



**15<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**  
*11 – 13 December 2019, Bristol, United Kingdom*

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***REGIONAL REPORT FOR THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION***

**I- GENERAL INFORMATION**

- ✓ Number of Contracting Parties in Western and Central Africa: eighteen (18)
- ✓ Number of Range States in the region: twenty-four (24)
- ✓ New accession since the previous StC meeting: one (01, Central African Republic)
- ✓ Number of Range States (Contracting Parties and Non-Contracting Parties) that provided feedback for the report: Three (03) countries provided feedback for the report, namely the Central African Republic, Chad and Côte d'Ivoire.
- ✓ The Regional Representative did not sufficiently promote accession to AEWA among the Range States in his region.

**II- ACTIVITIES**

- ✓ **Which developments regarding the implementation of AEWA have taken place in the region since the last Meeting of the Parties?**

Following the MOP7 Meeting of the Parties held in Durban, South Africa, from 4 to 8 December 2019, some activities were carried out in the region. The Central African Republic, which had acceded to AEWA on 25 July 2018, became a Contracting Party on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019.

The Central African Republic has designated the national administrative authority and Focal Points according to the form sent by the AEWA Secretariat. These are:

- National Focal Point;
- Technical focal point;
- CESP focal point.

Regarding Chad's contribution to AEWA, a commitment for the years 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 has been made in accordance with correspondence from the UNEP/AEWA Executive Secretary.

- ✓ **Overview of special activities and/or meetings related to AEWA**

A AEWA Regional Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop on conservation through “migration pathways” has been organized in Cotonou, Benin, from 6 to 10 May 2019. This workshop was attended by several French-speaking countries from Central and West Africa. This meeting made it possible to provide training at the

regional level and to set up a network of experienced trainers in the French-speaking countries of Central and West Africa, to enable them to organize future local, national or regional training courses on "the flyway approach for the conservation and wise use of waterbirds and wetlands".

In addition, the World Migratory Waterbird Day was celebrated in October 2019 on the theme "Protecting Birds from Plastic Pollution" in the Central African Republic. At this activity, a discussion on the theme of the day was organized and facilitated by the AEWA Focal Points team of the Central African Republic for the staff of the Departments of Water, Forestry, Hunting and Fisheries, Environment and Sustainable Development.



**Picture 1:** Celebration of the World Migratory Waterbird Day in Central African Republic

During a day dedicated to environment and local development, a reforestation activity of a degraded wetland was carried out in Côte d'Ivoire.



**Picture 2:** Reforestation of the wetland in Adiaké, Côte d'Ivoire

In addition, waterbird counting was carried out in January 2019 on the observation sites. Moreover, local populations living near waterbird sites were sensitized on the conservation of waterbirds and their habitats in Côte d'Ivoire. This activity was carried out through the distribution of leaflets, bird posters and a waterbird observation trip.



**Picture 3:** Public awareness on the conservation of waterbirds and their habitats

A mission of monitoring migratory waterbirds in the floodplain of the Logone River in Chad, in order to assess the conservation situation of this site has also been carried out. The mission purpose was: contributing to improve knowledge on waterbird populations.

✓ **Any other relevant information**

Some explanation and discussion sessions on the "Flyway Approach" were held in the Central African Republic and Côte d'Ivoire.

In the Central African Republic, the sessions focused on the presentation of AEWA, its history, mission, objectives, distribution area, bodies, and status of implementation in the Central African Republic and secondly, **flyway concepts for the conservation and wise use of waterbirds and wetlands**, definitions of the flyway, different flyway scales.

Also, the project of mission to prospect the migratory bird census sites in wetlands in the Central African Republic has been implemented. The documentation on birds in the Central African Republic is available (study reports).

In addition, activities to observe the Fresco wetland (Côte d'Ivoire) as an excellent habitat for waterbirds with a drone have been carried out. These activities provided with an inventory of the situation in the wetland in order to establish a land use map, identify mangrove types and threats.

Some studies have been conducted in the Fresco wetland concerning:

- contribution to the elaboration of the communal risk management plan and the knowledge of the physico-chemical and microbiological quality of the Fresco lagoon;
- contribution to the elaboration of the Communal Plan for the management of risks and the Fresco channel through the knowledge of the coastal sedimentary dynamics and hydrodynamics of the lagoon water body;
- mapping of land use in Fresco.

All reports of these studies conducted in the Fresco wetland are available.