



*Secretariat provided by the  
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)*

*Agenda item 10  
Doc TC 7.7  
7 October 2006*

**7<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**  
*29 October - 01 November 2006, Bern, Switzerland*

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**INTRODUCTION**

The implementation of the AEWA International Implementation Priorities for 2006-2008 and previous years is fully dependent on voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties. Since MOP3 approximately €200,000 was accrued and was partly allocated to the implementation of the IIP.

The Secretariat notes that most Parties are facing the effects of the economic recession on their budget. Recently the implementation of the African-Eurasian Flyways GEF project has begun, and 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. The Secretariat will therefore step up its efforts to find the necessary funds.

**ACTIONS REQUESTED FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

- 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

## REPORT ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE AEWA INTERNATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES PLAN

No.	Name of project	Funded by:	Executed by:	Remarks:
<b>1.</b>	<b><i>Implementation of existing international single species action plans (SSAP)</i></b>			
	Implementation of the Northern Bald Ibis SSAP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of migration route of the Northern Bald Ibis (NBI) population in Syria</li> <li>• Survey of possible breeding areas of the NBI in Somalia / survey of wintering areas of the Moroccan population of NBI</li> <li>• Second meeting of International Advisory Group on NBI to review the current conservation status and to review the implementation of the NBI Species Action Plan will take place end of September 2006 in Spain.</li> </ul>	AEWA  AEWA  IAGNBI	RSPB  SEO/RSPB  IAGNBI	In 2006 three birds from the Syrian population were trapped and tagged with satellite transmitters. Data received so far showed that they migrated from Syria, over Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen and then reached Central Ethiopia where they are to date.  Due to the political situation in Somalia, the project could not be executed, so instead funds were used to install satellite transmitters on NBI in Morocco. Several birds were trapped, but they did not migrate.
	Implementation of the Sociable Lapwing SSAP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying the factors determining the breeding habitat requirements and breeding success of Sociable Lapwing at 3 sites in Kazakhstan.</li> <li>• Developing effective mechanisms and capacity to improve the conservation status of the Sociable Lapwing</li> <li>• Recruitment of a full-time Coordinator for the implementation of the SSAP</li> </ul>	AEWA  UK Darwin  AEWA (grant from Switzerland) and RSPB	BirdLife European Div. RSPB and partners (incl. AEWA Secretariat) ACBK (Kazakhstan)	Study was carried out in 2004; BirdLife submitted final report in 2005. Results from the project were published in scientific journals.  The Darwin project was launched in April 2006 and already had one very successful field season.  A full-time coordinator for the Sociable Lapwing (and the Black-winged Pratincole) SSAP entered on duty as of 1 September 2006.
	Implementation of the Black-winged Pratincole (SSAP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment of a full-time Coordinator for the implementation of the SSAP</li> </ul>	AEWA (grant from Switzerland) and RSPB	ACBK (Kazakhstan)	A full-time coordinator for the Black-winged Pratincole (and the Sociable Lapwing) SSAP entered on duty as of 1 September 2006.
	Implementation of the Red-breasted Goose (SSAP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment of a full-time Coordinator for the implementation of the SSAP</li> </ul>	AEWA (grant from Switzerland), RSPB, VBN, WWT	SOR (BirdLife Romania)	A full-time coordinator for the Red-breasted Goose SSAP entered on duty as of 1 July 2006.

	Implementation of the Dark-bellied Brent Goose (SSAP) <sup>1</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estimating annual survival rates over the period 1955-2003 and the impact of hunting until 1972</li> </ul>	AEWA (grant from UK) and the Netherlands	Alterra (NL) and NERI (DK)	No progress has been made.
<b>2</b>	<b><i>Development of new international Single Species Action Plan (SSAP)</i></b>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dark-bellied Brent Goose</li> </ul>	AEWA, Netherlands	AEWA	Finalisation of this SSAP depends on receiving comments from all key countries. Special page on the AEWA website on the Dark-bellied Brent Goose Action Plan will be created in 2007.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maccoa Duck</li> </ul>	AEWA (grant from Switzerland)	AGRED (South Africa)	The final draft was commented by the Range States and will be submitted for approval by the Standing Committee in November 2006 after AGRED has reflected all comments received.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lesser Flamingo</li> </ul>	AEWA (grant from Sweden)	IUCN/WI Flamingo Specialist Group	An action planning workshop took place in Nairobi from 25-29 September 2006. First draft of the SSAP to be ready by end of March 2007.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multi Species Action Plan for Southern African coastal seabirds</li> </ul>	AEWA	ADU	It is expected that the first draft of this Action Plan will be ready by the end of 2006.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Black-tailed Godwit</li> </ul>	VBN, AEWA		Recently agreement was reached with VBN on funding of this SSAP. To be contracted out in the next weeks.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eurasian Spoonbill</li> </ul>	VBN, AEWA		Recently agreement was reached with VBN on funding of this SSAP. To be contracted out in the next weeks.
<b>3.</b>	<b><i>Identifying all sites of international importance to AEWA species</i></b>			Will be part of the GEF project.
<b>4</b>	<b><i>Creating an interactive tool to present information on important sites for migratory waterbirds</i></b>			Will be part of the GEF project.
<b>5.</b>	<b><i>Identifying priority areas for further survey work</i></b>			Will be part of the GEF project.
<b>6.</b>	<b><i>Identifying priority areas for improved protection</i></b>			Will be part of the GEF project.
<b>7.</b>	<b><i>Habitat priorities for waterbirds, particularly in Africa and South-west Asia</i></b>			
<b>8.</b>	<b><i>Restoration and rehabilitation techniques for waterbird habitats, particularly in Africa</i></b>			

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

9.	<i>Conservation programme of migratory bird roosting sites located in the Albertine Rift region (Eastern Africa)</i>			
10.	<i>Evaluation of waterbird harvest in the Agreement area</i>			
11.	<i>Review of the use of non-toxic shot for waterbird hunting</i>			Secretariat will do this review in 2006/2007
12.	<i>Regional workshops on sustainable harvesting</i>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop to promote sustainable hunting in the Middle East</li> </ul>	EU Life Fund, AEWAs	AEWA/BirdLife	Workshop has been postponed due to the political situation in Lebanon and will probably take place in 2007
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop to promote sustainable hunting in North Africa</li> </ul>	EU Life Fund, AEWAs	AEWA/BirdLife	Workshop took place in Tunisia in September 2006.
13.	<i>Evaluation of socio-economic impacts of waterbird hunting</i>			
14.	<i>Evaluation of waterbirds as agricultural pests in Africa</i>			
15.	<i>Guidelines on minimising/ mitigating the impacts of infrastructural (and disturbance-related) developments affecting waterbirds</i>			
16.	<i>Survey of poorly-known areas</i>			Will be a part of the GEF project.
17.	<i>International Waterbird Census - special gap-filling survey</i>			Will be part of the GEF project.
18.	<i>Publication of flyway atlases for gulls, terns, herons, ibises, storks and Rallidae</i>			
19.	<i>Atlas of ringing recoveries</i>			
20.	<i>Coordination of waterbird ringing schemes, particularly in Africa</i>	EU and AEWAs	ADU	So far funds have been received for two years for this project from France and in 2006 from the EU. Project is developing well but funding for the next three years might become a problem.
21.	<i>Guideline on the use and best application of satellite tracking and other telemetric tracking for migratory waterbirds</i>			
22.	<i>Actions for the conservation of colonial waterbirds</i>	AEWA (grant from France)	Wetlands International	Contract released in early 2005.
23.	<i>Causes of population changes in migratory waterbirds</i>			
24.	<i>Migratory waterbirds and climate changes</i>			
25.	<i>Compiling flyway information (in digital format) for use in conjunction with existing waterbird count data and site information</i>			Will be part of the GEF project
26.	<i>The use of wetland sites by migratory waterbirds</i>			Will be part of the GEF project.
27.	<i>Migratory waterbirds as indicators</i>			

28.	<i>Analysis of training needs for migratory waterbird conservation</i>			Study has been done in GEF preparation and development facility (category B) Flyways project. Further analysis, development of sub-regional programmes and their implementation will take place in the full GEF project.
29.	<i>Improving survey and monitoring capacity for migratory waterbirds</i>			Will be part of the GEF project.
30.	<i>Regional training programmes in Africa for implementation of the Agreement</i>			Will be part of the GEF project
31.	<i>Field guide for Central Asia and adjacent countries</i>			Will be part of the GEF project
32.	<i>Training course on migratory waterfowl conservation and waterfowl habitatmanagement</i>			
33.	<i>Publication of waterbird monitoring manuals</i>			Will be part of the GEF project.
34.	<i>Establishing a clearing house for training materials for the Agreement</i>			
35.	<i>Regional workshops for promotion of the Agreement</i>			Will be part of the GEF project
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop in Moscow</li> </ul>	The Netherlands	Wetlands International	Wetlands International received funds for a workshop in Moscow to promote AEWA. So far date for this workshop has not been set.
36.	<i>Communicating the importance of a network of critical sites for migratory waterbirds</i>			Will be part of the GEF project

**PROJECTS FROM THE PREVIOUS AEWA INTERNATIONAL PRIORITIES**

1	Review of the use of agrochemicals in Africa and their impacts on migratory waterbirds	France, Switzerland, FAO and AEWA	CERES/ FAO	Final report, which will include comments of the TC not received so far.
2	Study on potential impacts of marine fisheries on migratory waterbirds	Netherlands and UK	ADU	Final draft of the report is expected by end of 2006.
3.	Rehabilitation of important migratory waterbird sites that have been degraded by invasive aquatic weeds	UK and AEWA	IUCN (regional offices in Africa)	Final report received end of 2004. The Secretariat is drafting a set of guidelines based on this report and will submit it in the next months to the TC for review.
4.	Exchange of know-how on traditional approaches to wetland and waterbird management in Africa	Netherlands and AEWA	IUCN (regional offices in Africa)	First results presented at the Global Flyway Conference in 2004. Final report was submitted and the TC commented on it.
5	Guideline on National Legislation for Migratory Waterbird Conservation (IIP '00-'04; project 1)	Netherlands and AEWA	IUCN-ELC; AEWA	Finalisation will be done by Secretariat before end of 2006.
6.	Guideline on avoiding the introduction of Non-native Migratory Waterbird Species	UK, WAZA, AEWA	Just Ecology/ AEWA	Published in June 2006.
7.	Publication of an Atlas of Wader Populations	Belgium, Netherlands, France, EU and AEWA	Wetlands International	Pending
8.	Pilot study/ review of potential from waterbird ringing recovery analyses for the Agreement area	France and AEWA	ADU	Pending