

6th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

9-14 November 2015, Bonn, Germany

“Making flyway conservation happen”

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 2013-2020¹ 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 11th 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;

¹ 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 | CMS Res. 7.4 Electrocution of migratory birds CMS Res 7.5 Wind turbines and migratory species CMS Res 10.11 Power lines and migratory birds CMS Res. 11.27 Renewable energy and migratory species AEWA Res. 5.11 Power lines and migratory waterbirds AEWA Res. 5.16 Renewable energy and migratory waterbirds | AEWA Conservation Guidelines (No. 11) on how to avoid, minimise or mitigate impact of infrastructural developments and related disturbance affecting waterbirds AEWA Conservation Guidelines (No. 14) on how to avoid or mitigate impact of electricity power grids on migratory birds in the Africa-Eurasian region AEWA Conservation Guidelines (No. 8) on reducing damage, damage to fisheries, bird strikes and other forms of conflict between waterbirds and human activities) CMS/AEWA Guidance on renewable energy technologies and migratory species: guidelines for sustainable deployment (document AEWA/MOP 6.37) |
| Poisoning through the use of lead gunshot in wetlands | AEWA Action Plan para 4.1.4 Strategic Plan 2.1: “By 2017 the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands is phased out by all Contracting Parties.” | AEWA Res 1.14 Phasing out of lead shot in wetlands AEWA Res. 2.2 Phasing out lead shot for hunting in wetlands AEWA Res. 3.4 Submission of national reports to MOP3 and MOP4 and | AEWA Conservation Guidelines (No. 5) on sustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds (document AEWA/MOP 6.36) AEWA 2009. <i>Non-toxic shot. A pathway towards sustainable use of the</i> |

| Cause of additional unnecessary mortality | Strategic guidance and objectives agreed by AEWA Parties | Relevant AEWA & CMS Resolutions | Relevant AEWA & CMS Guidance |
|---|---|---|--|
| | | <p>reports on 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><i>waterbird resource</i>. AEWA Technical Series No. 3</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"> • Recommendations to prevent risk from lead ammunition and fishing weights |
| 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"> • Recommendations to prevent risk from lead ammunition and fishing weights |
| Deliberate poisoning through the use of baits | <p>AEWA Action Plan paras 2.1.1 & 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"> • Recommendations to prevent risk from poison baits used for predator control and harvesting |
| 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 Guidelines to prevent the risk of poisoning to migratory birds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations to prevent risk from insecticides used to protect crops |

| Cause of additional unnecessary mortality | Strategic guidance and objectives agreed by AEWA Parties | Relevant AEWA & CMS Resolutions | Relevant AEWA & CMS Guidance |
|--|--|--|--|
| | | CMS Res. 11.15 Preventing poisoning of migratory birds | |
| Illegal killing or taking of waterbirds (for consumption or trade) through trapping or shooting | <p>AEWA Action Plan paras 2.1.1 & 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>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>CMS Res. 11.16 The prevention of illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds</p> <p>CMS Res. 10.26 Minimising the risk of poisoning to migratory birds</p> | <p>Plan of Action to Address Bird Trapping Along the Mediterranean 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 |