



## AEWA Strategic Plan 2009 - 2017

Agreement on the Conservation of  
African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)



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## Strategic Plan 2009-2017

Adopted by the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA  
in September 2008



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## 1. Introduction

This document presents the first Strategic Plan for the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, based on a draft prepared by Gwen van Boven, SPAN Consultants. The Strategic Plan aims at providing the context for implementation of the Agreement, putting forward a medium-term perspective, by setting the overall goal, the objectives and targets for a period of nine years.

AEWA aims to contribute to global biodiversity conservation by furthering migratory waterbird conservation at flyway level. As such, the Strategic Plan is intended to provide coherent and strategic guidance to the Contracting Parties to AEWA and other stakeholders in their endeavours to act effectively both nationally and regionally whilst cooperating internationally along the flyways. The Strategic Plan will further provide guidance to the AEWA governing bodies (the Meeting of the Parties, the Standing Committee and the Technical Committee) and to the Secretariat.

## 2. Background

At the 8th Conference of Parties in Nairobi in November 2005, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) presented a Strategic Plan for 2006-2011. This plan sets the role of CMS and the challenges it faces; it identifies a vision and goal and formulates four objectives to achieve this goal. As an operational guide to Convention implementation, the Strategic Plan then takes the form of a Logical Framework in which activities, including targets and milestones, are established.

In chapter 5.3 of its Strategic Plan, the CMS encourages all daughter instruments, amongst others, “... to develop their own strategic or implementation plans linked, as far as possible, to the Convention’s Strategic Plan through a system of cascading logical frameworks, which shows how their work contributes to the attainment of CMS objectives and targets”.

## 3. AEWA

The African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) is a stand-alone Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) which was developed in the framework of CMS<sup>1</sup> and concluded on 16 June 1995 in the Hague, the Netherlands. AEWA is the main tool to implement CMS in the African-Eurasian region with regard to waterbirds. This is the largest legal flyway conservation instrument established globally so far (*Figure 1*). The Agreement has developed rapidly since it entered into force in 1999. The call for strategic guidance and priority setting has been growing equally strongly with the growth of the number of Parties, activities and implementation priorities.

In line with this call, at the third session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) in Dakar in 2005, the Contracting Parties decided to develop a Strategic Plan for AEWA, as laid down in Resolution 3.9, which is aimed at providing AEWA with the operational instrument to the Agreement that strategically and practically fits the AEWA implementation in the coming years.

As mentioned above, the basis and starting point for the AEWA Strategic Plan is the CMS Strategic Plan, which it supplements. It will elaborate on the CMS Strategic Plan, and will provide specific detail on the implementation of waterbird conservation along the African-Eurasian Flyways. Cooperation with the CMS will be intrinsic to this implementation at all times.

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<sup>1</sup> AEWA was developed in accordance with Article IV of CMS. AEWA constitutes part of the CMS family of international agreements and is a separate independently-functioning MEA.

## 4. Approach

Many of the CMS Parties, which have been involved in drafting the CMS Strategic Plan, are also Contracting Parties to AEWA. During that process, considerable strategic thinking was undertaken, which also fits the AEWA Strategic Plan. It is therefore expected that the Parties will support the development of a Strategic Plan for AEWA along similar lines to the CMS Strategic Plan, in terms of format. In addition, the AEWA Strategic Plan formulates the Agreement’s specific objectives and targets to reflect AEWA’s distinct identity and role.

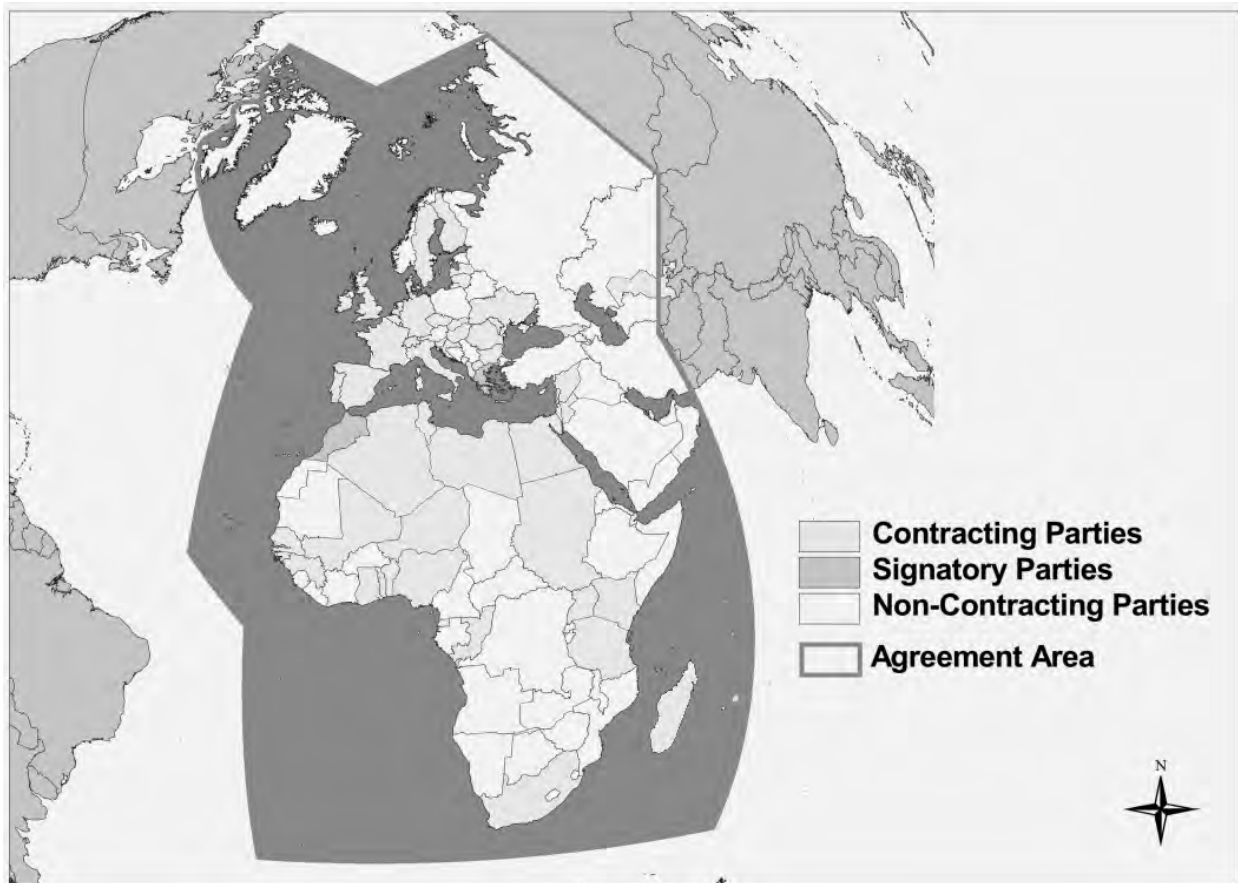


Figure 1. Geographical scope of AEWA (Contracting Parties as of August 2008)

## 5. Duration

This Strategic Plan was developed for and adopted by MOP4 in 2008. It is valid for a period of nine years, from 2009 – 2017. In 2017, a new Strategic Plan will be prepared for consideration by the parties at MOP7. This Strategic Plan could be reviewed and amended at each MOP if deemed necessary (please see chapter 6.9. Evaluation & Review on page 10).

## **6. The AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017**

### **6.1 Scope**

The AEWA Strategic Plan is intended to provide the coherent and strategic framework for implementation of the Agreement by its constituents: the Contracting Parties, its governing bodies (the Standing Committee and the Technical Committee), its Secretariat and the partners to the Agreement. It is structured along the format of a hierarchical logical framework.

### **6.2 Vision**

*All countries along the African-Eurasian Flyways share viable waterbird populations, and people throughout the region understand, respect, facilitate and sustain the phenomenon of their migration.*

Waterbirds are a shared resource, and their conservation requires a shared responsibility towards sustainable management of the different species, their populations and their flyways. This long-term vision reflects the philosophy of AEWA that waterbird conservation and people should go hand in hand, thus contributing to the conservation of global biodiversity.

### **6.3 Goal**

*To maintain or to restore migratory waterbird species and their populations at a favourable conservation status throughout their flyways.*

At the core of flyway conservation is collaboration and cooperation between stakeholders along these flyways, both within countries as well as internationally. AEWA facilitates this cooperation at all levels, stimulating Parties to contribute effectively to international conservation, for instance through improved national practices, international collaboration, and joint activities.

### **6.4 Structure**

The Action Plan of the Agreement (Annex 3), is organised along the following headings: A) Species Conservation, B) Habitat Conservation, C) Management of Human Activities, D) Research & Monitoring, E) Education & Information, and F) Implementation. These Action Plan headings form the basis for AEWA's objectives as defined in the Strategic Plan, as shown in Figure 2.

The first three objectives refer to professional and technical competences combined within AEWA, and its role related to conservation interventions, sustainable use and knowledge development and management. The fourth and fifth objectives are directed towards AEWA's facilitating role, aimed at improving awareness and understanding, as well as improving international cooperation and increasing capacity towards the Agreement's functioning.

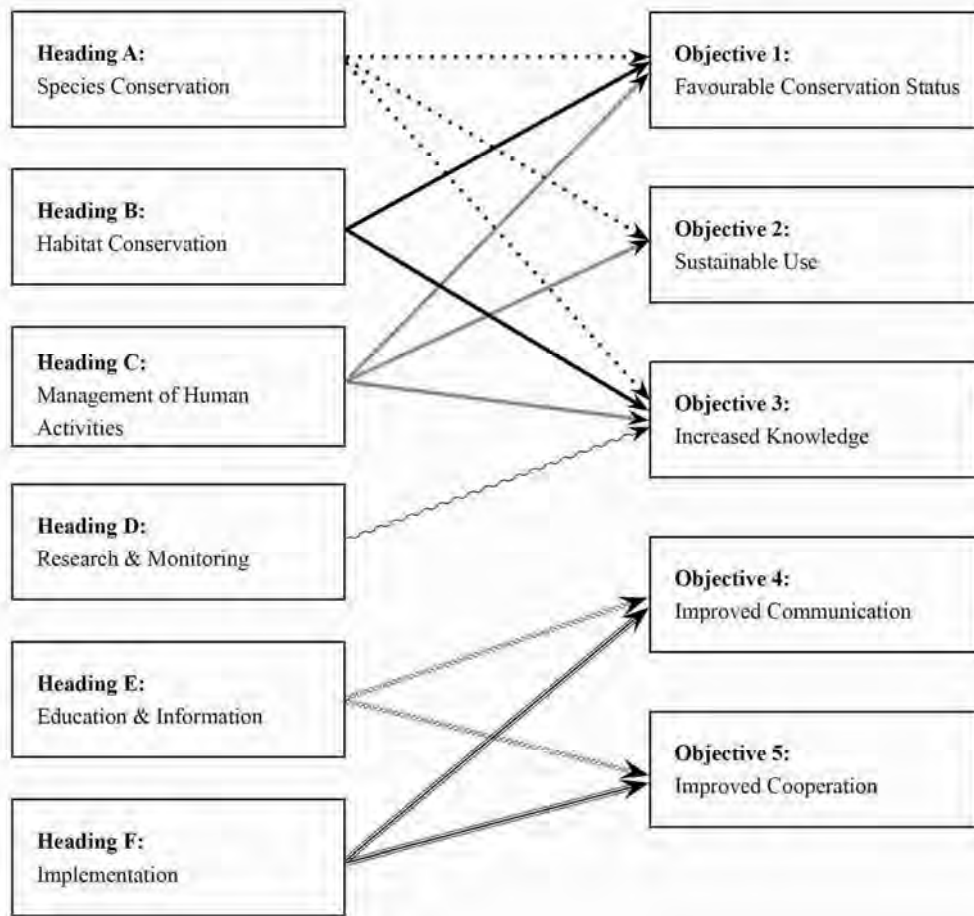


Figure 2. AEWA Action Plan headings versus Strategic Plan Objectives

Within the Strategic Plan’s Logical Framework, the targets have been aligned to fit the National Reporting Format, so that progress on the implementation towards meeting these targets can be verified with the National Reports, which are included, where appropriate, in the Logical Framework Table as means of verification..

### 6.5 Targets and Indicators

To achieve each objective, a series of targets has been set. With the help of quantifiable indicators, the success of these targets can be measured at certain moments in time. The sources of these indicators have also been identified, and have been reflected in the table as ‘means of verification’.

## **6.6 Objectives**

The objectives read as follows (to once more reflect consistency with the Agreement text, the Action Plan (AP) headings indicated in Annex 3 (and in Figure 2) are indicated between brackets):

### **6.6.1 Objective 1**

**To undertake conservation measures so as to improve or maintain the conservation status of waterbird species and their populations (AP Headings: A, B, C)**

This objective concentrates on the core business of AEWA: ensuring a favorable conservation status of waterbird species and their populations. This will be achieved when the overall conservation status of waterbird species throughout the AEWA range improves. The desired result behind this objective is that by 2017, across the AEWA region, the number of waterbird species with a growing or stable population is larger than the number of waterbird species with a declining population. Five concrete targets have been formulated that will help achieve this objective:

- 1.1 Full legal protection is provided to all Column A species;
- 1.2 A comprehensive and coherent flyway network of protected and managed sites and other adequately managed sites, of international and national importance for waterbirds is established and maintained, while taking into account the existing networks and climate change;
- 1.3 Environmental Impact Assessment & Strategic Environmental Assessments are used to reduce the impact of new developments on waterbird species and populations;
- 1.4 Single Species Action Plans (SSAPs) are developed and implemented for most threatened species listed in category 1 and categories 2 and 3 marked with an asterisk on column A of Table 1;
- 1.5 Waterbirds are considered thoroughly in the context of the delivery of National Action Plans on non-native species by other international fora, such as CBD, Bern Convention, and GISP.

### **6.6.2 Objective 2**

**To ensure that any use of waterbirds in the Agreement area is sustainable (AP Headings A, C)**

Successfully tackling the issue of unsustainable use of waterbirds is a key prerequisite for achieving the goal of this strategic plan. The desired result under this objective is that by 2017, across the AEWA region, a number of unsustainable practices will be eliminated, while facilitating processes will be introduced and implemented. Five targets have been set to this effect:

- 2.1 The use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands is phased out in all Contracting Parties;
- 2.2 Internationally coordinated collection of harvest data is developed and implemented;
- 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;
- 2.4 Best practice codes and standards, such as bird identification, are developed and promoted, in order to achieve proper enforcement of legally binding provisions;
- 2.5 Adaptive harvest management<sup>2</sup> of quarry populations is ensured at international scale.

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<sup>2</sup> Adaptive Harvest Management is the periodic process of setting hunting regulations based on a system of population and habitat monitoring, harvest level recording, data analysis and defining regulatory options.

### **6.6.3 Objective 3**

#### **To increase knowledge about species and their populations, flyways and threats to them as a basis for conservation action (AP Headings: A, B, C, D)**

The availability of good scientific knowledge, as well as traditional, locally available knowledge, is a prerequisite to achieving AEWA's overall goal. The desired result is that by 2017, or if possible earlier, sufficient knowledge is available and accessible on species and their populations, their flyways, threats to them and successful conservation measures. To facilitate further sharing, generation and improvement of knowledge, specially related to appropriate research and monitoring, the following five targets have been formulated:

- 3.1 Necessary resources are in place to support the international processes for gathering monitoring data for status assessment on a long-term basis;
- 3.2 Capacity of national monitoring systems to assess the status of the waterbirds is established, maintained and further developed;
- 3.3 Nationally responsible state agencies, academic and other wildlife related research institutions are encouraged to establish research programmes to support implementation of waterbird conservation priorities;
- 3.4 Best practices, including, in particular, traditional knowledge for waterbird conservation programmes, are collated and incorporated;
- 3.5 Sharing and accessibility of relevant data and information are enhanced so as to underpin relevant conservation decision-making.

### **6.6.4 Objective 4**

#### **To improve Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) about migratory waterbird species, their flyways, their role in alleviating poverty, threats to them and the need for measures to conserve them and their habitats (AP Headings: E, F)**

Within the past three years, the AEWA has developed a communication strategy that provides the framework for communication-related work of the Agreement. It is desired that targeted audiences, as specified in the AEWA Communication Strategy, are better informed about migratory waterbird species, their populations and flyways; are aware of threats to them and understand and support the need for their conservation. The three specific targets that have been formulated reflect the communication strategy's intentions and aim to secure its implementation and updating as follows:

- 4.1 Support for the implementation of the Communication Strategy (CS) is secured;
- 4.2 The AEWA Communication Strategy is implemented;
- 4.3 Awareness and understanding of waterbird conservation issues in general, and, of AEWA in particular, are increased at all levels within the Contracting Parties.

### **6.6.5 Objective 5**

#### **To improve the capacity of Range States and international cooperation and capacity towards the conservation of migratory waterbird species and their flyways (AP Headings: E, F)**

Cooperation – within the Contracting Parties, as well as between them internationally - is at the core of flyway conservation. There is a need to improve cooperation and increase AEWA's capacity to do that

with the aim of achieving, notably through the strengthening of AEWA's facilitation role and increasing its capacity, a more streamlined implementation of the Agreement at national level and better cooperation at the international level by 2017. The following eight specific targets have been designed to achieve results at all levels:

- 5.1 The membership of the Agreement is expanded;
- 5.2 Sufficient funding for the implementation of the SP is raised from different sources;
- 5.3 Cooperation with other MEAs and key partners is enhanced;
- 5.4 The Small Grants Fund (SGF)<sup>3</sup> is activated;
- 5.5 The rate of submission of National Reports is increased;
- 5.6 Capacity of national staff to implement the Agreement is increased through proper training mechanisms;
- 5.7 Appropriate national coordination mechanisms for implementation of AEWA linking to national coordination mechanisms for other biodiversity MEAs are established;
- 5.8 AEWA is recognized by other biodiversity MEAs as an MEA whose effectiveness in protecting waterbirds can be used as an indicator for sustaining biodiversity on a global level.

## **6.7 Operational principles (OP)**

Reflecting the interlinkages of AEWA, its sister agreements and its mother convention CMS and their common fundamental working philosophy, several cross-cutting issues have been identified, which, in the pursuit of implementing the Strategic Plan, will be adopted and applied as Operational Principles in all activities where appropriate:

- OP 1: The Strategic Plan is the guiding document for the implementation of the Agreement; linking the Agreement Text and Action Plan with implementation.
- OP 2: To respect the general principles of the United Nations throughout all phases of implementation.
- OP 3: To cooperate closely with relevant multilateral environmental agreements and key partners, harmonizing initiatives wherever possible, in particular with CMS and its other agreements.
- OP 4: To foster awareness of the concept of sustainable use, and the positive role of migratory waterbirds on livelihoods of communities along their flyways.
- OP 5: To increase the ability of all Parties, and, in particular, developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan.
- OP 6: To stimulate Parties to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement the Agreement.
- OP 7: To strive to attract matching funding for project activities.
- OP 8: To strive, at all times, to make the most efficient use of the limited available financial and human resources.
- OP 9: To ensure the Strategic Plan contributes to the conservation of global diversity by aiming at the conservation of migratory waterbirds in the African-Eurasian region.
- OP 10: To seize and promote opportunities for capacity building at all levels throughout the Agreement area.

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<sup>3</sup> The 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA in its Resolution 1.7 decided on the establishment of an AEWA Conservation Small Grants Fund to facilitate the implementation of the Agreement similarly to the Ramsar Small Grants Fund for Wetland Conservation and Wise Use. At the time of MOP4 (September 2008), this Fund had not become operational; however it still represents a major potential for providing valuable resources to eligible countries to implement provisions of AEWA.

## **6.8 Implementation & Finances**

This Strategic Plan is aimed at optimising the implementation of the AEWA in a realistic way, and in line with the internally set Operational Principles as outlined above. Implementation can be ensured only when the appropriate means, both financial and in terms of human capacity, are made available at the level of the Secretariat, as well as in the Contracting Parties themselves and among the partners of the Agreement. In this respect, special reference is made to Objective 5 of this Strategic Plan.

## **6.9 Evaluation & Review**

Evaluation of performance, achievements and impact is intrinsically linked to coherent and strategic implementation of the Agreement, and therefore to its Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan may be reviewed by each MOP if deemed necessary, in order to reflect updates on progress made at target and indicator level. However, this Strategic Plan is meant to provide a long-term perspective on AEWA functioning, which should be reflected in its validity throughout its period.

The Strategic Plan and the newly developed National Reporting Format have been designed so as to feed into each other, enabling easy reporting as well as monitoring of progress with achieving the targets set in the Strategic Plan. The Contracting Parties, and other main stakeholders, are requested to develop their own Work Plans to ensure implementation of this Strategic Plan at their level.

In addition, it is recommended that a Secretariat Work Plan be prepared to accompany the Strategic Plan. This Secretariat Work Plan will link the targets set in the Strategic Plan to clear, measurable activities, including timing, budget, responsible persons, etc. It will also provide coherence with the International Implementation Tasks that have been set by the Agreement. The Secretariat Work Plan may then be regularly revised as the MOP deems it necessary, while the Strategic Plan continues to provide the long-term context within which AEWA operates.

Amendments to the Strategic Plan could be approved by any MOP. Proposed amendments can be considered, as long as they are communicated to the AEWA Secretariat no later than 150 days prior to the MOP, thus being linked to the deadline for the submission of proposals for amendments to the Agreement.

## 7. Logical Framework Table

### AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017

	<b>Targets</b> <i>(Targets to be achieved by 2017)</i>	<b>Indicators</b> <i>(Quantifiable measures of achievement)</i>	<b>Means of Verification</b> <i>(Sources of information for indicators)</i>	<b>Main Actors</b>
<b>Vision</b>				
<b>All countries along the African-Eurasian Flyways share viable waterbird populations and people throughout the region understand, respect, facilitate and sustain the phenomenon of their migration</b>				
<b>Goal</b> To maintain or to restore migratory waterbird species and their populations at a favourable conservation status throughout their flyways		<b>At the Agreement level, within the period of this SP:</b>  No AEW A waterbird population has become extinct in the Agreement area  All AEW A waterbird populations at a favourable conservation status at the time of MOP4 (September 2008) have retained that status  At least 75% <sup>4</sup> of the AEW A waterbird populations show a positive trend (growing or stable)	Conservation Status Review (CSR) AEWA Table 1 IUCN Red List	

<sup>4</sup> The AEW A Conservation Status Review 4 (2008) assessed that 58% of the populations with known trends (n=370) have stable or growing trends. 29% of all AEW A populations (n=522) are with unknown trends and 41% of all populations are either stable or growing.

	<b>Targets</b> <i>(Targets to be achieved by 2017)</i>	<b>Indicators</b> <i>(Quantifiable measures of achievement)</i>	<b>Means of Verification</b> <i>(Sources of information for indicators)</i>	<b>Main Actors</b>
		<p>Overall status of indicator species has improved, as measured by the Waterbird Indicator</p> <p>Overall extinction risk of waterbirds has reduced, as measured by the Red List Index</p> <p>20% of threatened and Near Threatened species have been downlisted to lower categories of threat</p> <p>Fewer populations to be listed in Category 1 in Column A (20% reduction)</p> <p>Fewer populations to be listed in Column A (5% reduction)</p>		
		<p><b>At the National level, within the period of this SP:</b></p> <p>No AEWA waterbird population has gone extinct as a breeding, migrating, or wintering (whichever is</p>	<p>National reports (<i>Species matrix – species status, national red listing status</i>)</p>	

	<b>Targets</b> (Targets to be achieved by 2017)	<b>Indicators</b> (Quantifiable measures of achievement)	<b>Means of Verification</b> (Sources of information for indicators)	<b>Main Actors</b>
		<p>applicable) species in any CPs territory</p> <p>Current favourable status of AEWA waterbirds, as breeding, migrating or wintering species, within any CPs has been retained</p> <p>At least 75% of AEWA waterbird species occurring in any CP have a positive trend (stable or growing)</p> <p>20% of threatened and Near Threatened species have been downlisted to lower categories of threat in each CP</p>		
<p><b>Objective 1</b></p> <p>To undertake conservation measures so as to improve or maintain conservation status of waterbird species and their populations</p>	<p>1.1 Full legal protection is provided to all Column A species</p>	<p>All CPs have adopted national legislation protecting all Column A species</p>	<p>National reports (<b>Species matrix – legal status</b>)</p>	<p>CPs</p>

	<b>Targets</b> <i>(Targets to be achieved by 2017)</i>	<b>Indicators</b> <i>(Quantifiable measures of achievement)</i>	<b>Means of Verification</b> <i>(Sources of information for indicators)</i>	<b>Main Actors</b>
	1.2 A comprehensive and coherent flyway network of protected and managed sites, and other adequately managed sites, of international and national importance for waterbirds is established and maintained, while taking into account the existing networks and climate change	All CPs are in place and maintain comprehensive national networks of sustainably-managed, protected, and other managed areas, that form a coherent flyway site network, which aims to be resilient to the effects of climate change	National reports <b>(Pressures and responses – 5. Habitat conservation, 5.1. Habitat inventories, 5.2. Conservation of areas, questions 13 and 15)</b>	CPs
	1.3 Environmental Impact Assessment & Strategic Environmental Assessments are used to reduce the impact of new development on waterbird species and populations	All CPs use EIA/SEA to reduce the impact on waterbirds	National reports <b>(Pressures and responses – 6. Management of human activities, 6.2. Other human activities, questions 21 and 22)</b>	CPs
	1.4 Single Species Action Plans (SSAPs) are developed and implemented for most threatened species listed in category 1 and categories 2 and 3, marked with an asterisk on column A of Table 1	SSAPs are in place and being effectively implemented for all globally threatened species and species marked with an asterisk	National reports <b>(Pressures and responses – 4. Species conservation, 4.2. SSAPs, questions 2 and 3)</b>  AEWA review on the stage of preparation and implementation of SSAPs	CPs, Secretariat
	1.5 Waterbirds are considered thoroughly in the context of the delivery of National	CPs have incorporated, as part of National Action Plans on non-native species,	National reports <b>(Pressures and responses – 4. Species conservation, 4.5. Introductions,</b>	CPs

	<b>Targets</b> <i>(Targets to be achieved by 2017)</i>	<b>Indicators</b> <i>(Quantifiable measures of achievement)</i>	<b>Means of Verification</b> <i>(Sources of information for indicators)</i>	<b>Main Actors</b>
<b>Objective 2</b> To ensure that any use of waterbirds in the Agreement area is sustainable	Action Plans on non-native species by other international fora, such as CBD, Bern Convention, and GISP	specific measures for invasive non-native species of waterbirds and are implementing them in order to ensure their control or eradication	<b>questions 9-11)</b> AEWA review on the status of introduced non-native waterbird species and hybrids thereof	
	2.1 The use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands is phased out in all CPs	All CPs have adopted national legislation prohibiting the use of lead shot (in wetlands)  No authenticated report of continued use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands in the Agreement area is received by the Secretariat	National reports ( <b>Pressures and responses – 6. Management of human activities, 6.1. Hunting, question 18)</b>  AEWA review on the use of lead shot	CPs Hunters' organizations Hunters
	2.2 Internationally coordinated collection of harvest data is developed and implemented	Internationally coordinated harvest data collection in place involving at least 25% of the CPs	National reports ( <b>Pressures and responses – 6. Management of human activities, 6.1. Hunting, question 17)</b>  AEWA review on pertinent hunting and trade legislation	CPs FACE and other hunters' organizations

	<b>Targets</b> (Targets to be achieved by 2017)	<b>Indicators</b> (Quantifiable measures of achievement)	<b>Means of Verification</b> (Sources of information for indicators)	<b>Main Actors</b>
	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	All CPs have pertinent legislation in place which is being fully enforced	National reports ( <b>Pressures and responses – 6. Management of human activities, 6.1. Hunting, question 19</b> )  AEWA review on pertinent hunting and trade legislation	CPs Hunters' organizations
	2.4 Best practice codes and standards, such as bird identification, are developed and prompted, in order to achieve proper enforcement of legally binding provisions	50% of CPs are effectively enforcing legally binding best practice standards	AEWA review on pertinent hunting and trade legislation	CPs Hunters' organizations
	2.5 Adaptive harvest management of quarry populations is ensured at international scale	International harvest management plans (IHMP) for two quarry populations developed and implemented	Review on implementation of IHMP	CPs, Secretariat, Hunters' organizations
<b>Objective 3</b>	To increase knowledge about species and their populations, flyways and threats to them, as a basis for conservation action			
	3.1 Necessary resources are in place to support the international processes for gathering monitoring data for status assessment, on a long-term basis.	Timely production of annual IWC summary report and the AEW A CSR and global <i>Waterbird Population Estimates</i>	Reports by Wetlands International	CPs and other donors, Secretariat, Wetlands International

	<b>Targets</b> (Targets to be achieved by 2017)	<b>Indicators</b> (Quantifiable measures of achievement)	<b>Means of Verification</b> (Sources of information for indicators)	<b>Main Actors</b>
		50% increase of species/populations whose international status is being assessed with regular monitoring data	CSR	
	3.2 Capacity of national monitoring systems to assess the status of the waterbirds is established, maintained and further developed	Half of CPs have year-round (as appropriate) monitoring systems in place	National reports ( <b>Pressures and responses – 7. Research and monitoring, question 25</b> )	CPs
	3.3 Nationally responsible state agencies, academic and other wildlife-related research institutions are encouraged to establish research programmes to support implementation of waterbird conservation priorities	Ten new AEWA-linked research programmes are established	National reports ( <b>Pressures and responses – 7. Research and monitoring, question 27</b> )  Secretariat report to MOP	CPs, Secretariat
	3.4 Best practices, including traditional knowledge, for waterbird conservation programmes are collated and incorporated	50 best practices collated and published at <a href="http://www.conservationevidence.com">www.conservationevidence.com</a> <sup>5</sup>	<a href="http://www.conservationevidence.com">www.conservationevidence.com</a>	CPs, NGOs Hunters' organisations
	3.5 Sharing and accessibility of relevant data and information are enhanced so as to	Web-based list of research related to waterbirds and their conservation in each CP per	National reports ( <b>Pressures and responses – 7. Research and monitoring, question 27</b> )	CPs

<sup>5</sup> Conservation Evidence is an online peer-reviewed journal and a web pool of previously published papers or reports that document the effectiveness of conservation management interventions.

	<b>Targets</b> (Targets to be achieved by 2017)	<b>Indicators</b> (Quantifiable measures of achievement)	<b>Means of Verification</b> (Sources of information for indicators)	<b>Main Actors</b>
<b>Objective 4</b> To improve Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) about migratory waterbird species, their flyways, their role in alleviating poverty, threats to them and the measures needed to conserve them and their habitats	underpin relevant conservation decision-making	triennium		
	4.1 Support for the implementation of the Communication Strategy (CS) is secured	100% funding and other support, as appropriate (e.g. expertise, network, skills and resources), is secured for the Communication Strategy implementation	Secretariat reports	CPs, other donors
	4.2 The AEWA Communication Strategy is implemented	The Communication Strategy has been monitored annually and reviewed and updated on a tri-annual basis	Implementation progress reports The strategy document	Secretariat

	Targets (Targets to be achieved by 2017)	Indicators (Quantifiable measures of achievement)	Means of Verification (Sources of information for indicators)	Main Actors
		<p>At least one Training of Trainers workshop for CEPA has been held in each AEWA region (CS 3.1)<sup>6</sup></p> <p>In at least three AEWA regions, follow-up trainings for CEPA at the national level have been conducted by the people trained under target 3.3 (CS 3.2)</p> <p>Regional Centres for the exchange of information on AEWA have been established in all regions (CS 2.2)</p> <p>The AEWA website has been improved and maintained, and in particular made more interactive (CS 4.1)</p> <p>The AEWA newsletter is being published regularly, and twice yearly in hard copy</p>	<p>Training workshop report Training toolkit/manual</p> <p>National reports (<b>Pressures and responses – 8. Education and information, 8.1. AEWA Communication Strategy, question 32</b>)</p> <p>Training workshop reports Training toolkit/manual</p> <p>Centre launch events Assessment reports</p> <p>The website Users feedback</p> <p>The newsletters (paper version and e-news) Secretariat report</p>	<p>Secretariat</p> <p>CPs</p> <p>Secretariat, CPs</p> <p>Secretariat</p> <p>Secretariat</p> <p>Secretariat</p> <p>Secretariat</p>

<sup>6</sup> Between brackets and, where appropriate, the targets are linked to the Communication Strategy (CS), the number given reflects the respective activity in the Communication Strategy; the Communication Strategy is available online at: [http://www.unep-aewa.org/documents/communication\\_strategy/index.htm](http://www.unep-aewa.org/documents/communication_strategy/index.htm).

	<b>Targets</b> (Targets to be achieved by 2017)	<b>Indicators</b> (Quantifiable measures of achievement)	<b>Means of Verification</b> (Sources of information for indicators)	<b>Main Actors</b>
		<p>supported by monthly electronic updates (CS 4.2)</p> <p>The infrastructure for e-discussions is in place and the discussions facilitated (CS 4.3)</p> <p>Guidelines for Accession have been updated and distributed to all non-CPs (CS 4.4)</p> <p>A flexible toolkit is produced, and distributed, providing a set of resource materials for awareness raising at the national level (CS 4.5)</p>	<p>The e-forum</p> <p>Secretariat reports</p> <p>The guidelines</p> <p>Distribution list</p> <p>Secretariat report</p> <p>The toolkit</p> <p>Distribution list</p> <p>Secretariat report</p>	<p>Secretariat</p> <p>Secretariat</p> <p>Secretariat</p>
	<p>4.3 Awareness and understanding of waterbird conservation issues in general and of AEWA in particular are increased at all levels within the CPs</p>	<p>At least 25% of CPs have developed and are implementing programmes for raising awareness and understanding on waterbird conservation and AEWA</p>	<p>National reports (<b>Pressures and responses – 8. Education and information, 8.1. AEWA Communication Strategy, question 29</b>)</p>	<p>CPs</p>
<p><b>Objective 5</b></p> <p>To improve the capacity of Range States and international cooperation and capacity towards the</p>				

	<b>Targets</b> <i>(Targets to be achieved by 2017)</i>	<b>Indicators</b> <i>(Quantifiable measures of achievement)</i>	<b>Means of Verification</b> <i>(Sources of information for indicators)</i>	<b>Main Actors</b>
conservation of migratory waterbird species and their flyways				
	5.1 The membership of the Agreement is expanded	AEWA Membership has increased to 75 Parties by MOP5, to 85 Parties by MOP6, and to 90 Parties by MOP7, with particular focus on Central Asia and the Middle East	Depository report	Secretariat, CPs
	5.2 Sufficient funding for the implementation of the SP is raised from different sources	Full funding is raised	Secretariat report	CPs Other donors
	5.3 Cooperation with other MEAs and key partners is enhanced	At least 5 new MoU/MoC between AEWA and other MEA's and key partners are established	MoU/MoC	Secretariat
	5.4 The Small Grants Fund (SGF) is activated	At least 100,000 EUR annually is disbursed to developing countries for implementation of AEWA	SGF reports Secretariat reports	CPs, Secretariat
	5.5 The rate of submission of National Reports is increased	All Contracting Parties regularly provide complete national reports	National report synthesis	CPs

	<b>Targets</b> <i>(Targets to be achieved by 2017)</i>	<b>Indicators</b> <i>(Quantifiable measures of achievement)</i>	<b>Means of Verification</b> <i>(Sources of information for indicators)</i>	<b>Main Actors</b>
	5.6 Capacity of national staff to implement the Agreement is increased through proper training mechanisms	At least 30 governmental staff members have been trained in at least 20 countries	Training reports	Secretariat
	5.7 Appropriate national coordination mechanism for implementation of AEWAs linking to national coordination mechanisms for other biodiversity MEAs are established	In at least 50% of the Contracting Parties AEWAs national coordination mechanisms have been established and are operational on regular basis	National reports ( <b>Pressures and responses – 9. Implementation, question 36</b> )	CPs
	5.8 AEWAs are recognized by other biodiversity MEAs as an MEA whose effectiveness in protecting waterbirds can be used as an indicator for sustaining biodiversity on a global level	All global biodiversity MEAs are referring to the effectiveness of AEWAs as an indicator for sustaining biodiversity on a global level	Secretariat reports of other biodiversity MEAs  Other biodiversity MEAs' resolutions	AEWAs and other biodiversity MEAs

## **8. Definitions**

### **Column A species/populations**

Waterbird species, whose populations are listed on Column A of Table 1 of Annex 3 to AEWA

### **Column B species/populations**

Waterbird species, whose populations are listed on Column B of Table 1 of Annex 3 to AEWA

### **Column C species/populations**

Waterbird species, whose populations are listed on Column C of Table 1 of Annex 3 to AEWA

### **Favourable Conservation Status**

As described in Article 1 of the CMS:

"Conservation status" will be taken as "favourable" when:

- (1) population dynamics data indicate that the migratory species is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its ecosystems;
- (2) the range of the migratory species is neither currently being reduced, nor is likely to be reduced, on a long-term basis;
- (3) there is, and will be in the foreseeable future sufficient habitat to maintain the population of the migratory species on a long-term basis; and
- (4) the distribution and abundance of the migratory species approach historic coverage and levels to the extent that potentially suitable ecosystems exist and to the extent consistent with wise wildlife management.

### **Flyway**

Waterbird flyways are biological systems of migration paths that directly link sites and ecosystems in different countries and continents on which populations of migratory waterbird species depend.

### **Unsustainable use**

Any use, which alone or in combination with others, leads or has the potential to lead to a species/population not being able to maintain its favourable conservation status.

## **9. List of Acronyms**

AEWA	Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds
AP	Action Plan (AEWA)
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEPA	Communication, Education and Public Awareness
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
COP	Conference of the Parties
CP	Contracting Party
CS	Communication Strategy
CSR	Conservation Status Review
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
GISP	Global Invasive Species Programme
IHM	International Harvest Management Plan (for quarry populations/species)
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
IWC	International Waterfowl Census
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MoC	Memorandum of Cooperation
MOP	Meeting of the Parties
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
OP	Operational Principles
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SGF	Small Grants Fund
SP	Strategic Plan
SSAP	Single Species Action Plan
StC	Standing Committee
TC	Technical Committee





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