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6th MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
08 - 11 May 2005, Flic en Flac, Mauritius

**GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING PRIORITIES FOR AEWA
FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Background

The Technical Committee has previously decided to develop guidance to assist the Secretariat in determining priorities for funding project proposals that are submitted from time to time. The following guidelines are proposed for discussion by the Committee at its sixth meeting.

The intention of the guidance, although not actually stated formally as such (should it be?), is that the listed attributes should provide a simple means of scoring individual project proposals. Projects which score against several of the listed attributes will be given higher priority for funding than projects scoring against only a few of the listed attributes.

Needless to say, it would be useful for the Committee to keep these funding guidelines under review in the light of any issues raised by their application.

The Committee should discuss the suggested guidelines with the aim of adopting guidance for application from 2005.

Draft funding guidelines for discussion

Guidelines

To be eligible for consideration for AEWA financial support, a project must be demonstrably relevant to the implementation of the Agreement's Action Plan in one or more Range States. Note that given the migratory nature of waterbirds included in the scope of the Action Plan it is *not* a requirement that potential projects should necessarily be undertaken within existing Contracting Parties.

A project will be given higher priority for financial support (in whole or part) if it has one or more of the following attributes¹. Projects with multiple attributes will be ranked more highly.

- Project is international in geographical scale, involving two or more AEWA Range States.
- Project is to be undertaken on a co-operative, international basis involving several countries and/or organisations. In this respect, projects involving combinations of developed countries, and those that are either developing and/or have economies in transition will be ranked more highly.
- Project is likely to lead to institutional or other capacity development (and/or development of expertise) in the countries in which it is undertaken.
- Project is directly relevant to one or more of AEWA's *Implementation Priorities*. (Projects supporting several *Implementation Priorities* shall accordingly be ranked more highly).
- Projects involving waterbird populations of the highest conservation concern (Column A of Table 1 of AEWA's Action Plan).
- Projects, the funding of which by AEWA is likely to encourage the provision of other, additional sources of funding or other resources (*i.e.* AEWA funding will encourage the development of wider funding partnerships).
- Projects, the funding of which will lead, or be likely to lead, to the development of enduring programmes of activity of continuing utility (*i.e.* initial financial 'pump-priming' of longer-term projects).
- Projects which, for whatever reason, may be difficult to fund through other national or international sources (*e.g.* Ramsar Small Grants Fund, national science foundations, or governmental sources).
- Projects of more 'strategic' importance likely to assist in the overall development of the objectives of the Agreement (*e.g.* development of novel methodologies of potential wide application, or demonstration projects).

Conditions

- It will be a requirement of any project financially supported by AEWA that it provides an annual progress report to the Technical Committee, submitted two months in advance of its annual meeting. Ideally, this should be in a form that can also be more widely disseminated via the AEWA web-site.
- It will also be a condition of any AEWA funding that at the conclusion of the project, a summary of outcomes will be submitted for dissemination on the AEWA web-site. For science-based projects, this ideally should include a downloadable copy of the project's final report.

¹ All attributes have equal weighting and are not presented in rank order.