



4th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES
15 – 19 September 2008, Antananarivo, Madagascar

“Flyway Conservation at Work – Review of the Past, Vision for the Future”

**SYNTHESIS OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BY AEWA PARTIES AND
SIGNATORIES THROUGH NATIONAL REPORTS ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT FOR
THE TRIENNIUM 2006-2008**

Prepared by the Secretariat

AEWA Contracting Parties (as of 1 August 2008) (59; 49% of all range states)

Africa (24; 44% of the African range states): Algeria, Benin, Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda

Eurasia (35; 54% of the Eurasian range states): Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, the European Community*, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia the FYR, Moldova, Monaco, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan

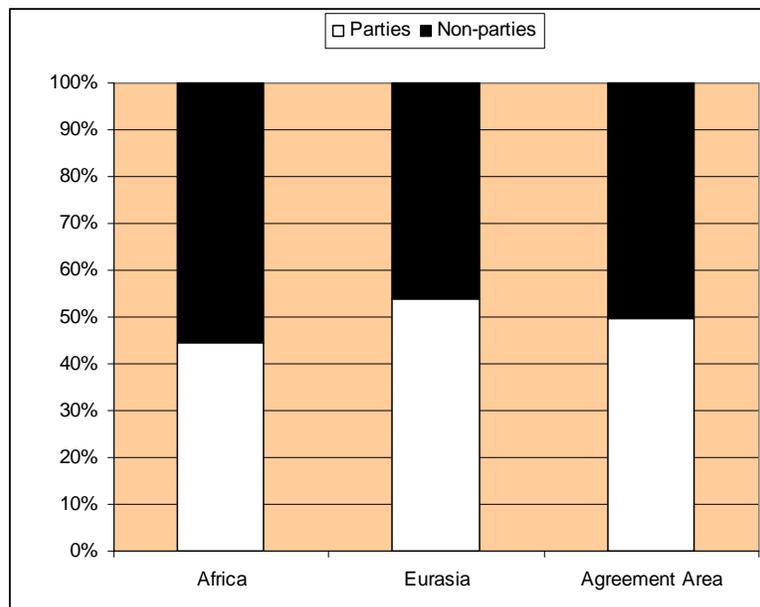


Figure 1. Proportion of Contracting Parties against Non-Contracting Parties (n=54 for Africa; n=65 for Eurasia; n=119 for the Agreement Area)

* Due to the reporting of the individual EU Member States, the European Commission was not required to report on behalf of the European Community

AEWA Parties that have provided National Reports (as of 22 August 2008) (37; 64% of due reports)

Africa (12; 50% of due reports): Algeria, Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia

Eurasia (25; 74% of due reports): Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Macedonia the FYR, Moldova, the Netherlands, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan

AEWA Parties that have provided National Reports after 22 August 2008 and which were not included in this synthesis (1; 2% of due reports)

Africa (1; 4% of due reports): Togo

AEWA Parties that have not provided National Reports (as of 22 August 2008) (20; 34% of due reports) (the parties which have not provided National Reports to two consecutive Meetings of the Parties are underlined)

Africa (11; 46% of due reports): Benin, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda

Eurasia (9; 26% of due reports): Albania, Finland, Ireland, Jordan, Luxembourg, Monaco, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain

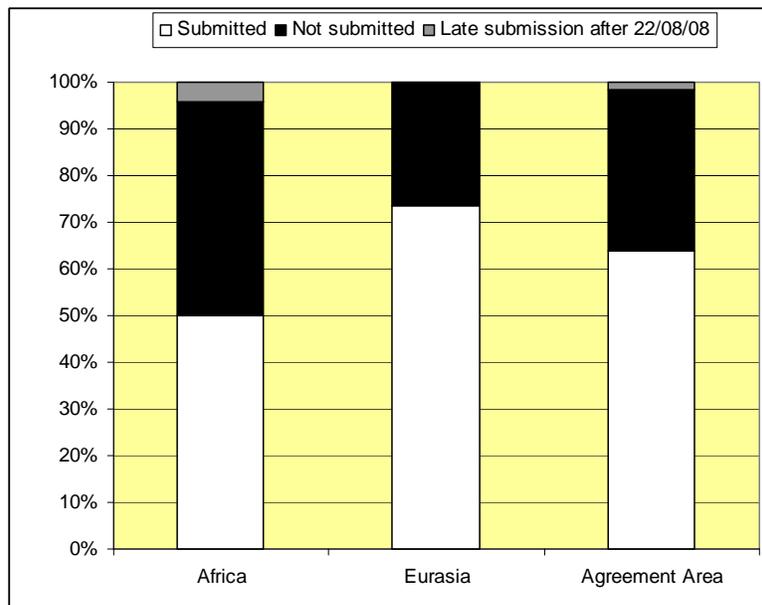


Figure 2. Rate of submission by Contracting Parties of National Reports (n=24 for Africa; n=34 for Eurasia; n=58 for the Agreement Area)

AEWA Signatory States that have provided National Reports (as of 22 August 2008) (1)

Africa (1): Morocco

AEWA Parties as of 1 September 2008 or later that were not required to provide National Reports (3)

Eurasia (3): Cyprus, Estonia, Norway

Introduction

Contracting Parties shall submit National Reports to each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties (not later than one hundred and twenty days before its opening) in the format agreed by MOP1 for national reporting. The deadline for submission of National Reports to the 4th Session of the Meeting of the Parties was 10 May 2008. Very few Contracting Parties submitted their reports by the deadline; therefore the Secretariat issued several reminders and continued to accept submission by the cut off date of 22 August 2008. The current synthesis is based on 37 reports by Contracting Parties and one by a Signatory State: in total 38 reports. The National Report of Togo was not included in this analysis due to late submission after 22 August 2008.

This paper strives to summarise the information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports and to use this summary to draw conclusions and identify priorities for the implementation of the Agreement. Therefore the quality and completeness of this synthesis depends to a great extent on the submission rate of National Reports and the thoroughness and comprehensiveness of the information provided. The current format for national reports does not entirely provide for presenting information in a structured way, which also increased the difficulty of synthesising and analyzing the information. Not all reports contained sufficient comprehensive or adequate information, which was also a clear limitation. Work on this synthesis was confined to the sections of the national reporting format that are easily quantifiable. This paper is based on the Secretariat's interpretation of information provided by Parties and Signatories in their National Reports. If any discrepancies are determined, please inform the Secretariat.

Bearing in mind all the above-mentioned limitations, it should be pointed out that this paper does not provide an in-depth analysis nor does it cover the entire array of implementation of the Agreement by Contracting Parties. Some of the implementation priorities under the Agreement were subject to more detailed surveys and analysis over the current triennium as required by paragraph 7.4 of the AEWa Action Plan or Resolutions and are available as MOP4 documents (see AEWa/MOP 4.7 and 4.9 – 4.12). These international reviews provide a stronger background for prioritisation and decision making.

With the newly suggested upgraded (online) format for national reports some of the current limitations will be overcome and further syntheses will be easier to carry out, which will, in turn, improve their completeness and quality (if certain conditions are fulfilled, such as punctual submission and provision of adequate and comprehensive information).

Summary of Achievements

Specific and general policies and/or legislation are in place in the majority of parties on issues such as (1) protection and conservation of species covered by the Agreement (Table 1, columns A and B) and their supporting important areas, (2) prohibition and regulation of taking of and trade in birds listed in columns A and B of the Action Plan, (3) prohibition or regulation of methods of taking, (4) sustainable hunting of asterisk-marked species listed in column A, (5) prohibition of the introduction of non-native waterbird species, and (6) identification, rehabilitation and restoration of wetlands important for waterbirds. More detailed analyses were prepared, as envisaged by the Action Plan paragraphs 7.4(d) (*International review on pertinent hunting and trade legislation in each country relating to the species listed in Annex 2 to this Agreement*) and 7.4(g) (*International review on the status of introduced non-native waterbird species and hybrids thereof*) and are available as MOP4 documents (AEWA/MOP 4.9 and AEWa/MOP 4.12).

Particularly good progress was noted in the majority of parties and signatories in the production of strategic reviews of sites to develop a national network of important sites or areas for species covered by the Agreement.

Hunting levels have been well covered by monitoring systems throughout the Agreement area.

Environmental Impact Assessments are conducted in nearly all countries for activities that are likely to negatively affect protected areas or areas important for species covered by the Agreement.

Future priorities

The Parties that reported policies and/or legislation missing or under preparation for issues such as (1) protection and conservation of species covered by the Agreement (Table 1, columns A and B) and their supporting important areas, (2) prohibition and regulation of taking of and trade in birds listed in columns A and B of the Action Plan, (3) prohibition or regulation of the methods of taking, (4) setting taking limits for waterbirds and monitoring these limits, (5) sustainable hunting of asterisk-marked species listed in column A, (6) regulation of the exemptions to the provisions set out in paragraphs 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.1.3, (7) the re-establishment of waterbird species, and (8) prohibition of the introduction of non-native waterbird species, should strive to fill gaps in legislation as soon as possible. A more detailed analysis was prepared as envisaged by paragraph 7.4(f) of the Action Plan (*International review on re-establishment projects*) and is available as a MOP4 document (AEWA/MOP 4.11).

In some cases where such policies and legislation are already in place, a lack of effective implementation and enforcement, for various reasons, has been recognized. Parties should strive to make use of the policies and legislation approved by them and provide necessary resources where these are lacking.

Single Species Action Plans (SSAPs) should receive much more attention at all levels, i.e. identification of species in need of SSAPs, preparation of plans and particularly their implementation. A more detailed analysis was prepared as envisaged by paragraph 7.4 (e) of the Action Plan (International review on the stage of preparation and implementation of single species action plans) and is available as a MOP4 document (AEWA/MOP 4.10).

More detailed analysis based on better information should be prepared for MOP5 as envisaged by paragraph 7.4(c) of the Action Plan (*International review on the networks of sites used by each population, including reviews of the protection status of each site as well as of the management measures taken in each site*). At the same time the need for identifying sites in need of management, preparing management plans and implementing them was noted.

Parties should endeavour to standardise, and, where possible, unify the monitoring of hunting levels on a regional or international basis.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), being a fundamental tool for the identification of potentially harmful activities and the prevention of deterioration of conditions in as well as the destruction of sites important for waterbirds, should be developed and implemented in all parties and in all cases where there is any suspicion of potential risk. When applying EIA, high standards should be observed.

Species conservation

Legal measures

National policy/strategy or legislation to protect and conserve species covered by the Agreement (Table 1, columns A and B) and their supporting important areas is in place (question 2.1):

Summary: 11 parties (29%; seven African and four Eurasian) reported that they have developed special policy/strategy or legislation, while in the majority of reporting parties and signatories (63%), protection of waterbirds and their supporting sites is covered by general nature conservation policy/legislation. Two

African countries and one Eurasian country (8%) reported that, in general, they do not have such a legal instrument in place.

Conclusions: National policies or legislation to protect waterbirds and their important sites are in place in nearly all parties and signatories.

Priorities: The small number of parties that reported no policy/legislation in place or being developed should strive to finalize and introduce legal instruments as soon as possible.

Legal measures or practices developed to prohibit or regulate the taking of, and trade in birds listed in columns A and B of Table 1 (where utilization or trade contravenes the provisions set out in paragraphs 2.2.1 (a) and 2.1.2 of the Action Plan) (question 2.2 (a)):

Summary: The majority of reporting parties and signatories (79%; eight African and 22 Eurasian) have fully developed legal measures to prohibit or regulate the taking of and trade in birds listed in columns A and B of the Action Plan. Two parties have partially introduced such legal measures (5%; one African and one Eurasian) and one African country (3%) has no legal measures in place. Three African and two Eurasian countries (13%) did not respond to this question.

Conclusions: Generally the majority of parties and signatories have developed (fully or partially) legal measures and practices to prohibit and regulate the taking of and trade in birds listed in columns A and B of the Action Plan. (See also document AEWA/MOP 4.9)

: Parties and signatories with partial legal measures or practices should review them and consider appropriateness for further development. Countries with no legal measures or practices of this kind in place should develop and introduce them as soon as possible.

Legal measures or practices developed to prohibit or regulate methods of taking (question 2.2 (b)):

Summary: Regarding legal measures or practices to prohibit or regulate methods of taking, the situation is very similar to that described in the previous section. Nearly the same number of parties and signatories have reported legal measures in place (76%; eight African and 21 Eurasian), two countries (5%; one African and one Eurasian) have only partially developed their legal measures and one African country (3%) reported lack of legal measures. For one African country (3%) this issue is not applicable due to the lack of hunting in wetlands, while five countries (13%; three African and two Eurasian) did not reply to this question.

Conclusions: Generally the majority of parties and signatories have either fully or partially developed legislation or practices to prohibit or regulate the methods of taking. (Also see document AEWA/MOP 4.9)

Priorities: Parties and signatories with partial legal measures or practices should review them and consider the appropriateness of further development. Countries with no legal measures or practices of this kind in place should develop and introduce these as soon as possible.

Legal measures or practices developed to regulate the setting of taking limits and monitoring these limits (question 2.2 (c)):

Summary: Only 15 parties and signatories (39%; four African and 11 Eurasian countries) reported that they have fully developed legal measures or practices to regulate the setting of taking limits and monitoring these limits. Another five countries (13%; one African and four Eurasian) reported partial measures or practices in place. A relatively high proportion of countries (21%; one African and four Eurasian) have not developed

any. Nine parties and signatories (24%; four African and five Eurasian) have not provided any information on this question, while for one African country (3%) this issue is not applicable due to the lack of hunting in wetlands.

Conclusions: Legal measures or practices to regulate the setting of taking limits for waterbirds and monitoring these limits are still insufficiently developed and introduced within the Agreement area. (Also see document AEWA/MOP 4.9)

Priorities: Setting taking limits and monitoring them is considered to be a high priority action and over the next triennium parties should provide more resources for developing and enforcing legislation in this respect.

Legal measures or practices developed to regulate the sustainable hunting of species listed in categories 2 and 3 (and marked by an asterisk) in column A only (question 2.2 (d)):

Summary: A high number of reporting parties and signatories (69%; seven African and 19 Eurasian countries) have fully developed legislation to regulate the sustainable hunting of column A asterisk-marked species. For four Eurasian countries and one African country (13%) this question was not applicable, because all species from column A are protected by national legislation and no hunting is allowed. Only one African and one Eurasian country (5%) have no such legal measures in place. Five countries (13%; four African and one Eurasian), did not respond to this question in their National Reports.

Conclusions: The sustainable hunting of asterisk-marked species listed in column A is well covered by legal measures in both African and Eurasian regions with only a few gaps. (See also document AEWA/MOP 4.9)

Priorities: Countries with no such legal measures or practices in place should develop and introduce these as soon as possible, if applicable.

Legal measures or practices developed to regulate the exemptions to the provisions set out in paragraphs 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.1.3 (question 2.2 (e)):

Summary: Only 15 reporting parties and signatories (39%; two African and 13 Eurasian countries) have fully developed and introduced legislation to regulate the exemptions in the above-mentioned paragraphs of the Action Plan and one Eurasian country (3%) has partially developed and introduced such regulation measures. Another 9 countries (24%; four African and five Eurasian) have no legislation in place on this subject. For one African country (3%) this question is not applicable, while a high number of countries (31%; six African and six Eurasian) have not provided information on this issue in their National Reports.

Conclusions: Legislation to regulate the exemptions to the provisions set out in paragraphs 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.1.3 is insufficiently developed within the Agreement area. (See also document AEWA/MOP 4.9)

Priorities: Parties and signatories with partial legal measures or practices should review them and consider the appropriateness of further development. Countries with no such legal measures or practices in place should develop and introduce these as soon as possible.

Single Species Action Plans

Formal International (category 1, species marked with an asterisk) or National (column A) Single Species Action Plans for species listed in Table 1, column A are being implemented (question 2.3 (c)):

Summary: SSAPs for a small number of species (1-2) are being implemented in six reporting parties and signatories (16%; one African and six Eurasian countries). SSAPs for more species (3-5 or 6-10) are being

implemented respectively in seven countries (18%; two African and five Eurasian) and in two Eurasian countries (5%). Only one Eurasian country (3%) invests efforts in implementing more than 10 SSAPs. The largest group of parties and signatories (32%; five African and seven Eurasian countries) do not implement any SSAP. The second largest group of countries (26%; five African and five Eurasian) have not provided information in their National Reports.

Conclusions: The general conclusion is that there is little effort within the Agreement area to implement SSAPs for waterbirds. Very few countries have invested considerable effort in this respect, i.e. implementing SSAPs for several species. The least progress has been made in Africa. A more detailed analysis, as envisaged by paragraph 7.4 (e) of the Action Plan (International review on the stage of preparation and implementation of single species action plans), was prepared for MOP4. This thorough review also reveals the gaps in the implementation of AEWA SSAPs (see document AEWA/MOP 4.10).

Priorities: As a general priority the need for more countries to implement more SSAPs should be stressed. However, it should be noted that the number of SSAPs being implemented is a function of the number of SSAPs prepared and approved as well as the number of species in need of SSAPs.

Formal International (category 1, species marked with an asterisk) or National (column A) Single Species Action Plans for species listed in Table 1, column A in preparation (question 2.3 (b)):

Summary: The situation regarding the SSAPs in preparation is slightly better. SSAPs for a small number of species (1-2) are in preparation in 13 reporting parties and signatories (34%; five African and eight Eurasian countries). SSAPs for more species (3- 5 or 6-10) are in preparation respectively in four (11%; 1 African and 3 Eurasian) and in three countries (8%; 1 African and 2 Eurasian). Fifteen parties and signatories (39%; four African and 11 Eurasian countries) are not preparing any new SSAP, while three countries (8%; two African and one Eurasian) have not provided information on the preparation of SSAPs in their National Reports.

Conclusions: Although slightly more countries are preparing more SSAPs than are implementing them, the attention being paid to this activity is lower than it should be. A more detailed analysis, as envisaged by paragraph 7.4 (e) of the Action Plan (International review on the stage of preparation and implementation of single species action plans), was prepared for MOP4. This thorough review also reveals the gaps in the preparation of SSAPs by Parties (see document AEWA/MOP 4.10).

Priorities: As a general priority the need for more countries to prepare more SSAPs should be stressed. However, it should be noted that the number of SSAPs in preparation is a function of the number of SSAPs already prepared and approved and the number of species in need of SSAPs.

Formal International (category 1, species marked with an asterisk) or National (column A) Single Species Action Plans for species listed in Table 1, column A that were proposed (question 2.3 (a)):

Summary: Three reporting parties and signatories (8%; two African and one Eurasian countries) have proposed SSAPs for a small number of species (1-2). SSAPs for more species (3-5 or 11-20) were proposed in only one Eurasian (3%) and two Eurasian (5%) countries, respectively. In the largest group of countries (42%; five African and 11 Eurasian) no new SSAPs were proposed. The same number of countries (42%; six African and 10 Eurasian) has not provided information in their National Reports on the number of proposed SSAPs.

Conclusions: Answers given to this third question in the National Report format relating to the SSAPs once again reveal that the issue of SSAPs is not receiving enough attention throughout the Agreement area. A more detailed analysis, as envisaged by paragraph 7.4 (e) of the Action Plan (International review on the

stage of preparation and implementation of single species action plans), was prepared for MOP4 (see document AEWA/MOP 4.10).

Priorities: It should be noted that the number of proposed SSAPs is a function of the number of SSAPs already prepared and approved and the number of species in need of SSAPs.

Re-establishments

National policy on species re-establishments in place (question 2.5):

Summary: Only six reporting parties and signatories (16%; six Eurasian countries) have developed national policy on re-establishment of waterbirds, and another five countries (13%; one African and four Eurasian) are currently developing their policies. However, the majority of countries (63%; 10 African and 14 Eurasian) reported no policy in place. Three countries (8%; two African and one Eurasian) have not reported on this issue in their National Reports.

Conclusions: The issue of re-establishment is not ranked as high priority amongst the parties, and less than one third of them have developed policies on the issue. (See also document AEWA/MOP 4.11)

Priorities: A substantial number of parties should work on developing their national policies on re-establishment of waterbird species, if applicable, and are recommended to liaise with parties that have already introduced such policies and learn from their experiences.

Introductions

Legal measures to prohibit the introduction of non-native species in place and implemented (question 2.6):

Summary: The largest group of reporting parties and signatories (48%; seven African and 11 Eurasian countries) has reported legal measures developed and fully implemented and another two Eurasian countries (5%) has only partially implemented their legal measures to prohibit introduction of non-native waterbird species. Seven Eurasian countries (18%) have developed, but not yet implemented, its legislation on this issue. Development of legal measures is in progress in four countries (11%; one African and three Eurasian). No legislation has been drafted and approved in seven countries (18%; five African and two Eurasian).

Conclusions: Some good progress has been made in the development and implementation of national legal measures to prohibit the introduction of non-native waterbird species in both regions. However, taking into account that the introduction of non-native species is considered to be amongst the major threats for some waterbird species, it has not received sufficiently thorough attention throughout the Agreement area. (See also document AEWA/MOP 4.12)

Priorities: Prevention of introduction of non-native waterbird species and eradication of already established populations of non-native species, being a threat to a number of native species, should receive the necessary attention and all parties should develop and fully implement pertinent legal and other measures in the short term.

Habitat conservation

Habitat inventories

Inventories of important habitats for species covered by the Agreement developed and published (question 3.1):

Summary: Nearly half of the reporting parties and signatories have developed and published either specific AEWAs species inventories (45%; five African and twelve Eurasian countries) or other similar inventories (30%; two African and nine Eurasian countries). Inventories are currently being developed in one African and one Eurasian country (5%). Only two African and two Eurasian countries (10%) have reported neither an existing nor a developing inventory, while three African countries and one Eurasian country (10%) have not responded to this question.

Conclusions: Generally parties and signatories have sound knowledge of important habitats for waterbirds in their territory. A few gaps still exist where countries are either developing their inventories or have not yet started to do so.

Priorities: Inventories of important habitats for waterbirds, providing fundamental knowledge for efficient conservation, should be completed as soon as possible in all parties.

Strategic review of sites to develop a national network of important sites or areas for species covered by the Agreement undertaken (question 3.2):

Summary: A high number of reporting parties and signatories (63%; eight African and sixteen Eurasian countries) have undertaken such reviews, while another three Eurasian countries (8%) have undertaken similar reviews. Two African and four Eurasian countries (16%) have reported that they are currently developing strategic reviews of sites to establish a network. Only three African and two Eurasian countries (13%) have no such strategic review in place or under development.

Conclusions: Generally parties and signatories have good knowledge of important sites for waterbirds on their territory. Only a few gaps still exist where countries are either developing their inventories or have not started yet.

Priorities: The limited number of countries with no strategic reviews of sites to establish a network of important sites should undertake steps within the short term to launch and complete such reviews. Where already started, the reviews should be finalized within the next triennium.

Conservation of areas

Management planning process for protected sites developed (question 3.4):

Summary: In the majority of reporting parties and signatories a management planning process for protected sites is either in place (76%; 10 African and 19 Eurasian countries) or is being developed (13%; one African and four Eurasian countries). Only two African and two Eurasian countries (11%) have neither developed nor are developing such a planning process yet.

Conclusions: While in many countries the management planning process for protected sites has been established for long time and has a good tradition, some of the parties are only now starting with the development of such a process. Some of them have not commenced development of a planning process, which is considered to be a fundamental gap in the effective conservation of sites.

Priorities: All parties that have started developing a management planning process for protected sites should finalize this as soon as possible and put it into practice. The same priority should apply to those countries that have not commenced development of the process.

Number of protected sites with management plans being implemented (question 3.5 (c)):

Summary: One African and four Eurasian countries (13%) are implementing management plans for 1-2 protected areas. In seven countries (18%; four African and three Eurasian) management plans are being implemented for 3-5 sites. One African and one Eurasian country (5%) implement management plans for 6-10 sites. Three African and one Eurasian country (11%) reported that they implement management plans in 11-20 sites, while four Eurasian countries (11%) are implementing plans for more than 20 sites. Three countries (8%; two African and one Eurasian) have reported no implementation of any management plan, and six countries (16%; one African and five Eurasian) have not provided any information in their National Reports. Another seven countries (18%; one African and six Eurasian) have given partial and unclear answers, which cannot be quantified.

Conclusions: The incompleteness of information provided by parties and signatories makes it difficult to draw conclusions. However, it is evident that a number of parties and signatories are still not managing any or managing just a very small number of their sites important for migratory waterbirds.

Priorities: More detailed analysis based on better information should be prepared for MOP5, as envisaged by paragraph 7.4 (c) of the Action Plan (International review on the networks of sites used by each population, including reviews of the protection status of each site as well as of the management measures taken in each site). However, the need for parties to introduce management plans for as many sites as possible over the next triennium should already be outlined as a priority.

Number of protected sites with management plans in preparation (question 3.5 (b)):

Summary: Eight reporting parties and signatories (21%; four African and four Eurasian) are preparing management plans for 1-2 sites and the same number of countries (21%; two African and six Eurasian) are prepare plans for 3-5 sites. Another two Eurasian countries (5%) are preparing management plans for 6-10 sites and four other Eurasian countries (10%) reported that they are preparing management plans for more than 20 sites. Two African countries (5%) have reported no preparation of a management plan, and seven countries (19%; two African and five Eurasian) have not provided any information in their National Reports. Another seven countries (19%; three African and four Eurasian) have given partial and unclear answers, which cannot be quantified.

Conclusions: The incompleteness of information provided by parties and signatories makes it difficult to draw conclusions. Moreover it should be pointed out that the number of sites with management plans in preparation is a function of the number of sites with management plans in place and the number of sites to be managed. However, we may observe that in a number of countries, mainly in Eurasia, considerable efforts have been invested in preparing management plans for many waterbird sites. At the same time there are yet countries where no management plans are being drafted or management plans are in preparation for a very small number of sites.

Priorities: More detailed analysis based on better information should be prepared for MOP5 as envisaged by paragraph 7.4 (c) of the Action Plan (International review on the networks of sites used by each population, including reviews of the protection status of each site as well as of the management measures taken in each site). However, already now as a priority for parties should be outlined the need over the next triennium to draft management plans for as many sites as possible.

Number of protected sites with proposed management plans (question 3.5 (a)):

Summary: In one African and one European country (5%) management plans were proposed for 1 or 2 sites. In other five countries (13%; three African and two Eurasian) management plans were proposed for 3 to 5 sites. One African country (3%) reported that management plans were proposed for 6 to 10 and one Eurasian country (3%) for 11 to 20 sites. Four countries (11%; two African and two Eurasian) have reported no any proposed new management plan. A large group of countries (47%; five African and 13 Eurasian) have not provided any information in their National Reports. Another seven countries (18%; one African and six Eurasian countries) have given partial and unclear answers, which cannot be quantified.

Conclusions: The incompleteness of information provided by parties and signatories makes it difficult to draw conclusions. Moreover it should be noted that the number of sites with proposed management plans is a function of the number of sites with management plans in place, the number of sites with management plans in preparation and the number of sites to be managed.

Priorities: More detailed analysis based on better information should be prepared for MOP5 as envisaged by paragraph 7.4 (c) of the Action Plan (International review on the networks of sites used by each population, including reviews of the protection status of each site as well as of the management measures taken in each site).

Rehabilitation and restoration

Policy for the identification, rehabilitation and restoration of wetlands important for species covered by the Agreement in place (question 3.7):

Summary: A fairly large number of reporting parties and signatories (55%; six African and 15 Eurasian countries) already have such policy in place. Four African and two Eurasian countries (16%) reported that they are currently developing their policies for identification, rehabilitation and restoration of wetlands. While seven countries (18%; two African and five Eurasian) have not yet drafted such policies, the UK reported that they have already implemented such restoration activities. Three Eurasian countries (8%) have not answered this question in their National Reports, and one African country (3%) has given partial and unclear answers, which cannot be quantified.

Conclusions: Generally policies for the identification, rehabilitation and restoration of wetlands important for waterbirds are well established in parties and signatories throughout the Agreement area. However, this does not necessarily imply that they are being implemented, while countries with no policies in place may rehabilitate and restore wetlands.

Priorities: Parties should strive to launch the development of policies if they are not in place or are in preparation, or to finalize policies if currently being prepared. At the same time, the need not only to formally approve a policy, but also to implement it as far as possible is recognized. This should be a higher priority.

Management of human activities

Hunting

Monitoring of hunting levels in place (question 4.2)

Summary: The majority of reporting parties and signatories (79%; 10 African and 20 Eurasian countries) have developed monitoring systems for hunting levels. One Eurasian country (3%) is implementing partial monitoring, and two Eurasian countries (5%) are currently developing their monitoring systems. Other four countries (10%; two African and two Eurasian) are lacking hunting monitoring activities, and for one African country (3%) this is not applicable due to no hunting in wetlands.

Conclusions: Generally monitoring systems for hunting levels are well established either fully or partially within the Agreement area, or are being developed for several countries. However, it is known that often monitoring systems of hunting levels are inconsistent throughout the Agreement area. (See also document AEWA/MOP 4.9)

Priorities: Parties should endeavour not only to introduce full monitoring of hunting levels, but also to develop similar systems to other countries with already well-established monitoring.

Other human activities

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of activities potentially affecting protected areas or areas important for species covered by the Agreement carried out (question 4.6)

Summary: Nearly all parties and signatories (82%; nine African and 22 Eurasian countries) have reported that EIA are carried out in cases when waterbird sites are potentially affected. However, in two countries (5%; one African and one Eurasian) EIAs are not necessarily carried out and other three countries (8%; two African and one Eurasian) reported that EIA is not applied. Two countries (5%; one African and one Eurasian) have not provided information on this issue in their National Reports.

Conclusions: EIA is carried out in nearly all countries within the Agreement area for activities potentially affecting sites important for waterbirds.

Priorities: All parties should strive to implement EIA in all cases when waterbird sites could be potentially affected by some activities. Where no EIA procedures are in place, these should be developed. In addition, all parties should endeavour to ensure that EIA is not only conducted for formal reasons, but plays role in a rigorous assessment that is capable of revealing potentially harmful activities and preventing deterioration of conditions in or destruction of sites important for waterbirds.