

AEWA REGIONAL REPORT – WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA

1. No. of Contracting Parties (CPs): **12**

No. of Range States (RS): **26**

No. of New Accessions since previous StC: **None**

2. Feedback from CPs and Range States for this report

i. RS: **1 (Burkina Faso)**

ii. CPs: **2 (Guinea and Guinea Bissau)**

Comment - Feedback from CPs and Range States was very poor, probably because of problem of communication barriers between myself and my Francophone neighbours.

3. Not much, except the call for information regarding the AEWA implementation for the purpose of this report.

4. Benin, Cameroon and Ivory Coast reported of awareness creation activities to celebrate World Bird Migratory Day (WBMD). Their activities were registered with AEWA. Ghana has been marking the WBMD with Press Releases but has never registered these activities with the AEWA Secretariat. Burkina Faso reported of planned national workshop in October 2010 in preparation for the ratification of the Agreement before next MOP in 2012 in France.

5. With hardly any information from other range states in the AEWA Western and Central Regions, this section only lists activities during the pre- and post outbreak period of Avian Influenza disease in Ghana in April 2007. These include the preparation of the *National Preparedness and Response Plan for avian Influenza in Ghana*, education and public awareness creation, training, field surveillance and strengthened collaboration among government, civil society groups, individuals in poultry business, international partner organizations, particularly WHO, USAID and FAO, which are represented on the *National Avian Influenza Working Group*. The Wildlife Division (AEWA lead agency) has put up periodic wild bird surveillance for migratory waterbirds in Ramsar sites whiles the Ghana Wildlife Society (a national NGO), among others, focus on wild bird surveillance of migratory birds in wetlands, irrigation sites, and Important Bird Areas (IBAs).

6. Key challenge: The AEWA Western and Central Regions face key challenge which needs concerted efforts to bridge over for effective implementation of the tenets of the Agreement. The Anglophone – Francophone language barrier limits communication and the share of information between the two language blocs - CPs and non-CPs in the Western and Central Regions.

Recommendations:

- i. The Secretariat may open a “language translation desk” (no need to recruit extra staff for this exercise), where language that requires translation could be channeled through to recipients. This is particularly important in situations where the StC representative for a bi-language AWEA Region, such as the Western and Central Africa Regions, may not be good at French language or vice-versa.
- ii. The AWEA Secretariat strengthens efforts at encouraging non-CP Range States to accede to the Agreement - it is internationally difficult for StC Representative, who tends to be the head of a lead agency for a CP in one’s own country to encourage the government of a neighbouring non-CP Range State to ratify the AWEA.

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