



FIRST MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE 24 - 25 November 2003, Bonn, Germany

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Article VIII paragraph h of the Agreement, the Secretariat shall prepare on an annual basis and for each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, reports on the work of the Secretariat and on the implementation of the Agreement. Members of the Technical Committee (TC) have noted that the Secretariat submitted for each TC meeting a written report on its activities since the previous TC meeting.

As decided by MOP2 the Technical Committee shall concentrate itself on providing technical and scientific advice. The Standing Committee (StC) will cover financial, administrative, governance and policy issues.

The question arises how reporting should take place to both subsidiary bodies.

PROPOSAL OF THE SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat proposes to continue reporting on its activities to the TC as well as to the StC. In the view of the Secretariat the contents of these reports could be more or less the same. However, during the introduction of the report at the StC meetings particular attention will be given to issues relevant for the StC. Of course StC members are allowed to raise questions on any other issue mentioned in that specific report. A common report will secure that the TC as well as the StC are informed on all ongoing activities of the Secretariat. For each meeting the report will be updated as much as possible, thus the reports could be slightly different depending on the period between the last TC and the following StC meeting.

The current report will describe the main activities since the Second Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP2), which took place from 25-27 September 2002 in Bonn, Germany.

OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE AEWA SECRETARIAT

INTRODUCTION

Besides the day to day work consisting of responding to mail, maintenance of the AEWA network, dealing with administrative and financial matters, the Secretariat spent in the period of September 2002 till November 2003 most of its time on finalisation of MOP2, closure of the previous financial triennium, starting up new projects and last but not least recruitment of Staff.

This report is divided in four parts:

1. General Matters: these include administrative/ financial, personnel, future premises, meetings, etc;
2. Information Management: this include Newsletter, Website, etc;
3. Cooperation with other organisations;
4. Technical and/ or Scientific Matters: this includes projects that are contracted out by the Secretariat and/ or project carried out by others in which the Secretariat is strongly involved.

The day-to-day work is left out of this report.

1. GENERAL MATTERS

Future Premises for the Agreement Secretariat

The City of Bonn used to be the capital of West Germany. After reunification of East and West, Berlin became the new capital city of the Federal Republic of Germany. Over the years most of the Ministries moved from Bonn to Berlin. To fill up the gap after the move of the Government to Berlin the City of Bonn invested a lot of time and energy, and continues with this, in order to attract companies and organisations to establish their offices in Bonn. Also a number of UN agencies have been approached to reconsider moving their offices to Bonn. Currently, the following UN organisations have their Secretariats in Bonn: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Development Programme-United Nations Volunteers (UNV), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation-International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (UNEVOC), World Health Organisation-European Centre for Environment and Health (WHO-ECEH), United Nations Information Centre (UNIC Bonn), UNICEF, International Labour Organisation (ILO), UNEP/ CMS, UNEP/ ASCOBANS, UNEP/ EUROBATS and UNEP/ AEWA Secretariat. Due to lack of office space these organisations are scattered all over Bonn.

The city of Bonn is eager to become a UN city. Therefore it was decided to establish a UN campus, consisting of two large office buildings close to each other just next to the International Conference Centre 'Bundeshaus'. In addition the Federal Government of the Republic of Germany, the region of Nord-Rhein-Westfalen and the city of Bonn decided to allocate funds to build a new Conference Centre that could accommodate large meetings of 5,000-10,000 participants.

The Government of Germany offered mid of 2003 the two office buildings adjacent to the Bundeshaus to the UN agencies as future premises. A special task force with UN representatives has been created to make clear what the requirements are regarding number of offices needed per agency, special equipment for meetings rooms, security issue, etc. The Executive Secretary of UNEP/ ASCOBANS represents the UNEP Secretariats. At a regular basis with an increasing frequency CMS and the co-located Agreements Secretariats discuss their input in the meetings of the task force. Furthermore also regularly meetings with increasing frequency of the Head of Agencies have taken place to discuss issues of common interest. As far as possible the Executive Secretary of AEWA participated at these meetings particularly to secure common services and the office space needed for the Agreement Secretariat at medium term. In case the Agreement Secretariat was not in the position to attend one of these meeting CMS, EUROBATS and/ or ASCOBANS were always willing to represent the AEWA Secretariat.

Agreement's Unit

As well as in 2002 as beginning of 2003 quite some time was spent discussing the responsibilities of CMS and the

Agreements Secretariats co-located in the Agreements Unit. A good example is the authorizations of signing travel and leave requests. Until August 2002 the Executive Secretary of each Agreement was authorized to sign its own travel and leave request. On request of the Administrative and Fund Management Officer of CMS, UNON reviewed this and informed the Executive Secretaries that in accordance with the UN rules and regulations nobody should sign any financial obligations related to him and/ or to any person related to him. The AEWA Secretariat fully agreed to apply these rules and regulations regarding travel requests. The only problem was that the Executive Secretary of CMS and his Deputy received the mandate to sign the financial obligations e.g. travel requests of the Executive Secretary of AEWA. In accordance with the Terms of Reference for secretariat arrangements annexed to Resolution 1.1 paragraph 3: "Staff members of the Agreements Unit will function independently and will report to their respective Agreements". Concerns raised by the Agreement Secretariat to UNON and the Executive Secretary of CMS were that authorizing the Executive Secretary of CMS and/ or his Deputy to sign the travel requests of the Executive Secretary of AEWA a conflict of interest might occur in case CMS would not be in favour if the AEWA Secretariat wished to participate in certain meetings. At such an occasion the Secretariat is no longer in the position to operate independently from CMS. A similar discussion started on leave requests. The Agreement Secretariat raised a second concern that at the beginning of 2003 it was foreseeable that the Deputy of CMS would leave his post in due course. Taking into account that the Executive Secretary of CMS is often on mission this could cause considerable delays in signing travel requests, which might hamper functioning of the Secretariat. Therefore the Agreement Secretariat proposed to UNON to authorize the Executive Secretary of CMS as well as the Executive Secretaries of EUROBATS and ASCOBANS to sign travel/ leave requests of the Executive Secretary of AEWA. Meanwhile agreement has been received with UNON and CMS and this proposal has been successfully implemented.

Wherever possible the AEWA Secretariat played an active role in trying to come up with proposals for common issues. Good examples of this are proposals for sharing the cost of:

- common stationary;
- paper for our Agreement's Unit copy machine;
- maintenance of the Agreement's Unit copy machine,
- common exhibition.

Administrative/ Financial Matters

On regular basis meetings with CMS and the Agreements co-located in the Agreements' Unit take place. One of the common points we discuss during these meetings is the support given by the Administrative Unit of CMS to the Agreements. This Unit consist currently of one Administrative and Fund Management Officer (AFMO), one Financial Assistant and one temporary Financial Assistants. The cost of the AFMO is fully covered by OTL 1 and the cost of the Financial Assistant ~~are also retrospectively 100 %~~ is covered ~~50 %~~ by OTL. ~~since 1 January 2002~~. CMS is covering the costs of the temporary Assistants. As of 1st of December 2003 a Junior Professional Officer will enter on duty funded by the Government of Germany.

Over the last few years the Agreement Secretariat has made clear that the performance of the Admin Unit needs improvement. Since the beginning of 2002 the Admin Unit is working with new software, which gives direct access to information on the current situation regarding our budget. In the view of the Secretariat this has already proven to be a very useful tool on which decisions can be taken for further financial commitments.

To implement the new software system a temporary Financial Assistant was recruited by CMS. Mid of 2003 his contract expired and was not renewed. By the end of 2002 a very experienced Financial Assistant from UNON was recruited on temporary basis. ~~for the CMS Sahelo-Saharan Antelope project. However, it turned out that due to an unforeseen delay the start of the project had to be postponed. Meanwhile the Financial Assistant of UNON This person~~ supported the Admin Unit regarding finalising 'End of the Year account', contracting out work, etc.

~~Although regarding the day-to-day work the improvements are remarkable not all problems could be solved. One of these problems is that CMS would like to see that the costs for the additional staff would be shared with EUROBATS, ASCOBANS and AEWA. From the beginning onwards the AEWA Secretariat has made clear to be willing to take this in consideration under the conditions that an external expert, who should also provide some~~

1 OTL stands for Overhead Trust Fund Ledger, which is the 13 % that is deducted by UNEP from e.g. the AEWA Budget.

~~advice for future staffing of the Admin Unit, would evaluate functioning of the current Admin Unit. The outcome of this evaluation would then be submitted to the AEWA Standing Committee for approval.~~

Meanwhile UNON reviewed the Admin support for out posted offices. As a general rule an Admin Unit of an out posted medium size office, which is the case for CMS and the co-located Agreement, should have five Staff members being 1 Administrative and Fund Management Officer, 2 Financial Assistants and 2 Administrative Assistant to executed all duties assigned to them. The Deputy Executive Director approved that OTL funds might be used to cover the salary cost of three additional staff members for this such a Unit. The One of the pre-conditions is that all Secretariats increase their expenditures. The latter seems not to be a problem for AEWA taking into account that we will spend significant more in coming years compared with previous triennium, due to funds accrued through contributions of new Parties. The uncertainty is if UNON will continue to cover the cost of this Unit on the long-term. If not this would cause additional cost that have to be partly covered by AEWA and for which approval of the Meeting of the Parties is needed.

Recruitment of Staff

The Year 2002 was an extremely busy year for the Secretariat. To enable the Secretariat to prepare MOP2 and later on the finalisation of MOP2 some Staff was recruited on consultancy basis.

Ms. Heike Grelka (German) worked for the Secretariat from 17 March to 17 October 2002. She was involved in collecting, editing and collating of the AEWA Newsletter and formatting/ reproduction of documents for MOP2. On 17 October 2002 her contract expired and was not renewed. Instead it was decided to recruit a new temporary Assistant who should take care of formatting and printing of the MOP2 Proceedings, the Action Plan 2003-2005, etc. Ms. Marie-Therese Kämper (German) was selected for this post and entered on duty on 7 January 2003.

From 18 February 2002 till end of November 2002 Ms. Nienke Beintema (Dutch) worked for the Secretariat. Her main tasks were to draft a special Newsletter on Lead shot, a special Newsletter on MOP2, a Reader on Non-toxic shot and a Reader of AEWA in general.

For making the necessary update of the website Mr. Kim Liffers (German) was recruited and started on 24th of January 2003 to work for the Secretariat. His contract expired early April 2003 and was not renewed.

Mr. Dirk Hendricks, a former intern and consultant of CMS, was contracted as consultant to develop a new AEWA exhibition. This exhibition is based on the common exhibition that he prepared for CMS and its Agreements. Besides this he serviced the TC meeting by writing the minutes. He worked for AEWA from 14 April to 8 August 2003.

Early 2003 the Secretary/ Assistant Ms. Mirna Maya informed the Executive Secretary that she had decided to leave her post as of end of her contract, being 8 July 2003. Ms. Maya loved to work for the Agreements' Secretariat but after having worked 15 years in different Secretarial functions she thought it was time to change her carrier. The Agreement Secretariat and the colleagues in CMS and the co-located Agreements regretted that Ms Maya left the Secretariat.

Luckily Ms Maya informed the Executive Secretary well in advance of her plans for the future, thus he was in the position to take some actions to avoid any hick-ups after she would leave her post. In close cooperation with UNON it was decided to offer Ms. Marie-Therese Kämper a short-term contract from 9 July 2003 till 1 April 2004.

On 1st of October Ms. Yuki Itakura, former intern of ASCOBANS, was contracted on consultancy basis to assist Ms. Kämper with formatting of some documents of MOP2. Her contract will expire as of 1st January 2004.

As agreed by MOP2 the post of Secretary/ Assistant should be reclassified. A revised job description has been submitted to UNON for reclassification. On 29 September 2003 the Executive Secretary was informed by a Staff member of UNON that the post has been reclassified and that it meets the criteria for upgrading to the G-5 level. Actions has been undertaken to prepare the necessary documents for announcement of the post in the Galaxy system of the United Nations. All post from the level G-5 and above have to be advertised at the UN website: www.jobs.un.org (the so-called Galaxy system). It is hoped that the new Personal Assistant to the Executive

Secretary could enter on duty on 1 May 2004 at the latest.

Since MOP2 also the revised job description of the post of Executive Secretary has been reclassified. As expected this post meets criteria for the P-4 level. Unfortunately new Staff Rules have been adopted by the General Assembly and as agreed by the Director of UNEP these are also applicable for UNEP Staff members as of end of last year. According to these new Rules all post that are upgraded have to be re-advertised. This means that the Executive Secretary has to re-apply for his own position. It is expected that the post will be advertised at the UN website October/ November 2003.

Taking into account the long lasting process for recruitment of Staff the Executive Secretary started with the recruitment process for the post of Associated Technical Officer (P-2 level). This person should enter on duty mid of 2004. It is expected that this should be feasible.

The new Staff Rules and the Galaxy system have caused a lot of uncertainty among Staff members of CMS and its related Agreements. Some of the Staff members redrew their request to be upgraded. Others questioning what does it mean that as of 2007 Staff members could stay in a post not more then five years, etc, etc. After these concerns were communicated to UNEP/ UNON during the Standing Committee of CMS. UNON decided to send one of the Staff members of the Human Resource Management Service to inform us in particular on the Galaxy system. She visited us end of September 2003 and provided us with very useful information. It became clear that on the long-term this system should support our activities to recruit the best person for any vacancy. Although it is planned that the system would make a pre-selection this is currently not the case. Due to the fact that the system is easily accessible in particular low-level post e.g. P-2 positions attract easily up to 1800 applicants. Anyway as decided by the Executive Director of UNEP we have to make use of this system for any vacancy/-upgraded post from the level of G-5 and above.

In 2002 a request for a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) was submitted to the Deputy Executive Director (DED) of UNEP. The DED coordinates and prioritises all requests from UNEP and UNEP administrated Conventions and Agreements. Unfortunately the JPO request of the Agreements' Secretariat was not selected by the DED as a priority. This means that the AEWA request is not communicated to the donors. So far it is not fully clear with criteria are use for the decision of the DED to grant priority to a certain JPO request. No response has been received on the request of the Secretariat to give some clarification regarding this procedure.

Similar to last Year again a request has been submitted to the DED for JPO for information management. This person will work part-time for the Agreement and part-time for the African-Eurasian Flyway GEF project and as such an important part of the matching funds needed for this project. It is hoped that one of the Donor countries would be willing to support this position.

The organization chart for CMS and AEWA is attached to this document as Annex 1.

Finalization of MOP2

That the MOP2 went smoothly is due to the fact that the TC reviewed all substantial documents. Based on the outcome of this the necessary revisions were made.

In addition to this a great team consisting of representatives of the Host Government, MKI travel agency, UNON staff, local staff and the AEWA staff played an important role in running of MOP2. Tribute goes to this team and in particular to Ms. Mirna Maya who had the responsibility of coordinating all activities outside the plenary room, which is an incredible task. Inside the meeting rooms the Chairman of the MOP, the Chairman of the working group on Technical Matters and the Chairman of the working group on Financial and Administrative Matters played and important role in conducting these meetings. All of them did that in an excellent way. Looking back on MOP2 the Secretariat is pleased that everything went so smoothly due to input of all dedicated persons mentioned-above.

After the closing ceremony of MOP2 the meeting was over for the delegates. This is certainly not the case for the AEWA Secretariat. From September to December all financial obligations regarding MOP2 were settled. Besides this, we started with compiling the Proceedings, the Action Plan 2003-2005, the International Implementation Plan

2003-2007, the Conservation Guidelines and International Species Action Plans for Black-winged Pratincole/ Sociable Plover/ Great Snipe, etc. Finalization of these documents is still ongoing.

TC meetings

Directly after the 3rd Meeting of the TC steps were taken for the preparation of the next TC meeting in Uzbekistan 2003. Agreement was reached on some logistical arrangements including the venue. The substantial preparations started at the beginning of 2003.

More or less at the same time the UK started with the preparations for TC5, which will take place from 30 March - 2 April 2004 in Edinburgh. This meeting is being organised back to back with the Global Flyway Conference. On a regular basis there is contact between our counterparts and the Secretariat on some logistical arrangements.

Coming back to 4th TC meeting, this took place from 11-13 May 2003 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. It was the first TC meeting 'new style' which means that no financial, administrative, governance or policy issues were discussed anymore. It was noted that separation between technical/ scientific issues and policy issues is not always easy. This is a learning process we have to go through in coming years. New was also that some agenda items were discussed in small Working groups. At the end of the meeting the participants gave the feedback that this 'new style' is very much appreciated.

Dark-bellied Brent Goose Working group

In the margins of the COP7 of CMS, the second meeting of the Dark-bellied Brent Goose Working group took place. During this meeting all comments received from the Range States for this International Species Action Plan were discussed and whenever necessary the text of the Action Plan was amended.

On the request of the ORNIS Committee of the European Commission the Secretariat presented the 4th draft of the Action Plan.

Just shortly before the TC4 meeting the Secretariat received the 5th draft of the Action Plan. This was immediately submitted to the TC members and to the members of the Dark-bellied Brent Goose Working group. The idea was to review the plan during the TC4 meeting and to draft a recommendation for the StC regarding adoption of the plan. Unfortunately Range States didn't have enough time for internal consultation. Furthermore some Range States felt that not all comments received were properly implemented in the 5th draft. Therefore it was decided to postpone the discussion and to convene a meeting of the Dark-bellied Brent Goose Working group to review the 5th draft of the Action Plan once more. Although a meeting was scheduled for late October 2003 this had to be postponed because it turned out that the dates allocated were not convenient for most of the members of the Working group. It is now planned to hold this meeting December 2003. Hopefully agreement could be reached on the Action Plan the process could be started for formal adoption by the StC.

Second Workshop on Non-Toxic Shot

It was scheduled to organise a 2nd Workshop on Non-Toxic Shot somewhere end of 2003 in Italy for southern European countries. At an early stage contact was made with President of ILL Nibbio (Italian NGO) who has good contacts with international and national Hunters Organisations. So far no progress has been made.

Workshop on Sustainable Hunting

In 2002 representatives of Office National de la Chasse et Faune Sauvage (ONCFS) approached the Secretariat regarding a Workshop on Sustainable Hunting in Western Africa. In addition contact was made with Wetlands International and a Donor country. It became clear that ONCFS was looking for co-funding for the above-mentioned Workshop. The AEWA Secretariat informed ONCFS that it was willing to support this Workshop by sending a representative of the Secretariat who could give an introduction on the Lead shot issue. The travel and subsistence cost of this expert would be covered by AEWA. The Donor country made very clear that in case this Workshop would be organised as an AEWA Workshop they would be in the position to provide some financial support. Through this clear message ONCFS changed its position and decided to go for an AEWA Workshop on Sustainable Hunting.

At several occasions since then we discussed how to proceed with the idea of organising such a Workshop. During an identification mission ONCFS selected a venue for the Workshop in Senegal. Recently the Executive Secretary visited ONCFS to discuss the preparations more in detail and later on to meet together with representatives of ONCFS with the representatives of OMPO. In principal agreement has been reached that the Workshop will be an AEWA Workshop organised by ONCFS in close cooperation with OMPO and CIC. This workshop is scheduled for late 2004.

Workshop on promoting AEWA in Russian Federation

MOP2 adopted the possibility to pay the annual contribution in kind in lieu of cash. This provision has been made to allow countries that are currently in a difficult economic situation to join the Agreement. One of the countries that might be interested in this provision could be the Russian Federation. The annual contribution is one of the bottlenecks clearly indicated by the Russian Federation to join any Convention and/ or Agreement. Now this problem has been tackled it might be worthwhile to restart the discussion with the Authorities of the Russian Federation on accession to AEWA.

A first step has been taken by the Secretariat during MOP2 by making contact with the delegation of Russian Federation. Since then the Secretariat has regularly contact with one of members of this delegation. Ideas have been developed to organise a Workshop somewhere early 2004. The aim of the Workshop will be to promote the Agreement and to urge the responsible Authorities of the Russian Federation to join the Agreement. Before such a Workshop could take place the Agreement text and Action Plan has to be studied by Russian Experts and all obligations for the Russian Federation should be made visible.

According to the response received from the Russian counterparts many changes have taken place in the responsible Ministries and therefore it might be a good moment to restart the discussion on accession to AEWA of the Russian Federation.

2. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Communication Strategy

One of the most important tools of raising awareness on the Agreement is exchange of information. For this we currently have the AEWA Newsletter, AEWA Brochure and the AEWA Website. What is missing is a communication strategy. By the end of 2002 funds have been received from the UK to develop a communication strategy for the Agreement as listed as priority in the International Implementation Priorities 2003-2007. Meanwhile the Secretariat has identified a consultant with long standing experience with Multilateral Environmental Agreements. The TC has reviewed the project proposal and some amendments were made in close cooperation with the consultant. After that was done the work has been contracted out. During the StC1 meeting the consultant will brief the StC members on progress made so far.

The following paragraphs will provide some more information on existing activities on exchange of information.

Newsletters

At the first workshop on Non-toxic shot (Romania, 2001) it was decided that information on this issue should be distributed widely. The idea behind this is to raise more awareness on the problems linked to the use of lead shot. The Secretariat decided to publish a number of articles and a special Newsletter on this issue and contracted Ms Nienke Beintema. With some guidance at the beginning it turned out that she possessed the necessary skills to interview people, to write articles and to compile a first draft of the Newsletter. The quality of her work was very good/, which meant that just limited time was needed from the Secretariat to review and amend texts written by her. Most of the time was spent on the layout of the Newsletter that was contracted out to a printer.

The articles were published on the Agreements' Website and submitted to national Hunters Magazines all over Europe, with the request to translate these Articles and to publish them in their Magazines. Limited feedback on this activity was received.

The first special issue of the AEWA Newsletter on Lead Shot was published just before MOP2. The feedback received on this issue shows that it is highly appreciated. Many extra copies have been ordered from all over the world. It has been noted that in some countries the Newsletter is used to start the discussion on banning out the use of Lead shot

for hunting in wetlands.

In March 2003 the second special issue of the AEWA Newsletter was published. It reports on the outcome of MOP2. Again the feedback received shows that this kind of information is highly appreciated.

A regular issue of the Newsletter was published just before MOP2. Compiling Newsletters is very time consuming and there is nearly no capacity in the current Secretariat for this. In future we hope that a Junior Professional Officer will be provided by one of the Range States to help us out in this respect. Exchange of information is one of our priorities.

It is foreseen that for 2003 an issue of the regular Newsletter could be published. Mr Doru Leonard Irimie, who joined the Secretariat as an intern from July 28 to September 26, 2002, has done a lot of work on compiling a regular issue of the Newsletter. Mr Irimie used to work within the Romanian ministry responsible for forestry and game species management and presently Ph.D. student at the Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Sciences within the "Albert-Ludwigs" University of Freiburg. During his internship he collated information and drafted articles on publications, projects and changes in the Agreements' Secretariat. All these articles were reviewed by the Executive Secretary and based on his comments amended accordingly. The next step is to compile the Newsletter and to include when necessary additional information. It is hoped that the Agreement Secretariat find the time to do this before end of 2003.

Common Exhibition/ AEWA Exhibition

In close cooperation with CMS, EUROBATS, ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS, a common Exhibition has been developed on CMS and its Agreements. This Exhibition was launched at the COP7/ MOP2.

In the common Exhibition there was limited space to address all ins and outs of AEWA. Taking into account that the existing AEWA Exhibition dates back to end of 1995 and is fully out of date there was a need to develop a new one. The development of this Exhibition took place in close cooperation with designer of the common Exhibition. Although the Exhibition Panels have been printed the idea is to wait with the official launch till the Global Flyway Conference in 2004.

Website

The update of the Agreements' Website is partly contracted out to UNEP-WCMC (particular updating species database and maps/graphics) and partly done by the Secretariat. Regarding the latter Mr Kim Liffers was contracted to work on this one day/ week as of beginning of February 2003. His tasks was to update the information of the Agreements' website, to rearrange the existing information and to add, where necessary, some additional information e.g. AEWA Event Calendar, list of International Species Action Plans, etc. Particularly rearranging the existing information, in a way that it becomes more accessible for the users, is something that requires a lot of input from the Secretariat. Unfortunately the Secretariat was not fully satisfied with the quality of the work done and decided as of end of April not to extend the contract. Since then the website is regularly updated by the Executive Secretary.

In August 2003 Ms Marie-Therese Kämper followed a course to make her familiar with 'Dreamweaver'. This is the software used to update websites. In coming months she will take over the task to update the information on the website.

DVD/ AEWA Film

In 1999 a representative of Fiction Film visited the Interim Secretariat, at that time still based in the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management & Fisheries of the Netherlands. From that moment onwards the Secretariat planned to develop a film on AEWA as a tool to raise awareness on the importance of AEWA for the conservation of Migratory Waterbirds in the African-Eurasian Flyway. Using a small grant received from the Netherlands early 2000 a consortium of Fiction Film and Musch & Tinbergen Production drafted a scenario including cost estimates. Studying the latter it became clear that the development of such a film is extremely expensive and would cost roundabout US \$ 250,000. The feasibility to find the necessary funds was quite low. Meanwhile new techniques e.g. DVD came into the market, which provided us with more possibilities to tailor the film for any meeting AEWA wants to attend. To clarify a bit, DVD

gives us the possibility to rearrange the footages whenever we wish to do so and to burn a new DVD or CD-rom. It also gives us the possibility to break the project in smaller pieces and to add any language.

In March 2003 agreement was reached with the Government of Germany that their voluntary contributions to AEWA for 2003 could be used to develop the first DVD. Soon after that the work was contracted out to the consortium mentioned-above. It is scheduled that the DVD will be available just before the Global Flyway Conference in Edinburgh in 2004. Furthermore the production of the film has been integrated in the AEWA GEF project. This will leverage up to a maximum of 50 % of the total costs as indicated above.

3. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Joint Workprogramme with Ramsar Bureau

For some year CMS drafted a Joint Work Programme (JWP) between the RAMSAR bureau and CMS. Although both organisations were in favour of the JWP, it has never been finalized because the people involved from CMS as well as from the RAMSAR Bureau left office.

AEWA is fully complementary to the RAMSAR Convention, however there is also some overlap. To avoid any duplication or to enhance each other activities there is a need to synchronize our work plans. Therefore the AEWA Secretariat, in close cooperation with CMS, updated the existing draft JWP incorporating specific AEWA issues.

In 2002 the final draft was submitted as document to MOP2, COP7 CMS and COP8 Ramsar. Since then some amendments were made and it is hoped that in due course we could sign the final version of the JWP and that the implementation could start.

Joint Work programme with Wetlands International

Similar to the JWP with Ramsar, it has also been recognized that AEWA should be involved in a joint work programme between Wetlands International and CMS. A first draft of this JWP was made by Wetlands International and circulated in 2002. The AEWA Secretariat has given its input to this programme and agreement was reached between the parties involved early 2003. In March 2003 the programme was signed during a small formal ceremony in the margins of the farewell reception of the Deputy-Executive Secretary of CMS.

Joint Work programme with UNCCD

CMS initiated to identify possibilities for future cooperation between CMS and UNCCD. More or less from the beginning onwards the AEWA Secretariat has been involved in this. The Secretariat participated in a number of meetings and provided comments on drafts of the Memorandum of Understanding between CMS and UNCCD and JWP. The discussion is still going on and one of the questions is if AEWA should be on a similar way involved as in the JWP with Ramsar and Wetlands International.

OMPO

An official visit was paid in January 2003 together with Mr. Herby Kalchreuter (CIC representative in the TC) to the OMPO Headquarters in Paris. During this meeting we tried to identify issues of common interest and possibilities for future cooperation.

4. PROJECTS

African-Eurasian Flyway GEF project

The project brief for the full-size project has been submitted to the GEF Secretariat somewhere in October 2003. Unfortunately the reviewer of the GEF Secretariat make very clear that he doesn't strongly support the flyway approach. In future it will be extremely difficult to apply for GEF funding for flyway-oriented projects. GEF is more focussing on site-based projects. Anyway this African-Eurasian Flyway GEF project is now very far in the process and it is not expected that the GEF Council will not approve the project. From 19-21 November 2003 the Council will meet and hopefully will take a positive decision on this particular project. If that is the case the implementation could start probably as of mid of 2004.

End of 2002 serious problems aroused regarding matching funds available for the project. Originally the total available budget for the project was estimated to US \$ 12 million. In principal GEF would contribute up to a maximum of US \$ 6 million. So additional US \$ 6 million had to be secured. Since the beginning of PDF-B fase one of the donors showed interest to support the project with an amount of US \$ 10-12 million. So based on this the project was designed assuming that a total amount of approximately US \$ 20-24 million would be available. Unfortunately the policy of the Ministry of Development Cooperation of this specific Donor changed and this had an impact on the subsidy that could be expected. The whole project has to be redesigned to bring in line with the budget that would be available of US \$ 12 million. This of course caused some delays. The AEWA Secretariat has on a regular basis contact with Wetlands International, being the executing agency. The Secretariat as well as the TC is represented in the Steering Committee of this project.

International Implementation Priorities 2004-2007²

The AEWA Secretariat plays an active role in the implementation of the International Implementation Priorities. One of the tasks of the Secretariat is to seek and whenever possible to secure necessary funds to implement some of the projects. The total amount of voluntary contribution received in 2002 till March 2003 is roundabout US \$ 250,000 donated by France, Germany, Switzerland, The Netherlands and the UK. These contributions are earmarked for the following projects:

- IIP 2003-2007
 - project 1 : Meeting of the Dark-bellied Brent Goose Working group;
 - project 2 : Development of a International Species Action Plan for the Ferruginous Duck;
 - project 10: Organisation of a Non-toxic workshop in Italy;
 - project 17: Publishing of the Wader Atlas;
 - project 20: Coordination of Waterbird ringing schemes, particularly in Africa;
 - project 31: Drafting of a communication strategy.
- Development of information materials;
- Development of DVD;
- Publication of the results of the African Waterbird Census 1991-2001.

In addition to this list some leftovers of previous triennium has been allocated³ to the following projects:

- IIP 2003-2007
 - project 2: Development of new International Species Action plans. In this case activities are underway to start the development of an International Action Plan for the Bald Ibis;
 - project 19: Pilot study/ review of potential from Waterbird ringing recoveries for the Agreement are;
- Global Flyway Conference

A detailed description on the current situation regarding implementation of all IIP 2003-2007 projects could be found in document StC1.7

Since March 2003 the Secretariat was not able to accrue voluntary contributions. In many countries are suffering of the economic problems and this has lead to cuttings in budgets of Ministries involved in the work of AEWA. Hopefully this situation will improve in future.

² MOP2 adopted the International Implementation Priorities 2004-2007 (IIP 2004-2007). Until then the IIP 2000-2004 was in force; part of the project mentioned-above originated from IIP 2000-2004 and part from the new IIP.

³ As approved by the Chair of the Technical Committee, having the mandate to approve any budget revision during the first triennium on behalf of the MOP.