



13th MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

03 - 05 July 2018, The Hague, the Netherlands

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AEWA FOR THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION

1. Number of Contracting Parties (CPs): Seventeen (17)

Number of Range States (RS): Twenty-six (26)

Number of new accessions since previous StC: **None**

2. Feedback from Contracting Parties (CPs) and Range States for this report

Not much, except the call for information regarding the AEWA implementation for the purpose of this report. A letter requesting for information to prepare this regional report was sent to all focal points of contracting parties in both English and French. Feedback from CPs and Range States was very poor. The problem of the communication barrier between me and my francophone Range States and CPs became visible during this process.

3. **Has the Regional Representative actively promoted accession to AEWA among the Range States? If so, how has accession been promoted by the Regional Representative?**

The Focal Points of **Cameroon, Liberia** and **Sierra Leone** were engaged on informal talks to promote their preparedness to the join the Agreement. To some extent the Regional Representative has been promoting the Agreement by calling for information regarding the AEWA implementation for the purpose of preparatory reports to the StC Meeting. Unfortunately, the responses have not always been encouraging.

4. **Which developments regarding the implementation of AEWA have taken place in the Region since the last Meeting of the Parties?**

Workshop for the Development of the AEWA PoA for Africa

A workshop of the working Group for the Development of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027 took place at Hotel Ngor Diarama, in Dakar, Senegal.

Waterbird database management workshop for Anglophone Contracting Parties in Africa

A technical workshop was organized by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, in collaboration with the TSU and Wetlands International, to enhance capacity for the management of waterbird data in the framework of the International Waterbird Census (IWC). This workshop took place in Dakar, Senegal, after the 14th Pan Africa Ornithological Congress.

The workshop brought together some 20 participants, of which 13 came from African countries (Angola, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe) and four came from the western and central African sub-region (Angola, Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria)

International Waterbird Counts

The Annual Contractual Agreement for the counting of waterbirds of the East-Atlantic Flyway for January 2017 and January 2018 coordinated by Wetlands International in Partnership with the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI) and the BirdLife International (CMB project) and the contracting Parties/range states (Ivory Coast, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo from West Africa and Burundi, DR Congo, Gabon and Congo from Central Africa) of the Sub-region took place.

World Migratory Waterbird Day (WMBD)

The celebration of the World Migratory Bird Day once again received some prominence in the African region for the 2017 and 2018 campaign which had as its global themes (Their future is our future- A healthy planet for migratory birds and people and Unifying our voices for Bird conservation respectively) Two transboundary events in Mauritania (in collaboration with Senegal) and Togo (in collaboration with Benin and Ghana) took place in the sub-region. Through these events, attention was drawn to the need for migratory waterbird conservation, particularly the problems related to the illegal use of waterbirds.

5. Key challenge:

The AEWA Western and Central Regions face key challenge which need concerted efforts to bridge over for effective implementation of the tenets of the Agreement. The Anglophone – Francophone language barrier limits communication and the sharing of information between the two language blocs - CPs and non-CPs in the Western and Central Regions.

6. Recommendations:

The AEWA Secretariat must strengthen efforts at encouraging non-CP Range States to accede to the Agreement - it is internationally difficult for StC Representative, who tends to be the head of a lead agency for a CP in one's own country to encourage the government of a neighboring non-CP Range State to ratify the AWEA.

7. Any other relevant information

The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany and BirdLife International through The Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI) supported Ghana's

project titled *Sustaining Local Community Action for Wetlands and Waterbirds Conservation through Participatory Awareness and site Management at Sakumo Ramsar site-Ghana in May 2017*.

Cameroon reported of a national workshop in October 2016 in preparation for the ratification of the Agreement

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Annex 1: WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICAN AEWAC CONTRACTING PARTIES AS AT JANUARY 2017

NO.	CONTRACTING PARTIES	DATE
	WESTERN AFRICA	
1	Benin	01-01-2000
2	Burkina Faso	01-10-2013
3	Côte d'Ivoire	01-06-2013
4	Gambia	01-11-1999
5	Ghana	01-10-2005
6	Guinea	01-11-1999
7	Guinea-Bissau	01-11-2006
8	Mali	01-01-2000
9	Niger	01-11-1999
10	Nigeria	01-07-2004
11	Senegal	01-11-1999
12	Togo	01-11-1999
13	Mauritania	01-05-2015
	Central African	
13	Chad	01-11-2011
14	Congo (Brazzaville)	01-11-1999
15	Equatorial Guinea	01-01-2003
16	Gabon	01-12-2012

No	NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES	
	WESTERN AFRICA	
1	Cape Verde	-
2	Liberia	-
3	Sierra Leone	-
	CENTRAL AFRICA	
5	Angola	-
6	Cameroon	-
7	Central African Republic	-
8	Democratic Republic of Congo	-
9	Sao Tome & Principe	-
10	South Sudan	