



**4<sup>th</sup> 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”*

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**DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE AGREEMENT ON THE  
CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS  
FOR THE PERIOD 2009-2017**

**Introduction**

In its Resolution 3.9 the Meeting of the Parties instructed the Standing Committee to prepare a Strategic Plan for the Agreement in close cooperation with the Technical Committee and the Secretariat.

The drafting of the Strategic Plan was commissioned by the Secretariat to SPAN Consultants, which has also prepared the Agreement’s Communication Strategy in the past triennium. The process commenced in November 2006 when preparatory discussions and brainstorming sessions took place at the meetings of the Technical and Standing Committees. These were followed by interviews with members of both committees, the AEWA Secretariat and the CMS Executive Secretary, carried out by the consultant.

In December 2006 the consultant facilitated an internal workshop at the AEWA Secretariat to take forward the development of the Strategic Plan by setting a vision, goals and objectives. In January 2007 the Secretariat convened an ad hoc workshop with two members of the Technical Committee to refine the draft Strategic Plan and align it with the revised National Report Format, which was also under development.

The first draft of the Strategic Plan was consulted with the Standing and Technical Committees in March 2007 and the second draft was consulted with the Contracting Parties in July - September 2007. The present document contains the third and final draft of the Strategic Plan. It was finally reviewed by the Standing Committee at its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting in June 2008 and endorsed for submission to MOP4.

**Action requested from the Meeting of the Parties**

The Meeting of the Parties is invited to review and approve the AEWA Strategic Plan for the period 2009-2017.

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

## **Strategic Plan 2009-2017**

**Final Draft**

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## **Introduction**

This document presents the first Strategic Plan for the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement. 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 actors in their endeavour to act effectively nationally and regionally while cooperating internationally along the flyways. The Strategic Plan will further provide guidance to the AEWA's governing bodies (the Meeting of the Parties, the Standing Committee and the Technical Committee) and the Secretariat.

## **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 and challenges for CMS, identifies a vision and goal and formulates four objectives to achieve this goal. The Strategic Plan, being an operational guide to Convention implementation, then takes the form of a Logical Framework in which activities are worked out, including targets and milestones.

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"*.

## **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, the Contracting Parties at their 3<sup>rd</sup> MOP in Dakar in 2005 have 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, to which it can be considered as a supplement. 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.

## **Approach**

Many of the CMS Parties who have been involved in drafting the CMS Strategic Plan, are also Contracting Party to AEWA. During that process, considerable strategic thinking has been done that

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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.

fits the AEWA Strategic Plan as well. 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, however, the AEWA Strategic Plan formulates the Agreement's specific objectives and targets to reflect AEWA's distinct identity and role.

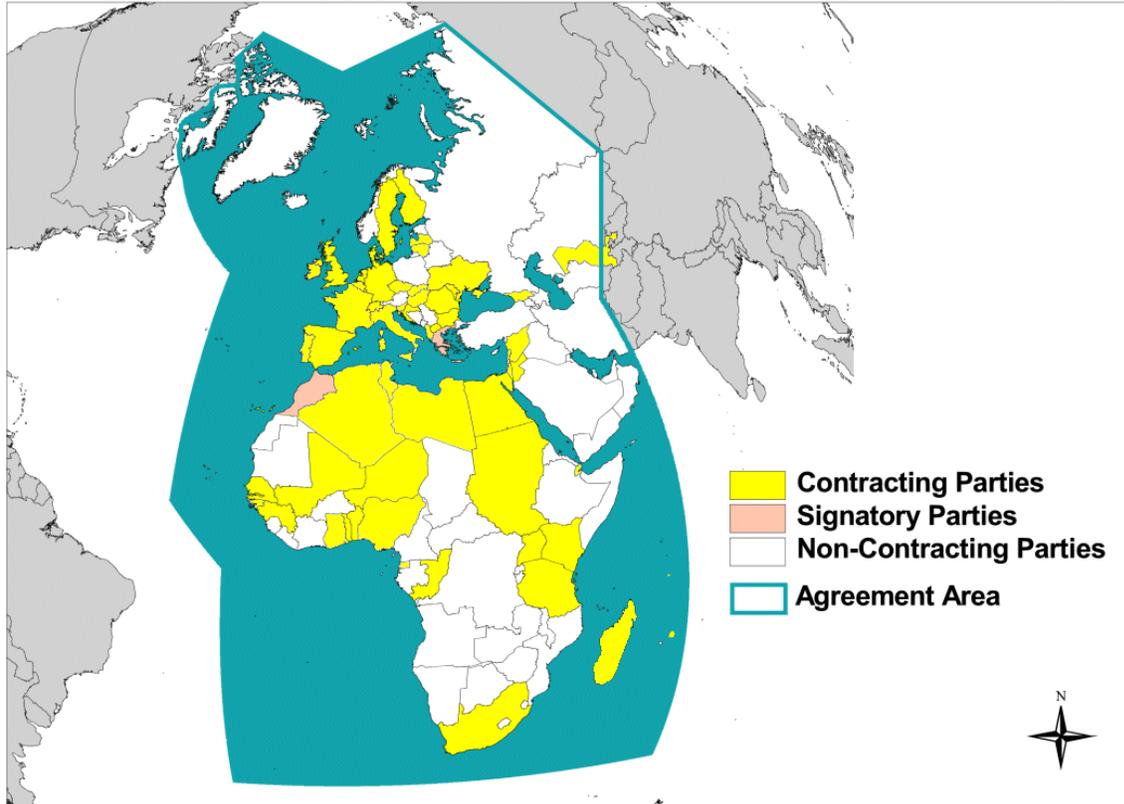


Figure 1. Geographical scope of AEWA (Contracting Parties as of August 2008)

### Duration

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

### **Box 1: The Drafting & Consultation Process**

The AEWA Strategic Plan is a guiding document for and by AEWA's constituents: the Contracting Parties, its governing bodies (the Standing Committee and the Technical Committee), its Secretariat and the partners to the Agreement. Therefore, all these stakeholders have been involved in drafting this document, under the guidance of an external facilitator\*.

The following steps have been taken for the drafting of the Strategic Plan:

- Preparatory discussions in the Technical Committee in November 2006
- A facilitated brainstorming session in the Standing Committee meeting in November 2006
- A series of interviews on the function, format and contents of an AEWA Strategic Plan in November /December 2006\*\*
- An internal workshop at the AEWA Secretariat in December 2006\*\*\* to work on the focus, vision, goal and objectives of the SP
- An Ad Hoc workshop by the Secretariat with the TC members David Stroud and Rachelle Adams in January 2007, among others to ensure that the Strategic Plan matches with the newly developed National Reporting Format, against which progress is to be reported in the future
- Written consultation procedure on the first draft with the Standing Committee and the Technical Committee in March 2007
- Revision following comments submitted by members of the Standing and the Technical Committees in April-June 2007
- Written consultation procedure on the second draft with the Contracting Parties in July-September 2007
- Revision following comments submitted by Contracting Parties in October 2007 – January 2008
- Endorsement by the 5<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee meeting for submission to MOP4

The next step is planned as follows:

- Approval of the final draft by MOP4

\* *The external facilitator for the development of the Strategic Plan is Ms. Gwen van Boven, who also assisted AEWA in developing its Communication Strategy: [vanboven@span.nl](mailto:vanboven@span.nl)*

\*\* *The following 11 people were interviewed: 1. Chair of the StC (Mr. Severre), 2. Chair of the TC (Mr. Mungroo), 3. the Depository (The Netherlands, Mr. Lok), 4. Tanzania (Mrs. Zacharia, Mr. Mdoe), 5. Germany (Mr. Schall), 6. Switzerland (Mr. Biber), 7. AEWA Secretariat (Mr. Lenten, Mr. Dereliev), 8. CMS Secretariat (Mr. Hepworth), 9. Wetlands International (Mr. Hagemeijer), 10. BirdLife International (Mr. O'Sullivan), 11. CIC (Mr. Kanstrup)*

\*\*\* *The moderated workshop at the Secretariat (19-11-2006) was attended by Bert Lenten, Sergey Dereliev, Catherine Lehmann and Florian Keil*

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

### **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. The functioning of this logframe is explained in Box 3 on page 10.

## ***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.

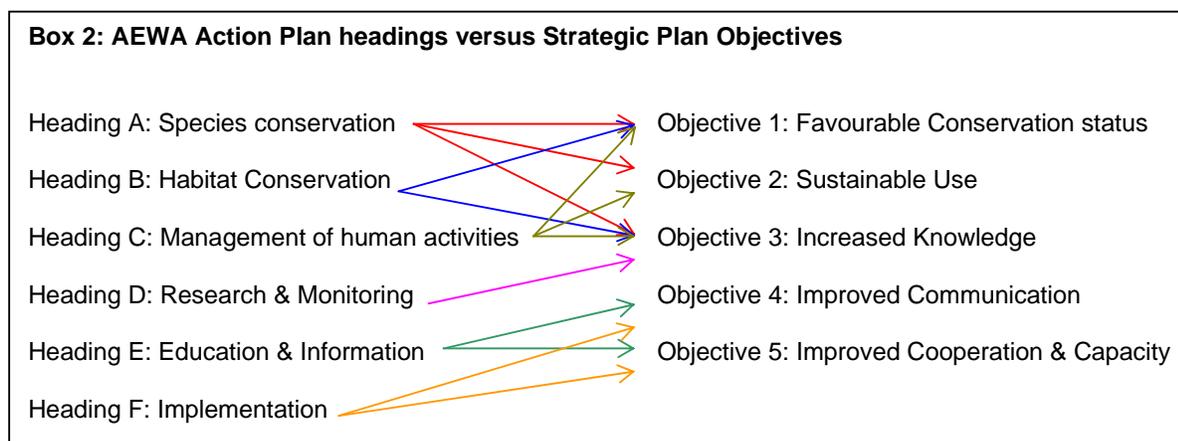
## ***Goal***

*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.

## **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; F) implementation. These Action Plan headings form the basis for AEWA's objectives as defined in the Strategic Plan, as shown in Box 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.

Within the Strategic Plan's Logical Framework, the targets have been made sure to fit the National Reporting Format, so that progress on the implementation towards meeting these targets can be verified with the National Reports. These are therefore included at the appropriate places in the log frame as means of verification.

## **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 been identified as well, and have been reflected in the table as ‘means of verification’.

## **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 the diagram in Box 2) are indicated between brackets:

***Objective 1:** To undertake conservation measures so as to improve or maintain conservation status of waterbird species and their populations  
(AP Headings: A, B, C)*

This objective concentrates on the core business of AEWA: ensuring 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. Provide full legal protection to all Column A species
- 1.2. Establish and maintain a comprehensive flyway network of protected and managed sites, and other adequately managed sites, of international and national importance for waterbirds
- 1.3. Use Environmental Impact Assessment & Strategic Environmental Assessments to reduce the impact of new development on waterbird species and populations
- 1.4. Develop and implement Single Species Action Plans (SSAPs) 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. Ensure that 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

***Objective 2:** To ensure that any use of waterbirds in the Agreement area is sustainable  
(AP Headings A, C)*

Tackling successfully 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 were eliminated, while facilitating processes were introduced and implemented. Five targets have been set to this effect:

- 2.1. Phase out the use of lead shot in wetlands in all Contracting Parties
- 2.2. Develop and implement internationally coordinated collection of harvest data
- 2.3. Develop and implement measures to reduce, and as far as possible eliminate, illegal taking of waterbirds, the use of poison baits and non-selective methods of taking

- 2.4. Develop and promote appropriate best practice codes and standards, such as bird identification, in order to achieve proper enforcement of legally binding provisions
- 2.5. Ensure adaptive harvest management<sup>2</sup> of quarry populations at international scale

**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 5 targets have been formulated:

- 3.1. Necessary resources are in place to support, on a long-term basis, the international processes for gathering monitoring data for status assessment.
- 3.2. Establish, maintain and further develop capacity of national monitoring systems to assess the status of the waterbirds
- 3.3. Encourage the nationally responsible state agencies, academic and other wildlife related research institutions to establish research programmes to support implementation of waterbird conservation priorities
- 3.4. Collate and incorporate best practices, including in particular traditional knowledge, for waterbird conservation programmes
- 3.5. Enhance sharing and accessibility of relevant data and information so as to underpin relevant conservation decision making

**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 their conservation*  
(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 3 specific targets that have been formulated reflect the communication strategy's intentions and aim to secure its implementation and updating as follows:

- 4.1. Secure support for the implementation of the Communication Strategy (CS)
- 4.2. Implement the AEWA Communication Strategy
- 4.3. Increase awareness and understanding of waterbird conservation issues in general and on AEWA in particular at all levels within the Contracting Parties

**Objective 5:** *To strengthen AEWA's facilitating role in improving international cooperation and capacity towards the conservation of migratory waterbird species and their flyways*  
(AP Headings: E, F)

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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 regulation options defining.

Cooperation – within the Contracting Parties, as well as between them internationally - is at the core of flyway conservation. The need to improve cooperation and increase AEWA's capacity to do that has been addressed in this objective, the desired result of which is that by 2017 AEWA's facilitating role is strengthened, and its capacity increased, resulting in a more streamlined implementation of the Agreement at national level and better cooperation at the international level. The following 9 specific targets have been designed to achieve results at all levels:

- 5.1. Increase the membership of the Agreement
- 5.2. Raise sufficient funding for the implementation of the SP from different sources
- 5.3. Increase cooperation with other MEAs and key partners
- 5.4. Strengthen human resources of the Secretariat
- 5.5. Activate the Small Grants Fund (SGF)<sup>3</sup>
- 5.6. Increase the rate of submission of National Reports
- 5.7. Increase capacity of national staff to implement the Agreement through proper training mechanisms
- 5.8. Establish appropriate national coordination mechanism for implementation of AEWA linking to national coordination mechanisms for other biodiversity MEAs
- 5.9. 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

### **Operational principles**

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 of livelihoods being dependent on migratory waterbird species
- 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

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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. To date this Fund never became operational, but it yet represents a major potential for providing valuable resources to eligible countries to implement provisions of AEWA.

OP 9: By aiming at the conservation of migratory waterbirds in the African-Eurasian region this Strategic Plan contributes to the conservation of global biodiversity

OP 10: To seize and promote opportunities for capacity building at all levels throughout the Agreement area

### **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 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.

### **Evaluation & Review**

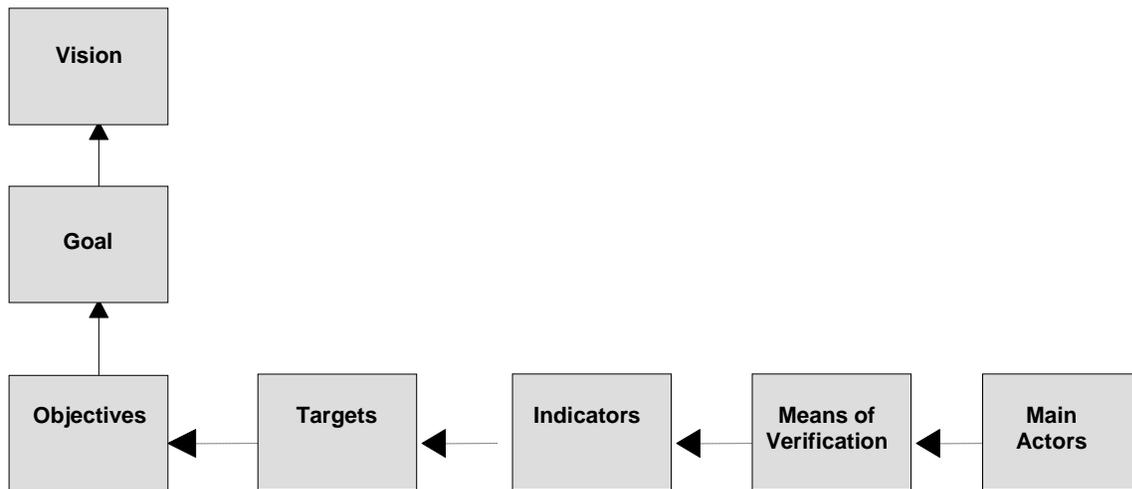
Evaluation of performance, achievements and impact is intrinsically linked to coherent and strategic implementation of the Agreement, and therefore to its Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan may be reviewed by each MOP if so deemed necessary, in order to reflect updates on progress made at target and 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 actors, 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 Secretarial Work Plan be prepared to accompany the Strategic Plan. This Secretarial 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 Priorities that have been set by the Agreement. The Secretarial 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. In order for proposed amendments to be included for consideration, they need to be communicated to the AEWA Secretariat no later than 150 days prior to the MOP, as such linked to the deadline for the submission of proposals for amendments to the Agreement.

### Box 3: How the AEWA Strategic Plan Logical Framework functions



Where does implementation of this Strategic Plan start? With the Main Actors. Any activity that they do or not do, (financially) support or not support, contributes to the success or failure of achieving the ultimate, overall vision of this Strategic Plan, which you will find at the top left end of the Logical Framework. Who these Actors are, has been indicated in the rightmost column in the table.

Which steps lie in between? Reading the table from right to left, the contributions of the main actors can be verified with the means of verification in the next column. The indicators will then tell us, in a quantifiable way, how these contributions have worked toward achieving the targets, in the next columns. Several (numbered) targets have been specifically set to achieve each of the five objectives by 2017, towards the main goal of the Agreement: *to maintain or to restore migratory waterbird species and populations at a favorable conservation status throughout their flyways.*

Interpreted and used in this way, the Logical Framework will function as a guiding instrument for the implementation of AEWA by its Contracting Parties and its partners.

## Logical Framework Table

### AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017

	<b>Targets</b> <i>(Targets to achieve 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><b>Vision</b></p> <p>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</p>				
<p><b>Goal</b></p> <p>To maintain or to restore migratory waterbird species and their populations at a favourable conservation status throughout their flyways</p>		<p>At the Agreement level, within the period of this SP:</p> <p>No AEWA waterbird population has gone extinct or extinct in the wild in the Agreement area</p> <p>All AEWA waterbird populations currently at favourable conservation status have retained that status</p>	<p>CSR AEWA Table 1 IUCN Red List</p>	

	<b>Targets</b> <i>(Targets to achieve 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>At least 75%<sup>4</sup> of the AEWA waterbird populations have a positive trend (growing or stable)</p> <p>Overall status of indicator species has improved, as measured by the Waterbird Indicator</p> <p>Overall extinction risk of waterbirds reduced, as measured by the Red List Index</p> <p>20% of threatened and Near Threatened species 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>National reports (<i>Species matrix – species status, national red listing status</i>)</p>	

<sup>4</sup> The AEWA Conservation Status Review 4 (2008) assessed that 59% of the populations with known trends (n=370) have stable or growing trends. 29% of all AEWA populations (n=522) are with unknown trends and 41% of all populations are either stable or growing.

	<b>Targets</b> (Targets to achieve by 2017)	<b>Indicators</b> (Quantifiable measures of achievement)	<b>Means of Verification</b> (Sources of information for indicators)	<b>Main Actors</b>
		<p>No AEWA waterbird population has gone extinct as a breeding, migrating, or wintering (whichever is 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 downlisted to lower categories of threat in each CP</p>		
<b>Objective 1</b>				
To undertake conservation measures so as to improve or maintain conservation status of waterbird species and their populations				
	1.1 Provide full legal protection to all Column A species	All CPs have adopted national legislation protecting all Column A species	National reports ( <i>Species matrix – legal status</i> )	CPs

	<b>Targets</b> ( <i>Targets to achieve 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 Establish and maintain a comprehensive flyway network of protected and managed sites, and other adequately managed sites, of international and national importance for waterbirds	All CPs have in place and maintain comprehensive national networks of sustainably-managed protected areas that form a coherent flyway site network	National reports ( <i>Pressures and responses – 2. Habitat conservation, 2.1. Habitat inventories, 2.2. Conservation of areas, questions 13 and 15</i> )	CPs
	1.3 Use Environmental Impact Assessment & Strategic Environmental Assessments 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 ( <i>Pressures and responses – 3. Management of human activities, 3.2. Other human activities, questions 21 and 22</i> )	CPs
	1.4 Develop and implement Single Species Action Plans (SSAPs) for most threatened species listed in category 1 and categories 2 and 3 marked with an asterisk on column A of Table 1	SSAPs in place and are being effectively implemented for all globally threatened species and species marked with an asterisk	National reports ( <i>Pressures and responses – 1. Species conservation, 1.2. SSAPs, questions 2 and 3</i> )  AEWA review on the stage of preparation and implementation of SSAPs	CPs, Secretariat
	1.5 Ensure that 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	CPs have incorporated, as part of National Action Plans on non-native species, specific measures for invasive non-native species of waterbirds and are implementing them in order to ensure their control or eradication	National reports ( <i>Pressures and responses – 1. Species conservation, 1.5. Introductions, questions 9-11</i> )  AEWA review on the status of introduced non-native waterbird species and hybrids thereof	CPs

	<b>Targets</b> (Targets to achieve 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 2</b>  To ensure that any use of waterbirds in the Agreement area is sustainable				
	2.1 Phase out the use of lead shot in wetlands in all CPs	All CPs have adopted national legislation prohibiting the use of lead shot (in wetlands)	National reports ( <i>Pressures and responses – 3. Management of human activities, 3.1. Hunting, question 18</i> )  AEWA review on the use of lead shot	CPs Hunters' organisations
	2.2 Develop and implement internationally coordinated collection of harvest data	Internationally coordinated harvest data collection in place involving at least 25% of the CPs	National reports ( <i>Pressures and responses – 3. Management of human activities, 3.1. Hunting, question 17</i> )  AEWA review on pertinent hunting and trade legislation	CPs FACE and other hunters' organisations
	2.3 Develop and implement measures to reduce, and as far as possible eliminate, illegal taking of waterbirds, the use of poison baits and non-selective methods of taking	All CPs have pertinent legislation in place which is being fully enforced	National reports ( <i>Pressures and responses – 3. Management of human activities, 3.1. Hunting, question 19</i> )  AEWA review on pertinent hunting and trade legislation	CPs Hunter's organisations

	<b>Targets</b> (Targets to achieve by 2017)	<b>Indicators</b> (Quantifiable measures of achievement)	<b>Means of Verification</b> (Sources of information for indicators)	<b>Main Actors</b>
	2.4. Develop and promote appropriate best practice codes and standards, such as bird identification, in order to achieve proper enforcement of legally binding provisions	Half of CPs are effectively enforcing legally binding best practise standards	AEWA review on pertinent hunting and trade legislation	CPs Hunter's organisations
	2.5. Ensure adaptive harvest management of quarry populations at international scale	International harvest management plans (IHMP) for two quarry populations developed and implemented	Review on implementation of IHMP	CPs, Secretariat, Hunter's organisations
<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, on a long-term basis, the international processes for gathering monitoring data for status assessment.	Timely production of annual IWC summary report and the AEWA CSR and global <i>Waterbird Population Estimates</i>  50% increase of species/populations whose international status is being assessed with regular monitoring data	Reports by Wetlands International  Conservations Status Review	CPs and other donors, Secretariat, Wetlands International
	3.2. Establish, maintain and further develop capacity of national	Half of CPs with year-round (as appropriate) monitoring	National reports ( <i>Pressures and responses – 4. Research and</i>	CPs

	<b>Targets</b> (Targets to achieve by 2017)	<b>Indicators</b> (Quantifiable measures of achievement)	<b>Means of Verification</b> (Sources of information for indicators)	<b>Main Actors</b>
	monitoring systems to assess the status of the waterbirds	systems in place	<i>monitoring, question 25)</i>	
	3.3. Encourage the nationally responsible state agencies, academic and other wildlife related research institutions to establish research programmes to support implementation of waterbird conservation priorities	Ten new AEWA-linked research programmes	National reports ( <i>Pressures and responses – 4. Research and monitoring, question 27)</i>  Secretarial report to MOP	CPs, Secretariat
	3.4. Collate and incorporate best practices, including traditional knowledge, for waterbird conservation programmes	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, Hunter’s organisations
	3.5. Enhance sharing and accessibility of relevant data and information so as to underpin relevant conservation decision making	Web-based list of research related to waterbirds and their conservation in each CP per triennium	National reports ( <i>Pressures and responses – 4. Research and monitoring, question 27)</i>	CPs
<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 need for their				

<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 achieve by 2017)	<b>Indicators</b> (Quantifiable measures of achievement)	<b>Means of Verification</b> (Sources of information for indicators)	<b>Main Actors</b>
conservation				
	4.1. Secure support for the implementation of the Communication Strategy (CS)	100% funding and other support, as appropriate (e.g. expertise, network, skills and resources), secured for the Communication Strategy implementation	Secretarial reports	CPs, other donors
	4.2. Implement the AEWA Communication Strategy	<p>The Communication Strategy has been monitored annually and reviewed and updated on a tri-annual basis</p> <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 are conducted by the people trained under target 3.3 (CS 3.2)</p> <p>Regional Centres for the exchange of information on</p>	<p>Implementation progress reports The strategy document</p> <p>Training workshop report Training toolkit/manual</p> <p>National reports (<i>Pressures and responses – 5. Education and information, 5.1. AEWA Communication Strategy, question 32</i>) Training workshop reports Training toolkit/manual</p> <p>Centre launch events Assessment reports</p>	<p>Secretariat</p> <p>Secretariat</p> <p>CPs</p> <p>Secretariat, CPs</p>

<sup>6</sup> Between brackets and where appropriate, the targets are linked to the Communication Strategy (CS), the number given reflects the activity in the Communication Strategy

	<b>Targets</b> (Targets to achieve by 2017)	<b>Indicators</b> (Quantifiable measures of achievement)	<b>Means of Verification</b> (Sources of information for indicators)	<b>Main Actors</b>
		<p>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 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 web site Users feedback</p> <p>The newsletters (paper version and e-news) Secretarial report</p> <p>The e-forum Secretarial reports</p> <p>The guidelines Distribution list Secretarial report</p> <p>The toolkit Distribution list Secretarial report</p>	<p>Secretariat</p> <p>Secretariat</p> <p>Secretariat</p> <p>Secretariat</p> <p>Secretariat</p>
	4.3. Increase awareness and understanding of waterbird conservation issues in general and on AEWA in particular at all levels within the CPs	At least 25% of CPs have developed and are implementing programmes for raising awareness and understanding on waterbird conservation and AEWA	National reports ( <i>Pressures and responses – 5. Education and information, 5.1. AEWA Communication Strategy, question 29</i> )	CPs

	<b>Targets</b> (Targets to achieve 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 5</b>  To strengthen AEWA's facilitating role in improving international cooperation and capacity towards the conservation of migratory waterbird species and their flyways				
	5.1. Increase the membership of the Agreement	AEWA Membership has increased to 75 Parties by MOP5, to 85 Parties by MOP6, and to 90 Parties by MOP 7, with particular focus on Central Asia and the Middle East	Depositary report	Secretariat, CPs
	5.2. Raise sufficient funding for the implementation of the SP from different sources	Full funding	Secretarial report	CPs Other donors
	5.3. Increase cooperation with other MEAs and key partners	At least 5 new MoU/MoC between AEWA and other MEA's and key partners	MoU/MoC	Secretariat
	5.4. Strengthen human resources of the Secretariat	6 additional staff (2 regional officers, 1 programme officer, 3 assistants)	Secretarial reports	CPs, Secretariat
	5.5. Activate the Small Grants Fund (SGF)	At least 100,000 EUR annually disbursed to developing countries for implementation of AEWA	SGF reports Secretarial reports	CPs, Secretariat
	5.6. Increase the rate of submission of National Reports	All Contracting Parties regularly provide complete	National report synthesis	CPs

	<b>Targets</b> ( <i>Targets to achieve 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>
		national reports		
	5.7. Increase capacity of national staff to implement the Agreement through proper training mechanisms	At least 30 governmental staff have been trained in at least 20 countries	Training reports	Secretariat
	5.8. Establish appropriate national coordination mechanism for implementation of AEWA linking to national coordination mechanisms for other biodiversity MEAs	In at least 50% of the Contracting Parties AEWA national coordination mechanisms have been established and are operational on regular basis	National reports ( <i>Pressures and responses – 6. Implementation, question 36</i> )	CPs
	5.9. 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	All global biodiversity MEAs are referring to the effectiveness of AEWA as an indicator for sustaining biodiversity on a global level	Secretarial reports of other biodiversity MEAs  Other biodiversity MEAs' resolutions	AEWA and other biodiversity MEAs

## **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.

## **List of acronyms**

AEWA – Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds  
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  
GISP – Global Invasive Species Programme  
EIA – Environmental Impact Assessment  
IHMP – 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  
SEA – Strategic Environmental Assessment  
SGF – Small Grants Fund  
SSAP – Single Species Action Plan  
StC – Standing Committee  
TC – Technical Committee