



THIRD MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
04 - 05 July 2005, Bonn, Germany

Draft report of the Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the Standing Committee
2-3 November 2004 in Bonn, Germany

Agenda item 1: Opening

1. The Chairman of the meeting, Mr Emmanuel L. Severre (Tanzania), welcomed participants to the second meeting of the Standing Committee and invited the German delegation to make some opening remarks.
2. Mr Dirk Schwenzfeier (Head of Division, Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, representing the Host Government) welcomed the participants on behalf of Federal Government of Germany.
3. This was the second meeting of the committee established to deal with administrative issues, thereby relieving the Technical Committee of these tasks. Many of the items on the agenda related to the preparation of the Meeting of Parties to be held in 2005. He expressed the hope that the facilities provided by the Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety would ensure a successful meeting.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

4. The AEWA Executive Secretary, Mr Bert Lenten, then introduced document AEWA/StC 2.2, Rules of Procedure for the AEWA Standing Committee. Since the last meeting of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat had revised the original Rules to include the amendments suggested there. The document was approved and the Rules of Procedure were adopted without further discussion.

Agenda item 3: Adoption of the Agenda and Work Schedule

5. Mr Lenten introduced the provisional agenda and work programme for this meeting (documents AEWA/StC 2.3 and AEWA/StC 2.4), prepared by the Secretariat. The meeting approved both documents without amendment.

Agenda item 4: Admission of Observers

6. Mr Lenten reported that all the permanent members of the committee were present, with the exception of Egypt, whose representative was unable to attend due to illness.

Observers from Luxembourg, Gambia, UNEP/UNON, UNEP/WCMC and IUCN would arrive later. Furthermore a representative from BirdLife International was present.

Agenda item 5: Adoption of the Report of the First Meeting of the Standing Committee

7. During the review of the StC 1 Report Mr Yousoof Mungroo suggested moving paragraph 150 to the end of agenda item 3 and inserting it there as paragraph 46. Furthermore he suggested several minor editorial modifications to the draft, and the meeting agreed to their inclusion.

8. The Chairman suggested that, in line with international reporting style, the discussion could have been summarised to reflect what had been agreed upon; this view was supported by the Meeting.

9. Mr Lenten seconded the Chairman's proposal and suggested adopting the new style for the report of the current meeting. However, he asked for the report on the First Meeting to be approved as it was now tabled.

10. Speaking on behalf of UNEP/CMS, Mr Lahcen El Kabiri commented on paragraphs 120 and 121 of the report. He felt that the actual wording used was important, but that nonetheless certain expressions should be modified in the final version.

11. In response to the comments made by the CMS representative Mr Lenten pointed out that the former Executive Secretary of CMS had approved this text after some discussion, and despite some sensitive issues.

12. The meeting adopted the report with the noted amendments.

➤ ***Action to be taken: Secretariat to amend the report and to apply the new style for future reports.***

Agenda item 6: Reports from the Standing Committee members and observers

13. Reports were presented on activities from the United Kingdom, Romania, Senegal, Tanzania and the Netherlands.

14. Following these presentations, Mr Lenten noted that all had been from individual countries, indicating that communication within the regions could be improved. The draft communication strategy to be presented later would address this problem.

15. Representing BirdLife International, Mr John O'Sullivan suggested developing a list of standardised questions for countries' reports to the Standing Committee. This could correspond to the information required for national reports submitted to the Meeting of the Parties, thereby avoiding duplication of work on all sides.

16. It was agreed to establish an *ad hoc* working group made up of the representatives from Tanzania, the Netherlands, Romania, Senegal, BirdLife International, the Technical Committee Chairman and the Secretariat, to draft a list of questions.

17. The *ad hoc* working group reported back to the plenary that they proposed putting questions under five major headings: species conservation, habitat conservation, management of human activities, research and monitoring, and education and information. It was

considered that three questions per category would be useful. The Secretariat was requested to draft these questions and to circulate them to the committee members for approval.

18. Mrs Jasmin Kanza, CMS, reported on the appointment of the new acting Executive Secretary to CMS, Rob Hepworth. She also reported that UNEP was currently establishing a new administrative centre in Geneva to improve its services to the Agreement.

19. The representative from UNEP, Mr Nehemiah Rotich, delivered a message from the Executive Director of UNEP, Dr Klaus Töpfer (Document AEWA/StC Inf. 2.8).

20. Mr Rotich then presented a report prepared by the Division of Environmental Conventions in UNEP (AEWA/StC Inf. 2.7) giving details of the support provided to the Agreements. He asked members of the Standing Committee to review this document and give their feedback, especially on the subject of harmonising national reporting.

21. Mr Lenten reported that AEWA would address this issue at the next meeting of the Technical Committee, and hoped to initiate a pilot study using the online reporting system currently being developed by UNEP/WCMC. This was a question relevant to all members of the CMS family, and it was hoped that UNEP could help to find funding for this pilot study. The current reporting format could only be changed by a decision of the Meeting of Parties, and a proposal would be submitted to that meeting.

22. Mr Rotich welcomed these developments. While in Bonn he would meet the AEWA Executive Secretary to explore a common approach to soliciting funding for joint UNEP and AEWA projects.

23. Mr Lenten thanked UNEP for this offer of support. This topic would be dealt with in more detail on the second day of the meeting.

➤ *Action to be taken: Secretariat to develop questions for reports of countries to the StC.*

Agenda item 7: Report of the Depositary

24. On behalf of the Depositary, Mr Jan-Willem Sneep presented document AEWA/StC 2.6. There were now a total of 48 Parties to the Agreement, and the Secretariat was to be congratulated on this good progress.

25. Mr Lenten responded that he hoped to reach a total of 60 Parties by the end of 2005, and asked the Committee to contact their regions to request more support. A very important development was that the European Union was expected to ratify the Agreement in the near future. In Africa, Central Asia and Middle East little progress had been made in recruitment of new parties. Support from StC members to urge Range States to become Contracting Parties to AEWA would be welcome.

➤ *Action to be taken: StC Members/Observers to urge Range States to join the Agreement.*

Agenda item 8: Report of the Technical Committee and adoption of Rules of Procedure for TC meetings

26. The Chairman of the Technical Committee, Mr Yousoof Mungroo, reported on the outcome of the 5th meeting of the Technical Committee, held in Scotland in the spring of 2004 (see doc. AEWA/ StC Inf. 2.1).
27. The meeting had covered much ground, but had also taken some important decisions, including suggesting an amendment to the Rules of Procedure (see AEWA/StC 2.7).
28. An *ad hoc* working group was established to look into these proposed amendments. This working group reported back to the plenary and suggested removing the reference in bold (“in coordination with the Standing Committee”), while adding a final sentence “The Technical Committee works closely with the Standing Committee to ensure consistency across the Agreement’s work”. Rule 2 should then read, “In particular **the Technical Committee** makes recommendations ...”.
29. These amendments to the Rules of Procedure were then adopted without further discussion.

Agenda item 9: Report of the Secretariat

30. Mr Lenten introduced document AEWA/StC 2.8 and summarised its content regarding general matters such as the Secretariat's move to the future UN campus in Bonn, the functioning of the Agreements' Unit, recruitment of staff and meetings.
31. In addition to the information contained in the report, Mr Lenten also reported that the workshop on sustainable hunting held the previous week in Senegal had been very successful and had attracted considerable high-level attention. Further he outlined the activities in the field of information management and cooperation with other organisations, as well as future projects, while emphasising that this paper covered only the most important activities.
32. Mr Sneeep expressed concern at the delay in finalising the recruitment process for the Executive Secretary's post. On behalf of the StC he had written to Dr Toepfer on this question, but had so far received no response. The present situation was unsatisfactory.
33. Mr Rotich responded that Mr Sneeep's letter had been received in Nairobi and was currently receiving consideration in the office of the Deputy Executive Director.
34. It was decided to consider this matter further in a closed session later in the meeting.

➤ *Action to be taken: UNEP to respond to the letter of the StC regarding recruitment process for the Executive Secretary's post.*

Agenda item 10: Administrative and financial matters

- a. Income and expenditures 2003-2004

35. Speaking on behalf of the CMS Administration and Fund Management Unit, Sandra Rucker introduced document AEWA/StC 2.9 by reporting that due to exchange rate changes the AEWA budget had been subject to a loss of 16% during 2003; this had particularly effected the budget line for salaries. Actual expenditure had been less than planned and USD 56,000 had been carried over into 2004.

36. Referring to Annex 3, Ms Rucker reported that again shortfalls were expected in budget lines 1101 and 1301 due to exchange rate losses and the education allowance to which the Executive Secretary was entitled. Budget line 1601 (Travel) would also be affected due to increased airfares. The Secretariat expected to be able to use surpluses to compensate for overspending in some budget lines. However, slight overspending might occur due to salaries.

37. Ms Kanza enquired how the problem of the obvious deficit now apparent could be solved and about the expected deficit for 2005.

38. Mr Lenten replied that the Secretariat was doing its best to make savings but that it would be very difficult to compensate for the expected 55,000 USD deficit in 2004. As a last resort, this money would come from the Trust Fund reserve. He was unable to predict the deficit for the coming year.

39. Mr Sneepe enquired how the exchange rate problem, causing spending on salaries to be 38,000 USD higher than planned, might be solved.

40. Mr Lenten replied that in fact all commitments were affected by the fall in the dollar. Regarding salaries, professional staff received a so-called post adjustment, which had risen from 12% to the current 43%. This was a UN rule he was unable to change, but which had a severe impact on the budget. As the value of the dollar continued to fall, budget planning remained difficult.

b. Allocation of funds accrued from new Parties

41. Mr Lenten introduced document AEWA/StC 2.10 and recalled Resolution 2.7 passed at the second Meeting of the Parties. This defined a core budget, and allocated contributions from countries that ratified after 1 January 2003 to fund special projects. Table 1, which was based on current information, indicated the countries and the amounts involved, but he expected the final figure to be higher, approximately 450,000 USD. Table 2 listed the projects approved by the second Meeting of the Parties and Table 3 showed the amounts allocated by the Standing Committee in 2003 (118,650 USD) and those requested for projects in 2005 (214,700 USD).

42. Mr Lenten explained that the Secretariat hoped to allocate 10,000 USD to fund a new "AEWA Award", which he hoped could later be financed from private sector sources. He was requesting approval now to allow preparations for the AEWA 10th anniversary in 2005 to proceed. The meeting adopted this proposal.

43. After some discussion and consultation with CMS and UNON it became clear that the use of contributions from new Parties in this way was permissible, but that close liaison with UNON was necessary as regards the actual procedure. The Standing Committee agreed to the allocation of the 214,700 USD as outlined in document AEWA/StC 2.10, but instructed the Secretariat to consult with UNON as to the required procedure for the future, and to report back to the Committee on the outcome of these consultations.

- *Action to be taken: Secretariat to liaise with UNON to revise the budget by inclusion of additional funds allocated by the StC.*

c. Request for a Junior Professional Officer Information Management

44. The Executive Secretary presented document AEWA/StC Inf. 2.2. The requested Information Officer would be working part-time on the GEF project and part-time on information management for the Agreement. UNON had informed the Secretariat that priority was being given to this request and to one from CMS. Now funding was being sought for both posts. Improving communication was an important priority for AEWA, especially in view of the 10th anniversary the following year, so this post was very necessary.

45. Mr O'Sullivan stressed that this post would also be important for the GEF project, which had been welcomed as a breakthrough, and should not fail for lack of staff.

Agenda item 11: Implementation of the International Implementation Priorities

46. The Executive Secretary presented document AEWA/StC 2.11, a report submitted annually to the Standing Committee. Voluntary contributions were becoming increasingly difficult to obtain, however 290,000 USD had been secured for the International Implementation Priorities 2003-2007. The list gave an overview of the projects currently in hand and the progress made to date. Some of the projects were still in need of funding, which would hopefully be found in due course.

47. Document AEWA/StC 2.11 was approved and adopted by the meeting.

Agenda item 12: Update of the African-Eurasian Flyways GEF Project

48. The Executive Secretary gave an oral update on progress on this project on behalf of Wetlands International. The four main players were BirdLife International, Wetlands International, Ramsar and AEWA, but many others were involved throughout the region. The GEF Council had agreed to adopt this project, worth 12 million USD, in 2003 and co-financing had meanwhile been found, including a contribution of 1 million Euros from the German government. Wetlands International had been asked to rewrite the documentation to bring it into line with UN procedures and it was estimated that implementation could begin early in 2005, although the recruitment of a new coordinator might cause some delay. Mr Lenten stressed that some of the co-funders had allocated resources for a specific year, and that funds might be lost if there was a delay in implementation. It was essential that Wetlands International finalise the paperwork very soon, and they would be informed accordingly.

- *Action to be taken: Secretariat to urge Wetlands International to finalise the paperwork regarding the GEF project without delay.*

Agenda item 13: Institutional matters

a. Headquarters Agreement

49. Mr Lenten reported that Arnulf Müller-Helmbrecht, then Executive Secretary to CMS, had signed the Headquarters Agreement between CMS and the German government in June 2004.

50. Mr Joachim Schmitz, Germany, confirmed that the Headquarters Agreement had been in force since 5 June 2004 and applied to all the Agreements under CMS.

b. Cooperation with other bodies and processes

51. Mr Lenten informed the Meeting that together with CMS Joint Work Programmes have been concluded with Wetlands International and the Ramsar Bureau. In due course meetings would take place to discuss the implementation of these plans. A close cooperation with the Secretariat of the Bern Convention also existed, particularly regarding the development of International Species Action Plans, although no formal arrangement had been made for the cooperation between the two Secretariats. It was still planned to develop a Memorandum of Cooperation with OMPO. Due to lack of capacity this had not yet been undertaken.

Agenda item 14: Draft Communication Strategy for the Agreement

52. Gwen van Boven of SPAN Consultants introduced document AEWA/StC 2.12. This was intended to provide practical guidelines for the Agreement's communication strategy. She then gave a presentation "Communicating AEWA" (document AEWA/StC Inf. 2.9), which incorporated the results of her consultations with stakeholders during the past year.

53. Mr Sneep complimented Ms van Boven on her presentation, but enquired if Annex 1 of Document StC 2.12 could not specify those responsible for each activity. He would have liked to see mention of other partners such as the Council of Europe, the EU and CITES that might play a role.

54. Dr Tilman Pommeranz, representing Germany, thanked SPAN for their hard work and stated that he was happy with the draft strategy.

55. Then, speaking on behalf of the UK, Dr Pommeranz said that they were happy with the overall strategy but had some doubts about the "train the trainer" approach, and took the view that the institutions involved were likely to have their own trainers, who should be provided with the necessary materials. Regarding the "guidelines for accession", the UK felt it might be confusing to specify these, as they might differ from country to country.

56. Ms van Boven thanked the meeting for these comments, and underlined the fact that this version of the draft was the result of a long consultation process with many stakeholders, whose opinions often differed. Regarding the "train the trainer" approach, she had sought a balance between differing views, and it was for the Standing Committee to judge if she had succeeded. She had noted the other comments and would amend the report accordingly.

57. Mr Lenten said that the Secretariat was very happy with the document as tabled. He noted that there were major budgetary implications and that although some money could come from the AEWA budget, additional funding was still needed.

58. The Chairman, while noting that the budget question still required attention, asked SPAN to fine-tune the document and re-submit it to the Secretariat for presentation to the next Meeting of the Parties for approval. The meeting endorsed this proposal.

- *Action to be taken: SPAN Consultants to amend the text based on the discussion in StC and to re-submit it to the Secretariat.*

Agenda item 15: Draft budget proposal for 2006-2008

a. Draft budget proposal 2006-2008

59. Mr Lenten presented document AEWA/StC 2.13, the first step in preparing the budget for the next triennium. As already stated, the fall of the US dollar and related salary increases had severe implications for the work of the Agreement.

60. The present proposal was based on merging the regular budget approved by MOP2, with the addition of the extra income from new parties that acceded to the Agreement after 1 January 2003 as indicated in resolution 2.7; this would be the baseline used when drafting the budget proposal for 2006-2008.

61. The budget had been calculated in US dollars, but was presented here in Euros at the request of one of the Parties. The question as to whether to change to a Euro budget needed further investigation and consultation with CMS, and would be on the agenda of the next Standing Committee meeting.

62. Referring to Annexes 1 and 1a, Mr Lenten explained that the Secretariat proposed to increase the minimum contribution from 100 US Dollars to 500 or 1000 US dollars. Despite the overall increase, most Parties' contributions would decrease in the coming triennium. The fact that the contribution payable by Germany would be subject to a considerable increase was a problem that had been recognised.

63. Mr Sneeep reiterated his concern about the losses due to the exchange rate and looked forward to hearing possible solutions. Regarding an increase in the minimum contribution, he felt that AEWA should adopt a practice in line with those of other conventions. Mr Lenten responded that these varied considerably and were in some cases currently being reviewed.

64. Commenting on the draft budget proposal, Mr Schmitz welcomed the suggestion to adopt a Euro budget, and suspected that this would have no disadvantages for the Secretariat. However, whereas the overall increase of 6.9% had only minor implications for some countries, the fact that Germany's contribution would increase by 70% was unacceptable for his government.

65. Mr O'Sullivan said that BirdLife International and Wetlands International had discussed the Secretariat's proposal regarding the budget baseline (see above) and felt that despite the problems this was the best solution to ensure continuation of the Agreement's activities.

66. Regarding the reservations voiced by Germany, which was suffering most from the UN Scale of Assessment, Mr Lenten proposed a bilateral discussion in next few weeks to try to find a solution to this problem.

67. Summing up, the Chairman observed that the Standing Committee saw problems due to exchange rate losses, and that the Secretariat should seek a solution and return to the Standing Committee in 2005 for further consultation before the Meeting of Parties. The second open question was the overall budget increase and how this could be addressed. The Secretariat should investigate how other conventions dealt with the question of minimum contributions and submit a proposal to the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

68. The meeting adopted this document, requesting that the Secretariat deal with the open question and present solutions for discussion at the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

- *Action to be taken: Secretariat to seek a solution for the exchange rate losses, to find out how other Conventions deal with the question of minimum contributions, to come up with a proposal as to how the overall budget increase could be addressed and to report back to the next StC meeting on these issues.*

b. Proposal regarding eligibility of delegates to be funded to attend AEWA meetings

69. Ms Sandra Rücker presented document AEWA/StC2.14, explaining that AEWA currently had no rules regarding eligibility for funding, and that it was therefore proposed to adopt the rules applied by CMS. Ms Rücker summarised the proposed rules laid down in the document, and asked the meeting to consider them and decide if they could be adopted preliminarily, thus allowing them to be put into practice until formally adopted by the Meeting of Parties.

70. The meeting agreed to this proposal and accepted the document.

Agenda item 16: Draft proposal regarding the Report on the Conservation Status of AEWA species

71. On behalf of the Secretariat, Mr Sergey Dereliev presented document AEWA/StC 2.15. The AEWA Action Plan required the Secretariat to prepare international reviews, for example of population status, and update these every three years. However, so far only one review had been published, in 2000. MOP2 had instructed the Technical Committee to improve the analytical content of these reports, and the Technical Committee had proposed a new format, which was endorsed by the 5th Meeting of the Technical Committee in 2004.

72. The Standing Committee was now also asked to approve this format, prior to contracting an external body to prepare a first draft for submission to the 6th meeting of the Technical Committee in May 2005. International Implementation Priorities also needed to be drafted, based on that first draft. The report should be finalised by September 2005 for submission, together with the final version of the International Implementation Priorities, to MOP3 for approval.

73. Dr Pommeranz, speaking on behalf of the UK, thanked the Technical Committee for its efforts and supported the proposed new reporting format, which should prove useful. Germany shared this opinion, and the meeting endorsed this draft reporting format for further action as described.

- *Action to be taken: Secretariat to contract external body to prepare first draft of the conservation status report and International Implementation Priorities 2006-2009.*

Agenda item 17: Draft proposal for future development of the Agreement

a. Central Asian Flyway

74. The Central Asian Flyway covered 13 countries outside the AEWA region and nine within it. A workshop, to be hosted by the Indian government, was being organised in close collaboration with the lead organisation CMS, and was now planned for January or February 2005. AEWA had concluded a Letter of Agreement with the Swiss government for some additional funding for the workshop, but funds were still required. A meeting early in 2005 would give the Secretariat time to prepare resolutions for MOP3 and the CMS Conference of the Parties, if the countries of the region decided to opt for a legally binding instrument. CMS and AEWA had agreed that if this were the case, they would offer to extend the AEWA region.

- *Action to be taken: Secretariat to report back on outcome of the CAF workshop.*

b. Additional species to be included

75. The Secretariat reported that requests had been received from some countries to include some warblers in the AEWA list. The Technical Committee was currently reviewing the inclusion of some passerines, seabirds and raptors. Regarding the latter, the UK favoured a separate raptor agreement under CMS. Inclusion of at least additional seabird species was being given the highest priority to make the current list of species covered by AEWA more consistent. Passerines, including the Aquatic Warbler, were a more complicated issue as information was lacking on many of them, particularly the inter-African migrants. The Technical Committee was working on this issue and would submit more information to the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

76. On the subject of seabirds, Mr Balla Gueye, representing Senegal, reported that the Isle de la Madelaine national park near Dakar was home to the very rare Red-billed Tropic Bird (*Phaethon aethereus*), which should be included on the list.

77. Mr Lenten replied that Senegal's request to include more seabirds on the list was being considered by the Technical Committee, which would submit a proposal to the next Standing Committee meeting for presentation to the Meeting of Parties.

78. Dr Pommeranz, speaking on behalf of the UK, reported that the UK was seeking tenders to investigate the merit of a CMS regional agreement for African-Eurasian migratory raptors. A specification had been agreed with Mr O'Sullivan, as chair of the CMS Scientific Council, and the work should be completed by Spring 2005.

79. The Meeting took note of the developments regarding extension of the scope of the Agreement.

- *Action to be taken: TC to develop and submit to the next StC meeting a concrete proposal regarding additional waterbird species to be included in AEWA.*

Agenda item 18: Date and venue of the Third Meeting of the Parties

80. Mr Lenten reported that he had recently returned from a fact-finding mission to Mali and Senegal. In Mali he had been received by, among others, the Minister of Environment. In Senegal, a country familiar to him from previous visits, he had met, among others, the Deputy Minister for Environment.

81. A more detailed report on the fact-finding mission was presented during a closed session. Based on this the members of the StC decided in favour of Senegal as the venue for the next Meeting of Parties in 2005.

82. Having been informed of the decision, Mr Balla Gueye thanked the meeting for their choice, and expressed his pleasure at this decision, promising to ensure the success of the meeting.

- *Action to be taken: Secretariat to inform the Government of Mali of the decision taken by the StC.*

Agenda item 19: Celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of AEWA in 2005

82. Mr Dereliev introduced document AEWA/StC 2.16. The year 2005 would mark the Agreement's tenth anniversary, and the Secretariat proposed a series of events to take place throughout the year and in many countries, beginning in Spring 2005 and ending with the Meeting of Parties. The Standing Committee was requested to approve the activities outlined in the document.

83. The current AEWA logo had been in use since 1999, but had proved problematic for various reasons. Mr Dereliev presented three proposals for a new logo. These were discussed at some length before a vote was taken. The majority voted for Proposal 2. This proposal was adopted.

84. Continuing to outline the planned anniversary events, Mr Dereliev presented a new layout for the AEWA website. This looked similar to the CMS website. It contained the same information as before, but had some added features to ease navigation. It was hoped to launch this at the beginning of 2005.

85. Regarding the use of the new logo in the anniversary year, Mr Lenten asked the Standing Committee to approve using this as from 1 January 2005, pending formal adoption by MOP at the end of 2005. The meeting endorsed the use of the new logo from the start of the anniversary celebrations, and agreed that the MOP should be informed accordingly.

86. Concerning the planned annual Migratory Waterbird Day, to be held in 2005 for the first time, Mr Dereliev explained that the second weekend in April had been chosen as this was during the migratory season. If the Standing Committee approved, the Secretariat would approach BirdLife International about cooperation on this event. It would be celebrated throughout the agreement area to encourage non-contracting range states to accede to AEWA. The meeting approved this proposal.

87. In addition it was planned to hold other events and produce publications as funding permitted.

88. The final proposal was for an AEWA Waterbird Conservation Award, to be presented triennially at the Meeting of Parties in two categories, institutional and individual. The Standing Committee should choose the winners, but the search for candidates should begin immediately. The suggestion was endorsed by the meeting. The Secretariat will develop criteria for circulation by e-mail to the Standing Committee for approval before its next meeting.

- *Action to be taken: Secretariat to launch the new website and logo, to organise the World Waterbird Day, to organise if feasible other events and to develop criteria for the selection of nominees for the AEWA Conservation Award and to forward these to the StC by e-mail for approval.*

Agenda item 20: Date and venue of the next meeting of the Standing Committee

89. Mr Lenten reported that the Secretariat was currently looking for a date and venue for the next Standing Committee meeting, which should be held in either June or September 2005.

90. Dr Pommeranz stated that Germany would be honoured to invite the Standing Committee to meet in Bonn again in 2005.

91. This invitation was accepted by the meeting with great appreciation.

Agenda item 21: Any other business

a. Harmonisation of reporting systems

92. Mr Gerardo Fragoso, representing WCMC, gave a presentation on the online national reporting system currently being developed by his organisation, and demonstrated the many features incorporated to facilitate reporting and retrieval of information. This was currently being run as a pilot project in the IOSEA area, and although its use was voluntary, there had been an almost 100 percent response.

93. Mr Lenten commented that he would like to start a combined pilot project for AEWA and CMS using this system. He would suggest this to the Technical Committee, which was also discussing a new reporting format for national reports.

94. As to the costs involved, Mr Fragoso reported that these would not be high as the basic design was already in place and would need only modification to match the AEWA format. Once the new reporting format had been approved, the test phase could begin within a very few months.

95. The meeting agreed that the Secretariat should pursue this subject and report back to the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

- *Action to be taken: Secretariat to pursue the online national reporting system in close cooperation with the TC and to report back to the next StC meeting.*

b. Lesser White-fronted Goose

96. Mr Pommeranz raised the point of the ongoing discussion on the introduction of the Lesser White-fronted Goose in the flyway Scandinavia-Western Europe. His Swedish colleague had suggested that the IUCN Reintroduction Specialist Group should be included in this discussion, and requested information on planned activities in this context.

97. Mr Lenten replied that he had also been approached on this difficult issue. The species normally migrated to Kazakhstan, and was under heavy hunting pressure. Some European groups hoped to encourage the species to use a new flyway to Germany or the Netherlands. The Wetlands International Goose Specialist Group was discussing this major ethical issue. The Secretariat had offered to consider developing an action plan and was waiting for input.

Agenda item 22: Closure of the meeting

98. The Chairman thanked Germany for their generous hospitality in hosting the meeting, and also thanked the participants for their excellent contributions and for making his task an easy one. The support and guidance provided by UNEP and CMS had also been appreciated.

99. Thanks were also due to the Secretariat for organising the smooth running of the meeting, as well as to the interpreters for their tireless support and patience.

100. Mr O'Sullivan thanked the Chairman for his tactful leadership, and the meeting was closed at 3.40 p.m.

Annex 1:

LIST OF ACTION POINTS

Topic	What to do	Who	Deadline¹
Report of StC2 meeting	To amend the report and to apply the new style for future reports.	Secretariat	1 December 2004
Reporting to StC meetings	To develop some questions for reports of countries to the StC.	Secretariat	1 March 2005
Aquiring new Parties	To urge Range States to accede to the Agreement.	StC Member/ Obs.	
Recruitment of Executive Secretary	To respond to the letter of the StC regarding recruitment process.	UNON/ UNEP	1 January 2005
Allocation of contributions of new Parties to projects	To liaise with UNON to revise the budget by inclusion of additional funds allocated by the StC.	Secretariat	15 February 2005
AEWA GEF project	To urge Wetlands International to finalise paperwork regarding the GEF project without delay.	Secretariat	1 December 2004
Communication Strategy	To amend the text based on the discussion held in the StC and to submit the final draft to the Secretariat.	SPAN Consultants	1 December 2004
Draft Budget 2006-2008	To seek a solution for the exchange rate losses, to find out how other Conventions deal with minimum contributions, to come up with a proposal as to how the overall budget increase could be addressed and to report back to the next StC meeting on these issues.	Secretariat	1 March 2005
Conservation Status Report	To contract external body to prepare first draft of the Conservation Status Report and International Implementation Priorities 2006-2009.	Secretariat	1 March 2005
Central Asian Flyway	To report back on the CAF workshop.	Secretariat	15 May 2005
Proposal for inclusion of additional species in AEWA	To develop and submit a concrete proposal regarding additional waterbird species to be included in AEWA	TC	1 June 2005
MOP3	To inform the Government of Mali on the decision taken by the StC regarding the venue for MOP3	Secretariat	1 December 2004
New website and logo	To launch new website and logo.	Secretariat	15 February 2005
World Migratory Waterbird Day	To organise the World Migratory Waterbird Day.	Secretariat	1 March 2005
AEWA Conservation Award	To develop criteria for selection of nominees for the AEWA Conservation Award and to submit these by e-mail to the StC for approval.	Secretariat	1 Februari 2005
Online National Reporting System	Secretariat to pursue the online National Reporting System in close cooperation with the TC and to report back to next StC meeting	Secretariat/TC	1 June 2005

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¹ Deadlines mentioned here are set by the Secretariat. Where no deadline is indicated the activity should take place as soon as possible.

