



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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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.