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FIFTH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
24 – 25 June 2008, Bonn, Germany

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AEWA INTERNATIONAL
IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES PLAN 2006-2008**

INTRODUCTION

The implementation of the AEWA International Implementation Priorities for 2006-2008 and the previous years is fully dependent on voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties. Since MOP3, approximately €680,000 has been accrued and was partly allocated to the implementation of the IIP. Although the Secretariat is very grateful for the amount received it should be noted that for the full implementation of IIP '06-'08, a total amount of €5,2 million would be needed.

The Secretariat notes that most Parties are facing the effects of the economic recession on their budget. In the second half of 2006 the implementation of the African-Eurasian Flyways GEF project has begun; this is increasing the pressure on the Secretariat to fundraise for projects that are part of the IIP 2006-2008 as well as of this GEF project. A total amount of around €1 million is needed relatively short-term to ensure full implementation of the GEF project. The Secretariat will therefore increase its efforts to accrue the necessary funds.

THE STANDING COMMITTEE IS REQUESTED:

- 1) To review progress made in the implementation of the AEWA International Implementation Priorities 2006-2008;
- 2) To support the Secretariat in fundraising for these projects

No.	Name of project	Funded by:	Executed by:
1. IMPLEMENTATION OF SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLANS			
	<u>Northern Bald Ibis</u>		
	<i>Identification of migration route of the Northern Bald Ibis (NBI) population in Syria</i>	AEWA (partly)	RSPB
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2006 three old birds from the Syrian population were trapped and tagged with satellite transmitters. Data received showed that they migrated from Syria, over Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen and then reached Central Ethiopia. Juveniles were not seen during their stay in Ethiopia and question is where they migrate to. 		
	<i>Survey of possible breeding areas of the NBI in Somalia / survey of wintering areas of the Moroccan population of NBI</i>	AEWA	SEO/RSPB
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to the political situation in Somalia, the project could not be executed. So instead funds were used for trapping and tagging some bird in Morocco with satellite transmitters, but they did not migrate. 		
	<i>Second meeting of International Advisory Group (IAGNBI) in 2006</i>	IAGNBI	IAGNBI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In September 2006 in Spain IAGNBI reviewed the current conservation status and the implementation of the NBI SSAP. 		
	<i>Coordination of the implementation of the NBI SSAP</i>	BirdLife Int.	BirdLife Int.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the request of the AEWA Secretariat BirdLife International agreed to take up the coordination of the implementation of the NBI SSAP. 		
	<u>Sociable Lapwing</u>		
	<i>Identifying the factors determining the breeding habitat requirements and breeding success of Sociable Lapwing at 3 sites in Kazakhstan.</i>	AEWA	BirdLife European Div.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study was carried out in 2004 and BirdLife submitted final report in 2005. Results of this project were published in scientific journals. 		
	<i>Developing effective mechanisms and capacity to improve the conservation status of the Sociable Lapwing</i>	UK Darwin AEWA (grant from Switzerland)	RSPB and partners (incl. AEWA)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Darwin-funded project was launched in April 2006. It contributed significantly to understanding breeding ecology of the species and its breeding distribution. The project resulted in a new population assessment, which is higher than the historically lowest estimate noted in the AEWA SSAP of 2002. Satellite tagged birds helped to reveal migration routes and wintering grounds of the western breeding population. This also helped to identify staging areas in Turkey (and in Syria) where approx. 3,000 migrating individuals were observed. AEWA provided additional funds for additional satellite tags and field work in the next post-nuptial season. Additional funds were acquired by RSPB with the support of AEWA for satellite tagging of birds from the eastern breeding population, which presumably winter in India. 		

No. Name of project**Funded by:****Executed by:***Coordination of the implementation of the Sociable Lapwing SSAP*

- In 2006 a full-time coordinator for the Sociable Lapwing SSAP (and the Black-winged Pratincole) was recruited.
- A Species Working Group was recruited, mailing list and web site established.
- Unfortunately the incumbent decided to step down mid 2007 but will continue to work on some issues until a successor is recruited and enters on duty. New recruitment will take place before mid-2008.
- A revision of the AEWA SSAP is planned later in 2008 and a workshop will take place in October 2008.

AEWA (grant from Switzerland) / RSPB

ACBK (Kazakhstan)

Black-winged Pratincole*Coordination of the implementation of the Black-winged Pratincole SSAP*

- In 2006 a full-time coordinator for the Black-winged Pratincole SSAP (and the Sociable Lapwing) was recruited.
- A Species Working Group was recruited, mailing list and web site established.
- Unfortunately the incumbent decided to step down mid 2007 but will continue to work on some issues until a successor is recruited and enters on duty. New recruitment will take place before mid-2008.

AEWA (grant from Switzerland) / RSPB

ACBK (Kazakhstan)

Red-breasted Goose*Coordination of the implementation of the Red-breasted Goose SSAP*

- In 2006 a full-time coordinator for the Red-breasted Goose SSAP was recruited.
- The communication of the working group was strengthened through a mailing list and a web site.
- Simultaneous winter counts were coordinated to produce population estimates.
- A SSAP revision workshop took place 26-28 February 2008, in Constanza, Romania.

AEWA (grant from Switzerland), RSPB, VBN, WWT

SOR (BirdLife Romania)

Dark-bellied Brent Goose*Implementation of the Dark-bellied Brent Goose (SSAP) ¹*

- Estimating annual survival rates over the period 1955-2003 and the impact of hunting until 1972 is still being done by Alterra in cooperation with Kent University.

AEWA (grant from UK) and the Netherlands

Alterra (NL) and NERI (DK)

2. DEVELOPMENT OF SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLANS**Dark-bellied Brent Goose**

- The finalisation of this SSAP is pending the development of a population model as indicated above. As soon as this is done the Plan could be finalised. Afterwards the Plan has to be re-submitted for comments to all Range States.

AEWA, The Netherlands

AEWA

¹ Please note this SSAP has not been finalised and adopted by MOP/ StC.

No.	Name of project	Funded by:	Executed by:
	<p>Maccoa Duck Action Plan has been finalised and approved by the Standing Committee at its 4th meeting in 2006. To be submitted for final endorsement by MOP4. AGRED will be coordinating the implementation of the plan.</p>	AEWA (grant from Switzerland)	AGRED (South Africa)
	<p>Lesser Flamingo • Action Plan has been finalised and ready to be submitted to MOP4 for adoption.</p>	AEWA	IUCN/WI Flamingo Specialist Group
	<p>Madagascar Pond Heron Action Plan under preparation for CMS & AEWA.</p>	Italy	BirdLife Int.
	<p>White-winged Fluff tail Action Plan under preparation for CMS & AEWA.</p>	Italy	BirdLife Int.
	<p>Black-tailed Godwit Action Plan has been finalised and is ready to be submitted to MOP4 for adoption.</p>	VBN ² / AEWA	Orbicon Consultancy
	<p>Eurasian Spoonbill • Action Plan has been finalised and is ready to be submitted to MOP for adoption.</p>	VBN/ AEWA	EUROSITE
	<p>Lesser White-fronted Goose • Following a successful negotiation mission of the Secretariat in 2007 the revised plan is now being finalised and will soon be submitted for a new round of consultations. A full-time position was established in the Secretariat with the support of Norway. The incumbent will be responsible for coordination of implementation of the plan and for servicing various bodies established in the course of the negotiations.</p>	Sweden, Germany, Finland, Norway	
	<p>Multi Species Action Plan for southern African coastal seabirds Final draft of the Action Plan has been sent to the TC for comments in 2007. The comments received indicate that there is a need for more work on this plan. The Secretariat is considering involving other organisations in the finalisation of the plan during the next triennium.</p>	AEWA	ADU
3.	<p>Identifying all sites of international importance to AEWA species Is part of the WOW/ African Eurasian Flyway GEF project.</p>		
4	<p>Creating an interactive tool to present information on important sites for migratory waterbirds • Is part of the WOW/ African Eurasian Flyway GEF project. Good progress is made regarding the establishment of the Critical Site Network Tool (CSN).</p>		
5.	<p>Identifying priority areas for further survey work Is part of the WOW/ African Eurasia Flyway GEF project.</p>		

2 VBN is the BirdLife partner in The Netherlands

No.	Name of project	Funded by:	Executed by:
6.	Identifying priority areas for improved protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is part of the WOW/ African Eurasian Flyway GEF project. 		
7.	Habitat priorities for waterbirds, particularly in Africa and South-west Asia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is part of the WOW/ African Eurasian Flyway GEF project. 		
8.	Restoration and rehabilitation techniques for waterbird habitats, particularly in Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No funds available/ could be secured during 2006-2008. 		
9.	Conservation programme of migratory bird roosting sites located in the Albertine Rift region (Eastern Africa) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No funds available/ could be secured during 2006-2008. 		
10.	Evaluation of waterbird harvest in the Agreement area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No funds available/ could be secured during 2006-2008. 		
11.	Review of the use of non-toxic shot for waterbird hunting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review ready to be submitted to MOP4 for adoption. 	AEWA	AEWA Secretariat
12.	Regional workshops on sustainable harvesting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two work shops were organised in Tunisia (2006) and Jordan (2007) to promote sustainable hunting in the Middle East and Northern Africa as part of a bigger project. Results of these workshops were made available to the TC. 	EU Life Fund, AEWA	BirdLife / AEWA
13.	Evaluation of socio-economic impacts of waterbird hunting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No funds available/ could be secured during 2006-2008. 		
14.	Evaluation of waterbirds as agricultural pests in Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No funds available/ could be secured during 2006-2008. 		
15.	Guidelines on minimising/ mitigating the impacts of infrastructural (and disturbance-related) developments affecting waterbirds. Draft Guidelines ready to be submitted to MOP4 for adoption	Belgium	Ecological Solution Consultancy
6.	Survey of poorly -known areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is part of the WOW/ African Eurasian Flyway GEF project. 		

No.	Name of project	Funded by:	Executed by:
17.	International Waterbird Census - special gap-filling survey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is part of the WOW/ African Eurasian Flyway GEF project. 		
18.	Publication of flyway atlases for gulls, terns, herons, ibises, storks and <i>Rallidae</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No funds available/ could be secured during 2006-2008. 		
19.	Atlas of ringing recoveries No funds available/ could be secured during 2006-2008.		
20.	Coordination of waterbird ringing schemes, particularly in Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AEWA has committed to supporting five annual phases of the establishment of a ringing scheme in Africa (AFRING). In 2007 funding was secured for Phase 3, which is currently being implemented (involves training courses, database work, web site establishment, strategy development). Funding for additional two years might become problematic. 	EU, AEWA and ADU	ADU and AEWA
21.	Guideline on the use and best application of satellite tracking and other telemetric tracking for migratory waterbirds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No funds available/ could be secured during 2006-2008. 		
22.	Actions for the conservation of colonial waterbirds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract released in 2005 for phase 1 (out of two phases) of this project. No progress made so far. 	AEWA (grant from France)	Wetlands International
23.	Causes of population changes in migratory waterbirds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No funds available/ could be secured during 2006-2008. 		
24.	Migratory waterbirds and climate changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A desk study was commissioned in 2007 and delivered in early 2008 (see <i>coc. StC 5. 21</i>). • A shorter popular version will be produced and launched later in the year. • Guidelines on adaptation/mitigation measures drafted and ready to be submitted to MOP4 for adoption (doc. StC 5.23). 		
25.	Compiling flyway information (in digital format) for use in conjunction with existing waterbird count data and site information Is part of the WOW/ African Eurasian Flyway GEF project.		
26.	The use of wetland sites by migratory waterbirds Is part of the WOW/ African Eurasian Flyway GEF project.		
27.	Migratory waterbirds as indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds have been partly secured. 	Tanzania	

28. **Analysis of training needs for migratory waterbird conservation**
 - Study has been done during the PDF of the WOW project. Further analysis and development of sub-regional programmes are underway within the GEF project.
29. **Improving survey and monitoring capacity for migratory waterbirds**
 - Is part of the WOW/ African Eurasian Flyway GEF project.
30. **Regional training programmes in Africa for implementation of the Agreement**
 - Is part of the WOW/ African Eurasian Flyway GEF project.
31. **Field guide for Central Asia and adjacent countries**
 - Is part of the WOW/ African Eurasian Flyway GEF project.
32. **Training course on migratory waterfowl conservation and waterfowl habitat management**
 - No funds available/ could be secured during 2006-2008.
33. **Publication of waterbird monitoring manuals**
 - Is part of the WOW/ African Eurasian Flyway GEF project.
34. **Establishing a clearing house for training materials for the Agreement**
 - No funds available/ could be secured during 2006-2008.
35. **Regional workshops for promotion of the Agreement**
 - No funds available/ could be secured during 2006-2008.
36. **Communicating the importance of a network of critical sites for migratory waterbirds**
 - Is part of the WOW/ African Eurasian Flyway GEF project.