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9th MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
18. - 19. September 2013, Trondheim, Norwegen

Report by the Regional Representative for Eastern and Southern Africa

Compiled by Barirega Akankwasah, National Focal Point for AEWA in Uganda and Vice-Chair of the AEWA Standing Committee, Regional Representative for Eastern and Southern Africa

Akankwasah Barirega (Uganda)

AEWA Standing Committee Vice Chair and Regional Representative for Eastern and Southern Africa region

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The Eastern and Southern African Region comprises of 23 range states [redacted]

Discussions were held with relevant officials from Rwanda, Burundi and Zambia regarding accession to AEWA. Rwanda and Burundi reported that they were in advanced stages of accession awaiting final approvals. Zambia reported that they have initiated the process of DFFHVVLRQ EXW LW¶V VWLOO DW WHFKQLFDO GLVFXVVLRQ

2.0 IMPLEMETATION OF AEWA IN THE REGION SINCE MoP5

The region has implemented AEWA since the last MoP through several activities.

2.1 Regional activities

The regional held a capacity-building workshop for the AEWA Training of Trainers (ToT) for flyway conservation.

The region also held a World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) 2013 regional event. The two events were hosted by the government of Kenya and took place in Naivasha and lake Elmenteita, from 6 –11 May 2013.

The countries represented at the two events were Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Sudan, South Sudan, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Mauritius has complained that it was not invited to this event yet it belongs to this region. The secretariat may wish to respond to this complaint.

2.2 Specific Country Reports

Uganda

Uganda has started a project on restoration of a key habitat for flamingoes. This project is under AEWA small grants program and is implemented by Government of Uganda in patnerships with Nature Uganda, a non-Governmental Organisation.

Uganda hosted a workshop for the development of Single Species Action Plan for the conservation of a shoebill. All the range states for the Shoebill participated in this workshop.

Uganda participated in the workshop for the development of Single Species Action Plan for the conservation of Grey Crowned Cranes hosted by Rwanda this year. Uganda is also enforcing suspension of trade in Grey Crested Crane which is a national bird for Uganda.

The country if also undertaking a review of all penalties for wildlife related crime with a view strengthening penalties to deter illegal wildlife and trafficking. This will benefit Waterbirds a great deal.

Routine national annual water bird counts were conducted by Nature Uganda and we await release of results for 2013.

Uganda launched a national birding day to popularise birding as a tourism activity but also raise awareness about the need for conservation of birds. Birding tourism in Uganda generates about

US$ 6Mn annually and Uganda hosting 1006 species of birds makes bird conservation a priority for Uganda.

Uganda nominated CEPA focal point as per AEWA requirements on CEPA

Kenya

Hosted ToTrainers Workshop on the flyway approach to the conservation and wise use of waterbirds and wetlands in Naivasha, Kenya from 06 to 12 May 2013.

Hosted Sub-regional 2013 World Migratory Bird Day commemorations at Lake Elementita, Kenya.

Participated in a workshop to develop Single species action plan for grey crowned cranes.

United Republic of Tanzania

Developed and published SSAP for lesser flamingo. The plan is now under under implementation

Annexed Usangu wetland to Ruaha NP to protect water birds particularly the cranes

Waterbird counts were done on L. Natron and L. Manyara

World Migratory bird day celebrations were held in Tanzania

Hosted African Ornithological congress in 2012

Participated in SSAP on Shoebill in Entebbe

Published sustainable wetland management guide to help in sustainable utilization of wetlands

Zimbabwe

Participated in ToTrainers Workshop on the flyway approach to the conservation and wise use of waterbirds and wetlands in Naivasha, Kenya from 06 to 12 May 2013.

Participated in Sub-regional 2013 World Migratory Bird Day commemorations held at Lake Elementita, Kenya.

Held World Biodiversity Day and World Migratory Bird Day cerebrations at Chigondo local community business centre in Hwedza District 22 May 2013. World Migratory Bird Day cerebrations for Zimbabwe took place on 24 May 2013 at Cleveland Dam in Harare.

The Ramsar Secretary General visited Zimbabwe in 2012 to visit various Ramsar sites and other key sites for waterbird conservation

Participated in the development of the Single Species Action Plan for the Slaty Egret (Egretta vinaceigula) and Grey Crowned Crane (Balearica regulorum.

Two waterfowl censuses were conducted by the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA) at Lake Chivero in Mar and Nov 2012.

Awareness programmes on the conservation of waterbirds were held with hunting organisations

ZPWMA conducted 2 capacity building workshops in Nyanga and Chimanimani National Parks in April 2013 in the Eastern Highlands on the Blue Swallow (Hirundo atocaerulea)

Popularizing bird watching to raise profile for birds and to generate revenue

Officials from ZPWMA were supported to undertake a Bird ringing course in 2012

A Biodiversity Forum was established. This is a network of all Focal persons of Biodiversity related MEAs and conducts meetings and workshops on a quarterly basis.

Trans-Frontier Conservation Areas Initiative is implementing wildlife conservation activities including migratory waterbirds and wetlands.

South Africa

A formal notification to replace the South African National Focal Point to AEWA was undertaken. Currently the designated National Focal Point for AEWA is Ms Humbulani Mafumo, Deputy Director: Conservation Management within the Branch: Biodiversity and Conservation and the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation of the National Department of Environmental affairs

South Africa nominated Ms Carolyn Ah Shene-Verdoorn, the Policy and Advocacy Manager, at BirdLife South Africa to act as CEPA Focal Point for South Africa. The required document for the nomination was submitted to the Secretariat on 04 April 2013.

Birdlife South Africa in Partnership with the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) Animal Demography Unit ((ADU), Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology, the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) initiated a revision Red data book of Birds of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. Wattle Crane, and White-winged Flufftail are listed as Critically Endangered. The African Penguin amongst others has been proposed to be listed as Endangered. This will raise the conservation attention for these species.

South Africa has finalised the development of the Biodiversity Management Plan of the African Penguin. This is to respond to the negative trend in population growth of this species.

Endangered Wildlife Trust African Crane Conservation Programme (EWT-ACCP) has initiated the development of the Biodiversity Management Plans for Species (which translates into Single Species Action Plan in terms of international legislation) for three crane species, i.e. the Wattled Crane, Blue Crane and the Grey Crowned Crane.

The White-winged Flufftail has been nominated a bird of the year by Birdlife South Africa for 2013 calendar year. Research studies have been initiated including genetic studies, survey of suitable wetland habitat and the construction of a facility in Johannesburg Zoo where species biology will be studied

The National Department of Environmental Affairs together with BirdLife South Africa developed a press statement to raise awareness on issues related to migratory birds. Additionally a trailer and a poster was developed and placed on the departmental website. Plans for the welcoming back of migratory birds in November 2013 and the World Migratory Bird Day 2014 preparations are in high gear.

South Africa has plans to roll out flyway conservation approach training in South Africa within the next 12 months and is also considering some regional training initiatives that will assist in strengthening relations between countries and highlight the importance of a Flyway Approach to conservation.

The National Department of Environmental Affairs organised a national workshop which took place on 20 August 2013 to establish a platform to stimulate a dialogue on migratory species in South Africa.

South Africa continued to promote conservation of key habitats and species on private land through patnership with land owners. Ingula Nature Reserve, important for conservation of White-winged Flufftail and a number of other red-listed bird species, is in the process of being proclaimed.

Mauritius

A total cumulative count of 5184 migratory birds was recorded for the period May 2013 at Rivulet Terre Rouge Estuary Bird sanctuary.

Celebration of World Migratory Bird Day in 2013 were held in the country

Conservation legislation was strengthened to protect migratory birds

A total of 19 migratory bird species is being given legal protection under the new conservation Bill.

3.0 SPECIAL ISSUES THAT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO THE StC

In June 2013, notification for the resignation as the Southern African representative for AEWA's technical committee, Dr Mark Brown was received by South Africa. In this regard, his replacement needs to be undertaken in the interim.

During the completion of the National report for AEWA MOP 5, several challenges were experienced mostly relating to species status/data which asked for information on individual species. The Technical Committee is proposing the removal from the MOP 6 National Report Format of all of the questions on species status, which Eastern and Southern Africa fully support.