

23rd MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
26 - 27 June 2023, Virtual Meeting Format

**THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGIONAL REPORT
TO THE AEWA STANDING COMMITTEE**

Information for the reports was collated by Regional Representatives from the Contracting Parties of their respective region as per see Annex 1 through the National Focal Points or other useful contacts.

1. Number of Contracting Parties in the region / number of Range States in the region. New accessions since the previous StC meeting

Eastern and Southern African Range State and Contracting Parties	
Eastern Africa (11 countries - 8 Contracting Parties)	Southern Africa (14 countries - 7 Contracting Parties)
Total of Range State	25
Contracting Parties	15
Burundi	Angola
Djibouti	Botswana
Eritrea	Comoros
Ethiopia	Eswatini
Kenya	Lesotho
Rwanda	Madagascar
Somalia	Malawi
South Sudan	Mauritius
Sudan	Mozambique
Uganda	Namibia
United Republic of Tanzania	Seychelles
	South Africa
	Zambia
	Zimbabwe

2. Number of Contracting Parties that provided feedback for the report

- 6 Parties provided feedback

Eastern and Southern African Range State and Contracting Parties	
Eastern Africa (2 Parties)	Southern Africa (4 Parties)
• Kenya	• Mauritius
• United Republic of Tanzania	• Botswana
	• South Africa

3. Has the Regional Representative actively promoted accession to AEWA among the Range States in their region? If so, how has accession been promoted by the Regional Representative and what was the feedback received?

- No further accessions in this region since the previous TC meeting

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

Reporting Party	Progress
Mauritius	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No emergency situation has occurred since January 2021. The last emergency situation dates back to year 2020 where the MV Wakashio ran aground resulting in a Tier 3 oil spill.
Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of Grey Crowned Crane Single Species Conservation Action Plan. The process is near completion. Final draft is scheduled for stakeholder validation by end of June 2023; • The regular Biannual Water bird Count was carried out in January/ February 2023. Planning for Second water count for June-July is underway; • A second Nationwide Grey Crowned Crane census was undertaken in February-March 2023 recording a population estimated between 8500-10,000 birds counted in 819 sites spread in 34 out of 47 administrative regions (Counties) in the country; • Publication of the Kenya Key Biodiversity Areas Status and Trends Report has been realized within the reporting period; • Compilation of 2022 Kenya IBA/KBA Basic monitoring on STATE, PRESSURE, RESPONSE (PSR Model) assessment • Training of national government agencies personnel on application of KBA Identification & Monitoring was undertaken in April 2023 • Mainstreaming actions outlined in the AEWA Agreement into Devolved Government Unit's (County Governments) level programming through submission of Memoranda's for incorporation into the County Integrated Development Plans- CIDPs • Progress on forest and landscape restoration in sites e.g. Tana River Delta etc.
Botswana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The commemoration of the World Bird Migratory Day on 10th June 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The day was commemorated in the Okavango Delta in Shakawe village. The day was preceded by the delegates from the Department of Wildlife and National Parks and Birdlife Botswana using the national television (BTV) to inform the nation about the global commemoration of World Bird Migration Day. ✓ The importance of the conservation of migratory birds and the importance of water to migratory birds were emphasized. On the day, eight schools were engaged (6 primary schools, 1 Junior school, and 1 Senior School). Students, teachers, and the public participated in the awareness walk while putting on t-shirts printed "World Migratory Bird Day" (see pictures attached). After the awareness walk, there was entertainment and competition through song, dance, and drama. Schools were then awarded certificates of participation so as to motivate schools and to inculcate into the young minds bird conservation. • By facilitating National Focal Points to prepare for the flamingo regional aerial survey in 2025 • There were Coordinated Waterbird Counts in various parts of Botswana
South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of the AEWA National Implementation Plan - South Africa through the Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment appointed BirdLife South Africa. discussed the potential structure in depth with the AEWA Secretariat and considered how to incorporate their input and am now in the process of nesting the various AEWA mandates into the draft implementation plan framework.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the National White-winged flufftail Working Group - South Arica is coordinate the annual reporting • Establishment of the National Grey Crowned Crane Working Group/Task Team - the first meeting took place on 15 June 2023 where the Terms of Reference were discussed – Activities to implement this ISSAP • ISSAP for the Conservation of the Lesser Flamingo – BirdLife South Africa (BLSA) has taken on the role of coordinator of the Lesser Flamingo International Working Group and is collaborating with the AEWA Secretariat to resuscitate this forum • BIRDIE project review and discussion of reporting pages for AEWA and Ramsar - Meeting took place on 15 May 2023 • World Migratory Birds Day celebration - The Minister issued a statement on 13 May 2023 • Coordinated Waterbird Counts (CWAC) - took place in various parts of South Africa • Continuous implementation of the National Wildlife Poisoning Prevention Working Group Implementation Plan and the LEAD issues
Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated the International Water bird count in collaboration with Nature Tanzania. During the water bird count, awareness raising about the importance flyways and breeding sites for migratory water birds was conducted alongside with the assessment of water bird habitats, • Nature Tanzania in collaboration with Birdlife International and Rivertrees Country Inn has launched Tanzania Bird of the Year Campaign to create awareness and encourage people to visit important bird sited as part of birding and recreation, • Monitoring of Kilombero, Lake Natron and Kagera wetlands as well as awareness raising on the importance of wetlands and wildlife resources therein including birds has been conducted, • In Collaboration with Nature Tanzania continued implementing the Community Revolving Fund program to support restoration of catchment forest in the Lake Natron Wetland as well as support conservation of Flamingo and support ecotourism in the area

5. Overview of special activities and/or meetings related to AEWA

Reporting Party	Progress
Mauritius	A conservation strategy has been put in place for the re-establishment of Masked Boobies on Round Island and for Tropic Birds on Ile aux Aigrettes
Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Feedback to stakeholders on outcomes of the AEWA MOP8 was provided by national focal point through organized forums and during organized meetings of established National Technical Teams coordinating implementation of wildlife related MEAs including outcomes on CITES CoP19, CBD CoP15, Ramsar CoP12 and during meetings for the preparations for CMS CoP14 • Organized events at national level to mark World Wetlands Day (2 February), World Wildlife Day (3 March) and World Migratory Bird Day (second week end of May and October) to raise awareness about the Agreement and migratory species of wetland birds
Botswana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning to host the Slaty Egret International Working Group meeting from the 13th to the 15th of September 2023. Arrangements for the venue of the meeting are being made. The meeting will host Range States delegates and experts. • Engaging authorities in considering the possibility of hosting the AEWA MOP9 in the year 2025.

6. Overview of special issues that might be of interest to the StC

Reporting Party	Progress
Mauritius	Round Island is up to now predator-free for seabirds. Contrarily, Ile aux Aigrettes being at about 850 off-coast, has not been predator free. However, continuous monitoring and trapping stations are used for early detection and control.
Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter-Ministerial and multi-agency discussions with relevant key stakeholders on AEWA implementation of in the country .The discussions were aimed at responding to issues raised at MoP8 on the Open Case File touching on Lake Elmentaita and concerning AEWA, Ramsar Convention and also World Heritage Convention and included- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Engagement of the relevant Energy power supply companies and agencies - (KPLC, KENGEN, GDC and Lake Turkana Wind Farm and their respective parent Ministries) to discuss the concerns raised by the three Conventions regarding Lake Elmentaita as a IBA , Ramsar and World heritage site. ✓ Considering inviting the Joint Mission of AEWA, Ramsar, WHC and IUCN to visit L. Elementaita for fact finding mission with objective of reviewing progress the country has made in responding to the concerns raised and aim on closing Kenya’s Case File for L. Elementaita • Development of a Biennial Program of Work with budgets for implementation of AEWA including on monitoring of waterbirds and development of species-specific Recovery and conservation Action Plans (SSAP)to include species such as Lesser and Greater Flamingoes, and Multiple -Species Action Plans (MSaP) including for bird species not necessarily under the AEWA
Botswana	There have been meetings that have been conducted to facilitate the National Wildlife Poisoning protocols which deal with all wildlife poisoning at all levels.

7. Any other relevant information

Attach the report developed for the TC to this report for additional information

- New or major ongoing research and monitoring activities on waterbirds and waterbird habitats.

Reporting Party	Progress
Mauritius	Restoration and conservation activities have been undertaken to improve the habitat of migratory waterbirds at the Rivulet Terre Rouge Estuary Bird Sanctuary, which is a Ramsar site of international importance.
Reporting Party	Progress
Mauritius	A monitoring strategy has been set up for the Southeast Islets following the MV Wakashio event. Monitoring includes parameters with regards to seabirds, migratory birds, and their habitat.