



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

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Article VIII, paragraph h of the Agreement, the Secretariat shall prepare, on an annual basis and for each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, reports on the work of the Secretariat and on the implementation of the Agreement. In addition to this, the Secretariat decided to report back to each meeting of the Technical or Standing Committee. It has been agreed by both Committees that a common report will be produced for both meetings. However, it has also been agreed that, for each meeting, the report will be updated to reflect the actual situation. Depending on the intervals between these meetings, the report could differ slightly.

The current report describes the period since the 5th Meeting of the Technical Committee, which took place from 30 March –2 April in North Berwick, Scotland.

OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE AEWNA SECRETARIAT

Besides the day-to-day work consisting of responding to mail, maintenance of the AEWNA network and dealing with administrative and financial matters, the Secretariat spent a lot of time on more general issues, e.g. security issues, the Secretariat's moving to the OBS building and moving to the new UN Campus in 2005. The latter is quite time-consuming. Regular meetings of the Heads of Agencies take place to discuss issues of common interest with regard to the UN campus.

This report is divided into four parts:

1. General Matters: these include administrative/ financial issues, staff, future premises, meetings, etc;
2. Information Management: this includes the Newsletter, website, etc.;
3. Cooperation with other organisations;
4. Technical and/ or Scientific Matters: these include projects that are contracted out by the Secretariat and/ or projects carried out by others in which the Secretariat is strongly involved.

The day-to-day work will not be covered in this report.

1. GENERAL MATTERS

Future Premises for the Agreement Secretariat

As reported during the TC5 meeting in 2005, with exception of UNFCCC, all Bonn-based UN agencies will move to the new UN campus. UNFCCC will follow as soon as their building is ready, after it has been renovated and refurbished, probably in 2006.

The Agreement Secretariat has negotiated the room requirements, and it is quite satisfied that agreement could be reached with the German Government as well as with the UN agencies on allocation of the 19th floor of the Langer Eugen building for the Agreement Secretariat. The office space available on this floor could also accommodate some expected growth of the Secretariat in the nearby future.

As mentioned in the previous report, a special task force of UN representatives has been established to oversee the development of the UN campus. The Executive Secretary of UNEP/ ASCOBANS represents CMS and the co-located Agreements in the task force.

The Head of Agencies decided to establish a Common Information Space (CIS) at the new UN campus. The CIS should mitigate the problems Agencies are facing after the reorganisation of United National Information Centres (UNIC). This reorganisation has led to the closing down of the Bonn Office and the establishment of a Regional United Nations Information Centre (RUNIC) in Brussels. This means that in Bonn, there is no longer any central point that the general public could address if they have questions about the United Nations. In close cooperation with the German Government and the City of Bonn, the idea was born to establish a CIS. Agreement was reached with the Government of Germany that a JPO would be provided to run this CIS in close cooperation with an Officer of RUNIC, which is allowed to allocate part of his time to the UN in Bonn. On behalf of the CMS family, the AEW Executive Secretary is a member of the CIS Steering Committee, which meets twice a year to discuss the common information needs.

Final decisions on the development of the UN campus as well as on the CIS, but also on security issues, etc., are made by the Heads of Agencies. Therefore, the Heads of Agencies meet on a regular basis. As far as possible, the Executive Secretary has participated in these meetings. The latest information is that our move to this new UN campus will take place during the first week of October 2005.

CMS and the co-located Agreements were facing a short-term lack of office space. Therefore, early in 2004, it was decided that the Agreements Secretariats would move from Haus Castanjen to the so-called OBS building. The actual move took place in the beginning of July. The disruption of our activities caused by the move could be kept to a minimum of only a few working days. However, although the OBS building is located only two kilometres away from Haus Castanjen, it has been noted that we have lost day-to-day contact with CMS, which is regrettable.

Agreements' Unit

Unfortunately, at the end of July 2004, Mr. Ephraim Kariuki (Kenyan), an experienced Financial Assistant, left the CMS Admin Unit. Luckily however, he was replaced by three new Staff members who entered on duty in the CMS Admin Unit: Mr. Abderrahmane Jai (Moroccan); Mr. Henning Ilge (German) and Mr. Liam Addis (Irish). Regrettably the Junior Professional Officer Ms. Sandra Ruecker (German) decided to request the Government of Germany to allow her to leave the CMS Secretariat and to continue as JPO at UNON in Nairobi. This request was approved and she left CMS at the beginning of January 2005. During the period she worked for the Admin Unit she allocated part of her time to the Agreements' Secretariats, which was highly appreciated. Before she left, she drafted the Service Level Agreement (SLA), which clearly states what the Agreements might expect in terms of services from Admin Unit.

As of the beginning of 2005, the Admin Unit is now fully staffed. This means that we may expect an increase in services provided to the Agreements Secretariats by the CMS Admin Unit. Meanwhile, the SLA has been concluded between CMS and the Agreements Secretariat co-located in Bonn, and its implementation is well underway. Later this year, the first evaluation of the services will take place.

Staff recruitment

Last year was a very busy year for the Agreement Secretariat. This situation will not change in 2005. On the contrary, this is the year of the meetings. Besides the 6th meeting of the Technical Committee, the 3rd meeting of the Standing Committee as well as the 3rd session of the Meeting of the Parties will take place. Furthermore, AEWA is celebrating its 10th Anniversary, and several activities are planned to mark this. On a more general note, AEWA is becoming increasingly well-known, which is leading to more requests for information, support, etc. To enable the Secretariat to do this but also to draft newsletters and prepare meetings and workshops, some temporary staff have been recruited on a consultancy basis. In addition, a number of interns have joined the Secretariat.

Fixed-term staff members

The post of Executive Secretary has been reclassified and advertised in accordance with the UN Rules and Regulations. The deadline for application was 23 December 2003. Hopefully, the interviews will take place in May 2005. With this, the lengthy process could be finalised. The Standing Committee has addressed the Director of UNEP twice on this issue but has not received any response so far.

Recruitment for the post of Associate Technical Officer (P2) as well as for the post of Administrative Assistant (G5) was finalised in mid-2004, and respectively, Mr. Sergey Dereliev (Bulgarian) and Ms. Marie-Therese Kämper (German) were recruited. The latter had already been working for the Secretariat and has continued her activities.

Junior Professional Officer

In August 2004, information was received that the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) request for CMS as well as the one for AEWA were granted priority by the Deputy Executive Director of UNEP. Both job descriptions were forwarded by UNEP to the 13 donor countries with the request for support. In December 2004, information was received that the Government of Germany had seriously taken funding the AEWA JPO into consideration. The latter was confirmed by mid-January 2005. Meanwhile, the recruitment process has been started. Interviews will take place towards the end of May, and it is expected that the selected candidate could enter on duty as of 1 October 2005. This person will receive an appointment for the duration of one year, with the possibility of extension. The Secretariat highly appreciated the German Government's offer to provide a JPO for the Agreement Secretariat, particularly because this person will play a key role in the implementation of the Communication Strategy. Also (s)he will be strongly involved in the African-Eurasian Flyway GEF project.

Consultants / Interns

Also in 2004/ 2005, a number of Consultants/ Interns supported the work of the AEWA Secretariat. For a tiny Secretariat with just three staff members, the support of Consultants/ Interns is extremely important, particularly to delivering what the Contracting Parties expect from the Secretariat. However, Consultants and Interns come and go, and it is always sad to say goodbye after working together for a number of months. On the other hand, the Secretariat is pleased to see that working experience gained while working for the Agreement has helped them to get a 'real job' with prospects for their future career.

Goodbye to:

Name	Period	Activities carried out
Ms. Andrea Rechel (German)	Oct. '03-March '04	As an Intern she worked on financial matters, e.g. preparing contracts.

Ms. Yuki Itakura (Japanese)	Oct '03-Oct. '04	As a Consultant, she worked on information management and preparations for the TC5 meeting.
Ms. Bianca Bauch (German)	Jan '03-Sept. '04	As an Intern and later as a Consultant, she prepared a number of scientific documents for TC5.
Ms. Ina von Frantzius (German)	Apr. '04-July '04	As a Consultant, she took care of membership development and drafted Newsletter No. 10
Mr. Tim Jansen (German)	Dec. '04-Jan. '05	As an Intern, he helped with the preparations for the Migratory Waterbird Day and with drafting documents for TC6.

Welcome to Catherine Lehmann

Since 1 January, we have been happy to have Ms. Catherine Lehmann on board. Catherine has been working for CMS and EUROBATS since February 2003, and she is now joining our team on a part-time basis for one year. Being French, she is supporting the Executive Secretary in the preparations for the 3rd Meeting of the Parties to be held in Dakar, Senegal and taking care of the production of a booklet and the organisation of an exhibition for the 10th Anniversary of AEWA. With her academic background in Law she is also going to revise the Guideline on national legislation for waterbirds and their habitats.

Welcome to Florian Keil

Mr. Florian Keil (German), the designer and Webmaster of the CMS website, came on board in September 2004 to assist the AEWA Secretariat in the redesign and reorganisation of the new AEWA website. For two months, Florian worked on improving the usability and design of the AEWA website, giving it an entirely new “look” and an improved file structure and navigation. Florian brought with him many years of website design and management experience within the “CMS family” and a very international upbringing. He holds a B.A. degree in International Relations from Brown University and is currently completing his second degree (Masters) in Media Studies, Political Science and Ethnology at the University of Bonn. Later this year, he will develop an electronic Newsletter.

Welcome to Ayhan Polat

Ms. Ayhan Polat (German, originally from the Kurdish part of Turkey) joined the AEWA team as a Consultant on a part-time basis as of 1 March 2005. Ayhan will support the Secretariat, in particular with our administrative work linked to meetings of the Technical Committee, the Standing Committee and MOP3. Since 1 December 2003, Ayhan has been working part-time for the EUROBATS Secretariat, where she gained a lot of experience with administrative work for a Secretariat administered by UNEP. She combines her part-time job for AEWA with her part-time work for EUROBATS. Ayhan studied Political Science, Contemporary History and Islamic Sciences. In the course of her studies, she dealt intensively with topics such as the United Nations and the European Union, in particular the progress and setbacks of Turkey's way into the European Union.

Finalisation of MOP2

Both in 2004 and 2005, the Secretariat has still had to work on finalisation of MOP2 regarding documents that have been adopted. Meanwhile, the following Action Plans have published and officially launched:

- Action Plan for the Great Snipe
- Action Plan for the Black-winged Pratincole
- Action Plan for the Sociable Lapwing

The outstanding issues are the finalisation of the following guidelines:

- Guideline on avoiding the introduction of invasive species
- Guideline on National Legislation

With the limited resources, available the Secretariat hopes that it will be possible to finalise and publicise these guidelines by 2005.

Standing Committee meetings

The second meeting of the Standing Committee (StC) took place from 2-3 November 2004 in Bonn, Germany. The Chair of the TC participated in this meeting and informed the StC about the work of the TC and the ongoing discussions on several items.

The StC agreed with the activities proposed by the Secretariat to mark the 10th Anniversary of the Agreement in 2005. These activities are: 1) establishing the Migratory Waterbird Day (9-10 April 2005), 2) drafting of a 10th Anniversary Booklet, 3) launch of a new Logo and Website and 4) establishing an AEWA Award.

Furthermore, the Standing Committee accepted Senegal's offer to host MOP3, scheduled to take place in late 2005, with great appreciation.

Workshop on Sustainable Hunting

In 2002, representatives of Office National de la Chasse et Faune Sauvage (ONCFS) approached the Secretariat regarding a Workshop on Sustainable Hunting in Western Africa. Later on, agreement was reached with ONCFS, Wetlands International, OMPO, CIC and the Agreement Secretariat that this workshop would be organised under the umbrella of AEWA. It took place from 23-28 October 2004 in Bango (near Saint Louis), Senegal. Representative from 10 West African countries participated in the workshop. Looking back, the organisers are very pleased with its outcome.

Workshop on promoting AEWA in the Russian Federation

Although the idea still exists to organise a workshop to promote AEWA in the Russian Federation, the Secretariat lacks the resources to start organising such an event. Furthermore, it has been noted that the responsible Ministry of the Russian Federation is being reorganised, which has also led to its postponing any activities in this respect.

2. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Communication Strategy

At the 2nd Meeting of the Standing Committee, SPAN Consultants presented the draft Communication Strategy, which was well received. After some discussion, the StC agreed that the draft Strategy could be submitted to MOP3 for adoption.

The following paragraphs provide some more information on existing activities regarding the exchange of information.

Newsletters

The 10th issue of the AEWA Newsletter was compiled in 2004 and the beginning of 2005. This Newsletter will be published in due course. In addition to this, an electronic Newsletter is under preparation, and the idea is to send just one or two A 4 pages on AEWA activities by E-mail more frequently. The first E-news is expected to be launched around August 2005.

Website

It has been noted by the Secretariat that while the 'old Website' contained much useful information, this was not easily accessible. Mr. Florian Keil was contracted to re-design and reorganise the Website as a whole. The outcome of this is that the Website has an entirely new "look" as well as an improved file structure and navigation. The design is based on a similar one that Florian Keil developed for CMS and EUROBATS to stress that we are all part of the "CMS family". The new Website was launched on 1 March 2005.

DVD/ AEWA Film

On 15 January 2004, the consortium working on the development of the AEWA DVD presented the first results of their work. In particular, the footages shot in Namibia in 2003 are very interesting, showing clearly the pressure of human activities on migratory waterbirds. The official launch of the DVD took place during a plenary session of the Global Flyway Conference. Also for 2004, the voluntary contribution of the German Government has been allocated for further development of the DVD. Due to lack of resources no funds will probably be available for 2005. The Secretariat is awaiting the start of the AEWA GEF project, for which the development of a DVD is also foreseen and that will be linked the AEWA DVD activities.

Additional outreach materials

At the end of 2004, agreement was reached with the Government of Luxembourg to support the Secretariat in designing and printing additional outreach material comprising the Accession Guide, stickers, pins, CD-ROMS and posters.

Accession Guide

As indicated in the draft Communication Strategy, one of the outcomes of the quick scans was that some Range States felt the need for an Accession Guide. Such a guide should contain basic information on how to accede to the Agreement. Meanwhile, the text of this guide has been drafted and distributed to the TC and StC for comments. Based on the comments received, the text has been amended and the guide printed in Arabic, Russian, English and French.

Reference CD-ROM

The Secretariat felt that it would be useful to have a CD-ROM also containing important documents related to AEWA. With the support of the Government of Luxembourg, three hundred copies of this CD have been produced. In addition 1,700 unwritten CD-ROMs have been given to the Secretariat for future updates of the reference CD-ROM.

Stickers

Stickers have been designed and produced to promote the Agreement. The stickers contain the logo or an AEWA species. Regarding the latter, a sticker exists for each of the following five AEWA species: Ferruginous Duck, Black-winged Pratincole, Great Snipe, White-headed Duck and Northern Bald Ibis.

Pins

Also, large numbers of a pin containing the AEWA logo have been produced.

Posters

In addition to the three existing posters on Flamingos, Dark-bellied Brent Goose and Red Knot, two new posters have been designed and printed, namely for the Black Stork and the Common Crane.

3. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Joint work programme with the Ramsar Secretariat

During the Global Flyway Conference, the Joint Work Programme (JWP) between the Secretariats of RAMSAR, CMS and AEWA was signed. So far, it has not been feasible to organise a first meeting with the Secretariats involved to discuss the implementation of the JWP.

OMPO

As approved by the Standing Committee during its first meeting, the Secretariat may strengthen cooperation with OMPO. Due to lack of human resources, no progress could be made regarding drafting a Memorandum of Cooperation between both organisations.

4. PROJECTS

African-Eurasian Flyway GEF project

The project brief for the full-size project was submitted to the GEF Secretariat in October 2003. At the GEF Council meeting, which took place from 19-21 November 2003 in Washington, USA, the project was approved. Steps are now being taken by Wetlands International to start the implementation of this project as soon as possible. Its approval is also a milestone for the Agreement. Both the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and AEWA will benefit greatly from the implementation of the full-size project, which could probably start by mid-2005.

International Single Species Action Plans

Dark-bellied Brent Goose Action Plan

Since the third meeting of the Brent Goose working group, which took place on 14 January 2004 in Wageningen, The Netherlands, not much progress has been made in finalising the Action Plan. The problem is that not all key countries have submitted their comments on the 5th draft. The Secretariat has reminded them several times, but so far without any result.

Light-bellied Brent Goose Action Plan

The draft Action Plan for the light-bellied Brent Goose has been circulated to the Range States of the East Canadian High Arctic population of this species for comments. More or less all Range States have submitted their comments. Based on this feedback, WWT is currently revising the Plan, and it is expected to be submitted to MOP3 for adoption.

Northern Bald Ibis Action Plan

The draft Action Plan has been circulated to the participants for comments. Currently, the Action Plan is being revised by SEO taking into account the comments received. The final draft will be submitted to MOP3 for formal adoption.

Corncrake and White-headed Duck Action Plan

The EU contracted out updating of the existing Species Action Plans for both Species mentioned above to BirdLife International. However, this update would only cover the EU countries. The Secretariat reached an agreement with CMS to add some additional funds for both species to enable BirdLife International to cover their entire flyways. The Secretariat will submit the final draft of these Action Plans for comments

to the Technical Committee and all Range States involved.

Ferruginous Duck

This action plan is a joint initiative of AEWA and CMS contracted out to BirdLife International and prepared by the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust. After some delay, the advanced draft for consultation with Range States was submitted in early March. It was sent out to the Range States in mid-March. The latest draft will be submitted to the Technical Committee.

Maccoa Duck

Drafting of an action plan for the species was contracted out by the Secretariat to the African Gamebird Research Education and Development Trust. The draft to be submitted to the Secretariat is due in mid-July 2005.

Lesser White-fronted Goose

Update of the action plan of the species was contracted out by the Secretariat to BirdLife International. A workshop was hosted by Finland in the beginning of April. Draft action plan is expected to be submitted in time for MOP3.

International Implementation Priorities 2003-2007¹

The AEWA Secretariat plays an active role in the implementation of the International Implementation Priorities. One of the Secretariat's tasks is to seek and whenever possible to secure necessary funds to implement some of the projects. Unfortunately, 2004/ 2005 was not the best year for fundraising. The economic recession has had an impact on voluntary contributions to the Agreement due to the fact that most of the Ministries of industrialised countries are faced with budget cuts. Luckily, it has still been possible in 2004 and, so far, in 2005 to secure some funds for a number of projects. For an overview of progress made in the implementation of the IIP 2003-2007, see *Doc TC 6.7*.

¹ MOP2 adopted the International Implementation Priorities 2003-2007 (IIP 2003-2007). Prior to that, the IIP 2000-2004 had been in force; part of the project mentioned above originated from IIP 2000-2004 and part from the new IIP.