council Working Group on wildlife diseases.	High	2	CMS Scientific Council, Ramsar STRP, FAO, OIE and others	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objectives 1 & 5.7 <b>Aichi Target:</b> Target 12	No direct costs, possible T&S need for meetings [€2,000]
<b>Implementation</b> On request, assist with Parties implementation of the Agreement including possible participation in Implementation Review Process missions. [Also CMS Flyways Programme of Work #17]	High	2	Contracting Parties		[€30,000]

## Appendix III - AEWA Technical Committee: Register of interests

### Introduction

As an international advisory body, it is essential that Technical Committee (TC) members are able to distance themselves from any possibility of a conflict of interest(s) between their personal professional interests and their responsibilities to AEWA. The TC therefore will create and hold a register whereby relevant interest(s) can be declared. These forms will be publically available on request. The following guidance on conflict of interest is relevant.

Conflict of interest is:

- a situation in which a person owing a duty to provide professional advice or skill is compromised in the performance of that duty by either a like duty to another whose interests' conflict with the first, or by the opportunity to make a personal profit;
- an obligation not to place oneself in a position of conflict arise from the duty of loyalty and confidentiality — this proscription applies to an actual conflict and extends to avoiding the appearance of conflict; and
- is determined objectively — the existence of a conflict of interest arises when a fair-minded person might reasonably suspect the person has a conflict of interest.
- Where there is conflict the person must act in perfect good faith and make full disclosure of the interest.
- A conflict of interest may be consented to — the person must act with full candour and make an appropriately complete disclosure about the conflict its likely scope and implications.

You should disclose interests that could: i) significantly impair your objectivity in carrying out your duties and responsibilities for the TC, or ii) create an unfair advantage for you or any person or organization; and which could result in your securing a direct and material gain through outcomes of a TC process (for example commercial advantage in gaining contracted work).

For the purposes of this policy, circumstances that could lead a reasonable person to question your objectivity, or whether an unfair advantage has been created, constitute a potential conflict of interest and should be disclosed in this form. Disclosure of an interest on this form does not automatically mean that a conflict is present or that you will be unable to perform your designated role with the TC.

If in doubt about whether an interest should be disclosed, individuals are encouraged to disclose that information. In filling out this form, we rely on your professionalism, common sense and honesty.

It is the responsibility of each individual to ensure that their declaration is up to date at all times.

**AEWA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
REGISTER OF INTERESTS**

**Name:**

**Position in TC:**

**Current employer:**

**1. Do you have any significant and relevant professional activities that might be considered conflicts of interest?**

Yes  No

(Please list current, significant, and relevant professional and other non-financial interests which could be interpreted as i) significantly impairing your objectivity in carrying out your duties and responsibilities for the TC; or ii) creating an unfair advantage for you or any person or organisation. This might include, but is not limited to, membership on the boards of advocacy groups.)

**Details:**

**2. Do you have any significant and relevant financial interests in the subject matter of the work in which you will be involved, which might be considered conflicts of interest?**

Yes  No

(Please list current, significant, and relevant financial interests which could be interpreted as i) significantly impairing your objectivity in carrying out your duties and responsibilities for the TC, or ii) creating an unfair advantage for you, or any person or organization. These may include employment relationships, consulting relationships, and/or commercial interests.)

**Details:**

**3. Is there anything else that could affect your objectivity or independence in the work in which you will be involved which might result in bias?**

Yes  No

**Details:**

I hereby declare to the best of my knowledge that the disclosed information is complete and correct.

**Date**

**Signature:**

## 6<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

9-14 November 2015, Bonn, Germany

*“Making flyway conservation happen”*

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### RESOLUTION 6.18

#### FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

*Recalling* the provisions of Article V, Paragraph 2 (a) and (b), of the Agreement, relating to budgetary matters,

*Acknowledging with appreciation* the financial and other support provided by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for hosting the Agreement Secretariat, which is co-located with the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals in Bonn,

*Recognising* the importance of all Parties being able to participate in the implementation of the Agreement and related activities,

*Appreciating* the additional support given by various Parties and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on a voluntary basis to implement the Agreement,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the generous pledge from the Government of Norway to cover the costs of the Associate Programme Officer for Single Species Action Plan Support for 2016 and 2017,

*Recognising* the need for resources to enable the Secretariat to play its facilitating role in implementing the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 and the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017, both extended to 2018,

*Taking note* of the appointment of the new Executive Secretary as of 1 June 2014.

#### *The Meeting of the Parties:*

1. *Confirms* that Parties shall contribute to the budget adopted at the scale agreed upon by the Meeting of the Parties in accordance with Article V, Paragraph 2 (a) and (b), of the Agreement; *Adopts* the budget for 2016-2018 to the amount of € 978,764 for the year 2016, € 963,892 for the year 2017 and € 1,136,122 for the year 2018 attached as Appendix I to the present Resolution which includes a withdrawal from the Trust Fund Reserves for an amount of € 310,000;
2. *Adopts* the staffing table as per Appendix II to the present resolution;
3. *Adopts* the scale of contributions for Parties to the Agreement as listed in Appendix III to the present Resolution, and to the application of that scale *pro rata* to new Parties;
4. *Decides* that the minimum contribution shall not be less than 2,000 Euros per annum and that for the period 2016-2018, the maximum contribution shall be restricted to 20 per cent of the total budget;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat, using the financial and staff rules and regulations of the United Nations including UNEP financial rules, and other administrative issuances promulgated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to develop a series of budget scenarios for further consideration by Parties at the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of Parties and describe any differences between the UN Scale of Assessments and the scale used to determine contributions to AEWA;

6. *Requests* Parties to pay their annual contributions promptly as far as possible, but in any case not later than the end of June of the year to which they relate;
7. *Further requests* Parties, in particular those that are required to pay the minimum contribution, to consider paying for the whole triennium in one instalment;
8. *Decides* that a working capital be maintained at a level of at least 15 per cent of the estimated annual expenditure or 150,000 Euros, whichever is higher;
9. *Decides* to set the threshold of eligibility for funding of delegates to attend AEWA meetings at 0.200 on the UN Scale of Assessment and, as a general rule, to exclude countries from the European Union, European countries with strong economies and OECD countries, as listed in Appendix V attached hereto and/ or countries that have payments in arrears of more than three years;
10. *Takes note* of Resolution 6.13 on the AEWA International Implementation Tasks for the period 2016-2018 and its related appendices;
11. *Urges* all Parties to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund to support requests from least developed countries, developing countries, countries with economies in transition and small island developing states to participate in and implement the Agreement throughout the triennium;
12. *Further urges* Contracting Parties and other partners to make an increased effort in providing additional contributions to secure urgent implementation of the Agreement, in particular implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017, implementation of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017, both extended until MOP7, and the AEWA International Implementation Tasks for the period 2016-2018;
13. *Recognises* the need to provide adequate resources to support the implementation of the Communication Strategy;
14. *Invites* States not Party to the Agreement, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations and other sources to consider contributing to the implementation of the Agreement on a voluntary basis;
15. *Approves*, taking into account the UN Rules and Regulations, the incorporation of a part time (50%) post of Programme Assistant for the African Initiative into the core budget, at the G-level (fixed-term), to be based in the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat in Bonn;
16. *Instructs* the Secretariat to seek additional funding in the form of voluntary contributions to extend the post of Associate Programme Officer/African Coordinator beyond 50% and to extend the post of Programme Assistant for the African Initiative beyond 50%;
17. *Approves* the reclassification of the existing G4 positions to G5;
18. *Invites* Contracting Parties to consider the feasibility of providing gratis personnel and/or junior professional officers, in accordance with the United Nations rules and regulations, to strengthen the capacity of the Agreement Secretariat;
19. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to extend the duration of the Trust Fund to 31 December 2019;
20. *Approves* the terms of reference for the administration of the Agreement budget as set out in Appendix IV to the present Resolution for the period 2016-2018.

Appendix Ia

CORE BUDGET FOR THE TRIENNIUM 2016-2018 in MOP5 Format (IN EURO)

BL	Budget Item	2016	2017	2018	TOTAL
		EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
<b>GENERAL MANAGEMENT</b>					
1101	Executive Secretary (P4)	152,054	155,095	158,197	465,345
1102	Technical Officer (P3)	127,449	129,997	132,597	390,043
1103	Associate Information Officer (P2)	103,994	106,073	108,195	318,262
1104	Associate Programme Officer (P2)	103,994	106,073	108,195	318,262
1105	Associate Programme Officer (LWfG Coordination) (P2)*	-	-	-	-
1301	Administrative Assistant (GS)	68,106	69,468	70,858	208,432
1302	Team Assistant (GS) 75%	45,161	46,064	46,986	138,211
1303	Information Assistant (GS) 50%	30,107	30,710	31,324	92,141
1201	Translators	6,500	6,500	6,500	19,500
1601	Official Travel AEWA Staff	31,500	31,500	31,514	94,514
3201	Training of Staff	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
4101	Miscellaneous office supplies	3,000	3,000	3,000	9,000
4201	Office equipment	6,000	6,000	6,000	18,000
4301	Rent and maintenance costs **	-	-	-	-
4302	IT service provider	35,000	35,000	35,000	105,000
5101	Operation/maintenance of computers	1,500	1,500	1,500	4,500
5102	Operation/maintenance of photocopiers	2,500	2,500	2,500	7,500
5103	Operation/ maintenance -others	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000
5201	Document production (external)	-	-	-	-
5203	Reference material	-	-	-	-
5301	Telephone, Fax	4,000	4,000	4,000	12,000
5302	Postage and miscellaneous	5,000	5,000	5,000	15,000
5303	Bank charges	100	100	100	300
5401	Hospitality	400	400	400	1,200
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>729,364</b>	<b>741,981</b>	<b>754,865</b>	<b>2,226,211</b>
<b>IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN INITIATIVE</b>					
1106	Associate Programme Officer/African Coordinator (P2) 50%	55,246	56,286	57,347	168,879
1304	Programme Assistant (GS) 50%	34,053	34,734	35,429	104,216
2203	Small Grant Fund Projects in African Countries	-	-	-	-
2204	Implementation of the African action plan	20,000	20,000	20,000	60,000
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>109,299</b>	<b>111,020</b>	<b>112,776</b>	<b>333,095</b>
<b>SERVICING THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES</b>					
1201	English Translators	-	-	-	-
1202	French Translators	-	-	-	-
1204	Report Writers	-	-	-	-
1205	Interpreters	-	-	31,740	31,740
1220	Consultancies for MOP (1 review)	-	-	-	-
1602	Travel of Staff to the MOP	-	-	-	-
2201	Organization of MOP	-	-	58,537	58,537
5201	Document production (external)	-	-	-	-
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>90,277</b>	<b>90,277</b>

BL	Budget Item	2016	2017	2018	TOTAL
	<b>SERVICING THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE</b>				
1201	English Translators	-	-	-	-
1202	French Translators	-	-	-	-
1204	Report Writers	-	-	-	-
1205	Interpreters	-	-	-	-
3302	Meetings of the TC (travel/dsa/ organisational costs)	17,500	-	17,500	35,000
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>17,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17,500</b>	<b>35,000</b>
	<b>SERVICING THE STANDING COMMITTEE</b>				
1201	English Translators	-	-	-	-
1202	French Translators	-	-	20,000	20,000
1204	Report Writers	-	-	-	-
1205	Interpreters	-	-	-	-
3303	Meeting of the StC (travel/dsa/ organisational costs)	10,000	-	10,000	20,000
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>866,163</b>	<b>853,002</b>	<b>1,005,418</b>	<b>2,724,582</b>
	13 % UN-PSC ***	112,601	110,890	130,704	354,196
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>978,764</b>	<b>963,892</b>	<b>1,136,122</b>	<b>3,078,778</b>
	Withdrawal from Trust Fund	140,000	30,000	140,000	310,000
	<b>TOTAL TO BE SHARED BY PARTIES</b>	<b>838,764</b>	<b>933,892</b>	<b>996,122</b>	<b>2,768,778</b>

\* Covered by a pledge from the Government of Norway up to the end of the year 2017

\*\* Covered by the Government of Germany

\*\*\* From the 13% UN-PSC, UNEP is covering the costs of the CMS Administrative and Fund Management Unit, which supports *inter alia*, the AEWA Secretariat

**Appendix Ib**

**CORE BUDGET FOR THE TRIENNIUM 2016-2018 - UN UMOJA Format (IN EURO)**

<b>Commitment Item</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
1 Staff and Other Personnel Costs	726,663	741,002	807,367	2,275,031
2 Contractual Services	35,000	35,000	45,537	115,537
3 Travel	52,500	31,500	87,514	171,514
4 Equipment Vehicles and Furniture	11,000	11,000	11,000	33,000
5 Operating and Other Direct Costs	18,000	11,500	28,000	57,500
6 Supplies Commodities and Materials	3,000	3,000	6,000	12,000
7 Transfers and Grants Issued to Implementing Partner (IP)	20,000	20,000	20,000	60,000
8 UN-PSC	112,601	110,890	130,704	354,196
	<b>978,764</b>	<b>963,892</b>	<b>1,136,122</b>	<b>3,078,778</b>

## Appendix II

### APPROVED STAFFING TABLE FOR THE TRIENNIUM 2016-2018

Unit	Post title	Level	Percentage of post financed by assessed contributions
Executive Management Unit	Executive Secretary	P-4	100%
Executive Management Unit	Associate Programme Officer	P-2	100%
Executive Management Unit	Administrative Assistant	GS-5	100%
Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit	Technical Officer	P-3	100%
Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit	Associate Programme Officer (LWfG Coordination)*	P-2	0%
Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit	Team Assistant	GS-5**	75%
African Initiative Unit	Associate Programme Officer/African Coordinator	P-2	50%
African Initiative Unit	Programme Assistant	GS-5**	50%
Communication Unit	Associate Information Officer	P-2	100%
Communication Unit	Information Assistant	GS-5**	50%

\* 100% covered by a pledge from the Government of Norway up to the end of the year 2017

\*\* To be reclassified from GS-4 to GS-5

**APPENDIX III**

**SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY PARTIES TO THE UNEP/AEWA TRUST FUND FOR 2016-2018 (IN EURO)**

<b>N°</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Total 2016-2018</b>
1	Albania	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
2	Algeria	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
3	Belgium	23,494	23,494	23,494	70,482
4	Benin	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
5	Bulgaria	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
6	Burkina Faso	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
7	Burundi	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
8	Chad	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
9	Congo	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
10	Côte d'Ivoire	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
11	Croatia	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
12	Cyprus	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
13	Czech Republic	2,784	2,784	2,784	8,352
14	Denmark	22,932	22,932	22,932	68,796
15	Djibouti	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
16	Egypt	3,833	3,833	3,833	11,499
17	Equatorial Guinea	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
18	Estonia	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
19	Ethiopia	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
20	Finland	17,195	17,195	17,195	51,585
21	France	132,745	132,745	132,745	398,235
22	Gabon	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
23	Gambia	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
24	Georgia	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
25	Germany	132,745	132,745	132,745	398,235
26	Ghana	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
27	Guinea	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
28	Guinea-Bissau	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
29	Hungary	3,302	3,302	3,302	9,906
30	Iceland	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
31	Ireland	9,174	9,174	9,174	27,522
32	Israel	14,915	14,915	14,915	44,745
33	Italy	75,007	75,007	75,007	225,021
34	Jordan	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
35	Kenya	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
36	Latvia	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
37	Lebanon	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
38	Libya	3,203	3,203	3,203	9,609
39	Lithuania	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
40	Luxembourg	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
41	Madagascar	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
42	Mali	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000

<b>N°</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Total 2016-2018</b>
43	Mauritania	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
44	Mauritius	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
45	Monaco	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
46	Montenegro	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
47	Morocco	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
48	Netherlands	53,977	53,977	53,977	161,931
49	Niger	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
50	Nigeria	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
51	Norway	16,288	16,288	16,288	48,864
52	Portugal	11,838	11,838	11,838	35,514
53	Republic of Moldova	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
54	Romania	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
55	Rwanda	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
56	Senegal	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
57	Slovakia	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
58	Slovenia	2,149	2,149	2,149	6,447
59	South Africa	9,326	9,326	9,326	27,978
60	Spain	62,576	62,576	62,576	187,728
61	Sudan	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
62	Swaziland	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
63	Sweden	31,874	31,874	31,874	95,622
64	Switzerland	38,230	38,230	38,230	114,690
65	Syrian Arab Republic	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
66	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
67	Togo	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
68	Tunisia	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
69	Uganda	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
70	Ukraine	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
71	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	132,745	132,745	132,745	398,235
72	United Republic of Tanzania	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
73	Uzbekistan	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
74	Zimbabwe	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
75	EU	16,593	16,593	16,593	49,779
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>922,926</b>	<b>922,926</b>	<b>922,926</b>	<b>2,768,778</b>

## Appendix IV

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST FUND FOR THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS**

1. The terms of reference for the Trust Fund of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) are for the financial years beginning 1 January 2016 and ending 31 December 2018.
2. The Trust Fund shall be administered by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) subject to the approval UNEA and the consent of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
3. The administration of the Trust Fund shall be governed by the financial regulations and rules of the United Nations, the staff regulations and rules of the United Nations and other administrative policies or procedures, promulgated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
4. In accordance with United Nations rules, UNEP shall deduct from the income an administrative charge equal to 13 per cent of the expenditure charged to the AEWA Trust Fund in respect of activities financed under AEWA.
5. The financial resources of the Trust Fund for 2016-2018 shall be derived from:
  - (a) Contributions made by Parties by reference to Appendix II of Resolution 6.18, including contributions from any new Party; and
  - (b) Further contributions from Parties and contributions from States not Parties to the Agreement, other governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other sources.
6. All contributions to the Trust Fund shall be paid in fully convertible Euros. For contributions from States that become Parties after the beginning of the financial period, the initial contribution (from the first day of the third month after deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession until the end of the financial period) shall be determined *pro rata* based on the contribution of other States Parties on the same level of the United Nations scale of assessments, as it applies from time to time. However, if the contribution of a new Party determined on this basis would be more than 20 per cent of the budget, the contribution of that Party shall be 20 per cent of the budget for the financial year of joining (or *pro rata* for a part year). No contribution shall be less than 2,000 Euros. The contribution of each Party as laid down in Appendix II of Resolution 6.18 shall be fixed until the next ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties. Contributions of new Parties shall flow into the Trust Fund of the Agreement. Contributions shall be paid in annual installments. The contributions shall be due on 1 January 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Contributions shall be paid into the following account:

UNEP Euro Account  
Account No. 6161603755  
J.P. Morgan AG  
Junghofstrasse 14  
60311 Frankfurt / Main  
Germany  
Bank code number 501 108 00  
SWIFT No. CHASDEFX  
IBAN: DE 565011080061616 03755

7. For the convenience of the Parties, for each of the years of the financial period the Executive Director of UNEP shall as soon as possible notify the Parties to the Agreement of their assessed contributions.
8. Contributions received into the Trust Fund that are not immediately required to finance activities shall be invested at the discretion of the United Nations, and any income shall be credited to the Trust Fund.
9. The Trust Fund shall be subject to audit by the United Nations Board of Auditors.
10. The budget estimates covering income and expenditures for each of the three calendar years constituting the financial period to which they relate, prepared in Euros, shall be submitted to the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement.
11. The estimates of each of the calendar years covered by the financial period shall be divided into sections and objects of expenditure, shall be specified according to budget lines, shall include references to the programmes of work to which they relate, and shall be accompanied by such information as may be required by or on behalf of the contributors, and such further information as the Executive Director of UNEP may deem useful and advisable. In particular, estimates shall also be prepared for each programme of work for each of the calendar years, with expenditure itemized for each programme so as to correspond to the sections, objects of expenditure, and budget lines described in the first sentence of this paragraph.
12. The proposed budget, including all the necessary information, shall be dispatched by the Secretariat to all Parties at least 90 days before the date fixed for the opening of the Meeting of the Parties.
13. The budget shall be adopted by consensus at the Meeting of the Parties.
14. In the event that the Executive Director of UNEP anticipates that there might be a shortfall in resources over the financial period as a whole, the Executive Director shall consult with the Secretariat, which shall seek the advice of the Standing Committee as to its priorities for expenditure.
15. Commitments against the resources of the Trust Fund may be made only if they are covered by the necessary income of the Agreement. No commitments shall be made in advance of the receipt of contributions.
16. Upon the request of the Secretariat of the Agreement, after seeking the advice of the Standing Committee, the Executive Director of UNEP should, to the extent consistent with the financial regulations and rules of the United Nations, make transfers from one budget line to another. At the end of the first, second or third calendar year of the financial period, the Executive Director of UNEP may proceed to transfer any uncommitted balance of appropriations to the second, third or fourth calendar year respectively, provided that it does not exceed the total budget approved by the Parties, unless this is specifically sanctioned in writing by the Standing Committee.
17. At the end of each calendar year of the financial period<sup>40</sup>, the Executive Director of UNEP shall submit to the Parties, through the Agreement Secretariat, the accounts for the year. The Executive Director shall

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<sup>40</sup> The calendar year 1 January to 31 December is the accounting and financial year, but the official closure date is 31 March of the following year. Thus, on 31 March the accounts of the previous year have to be closed, and it is only then that the Executive Director can submit the accounts of the previous calendar year.

also submit, as soon as practicable, the audited accounts for the financial period. These shall include full details of actual expenditure compared to the original provisions for each budget line.

18. Those financial reports required to be submitted to the Executive Director of UNEP shall be transmitted simultaneously by the Secretariat of the Agreement to the members of the Standing Committee.
19. The Secretariat of the Agreement shall provide the Standing Committee with an estimate of proposed expenditures over the coming year simultaneously with, or as soon as possible after, distribution of the accounts and reports referred to in the preceding paragraphs.
20. The present terms of reference shall be effective from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2018.

## Appendix V

### ELIGIBILITY FOR SPONSORSHIP FOR AEWB MEETINGS

N°	Party	UN Scale in % 2013*
1	Albania	0.010
2	Algeria	0.137
3	Belgium	0.998
4	Benin	0.003
5	Bulgaria	0.047
6	Burkina Faso	0.003
7	Burundi	0.001
8	Chad	0.002
9	Congo	0.005
10	Côte d'Ivoire	0.011
11	Croatia	0.126
12	Cyprus	0.047
13	Czech Republic	0.386
14	Denmark	0.675
15	Djibouti	0.001
16	Egypt	0.134
17	Equatorial Guinea	0.010
18	Estonia	0.040
19	Ethiopia	0.010
20	Finland	0.519
21	France	5.593
22	Gabon	0.020
23	Gambia	0.001
24	Georgia	0.007
25	Germany	7.141
26	Ghana	0.014
27	Guinea	0.001
28	Guinea-Bissau	0.001
29	Hungary	0.266
30	Iceland	0.027
31	Ireland	0.418
32	Israel	0.396
33	Italy	4.448
34	Jordan	0.022
35	Kenya	0.013
36	Latvia	0.047
37	Lebanon	0.042
38	Libya	0.142
39	Lithuania	0.073
40	Luxembourg	0.081
41	Madagascar	0.003
42	Mali	0.004
43	Mauritania	0.002

N°	Party	UN Scale in % 2013*
44	Mauritius	0.013
45	Monaco	0.012
46	Montenegro	0.005
47	Morocco	0.062
48	Netherlands	1.654
49	Niger	0.002
50	Nigeria	0.090
51	Norway	0.851
52	Portugal	0.474
53	Republic of Moldova	0.003
54	Romania	0.226
55	Rwanda	0.002
56	Senegal	0.006
57	Slovakia	0.171
58	Slovenia	0.100
59	South Africa	0.372
60	Spain	2.973
61	Sudan	0.010
62	Swaziland	0.003
63	Sweden	0.960
64	Switzerland	1.047
65	Syrian Arab Republic	0.036
66	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	0.008
67	Togo	0.001
68	Tunisia	0.036
69	Uganda	0.006
70	Ukraine	0.099
71	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	5.179
72	United Republic of Tanzania	0.009
73	Uzbekistan	0.015
74	Zimbabwe	0.002

 Parties which are considered eligible for financial support to attend relevant AEWA sponsored meetings.

 Parties which are considered non-eligible for financial support to attend relevant AEWA sponsored meetings.

\* UN Scale of Assessment 2013-2015 as adopted by the General Assembly (doc. A/RES/67/238) on 11th February 2013

**6<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

*9-14 November 2015, Bonn, Germany*

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RESOLUTION 6.19

**DATE, VENUE AND FUNDING OF THE 7<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE  
MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

*Recalling* Article VI, paragraph 2 of the Agreement, which states that the Agreement Secretariat shall convene ordinary sessions of the Meeting of the Parties, in consultation with the Convention Secretariat, at intervals of not more than three years, unless the Meeting of the Parties decides otherwise,

*Appreciating* the benefits that may accrue to the Agreement and to Parties by holding sessions of the Meeting of the Parties in different regions within the Agreement area.

*The Meeting of the Parties:*

1. *Decides* that the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties shall take place in 2018;
2. *Invites* interested Parties to communicate to the Secretariat within six months their interest in hosting the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties;
3. *Requests* the Standing Committee to decide on behalf of the Meeting of the Parties, the venue of the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties, taking into account the expressions of interest received from Parties;
4. *Invites* Contracting Parties to make voluntary contributions towards the organization of the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties.

## 6<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

9-14 November 2015, Bonn, Germany

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### RESOLUTION 6.20

#### TRIBUTE TO THE ORGANISERS

*Recalling* that at the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of Parties no host country was identified for the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of Parties,

*Further recalling* Resolution 5.27 on the *Venue of the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties* which invited interested Parties to communicate to the Secretariat their interest in hosting the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties within six months and requested the Standing Committee to decide on behalf of the Meeting of the Parties, the venue of the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties, taking into account the expressions of interest received from Parties,

*Aware* that no Party was identified as host country until 2014, although the Secretariat called for offers in 2012 and in 2013, and *recalling* that the Secretariat, in close consultation with the Chair of the Standing Committee, decided in February 2014 that the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties would take place in Bonn, Germany, where the Secretariat is located,

*Appreciating* the financial support provided by the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, the Czech Republic and Norway to facilitate the logistical organisation of the current Session of the Meeting of the Parties and the participation of as many Contracting Parties as possible,

*Also appreciating* the support and services to the delegates of the current Session of the Meeting of Parties provided by the City of Bonn,

*Taking note* of the mutual agreement between the Executive Secretaries of the UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWA Secretariats to increase the effectivity and success of Meetings by exchanging relevant staff, as in the case of the CMS COP11, where a number of staff members from the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat were able to support the servicing of COP11 before, during and after the session,

*Aware* that thanks to the excellent office and conference facilities provided to the UN agencies located in Bonn by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Secretariat could organise the current Session of the Meeting of the Parties on the UN Campus without major venue-related costs,

*Thanking* the Government of South Africa for having hosted the African preparatory meeting for the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the AEWA Meeting of Parties in Cape Town in August 2015,

*Appreciating* the financial support provided by the Government of Switzerland as well as the European Commission (EC) through its Thematic Programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources Including Energy (ENRTP) Strategic Cooperation Agreement between the EC Directorate-General for the Environment and UNEP, towards the organisation of the African preparatory meeting for the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the AEWA Meeting of Parties.

*The Meeting of the Parties:*

1. *Expresses its appreciation* for all the financial support of the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, the Czech Republic and Norway, which contributed to the organisation of the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties, thus facilitating the participation of many Contracting Parties and the logistical and substantial preparation of the current Session of the Meeting of Parties;
2. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany in its capacity as host country of the Agreement's Secretariat for providing the excellent office and conference facilities of the UN Campus to the Bonn-based UN agencies, thus enabling the Agreement Secretariat to organise meetings of the Agreement such as the current Session of the Meeting of the Parties without major venue-related costs;
3. *Expresses its gratitude* to the City of Bonn for all the additional support and services offered to the Meeting and the delegates;
4. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretariat for the logistical organisation and preparation of the documents for the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement;
5. *Further expresses its appreciation* to the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) for having provided additional staff support towards the running of the current Session of the Meeting of the Parties;
6. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Government of South Africa for the arrangements and financial investment made to provide an excellent venue, facilities and services for the African preparatory meeting for the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the AEWA Meeting of Parties.



**6<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

9-14 November 2015, Bonn, Germany

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RESOLUTION 6.21

**RESOURCE MOBILISATION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN-  
EURASIAN WATERBIRD AGREEMENT (AEWA)**

*(Submitted by South Africa)*

*Recalling* Resolution 4.7 through which, *inter alia*, the AEWA Meeting of the Parties adopted the AEWA Strategic Plan for the period 2009-2017, as well as called on Contracting Parties, other donors and stakeholders to provide financial resources to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan, as well as to assist developing countries, countries with economies in transition and Small Island Developing States with the implementation of this Strategic Plan,

*Also recalling* Resolution 5.9 through which the AEWA Meeting of the Parties, *inter alia*, adopted the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa for the period 2012-2017, as well as called on the Contracting Parties and other donors to provide financial and other in-kind resources to support the implementation of the African Initiative and the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa,

*Aware of* the different circumstances faced by Parties such as issues of livelihoods and conservation in developing countries,

*Aware of* the economic situations facing both developed and developing countries,

*Recognising* that eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development for developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing states and countries with economies in transition,

*Recalling* the obligations of the Parties to implement the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement,

*Further recalling* that implementation of this Agreement can be made more effective through the provision of assistance to some Range States for research, training, implementation and monitoring of migratory waterbird species and their habitats, for the management of those habitats as well as for the establishment or improvement of scientific and administrative institutions for the implementation of this Agreement,

*Acknowledging* the role of the core budget as being a critical component for promoting the overall implementation of the Agreement,

*Expressing appreciation* to the Contracting Parties which have so far ensured the timely payment of their assessed contributions to the AEWA General Trust Fund, thereby contributing to the smooth functioning of the Agreement's activities which rely on these contributions,

*Recognising* with appreciation the various financial and other in-kind contributions that have so far been made by Contracting Parties, donors and other stakeholders towards the implementation of the Agreement at the national, regional and Agreement level,

*Appreciating* the importance of sharing information on the resources mobilised in the framework of the implementation of the Agreement both at the national, regional and international level, through various information sharing and reporting mechanisms,

*Recognising* the need for adequate, predictable and timely financial and other resources to promote the effective implementation of AEWA at the national, regional and Agreement levels.

#### The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Urges* all Contracting Parties to provide, in accordance with their capabilities, financial and/or in-kind resources to support national activities which are intended to achieve the objectives of this Agreement, particularly those in line with the AEWA Strategic Plan including the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa, and in accordance with their national plans, priorities and programmes;
2. *Requests* Parties and other donors to consider providing voluntary contributions towards implementation of the Communication Strategy and invites all Parties, Range States and other stakeholders to support its implementation with the expertise, networks, skills and resources they have at their disposal;
3. *Requests* all AEWA Contracting Parties, especially those which are consistently in arrears with the payment of their assessed contributions to the AEWA General Trust Fund, to ensure the payment of the outstanding contributions as soon as possible, and to liaise with the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat for any support or guidance needed to facilitate the payment process;
4. *Encourages* developed country Parties and other Parties in a position to do so, and invites other governments, financial institutions and other partners to facilitate funding from all sources, to support and enhance the implementation by developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, of their obligations under this Agreement, and the implementation of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2017;
5. *Encourages* all Parties to utilise platforms such as South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation to enhance financial and technical support for the successful implementation of AEWA activities;
6. *Requests* the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat to identify global funding mechanisms and make that information available to Parties to enhance cooperation;
7. *Encourages* all Parties to use innovative financing mechanisms for implementing the AEWA Strategic Plan such as a Migratory Waterbirds Fund;
8. *Urges* Parties to incorporate measures to implement this Agreement at the national or subnational level into their national plans and strategies such as the National biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to increase visibility and enhance consideration and recognition when setting national priorities eligible for national budget allocations;
9. *Urges* Parties to enhance synergies in their respective countries between biodiversity-related conventions to facilitate information sharing on potential funding opportunities and sharing of financial resources such as the Desertification Fund, Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund, and the Global Environmental Facility to enable efficient use of resources;
10. *Urges* Contracting Parties to report on the progress of implementing this resolution through their national reports to each Meeting of the Parties.

## 6<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

9-14 November 2015, Bonn, Germany

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### RESOLUTION 6.22

#### SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE UNEP/AEWA AND UNEP/CMS

*(Submitted by Norway)*

*Recognising* the outcomes from Rio+20, CBD Decision XII.6 and other processes stressing the importance of developing further synergies among multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs),

*Recalling* Resolution 1/12 of the 1st United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and MEAs for which UNEP provides the Secretariat,

*Mindful* of the legal autonomy of each of the CMS Family Agreements,

*Appreciating* the highly efficient team of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and its efforts to further enhance efficiency and the results achieved so far,

*Recognising* the long-standing and well-established synergetic operations between the UNEP/AEWA and UNEP/CMS Secretariats and the efficiencies and mutual benefits that have been achieved through their cooperation,

*Recalling* the decision of the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the AEWA Standing Committee that requests the Executive Secretary of AEWA and the Executive Secretary of CMS *“to develop further synergies between AEWA and CMS and take actions to merge common services and common areas in an effort to redirect the focus of the Secretariats towards strengthening implementation support”*,

*Acknowledging* the establishment in January 2014 of a CMS/AEWA Common Information Management, Communication and Awareness-raising Team as a pilot for common services,

*Taking note* of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat report on the CMS/AEWA Common Information Management, Communication and Awareness-raising Team (Doc AEWA/MOP6.10) and lessons learned from this pilot arrangement,

*Recalling* also CMS Resolution 11.3 *“Enhancing Synergies and Common Services Among the CMS Family Instruments”*,

*Welcoming* the CMS 44<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee’s invitation to the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of Parties of AEWA to consider the analysis on common services and synergies in the CMS Family and the decision by the CMS Standing Committee and to consider strengthening further common services with CMS,

*Further welcoming*, the CMS 44<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee’s invitation to CMS Family instruments, starting with the Bonn-based Instruments, to consider developing common services and synergies with the CMS Family through appropriate decisions of their respective governing bodies and to report these decisions to the CMS Standing Committee for the development of a way forward on common services proposals,

*Noting* the analysis and report commissioned by the CMS Executive Secretary as requested by CMS COP11 on the legal, financial, operational, and administrative implications of actions to enhance synergies, such as through sharing services in common service areas to the decision-making bodies of the wider CMS Family (Doc AEWA/MOP Inf. 6.9),

*Further noting* that the analysis contains important information of the potential of common services that can be achieved within the CMS Family and that it highlights the general advantages and disadvantages of strengthened cooperation, while also noting that other types of synergies could be important with CMS Instruments based outside of Bonn,

*Taking note* that this Resolution aims to strengthen synergies and common services and is not aimed at a merger,

*Emphasising* that the goal of sharing services among CMS instruments is to fill gaps, be mutually reinforcing, produce efficiencies and increase output and that sharing common services should be aimed at strengthening the implementation of the instruments involved and maximising the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels.

*The Meeting of the Parties:*

1. *Agrees* to continue and refine the pilot Common Information Management, Communication and Awareness-raising Team taking into consideration lessons learned by both UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWA Secretariats;
2. *Requests* the UNEP/AEWA and UNEP/CMS Secretariats to develop a proposal within three months after MOP6 detailing implementation arrangements for the joint unit including staff time and budget sharing ratios, management structure, monitoring and evaluation indicators, among others, to be approved by the Standing Committee;
3. *Further requests* the Standing Committee to review the progress of implementation of the joint unit;
4. *Also requests* the Standing Committee to report in writing to MOP7 about the results and experiences of the arrangement and to make recommendations on the way forward;
5. *Decides* to take a stepwise approach in strengthening synergies in common service areas with the CMS Family and notes that potential common service areas which are mentioned in the analysis include capacity-building, cross-cutting implementation support, conference services and fundraising;
6. *Further decides* that implementing common services between the AEWA and CMS Instruments shall be through the Executive Secretaries, following consultation of staff concerned, mutually agreeing on potential services using expertise in UNEP and proposing those potential services to both Standing Committees for approval, and regularly reporting on progress, lessons learned, and financial cost savings to the Standing Committees;
7. *Requests* the Secretariats, when making their proposals to the Standing Committees, to include reliable scenarios and concrete underpinning of the expected effectiveness and efficiency gains and to set out the measures to ensure transparency on the implementation process and on the use of resources for the CMS and AEWA respectively to be put into place when the proposals are adopted, and in this regard requests the AEWA Standing Committee, after consultation with the Contracting Parties, to take decisions on such proposals for joint approaches to services in common service areas, within the scope of this Resolution, and report to MOP7;
8. *Agrees* that any proposed common services should not have any additional financial requirements on the Secretariats and should preserve the Secretariats' independence, respect the competences of the Convention and its Agreements and improve effectiveness and efficiency;
9. *Confirms* that a joint Executive Secretary between AEWA and CMS is not a desired option.

**6<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

*9-14 November 2015, Bonn, Germany*

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ANNEX 2

**RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE SESSIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES  
TO THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN  
MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS <sup>41</sup>**

Purpose

*Rule 1*

These rules of procedure shall apply to any Session of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, convened in accordance with article VI of the Agreement.

Insofar as they are applicable, these rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to any other meeting held in the framework of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds.

Definitions

*Rule 2*

For the purpose of these rules:

- a) “Agreement” means the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, concluded on 16 June 1995 at The Hague, the Netherlands and entered into force on 1 November 1999. This Agreement is an agreement within the meaning of article IV paragraph 3 of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979);
- b) “Convention” means the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, 1979;
- c) “Parties” means the Contracting Parties to the Agreement;
- d) “Meeting of the Parties ” means the Meeting of the Parties in accordance with article VI;
- e) "Session" means any ordinary or extraordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties convened in accordance with article VI of the Agreement;
- f) The “President” means the President elected in accordance with rule 21, paragraph 1, of the present rules of procedure;
- g) “Subsidiary body” means all committees or working groups established by the Meeting of the Parties;
- h) “Technical Committee” means the body established in accordance with article VII;
- i) “Standing Committee” means the body established by Resolution 2.6 as adopted at the second session of the Meeting of the Parties;

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<sup>41</sup> As adopted by the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA in Bonn, Germany, November 2015.

- j) The “Meeting Committee”, means the body established in accordance with Rule 26 (1); “Secretariat” means the Secretariat of the Agreement established in accordance with article VIII;
- k) “Proposal” means a draft resolution or recommendation submitted by one or more Parties, by the Standing Committee, by the Meeting Committee or by the Secretariat.

### Place of Meetings

#### *Rule 3*

1. The Meeting of the Parties shall take place in the country chosen by the previous Meeting of the Parties on the basis of a formal invitation that should have been issued to this effect by the responsible authority of that country. If more than one Party issues an invitation to host the next session of the Meeting of the Parties, and two or more invitations are maintained after informal consultations, the Meeting of the Parties shall decide on the venue of the next session by secret ballot.
2. If no invitation has been received, the session of the Meeting of the Parties shall be held in the country where the Secretariat has its seat, unless other appropriate arrangements are made by the Secretariat of the Agreement or the Secretariat of the Convention.

### Dates of Meetings

#### *Rule 4*

1. Ordinary sessions of the Meetings of the Parties shall be held at intervals of not more than three years, unless the Meeting decides otherwise.
2. At each ordinary session, the Meeting of the Parties shall determine the year and venue of the next ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties. The exact dates and duration of each ordinary session shall be established by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Convention Secretariat and the host country of the meeting.
3. Extraordinary sessions of the Meetings of the Parties shall be convened on the written request of at least one third of the Parties.
4. An extraordinary session shall be convened not later than ninety days after the request has been received, in accordance with paragraph 3 of this rule.
5. In the event of an emergency situation, the Technical Committee may urgently request the Secretariat to convene a meeting of the Parties concerned.

#### *Rule 5*

The Secretariat shall notify all Parties of the date, venue, and provisional agenda of an ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties at least 12 months before the session is due to commence. The notification shall include the draft agenda for the meeting and the deadline for submission of proposals by the Parties. Only Parties, the Standing Committee, the Technical Committee, the Meeting Committee and the Secretariat shall be entitled to submit proposals.

### Observers

#### *Rule 6*

1. The Secretariat shall notify the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, in its role as Depositary of the Agreement, the United Nations, its specialized Agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, any Range State not Party to the Agreement, and the secretariats of international conventions concerned *inter alia* with the conservation, including protection and management, of migratory waterbirds of the session of the Meeting of the Parties so that they may be represented as observers.

2. Such observers may, upon the invitation of the President, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any session of the Meeting of the Parties unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.

#### *Rule 7*

1. Any agency or body, national or international, whether governmental or non-governmental, technically qualified in conservation matters or in research on migratory waterbirds, which has informed the Secretariat of its wish to be represented at the Meetings of the Parties by observers, shall be admitted unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object. Once admitted these observers shall have the right to participate but not to vote.

2. Bodies or agencies desiring to be represented at the meeting by observers shall submit the names of their representatives, and in case of national non-governmental bodies or agencies, evidence of the approval of the State in which they are located, to the Secretariat at least one month prior to the opening of the session.

3. Such observers may, upon the invitation of the President participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any session unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.

4. Seating limitations may require that no more than two observers from any Range State not a Party, body or agency be present at a session of the Meeting of the Parties. The Secretariat shall notify those concerned of such limitations in advance of the meeting.

5. A standard participation fee may be fixed by the Secretariat of the Agreement, to be paid in advance of the Meeting by all non-governmental organisations. The fee will be announced in the letter of invitation and this Meeting will determine any fee for the next ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties.

#### *Agenda*

#### *Rule 8*

The Secretariat shall prepare the provisional agenda of each meeting, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Standing Committee.

#### *Rule 9*

The provisional agenda of each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties shall include, as appropriate:

- a) Items arising from the articles or the Annexes of the Agreement;
- b) Items, the inclusion of which has been decided at a previous meeting or which emanate from decisions taken at a previous meeting;
- c) Items referred to in rule 15 of the present rules of procedure;
- d) Any item proposed by a Party, the Standing Committee, the Technical Committee or the Secretariat related to the fundamental principles or the implementation of the Agreement.

#### *Rule 10*

Except for proposals made in accordance with article X of the Agreement, the official documents for each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, as referred to in Rule 54, and proposals received in accordance with rule 5, shall be distributed in the official languages by the Secretariat to the Parties at least sixty days before the opening of the meeting.

#### *Rule 11*

The Secretariat shall, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, include any item which has been proposed by a Party and has been received by the Secretariat after the provisional agenda has been produced, but before the opening of the meeting, in a supplementary provisional agenda.

#### *Rule 12*

The Meeting of the Parties shall examine the provisional agenda together with any supplementary provisional agenda. When adopting the agenda, it may add, delete, defer, or amend items. Only items which are considered by the Meeting of the Parties to be urgent and important may be added to the agenda.

#### *Rule 13*

The provisional Agenda for an extraordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties shall consist only of those items proposed for consideration in the request for the extraordinary meeting. The provisional agenda and any necessary supporting documents shall be distributed to the Parties at the same time as the invitation to the extraordinary meeting.

#### *Rule 14*

The Secretariat shall report to the Meeting of the Parties on the administrative and financial implications of all substantive agenda items submitted to the meeting, before these items are considered by the meeting. Unless the Meeting of the Parties decides otherwise, no such item shall be considered until the Meeting of the Parties has received the Secretariat's report on the financial and administrative implications.

#### *Rule 15*

Any item of the agenda of an ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, consideration of which has not been completed at the meeting, shall be included automatically in the agenda of the next ordinary meeting, unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties.

### *Representation and Credentials*

#### *Rule 16*

Each Party participating in a meeting shall be represented by a delegation consisting of a head of delegation and such other accredited representatives, alternate representatives, and advisers as the Party may deem necessary. Logistics and other limitations may require that no more than four delegates of any Range State be present at a plenary session. The Secretariat shall notify Parties of any such limitations in advance of the meeting.

#### *Rule 17*

A representative may be designated as an alternate head of delegation. An alternate representative or an adviser may act as a representative upon designation by the head of Delegation.

#### *Rule 18*

1. The original of the statement of credentials of the head of delegation and other representatives, alternate representatives, and advisers, shall be submitted to the Secretariat of the Agreement or to his/ her designated representative, if possible, not later than twenty-four hours after the opening of the meeting. Any later change in the composition of the delegation shall also be submitted to the Secretary or the representative of the Secretary.
2. The credentials shall be issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or his/her equivalent, or on their behalf by an ambassador who is duly authorised. If other authorities in a Contracting Party are entitled to issue credentials for international meetings, the Secretary should be notified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in advance of the meeting.<sup>42</sup>
3. The credentials must bear a full signature of the appropriate authority or else be sealed and initialed by that authority. The seal and/or letter heading should clearly indicate that the credentials have been issued by the appropriate authority.
4. A representative may not exercise the right to vote unless his/ her name is clearly and unambiguously listed in the credentials.

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<sup>42</sup> "or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization. Footnote 1: For the purpose of interpreting this Rule, in the case of the European Union 'competent authority' means the President of the European Commission or the Commissioner responsible for the environment."

5. If credentials are submitted in a language other than one of the working languages of the Agreement (French and English), they shall be accompanied by a suitable translation into one of these two languages to permit efficient validations of the credentials by the Credentials Committee.

#### *Rule 19*

A Credentials Committee composed of at least two Parties of the African region and two of the Eurasian region, elected at the first session of each ordinary meeting, shall examine the credentials and submit its report to the Meeting of the Parties for approval.

#### *Rule 20*

Pending a decision of the Meeting of the Parties upon their credentials, representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the meeting.

#### *Officers*

#### *Rule 21*

1. At the commencement of the first session of each ordinary meeting, a President and one or more Vice-Presidents shall be elected from among the representatives of the Parties present at the meeting, on the basis of a proposal put forward by the Meeting Committee. In preparing its proposal on this matter, the Meeting Committee shall consider first the candidate(s) put forward by the host country of the meeting for the post of President of the meeting.

2. The President shall participate in the meeting in that capacity and shall not, simultaneously, exercise the rights of a representative of a Party. The Party concerned shall designate another representative who shall be entitled to represent the party in the meeting and to exercise the right to vote.

#### *Rule 22*

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon the President elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of the meeting, preside at the sessions of the meeting, ensure the observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote, and announce decisions. The President shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings and over the maintenance of order.

2. The President may propose to the Meeting of the Parties the closure of the list of speakers, limitations on the time to be allowed to speakers and the number of times each Party or observer may speak on a question, the adjournment or the closure of the debate, and the suspension or the adjournment of a session.

3. The President, in the exercise of the functions of that office, remains under the authority of the Meeting of the Parties.

#### *Rule 23*

The President, if temporarily absent from a session or any part thereof, shall designate a Vice-President to act as President. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

#### *Rule 24*

If the President and/or a Vice-President resign or are otherwise unable to complete the assigned term of office or to perform the functions of the office, a representative of the same Party shall be named by the Party concerned to replace the said officer for the remainder of that office's mandate.

#### *Rule 25*

At the first session of each ordinary meeting, the President of the previous ordinary meeting, or in the absence of the President, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, shall preside until the Meeting of the Parties has elected a President for the meeting.

The Meeting Committee, other Committees and Working Groups

*Rule 26*

1. The Meeting Committee is established. It shall consist of the President of the previous ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, the elected President and Vice-Presidents of the current Meeting of the Parties, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, and the Chairperson of the Technical Committee. The Secretariat of the Agreement shall assist and support the Meeting Committee. The Meeting Committee may invite observers to attend the Meeting Committee, as they deem appropriate. The Meeting Committee shall be chaired by the President of the current session of the Meeting of the Parties.
2. The Meeting Committee shall meet at least once daily to review the progress of the meeting, including the draft of the report of the previous day prepared by the Secretariat, and to provide advice to the President in order to ensure the smooth development of the rest of the proceedings.
3. The Meeting of the Parties may establish other committees and working groups if it deems it necessary for the implementation of the Agreement. Where appropriate, meetings of these bodies shall be held in conjunction with the Meeting of the Parties.
4. The Meeting of the Parties may decide that any such body may meet in the period between ordinary meetings.
5. Unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties, the chairperson for each such body shall be elected by the Meeting of the Parties. The Meeting of the Parties shall determine the matters to be considered by each such body.
6. Subject to paragraph 5 of this rule, each body shall elect its own officers. No officers may be re-elected for a third consecutive term.
7. Unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties, these rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the proceedings of such bodies, except that:
  - a) A majority of the Parties designated by the Meeting of the Parties to take part in any such body shall constitute a quorum, but in the event of the body being open-ended, one quarter of the Parties shall constitute a quorum;
  - b) The chairperson of any such body may exercise the right to vote;
  - c) There shall be no requirement to provide interpretation in committee or working group sessions, including the Meeting Committee.

Secretariat

*Rule 27*

1. The Head of the Agreement Secretariat shall be the Secretary of the Meeting of the Parties. The Secretary or the representative of the Secretary shall act in that capacity in all sessions of the Meeting of the Parties and of subsidiary bodies.
2. The Secretary shall provide and direct the staff as required by the Meeting of the Parties.

*Rule 28*

The Secretariat shall, in accordance with these rules:

- a) Arrange for interpretation at the meeting;
- b) Prepare, receive, translate, reproduce and distribute the documents of the meeting;
- c) Publish and circulate the official documents of the meeting;

- d) Make and arrange for keeping of sound recordings of the meeting;
- e) Arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the meeting;
- f) Draft the report of the meeting for consideration by the Meeting Committee first and for final approval by the Meeting of the Parties; and
- g) Generally perform all other work that the Meeting of the Parties may require.

### Conduct of Business

#### *Rule 29*

1. Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties shall be held in public, unless the Meeting of the Parties decides otherwise.
2. Sessions of subsidiary bodies shall be held in private unless the subsidiary body concerned decides otherwise.
3. Delegations shall be seated in accordance with the alphabetical order of the English language names of the Parties.

#### *Rule 30*

The President may declare a session of the meeting open and permit the debate to proceed if at least one half of the Parties to the Agreement are present, and may take a decision when representatives of at least one half of the Parties are present.

#### *Rule 31*

1. No one may speak at a session of the Meeting of the Parties without having previously obtained the permission of the President. Subject to rule 32, 33, 34 and 36, the President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The Secretariat shall maintain a list of speakers. The President may call a speaker to order if the speaker's remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
2. The Meeting of the Parties may, on a proposal from the President or from any Party, limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each Party or observer may speak on a question. Before a decision is taken, two representatives may speak in favour and two against a proposal to set such limits. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call the speaker to order without delay.
3. A speaker shall not be interrupted except on a point of order. He may, however, with the permission of the President, give way during his/her speech to allow any other representative or observer to request clarification on a particular point in that speech.
4. During the course of a debate, the President may announce the list of speakers, and with the consent of the meeting, declare the list closed. The President may, however, accord the right of reply to any representative, if appropriate, due to a speech delivered after the list has been closed.

#### *Rule 32*

The chairperson or rapporteur of a subsidiary body may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by that subsidiary body.

#### *Rule 33*

During the discussion of any matter, a Party may at any time raise a point of order, which shall be decided immediately by the President in accordance with these rules. A Party may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be put to the vote immediately and the ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the Parties present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

#### *Rule 34*

Any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Meeting of the Parties to discuss any matter or adopt a proposal or an amendment to a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before the matter is discussed or a vote is taken on the proposal or amendment in question.

#### *Rule 35*

1. Proposals for amendment of the Agreement may be made by any Party. According to article X the text of any proposed amendment and the reason for it shall be communicated to the Agreement Secretariat not less than one hundred and fifty days before the opening of the session.

2. A new proposal, other than in paragraph 1 of this rule, that was not submitted to the Secretariat at least 60 days before the opening of the meeting as well as amendments to proposals, shall be introduced in writing by the Parties and handed to the Secretariat in at least one of the official languages, for submission to the Meeting Committee.

3. A new proposal shall deal only with matters that could not have been foreseen in advance of the session or arise out of the discussions at the session. The Meeting Committee shall decide if the new proposal meets this requirement, so as to introduce it formally for consideration by the meeting. If a new proposal is rejected by the Meeting Committee, the sponsor(s) shall be entitled to request the President to submit the question of its admissibility to a vote, as per Rule 34. The sponsor(s) shall be given the opportunity to make one intervention to present the arguments in favour of the introduction of the new proposal, and the President shall explain the reasons for its rejection by the Meeting Committee.

4. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any session unless copies of it, translated into the official languages of the Meeting of the Parties, have been circulated to delegations not later than the day preceding the session. Nevertheless, the President may permit the discussion and consideration of amendments to proposals or of procedural motions and, in exceptional circumstances, in cases of urgency and when deemed useful to advance the proceedings, permit the discussion and consideration of proposals even though these proposals, amendments or motions have not been circulated or have been circulated only the same day or have not been translated into all the official languages of the Meeting of the Parties.

#### *Rule 36*

1. Subject to rule 33, the following motions shall have precedence, in the order indicated below, over all other proposals or motions:

- a) To suspend a session;
- b) To adjourn a session;
- c) To adjourn the debate on the question under discussion; and
- d) For the closure of the debate on the question under discussion.

2. Permission to speak on a motion falling within (a) to (d) above shall be granted only to the proposer and, in addition, to one speaker in favour of and two against the motion, after which it shall be put immediately to the vote.

#### *Rule 37*

A proposal or motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has begun, provided that the motion has not been amended. A proposal or motion withdrawn may be reintroduced by any other Party.

#### *Rule 38*

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered at the same meeting, unless the Meeting of the Parties, by a two-thirds majority of the Parties present and voting, decides in favour of reconsideration. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to the mover and one other supporter, after which it shall be put immediately to the vote.

## Voting

### *Rule 39*

Each Party shall have one vote. Regional economic integration organisations, which are Parties to this Agreement shall, in matters within their competence, exercise their voting rights with a number of votes equal to the number of their Member States which are Parties to the Agreement. A regional economic integration organization shall not exercise its right to vote if its Member States exercise theirs, and *vice versa*.

### *Rule 40*

1. The Parties shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters of substance by consensus. If all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted and no agreement reached, the decision shall, as a last resort, be taken by a two-thirds majority of the Parties present and voting, unless otherwise provided by the Agreement such as in the case of:

the adoption of the budget for the next financial period and any changes to the scale of assessment, which require unanimity (article V);

2. For the purposes of these rules, the phrase "Parties present and voting" means Parties present at the session at which voting takes place and casting an affirmative or negative vote. Parties abstaining from voting shall be considered as not voting.

### *Rule 41*

If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the Meeting of the Parties, unless it decides otherwise, shall vote on the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted. The Meeting of the Parties may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

### *Rule 42*

Any representative may request that any parts of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal be voted on separately. The President shall allow the request unless a Party objects. If objection is made to the request for separate voting, the President shall permit two representatives to speak, one in favour of and the other against the motion, after which it shall be put to the vote immediately.

### *Rule 43*

If the motion referred to in rule 42 is adopted, those parts of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal, which are approved, shall then be put to the vote as a whole. If all the operative parts of a proposal or amendment have been rejected, the proposal or amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

### *Rule 44*

A motion is considered to be an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from, or revises parts of that proposal. An amendment shall be voted on before the proposal to which it relates is put to the vote, and if the amendment is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

### *Rule 45*

If two or more amendments to a proposal are put forward, the Meeting of the Parties shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal, then on the amendment next furthest removed there from, and so on, until all amendments have been put to the vote. The President shall determine the order of voting on the amendments under this rule.

### *Rule 46*

Voting, except for elections and the decision on the venue of the next ordinary meeting, shall normally be by show of hands. A roll-call vote shall be taken if one is requested by any Party; it shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the Parties participating in the meeting, beginning with the Party whose name is drawn by lot by the President. However, if at any time a Party requests a secret ballot, that shall be the method of voting on the issue in question, provided that this request is accepted by a simple majority of the Parties present and voting. The President shall be responsible for the counting of the votes, assisted by tellers appointed by the Meeting, and shall announce the result.

*Rule 47*

1. The vote of each Party participating in a roll-call vote shall be expressed by "Yes", or "No", or "Abstain" and shall be recorded in the relevant documents of the meeting.
2. When the meeting votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of hands and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call vote.

*Rule 48*

After the President has announced the beginning of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual proceedings. The President may permit the Parties to explain their votes, either before or after the voting, but may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. The President shall not permit those who put forward proposals or amendments to proposals to explain their vote on their own proposals or amendments, except if they have been amended.

*Rule 49*

All elections and the decision on the venue of the next ordinary meeting shall be held by secret ballot, unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties.

*Rule 50*

1. If, when one person or one delegation is to be elected, no candidate obtains a majority of votes cast by the Parties present and voting in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken between the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If, in the second ballot, the votes are equally divided, the President shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.
2. In the case of a tie in the first ballot among three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes, a second ballot shall be held. If there is then a tie among more than two candidates, the number shall be reduced to two by lot and the balloting, restricted to them, shall continue in accordance with the procedure set forth in paragraph 1 of this rule.

*Rule 51*

1. When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, the number of candidates must not exceed the number of such places, those obtaining the largest number of votes and a majority of the votes cast by the Parties present and voting in the first ballot shall be deemed elected.
2. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of persons or delegations to be elected, there shall be additional ballots to fill the remaining places. The voting shall then be restricted to the candidates that obtained the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot and shall not exceed twice the places that remain to be filled. After the third inconclusive ballot, votes may be cast for any eligible person or delegation.
3. If three such unrestricted ballots are inconclusive, the next three ballots shall be restricted to the candidates who obtained the greatest number of votes in the third of the unrestricted ballots and shall not exceed twice the places that remain to be filled. The following three ballots thereafter shall be unrestricted, and so on until all the places have been filled.

## Languages

### *Rule 52*

The official and working languages of the Meeting of the Parties shall be English and French.

### *Rule 53*

1. Statements made in an official language shall be interpreted into the other official language.
2. A representative of a Party may speak in a language other than an official language, if the Party provides for interpretation into one such official language.

## Documents

### *Rule 54*

1. Official documents of the meetings shall be drawn up in one of the official languages and translated into the other official language.
2. Financial limitations may make it necessary to limit the number of documents provided to each Party and observer. The Secretariat shall encourage Parties and observers to download the documents from the Agreement website on the Internet or to receive them on a CD-ROM, so as to save costs of photocopying and mailing.
3. Any documents, including proposals, submitted to the Secretariat in any language other than a working language shall be accompanied by a translation into one of the working languages.
4. When in doubt, the Secretariat shall ask the approval of the Meeting Committee for issuing a document as an official document of the meeting.
5. Parties and observers wishing to distribute documents that have not been approved as official documents of the meeting shall make their own arrangements for distribution, after having sought the advice of the Secretariat on how to proceed.

## Sound Recordings of the Meeting

### *Rule 55*

Sound recordings of the Meeting of the Parties, and whenever possible of its subsidiary bodies, shall be kept by the Secretariat.

## Entering into Force and Amendments to the Rules of Procedure

### *Rule 56*

These rules of procedure shall enter into force immediately after their adoption. Amendments to these rules shall be adopted by consensus by the Meeting of the Parties, upon a proposal by one or more Parties and/or the Standing Committee.

## Overriding authority of the Agreement

### *Rule 57*

In the event of a conflict between any provision of these rules and any provision of the Agreement, the Agreement shall prevail.



AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF  
AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS



**6<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

*9-14 November 2015, Bonn, Germany*

*“Making flyway conservation happen”*

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ANNEX 3

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS**

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## 6<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

9-14 November 2015, Bonn, Germany

*“Making flyway conservation happen”*

### ANNEX 4

#### LIST OF PRE-SESSION DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT NUMBER	AGENDA ITEM	TITLE
AEWA/MOP 6.1 Rev.2		Provisional List of Documents
AEWA/MOP 6.2	2	Rules of Procedure for the Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds
AEWA/MOP 6.3 Rev.2	4	Provisional Agenda
AEWA/MOP 6.4 Rev.2	4	Provisional Annotated Agenda and Meeting Schedule
AEWA/MOP 6.5 Rev.2	6	Admission of Observers
AEWA/MOP 6.6	9a	Report of the Standing Committee
AEWA/MOP 6.7	9b	Report of the Technical Committee
AEWA/MOP 6.8	9c	Report of the Depositary
AEWA/MOP 6.9	9d	Report of the Secretariat
AEWA/MOP 6.10 Rev.1	10	Report on the CMS/AEWA Common Information Management, Communication and Awareness-Raising Team
AEWA/MOP 6.11	12	Report on the Implementation of the African Initiative and the Plan of Action for Africa
AEWA/MOP 6.12	13	Progress of Implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 (update 2012-2015)
AEWA/MOP 6.13	14	Analysis of AEWA National Reports for the Triennium 2012-2014
AEWA/MOP 6.14	15	6 <sup>th</sup> Edition of the Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds in the Agreement Area (CSR6)
AEWA/MOP 6.15	15	Update on the Status of Non-Native Waterbird Species Within the AEWA Area
AEWA/MOP 6.16 Rev.1	15	Overview on the Status of Preparation and Implementation of AEWA ISSAPs and ISSMPs as well as Multi-Species Action Plans 2015
AEWA/MOP 6.17	16	Implementation Review Process – Report to MOP6
AEWA/MOP 6.18	17	Report on the Implementation of the AEWA IITs 2012-2015

<b>DOCUMENT NUMBER</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>TITLE</b>
AEWA/MOP 6.19	18	Report of the Secretariat on Finance and Administrative Issues 2013-2015
AEWA/MOP 6.20 Rev.1	18	Draft Budget Proposal for 2016-2018
AEWA/MOP 6.21	19	Draft Communication Strategy
AEWA/MOP 6.22 Add.1	20	Proposals to the 6 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties for Amendments to Annexes 2 and 3 of AEWA
AEWA/MOP 6.23	21	Revised Arabic Version of the Agreement Text
AEWA/MOP 6.24	22	Report on the Development of Waterbird Monitoring Along the African-Eurasian Flyways
AEWA/MOP 6.25	23	Draft International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Grey Crowned Crane
AEWA/MOP 6.26	23	Draft International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Taiga Bean Goose
AEWA/MOP 6.27	23	Draft International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Long-tailed Duck
AEWA/MOP 6.28	23	Draft International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Eurasian Curlew
AEWA/MOP 6.29	23	Draft International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Shoebill
AEWA/MOP 6.30	23	Draft International Multi-species Action Plan for the Conservation of Benguela Current Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds
AEWA/MOP 6.31	23	Draft Revised International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Lesser White-fronted Goose
AEWA/MOP 6.32	23	Draft Revised International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Northern Bald Ibis
AEWA/MOP 6.33	23	Criteria for Prioritising AEWA Populations for Action and Management Planning and for the Revision and Retirement of Action Plans, as well as Guidance on the Definition of Principal Range States in Action Plans
AEWA/MOP 6.34	24	Guidance on Measures in National Legislation for Different Populations of the Same Species, Particularly with Respect to Hunting and Trade
AEWA/MOP 6.35	24	Draft Guidelines on National Legislation for the Protection of Species of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats
AEWA/MOP 6.36	24	Draft Revised Guidelines on Sustainable Harvest of Migratory Waterbirds
AEWA/MOP 6.37	24	Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment (Draft)
AEWA/MOP 6.38	25	Review of the Occurrence and Magnitude of the Conflict between Migratory Animals of all Taxa and Renewable Technologies Deployment

<b>DOCUMENT NUMBER</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>TITLE</b>
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AEWA/MOP 6.40	25	Review of the Status, Threats and Conservation Action Priorities for the Seabird Populations Covered by the Agreement
<b>DRAFT RESOLUTIONS</b>		
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AEWA/MOP6 DR3	22	Strengthening Monitoring of Migratory Waterbirds
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AEWA/MOP6 DR5	24	Revision and Adoption of Conservation Guidelines
AEWA/MOP6 DR6	25	Updated Guidance on Climate Change Adaptation Measures for Waterbirds
AEWA/MOP6 DR7	24	Adoption of Guidance and Definitions in the Context of Implementation of the AEWA Action Plan
AEWA/MOP6 DR8	23	Adoption and Implementation of International Single Species and Multi-Species Action and Management Plans
AEWA/MOP6 DR9 Rev.1	25	Improving the Conservation Status of African-Eurasian Seabirds
AEWA/MOP6 DR10 Rev.1	19	Communication Strategy
AEWA/MOP6 DR11	25	Addressing Impacts of Renewable Energy Deployment on Migratory Waterbirds
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AEWA/MOP6 DR16	26a	Institutional Arrangements: Standing Committee
AEWA/MOP6 DR17	26b	Institutional Arrangements: Technical Committee
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AEWA/MOP6 DR20	28	Tribute to the Organisers
AEWA/MOP6 DR21	18	Resource Mobilisation for the Implementation of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)
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<b>DOCUMENT NUMBER</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>TITLE</b>
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AEWA/MOP Inf.6.3	11	CMS Res.11.3 - Enhancing Synergies and Common Services among CMS Family Instruments
AEWA/MOP Inf.6.4	11	CMS Res.11.15 - Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds
AEWA/MOP Inf.6.5	11	CMS Res.11.16 - The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds
AEWA/MOP Inf.6.6	11	CMS Res.11.19 - Taxonomy and Nomenclature of Birds Listed on the CMS Appendices
AEWA/MOP Inf.6.7		The Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI) – Work Plan 2015-2019
AEWA/MOP Inf.6.8	11	Independent Analysis on Common Services and Synergies in the CMS Family
AEWA/MOP Inf.6.9		Progress report of the Executive Director on resolution 1/12 of the UN Environment Assembly of UNEP on the relationship between UNEP and multilateral environmental agreements
AEWA/MOP Inf.6.10		Provisional List of Participants
AEWA/MOP Inf.6.11		Fact Sheet
AEWA/MOP Inf.6.12	11	CMS 44 <sup>th</sup> Standing Committee Decision on Enhancing Synergies and Common Services Among the CMS Family Instruments
AEWA/MOP Inf.6.13		Intended Proposal for Submission to the Meeting Committee of MOP6 by the Government of Norway
AEWA/MOP Inf.6.14	25	Outcomes of the International Conference <i>Goose Management: Challenges 2015</i> , 27-29 October 2015, Gram Slot, Denmark

**PART II**

**STATEMENTS**

(REPRODUCED IN THE FORM SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARIAT)

**STATEMENTS MADE DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY**

## Video message by Dr Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP (transcript of video message)

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,

Welcome to this, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting of AEWA. Thank you also to all of you, who over the years, have been part of making this Agreement and this initiative, not only be one in terms of declaratory intent, but actually of practical action.

For us in UNEP, it has been a privilege to host the AEWA Agreement for the better part of 15 years and to, within the context of CMS, be part of a community that is trying to address something that is both an indicator of the welfare and wellbeing of nature, of biodiversity and of life on our planet, as much as in also being an indicator of how far our societies have begun to realize that the cost of not focusing on the conservation of biodiversity more generally, but also of migratory birds in particular and waterbirds, is something that we can ill afford at this, the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The conservation assessment of waterbirds in the area of the Agreement, clearly points to the fact that we have not turned the corner. Indeed, many of the trends are still pointing in the wrong direction and they are not an encouragement, if you want, in terms of where we are and where we are likely to be, if things don't change in the coming years.

When Parties came together 20 years ago and began to form, if you want, a consortium of actors, that could address this particular issue of migratory birds and waterbirds, it was perhaps at the time a herculean effort and also very visionary undertaking. I do believe that 20 years into our collaborative efforts, we can indeed point to many examples in different parts of the Agreement area, where success stories are unfolding, where we can and have demonstrated that with deliberate action, with intelligent dialogue, in our societies, with different players, we can reverse trends that very often seemed inevitable. I do also believe that the Secretariat and the Parties and the many partners to the Agreement have demonstrated that, by coming together, we truly demonstrate our ability to do more than we ever could do individually.

I want to, in particular also acknowledge the Government of the Netherlands and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which as Depositary of the Agreement has been a very faithful and also a very solid companion, in allowing AEWA to thrive and to evolve over the years. I want to thank also Jacques Trouvilliez and the Secretariat for the immense work that they are providing and also for the focus on this 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, in trying to make AEWA an Agreement that is both appreciated for its value intrinsically, but also for the promise that it holds for the future.

I also want to appeal to you that, as we take a very specific focus in our domain of biodiversity conservation, in particular of birds, we should not underestimate the significance of something else that has happened this year, indeed, just a few weeks ago, in New York. The adoption of a new 20/30 Agenda for sustainable development and in particular its very specific articulation with 17 sustainable development goals, is not extra-terrestrial to the work of AEWA. On the contrary, it marks a milestone, a very historical development, at least from my vantage point, of how many of the issues that we sometimes focus on when we talk about nature conservation and biodiversity are inextricably linked to the broader agenda of sustainable development. Human wellbeing and the wellbeing of nature, the protection of species and the functionality of ecosystems, the success of our societies and economies and the welfare of people and their linkage to well managed environments, be it in terms of healthy ecosystems or of a reduced pollution footprint. All of these issues are part of the fabric of our societies, economies and nations. Our focus, our responsibility in coming together under the umbrella of the United Nations is to not lose sight of this systemic perspective. In our specialization and in the priority that we are for to particular issues and domains of action, we must always retain at the back of our minds or sometimes at the forefront of our strategies, the link to this broader context. It is there; it is in the decisions that are taken our economies on land use, on energy and transport systems and their pollution footprint that a significant part of the solution, also to the conservation of birds, or indeed to the broader conservation of biodiversity lies. In that sense, we are very proud in UNEP to be the

host of the Secretariat, to have it embedded also in the broader family of the CMS community and the biodiversity community. But ultimately, and that is what UNEP stands for in the year 2015, to also have that particular focus on biodiversity embedded in a larger understanding of sustainable development and where the solution space of the future is opening up.

Happy anniversary, thank you for your commitment and engagement and thank you also for the partnership, the trust and the confidence that you have shown in UNEP as being a critical part of this community and hopefully of the promise to have better success stories, to show to the world 10 or 15 years down the line, than we have sometimes been able to do in the past. But AEWA has nothing to apologize for and a great deal to be proud of.

Thank you very much.



**6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA MOP6), 9 to 14 November 2015, in Bonn, Germany.**

**Opening Statement made by Luxembourg on behalf of the European Union and its Member States:**

Dear Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, Secretariat, dear colleagues thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on behalf of the EU and its Member States. We are looking forward to this important meeting and we are proud to be part of this 6<sup>th</sup> session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA. As we already celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its existence, we would like to warmly congratulate AEWA. The EU and its Member States will do their best to give outcome oriented input, to support the Chair in the effort of concluding a successful meeting, which would be the best birthday gift for such an important agreement.

The EU and its MS welcome the publication of the 6<sup>th</sup> Conservation Status Report that underlines the importance of AEWA for conservation of migratory waterbirds. It clearly shows that where concerted conservation measures are taken, the status of waterbirds and their habitats has significantly improved. The cooperation with other parties has allowed to build bridges in nature conservation with African countries at all levels. The agreement offers the opportunity for capacity building and allows to build on best practices in species protection.

In this regard we would like to congratulate the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative on its tremendous work and would like to announce that a workshop will be organized jointly by Germany and the Netherlands to work on the way forward for this initiative.

We must make progress in the forthcoming days and agree on important topics of the agreement, not only in species protection, but also to facilitate synergy enhancements between the different CMS instruments, other biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (such as CBD, Ramsar) and other relevant organisations, such as the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs). However, this has to be done in a well-balanced manner and with complete transparency between the different stakeholders.

The EU and its Member States want to express their gratitude to the Standing Committee and Technical committee for providing good documentation and the Secretariat for their good preparation of the meeting.

We are looking forward towards a fruitful meeting,

Finally Mr. Chairman the EU and its Member states thank you for accepting the appointment as chair.

## **Déclaration liminaire du Burundi à la MOP 6**

Le Burundi a adhéré à l'Accord AEWA en 2014 en vue de participer avec les autres parties à la protection des oiseaux d'eaux migrateurs. Comme vous le savez, toutes les espèces de l'AEWA traversent des frontières internationales durant leurs migrations et ont besoin d'un habitat de bonne qualité pour se reproduire ainsi qu'un réseau de sites adaptés pour soutenir leurs migrations annuelles. C'est pourquoi une coopération internationale à travers l'ensemble de leur aire de migration, telle que l'assure l'AEWA, est essentielle pour la conservation et la gestion des populations d'oiseaux d'eau migrateurs et des habitats dont elles dépendent. Raison pour laquelle, le Burundi a choisi d'adhérer à cet Accord auquel il a par ailleurs participé dans la dernière réunion de son adoption à la Haye en 1995. Par après, le Burundi a été plusieurs fois invité comme observateurs dans plusieurs réunions de l'AEWA et remercie à ce titre le Secrétariat de l'Accord.

Comme vous le savez bien, le Plan d'action de l'AEWA donne différentes mesures à prendre par les Parties afin de garantir la conservation des oiseaux d'eau migrateurs au sein de leurs frontières nationales. Ces mesures incluent la protection des espèces et des habitats ainsi que la gestion des activités humaines de même que des mesures juridiques et d'urgence. De plus, des mesures spéciales de protection doivent être appliquées pour les populations d'oiseaux d'eau figurant à la colonne A du Plan d'action et présentant un problème de conservation particulier.

A ce titre, le Burundi a déjà pris un certain nombre de mesures y relatives notamment l'adoption de la loi n°1/10 du 30 mai 2011 portant création et gestion des aires protégées au Burundi. Cette loi prévoit toute une section sur la protection des oiseaux y compris les oiseaux migrateurs.

De même, la plus part des sites qui accueillent les oiseaux migrateurs ont été classés comme sites Ramsar (le Delta du Parc National de la Rusizi, le Lac aux oiseaux au nord du Pays, le Parc National de la Ruvubu), ce qui implique un renforcement de la protection de ces sites.

Enfin pour améliorer la gestion de ces sites, ils viennent tous d'être dotés de plans de gestion et d'aménagement et ces plans vont être mis en œuvre progressivement pour une protection effective de ces oiseaux.

**Damien NINDORERA**

**Point Focal AEWA/Burundi**

**STATEMENTS BY THE WINNERS OF THE  
AEWA WATERBIRD CONSERVATION AWARD 2015**

Winner of the AEWA Waterbird Conservation Award 2015  
in the Institutional Category

**L'Association Inter-villageoise du Ndiaël, Sénégal**

L'Association Inter-villageoise du Ndiaël, Sénégal, créée en 2004, compte plusieurs membres dont l'objectif principal est la restauration de la réserve du Ndiaël. Cette association comprend le Comité exécutif avec son Président Monsieur Sow et des instances administratives dont l'assemblée générale.

La réserve du Ndiaël est une très importante réserve classée zone d'importance internationale Ramsar en 1977. Elle est également le « noyau central » de la réserve de biosphère transfrontière du delta du fleuve du Sénégal, classée par l'UNESCO. Malheureusement pendant les années précédant 2004 elle a connu un déclin et s'est trouvée dans un état critique, raison pour laquelle les membres de l'Association ont pris en main la restauration de son écosystème et de son habitat afin de parvenir à la remettre en l'état d'origine. Pour ce faire, l'Association reçoit l'appui des partenaires techniques et financiers dont Wetlands International et Alliance Ecosystème. Ce sont ces services techniques qui permettent à l'Association de poursuivre ses objectifs et de recevoir le Prix de conservation des oiseaux d'eau de l'AEWA. Apparemment, les membres de l'Association, non ornithologues à la base, peuvent effectuer chaque mois grâce aux services techniques des organisations partenaires, les recensements des oiseaux sont effectués chaque mois au sein de la réserve.

L'Association Inter-villageoise du Ndiaël remercie chaleureusement Wetlands International, Alliance Ecosystème et l'Etat du Sénégal pour leur soutien technique et financier, ainsi que l'AEWA pour ce Prix de conservation des oiseaux d'eau.

Winner of the AEWA Waterbird Conservation Award 2015  
in the Individual Category

**Colonel Abdoulaye Ndiaye**

Colonel Abdoulaye Ndiaye is my name; I got the bird-virus during the last decades when I was posted to the Djoudj National Park and while working with Wetlands International as a field technical officer before the different senior positions!

When I received the message related to the Award, I felt extremely honoured to be one of the nominees for the AEWA Conservation Award in the individual category. I looked back in my career to find out what I did to deserve such an important distinction. Then I realized I was fully involved in many activities, mainly in bird conservation and wetland management, for the past 25 years. One of the key challenges was to “Save” waterbirds and make the AEWA Agreement grow within the region and globally through monitoring, capacity building, policy and advocacy.

In Africa the critical sites along the flyways face many challenges and if addressed, they can play roles and functions to host many migrants. The lack of capacity for site managers and weak polices are among the key challenges faced. Being part of these important networks with common goals, I have tried with their support to make a difference within the region.

My efforts will continue to be sure waterbird migration is well perceived and waterbird monitoring and site management is fully included in national budgets and programmes.

One of the main targets as well, is local communities; I have supported them a lot and have brought them to be part of the key players within the region. I dare say I have reached our goal comparing to the past situation.

This award will encourage other key players in the network to enthusiastically continue working hard to attain a level which will be more appreciated.

Once again I really want to thank the AEWA family for the award, and in particular Mr John Kilner for the nomination and Mr Tim Dodman and Professor Colin Galbraith for being the referees.

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