



**12<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**  
*31 January – 01 February 2017, Paris, France*

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**REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT**

**INTRODUCTION**

The present report covers the work of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat for the period between 1 December 2015 and 31 December 2016.

This report is divided into five sections:

1. Staffing and Organisation of the Secretariat;
2. General Management, which includes recruitment of Parties and cooperation with other organisations;
3. Communications, Information Management and Outreach;
4. Science, Implementation and Compliance;
5. Capacity-Building.

Activities reported in detail in other StC12 documents are only mentioned briefly here, with a reference to the relevant substantive document containing more information.

The day-to-day work of the Agreement Secretariat, which includes responding to incoming mail, maintaining the Secretariat's extensive network of contacts, internal meetings with CMS, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – now known as United Nations Environment - and/or UN Heads of Agencies etc. are not specifically mentioned in this report.

**1. STAFFING AND ORGANIZATION OF THE SECRETARIAT**

**Staffing Situation**

*Staff funded by the core budget*

There have been no major changes to the team in 2016.

*African Initiative Unit*

The positions of the African Initiative Coordinator (P-2) and the Programme Assistant (G-4) were partly funded (50 %) through the AEWA core budget 2016-2018 since 1 January 2016. The Secretariat was able to maintain the P-2 position at 100 % and the G-4 position at 80 % in 2016 thanks to contributions from the Federal Office for the Environment in Switzerland. The Secretariat is actively searching for voluntary contributions or projects to be able to maintain both positions at their current level until MOP7.

*Staff dependent on voluntary contributions*

*Associate Programme Officer for Single Species Action Plan Support and the coordination of implementation of the Lesser White-fronted Goose International Single Species Action Plan*

The position of the Associate Programme Officer for Single Species Action Plan Support and the coordination of implementation of the Lesser White-fronted Goose International Single Species Action Plan has been secured until the end of 2019. The Secretariat is grateful to the Norwegian Environmental Agency for its continuing support of this important position.

The part-time (30 %) position of the Programme Assistant established in June 2014 to assist with the preparation and follow up of the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP6) could be maintained throughout 2016 in order to continue supporting the follow-up work of MOP6 (especially the preparation of the MOP6 Proceedings), the organisation of the Strategic Plan Working Group meeting in mid-2016 and the Secretariat's fundraising activities. In view of the insufficient amount of G-staff in the Secretariat it is very much hoped that voluntary contributions could be found to renew the contract for this part-time position in the course of 2017 to support the MOP7 preparations.

Associate Programme Officer (P-2) and Programme Assistant (G-5) for the AEWA European Goose Management Platform

Thanks to funding received from the Norwegian Environment Agency towards the implementation of the AEWA European Goose Management Platform (EGMP) the Secretariat has been able to start the recruitment of one full-time P-2 Associate Programme Officer and one full-time G-5 Programme Assistant. It is very much hoped that both positions could be filled during the course of 2017.

Interns

The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat participates in the CMS Family Internship Programme. In the framework of this programme, the following interns supported the work of the Secretariat in the period under consideration:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Main tasks carried out in the period</b>
Helga Karsten	Russian	1 September – 2 December 2015	Provided support to the preparations for AEWA MOP6
Paolo Capurro	Italian	15 February – 13 May 2016	Provided support to the organisation of the WMBD Campaign
Luigi Maria Capano Raineri	Italian	7 March – 6 June 2016	Provided support to the organisation of the WMBD Campaign
Nicole Spada	Italian	1 April – 30 June 2016	Provided support to the organisation of the WMBD Campaign
Catherine Johnson	American	6 June – 2 September 2016	Provided support to ongoing IMCA work (news production, social media, research on different topics)
Donata Wojick	German	13 June – 12 December 2016	Provided support to ongoing IMCA work (news production, social media, research on different topics)
Bernice Hoogen	German	1 September – 30 November 2016	Provided support to ongoing IMCA work (news production, social media, research on different topics)
Vincent Hammeran	German	15 November 2016 – 28 February 2017	Providing support to ongoing IMCA work (news production, social media, research on different topics)

## **Staff reclassification**

All the three AEWA G4 posts have already being reclassified in accordance with AEWA Resolution 6.18 (“The Meeting of Parties approves the reclassification of the existing G4 positions to G5”) and the process is still on-going with the publication of the job openings expected in January 2017.

At the CMS COP11 (Quito, November 2014), CMS Parties requested UNEP and the UNEP/CMS Secretariat through Resolution 11.1 “*to undertake a review of the grading of the Secretariat’s posts, in line with the functions of the Secretariat, [...] to enable decisions on the grading of the posts to be taken by Parties at COP12*”. In response to this mandate, the UNEP/CMS Secretariat has contracted an independent Consultant to assess the need for reclassification for all CMS posts.

By correspondence of 29 September 2016, the AEWA Standing Committee provided the Secretariat with the mandate to commission a similar reclassification assessment alongside the one undertaken by the CMS Secretariat and agreed to finance it from the reserve of the AEWA Trust Fund.

The report delivered by the independent Consultant will be used to provide the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP7) to AEWA with a valid independent assessment of all Secretariat posts, notably in the framework of the working group on financial and administrative matters. The Consultant reviewed all positions except the three AEWA G4 posts which are already being reclassified in accordance with AEWA Resolution 6.18 (cf. supra), as well as the post of the Executive Secretary, which was already classified by UNON at P5 level in 2012, but maintained at P4 level by MOP5 due to financial constraints.

## **Organisation of the Secretariat**

The individual staff members and units work closely as a team, interacting with each other on cross-cutting issues on a daily basis; they are divided into four major areas of work (as described in Annex 1 – Organisational Structure and Annex II - Staff Composition of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat).

Each staff member has an annual work plan, which is approved and/or revised annually as well as on a mid-term basis by his/her direct supervisor. All the work plans are examined by the Executive Secretary in order to ensure synergy between the units and to avoid duplication of efforts. The Secretariat nonetheless faces a number of challenges in the delivery of its mandate and is rather stretched. This is due to the ever-increasing range of services to be delivered: without the extension of the part-time positions through voluntary contributions and the support of interns, the Secretariat would not have been in a position to deliver all services requested during the course of 2016.

The core budget covers 7.25 full-time equivalent positions (FTEs), while voluntary contributions have allowed the addition of 2.65 full-time equivalent positions until 31 December 2016. The Secretariat currently comprises eleven staff members (see Annex 2): six Professional Staff members (P staff) and five General Staff members (G staff). In 2017, one P-2 and one G-5 will be recruited for the AEWA European Goose Management Platform.

## **2. GENERAL MANAGEMENT**

### **Umoja and IPSAS**

The deployment of a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system called Umoja had a strong impact on the Secretariat’s daily work. The workflow between the Secretariat, the Common CMS Family Administrative and Fund Management Unit (AFMU) and the UN and UNEP/UNON headquarters had to be reorganised. The staff time needed for training in the use of Umoja and administrative tasks to be conducted thereof has substantially increased and the Secretariat continues to face significant delays or backlog despite the daily efforts of the AEWA team. Since November 2016, one AEWA P-2 staff has been assigned the function of Certifying Officer under the Umoja system, in relation to travel requests and expense reports, as a temporary measure to support the common AFMU services.

The implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) will have an impact not only on finance and human resources management, but also on budget needs, as described in document AEWA/StC Inf.12.6. Some provisions are already in place (e.g. an operative reserve of 15 % in the trust fund). Timely payments of the contributions by Parties will, however, become crucial in view of the strict liquidity management regime. In that respect, the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat will need to further increase its efforts towards Parties with arrears (see document AEWA/StC 12.18 Corr. 1). All MEAs administrated by UNEP will also be required to contribute to the costs of Umoja (licences fees and audit fees); an estimate of these costs is not yet available.

### **Recruitment of Parties**

Since MOP6, one new Contracting Party has acceded to AEWA (Belarus, 1 April 2016), bringing the total number of Parties to 76.

In addition, significant progress has been made in the accession process of a number of African non-Party Range States. Contacts at high level were established during the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA2) in May 2016 by the AEWA Executive Secretary. Furthermore, a multi-stakeholder consultation workshop was organised to re-energise the process of Cameroon's accession to AEWA (7-8 December 2016 in Yaoundé, Cameroon, with the financial support of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN).

Through the same voluntary contribution, the Agreement Text is being translated into Portuguese for the benefit of the Portuguese-speaking Range States and particularly to promote the accession of four out of the five African Portuguese-speaking countries (see further details in document AEWA/StC 12.9 – Report on the Implementation of the African Initiative). Once the translation is approved by the Depositary, the Secretariat will increase its efforts to recruit the Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa.

The recruitment of Arabic-speaking countries is hampered by the lack of an Arabic translation of the text of the Treaty. The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat is in close and regular contact with the Depositary to solve this issue as soon as possible.

### **Meeting of the AEWA Standing Committee**

The 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee was held in Bonn, Germany on 14 November 2015, back to back with the MOP6 with the aim of electing the Chair (Uganda) and the Vice-Chair (France) of the Committee.

The StC11 meeting report is available as document AEWA/StC Inf. 12.3 and at: <http://www.unep-awea.org/en/meeting/11th-meeting-awea-standing-committee>.

### **Meeting of the AEWA Technical Committee**

The 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Technical Committee was held in Nasholim, Israel, 14-17 March 2016, at the kind invitation of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, in collaboration with the Israel Ornithological Center of the Society for the Protection of Nature. The meeting was convened with the aim to determine the programme of work 2016-2018 of the committee. Information about the meeting is available at: <http://www.unep-awea.org/en/meeting/13th-meeting-awea-technical-committee>

### **Cooperation with UN Environment and Other Organisations**

#### **UN Environment**

The relationships with the UNEP headquarters and UNON have been strengthened in 2016, the AEWA Executive Secretary visited the headquarters three times: in February at the invitation of the Executive Director (ED), in May to participate at the UNEA2 and in November to participate in the mandatory training (Management Development Programme).

On 29 February 2016, the three Executive Secretaries of the CMS Family (CMS, EUROBATS and AEWA) met the Executive Director to discuss how to increase the synergies within the CMS Family and within the other biodiversity-related MEAs. An Action Plan was adopted and approved in April by the ED. Following this Action Plan, a Strategic Meeting has been convened every three months to deal with Parties' accession,

fundraising activities, up-coming meetings, programmatic synergies and common services. A monthly meeting on administrative issues is also held between the three Executive Secretaries.

On programmatic synergies, some items such as the illegal killing of birds or lead poisoning are now led by CMS after the COP gave to the UNEP/CMS Secretariat a broader mandate than the one given by the AEWa MOP. In that respect for example, the Plan of Action to Address Bird Trapping along the Mediterranean Coasts of Egypt and Libya set up by the UNEP/AEWa Secretariat was merged into the broader action plan decided in Cairo in July 2016. It should be kept in mind that the idea for the Pan-Mediterranean Task Force on Illegal Killing of Birds was conceived during a meeting between the UNEP/AEWa Secretariat and BirdLife International and that the Task Force was approved by COP11 in November 2014. These programmatic synergies are aimed at increasing the efficiency of the two Secretariats of the CMS Family and allow the UNEP/AEWa Secretariat to be innovative and to promote new concepts such as the adaptive management for bird conservation.

In July 2015, UNEP created the position of Chief of Environmental Governance and Conventions Branch, Head of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements Support and Cooperation within the UNEP/Law Division of the UNEP. The UNEP/AEWa Secretariat has regular contacts with Mr. Jiří Hlaváček and his support is much appreciated.

#### *BirdLife International / Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)*

In May 2016, the UNEP/AEWa Secretariat participated in meetings in the United Kingdom with BirdLife International and with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), where, amongst other things, the implementation of International Single Species Action Plans (ISSAPs) were reviewed and the WMBD partnership discussed.

The CMS Family and BirdLife International joined forces at the Second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA2) held in Nairobi 23-27 May to raise awareness of guidelines devised to ensure that renewable energy installations are deployed in ways that have no adverse impact on migratory species such as birds and bats. CMS, AEWa, EUROBATs and BirdLife International organised a side event on “Reconciling the Deployment of Energy Technologies with Migratory Species” and the AEWa Executive Secretary and CMS Executive Secretary have delivered speeches. (For further information, please see: [http://www.unep-awea.org/sites/default/files/unea\\_energy\\_flyer\\_1.pdf](http://www.unep-awea.org/sites/default/files/unea_energy_flyer_1.pdf) )

#### *Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)*

The campaign “Flight of the Swan” tracked the Bewick’s Swan on its migration route from the Russian Arctic to Britain across 11 countries. Flying a paramotor, British conservationist Sacha Dench was following the migration route of the Bewick’s Swans to understand the challenges these waterbirds face along their 7.000 km journey. AEWa was one of the International Partners alongside the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and Wetlands International, and this campaign was a perfect example of the flyway approach for bird conservation. In 2012, AEWa adopted the International Single Species Action Plan for the Bewick’s Swan which aims to reverse the decline of the North-west European population of the species and bring it back to a favourable conservation status.

#### *International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC)*

The UNEP/AEWa Secretariat attended the 63<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the CIC, 22-23 April 2016, in Brussels. The Executive Secretary chaired a special event on migratory birds and had presented the sustainable harvest guidelines and the European Goose Management Platform project. The meeting was a good opportunity to share with the hunting community the results of the last MOP. CIC is considering relaunching its Migratory Birds Commission. CIC is also a partner of the WMBD campaign.

#### *FAO and FFEM and the RESSOURCE Project*

An agreement between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) was signed on 6 October 2016, under which four principal wetland areas in five AEWa Contracting Parties of the Sahel will be targeted. This agreement will focus on the sustainable management of migratory waterbirds, which play a significant role in guaranteeing food security for people living in the region. The FFEM is co-funding one third of the project’s €5 million budget.

The project will be known as RESSOURCE, the acronym for the French equivalent of "Strengthening expertise in Sub-Saharan Africa on birds and their rational use for communities and their environment". The ecosystems at the core of the project are based on the Senegal River Valley, the Inner Niger Delta, Lake Chad and parts of the River Nile, areas upon which almost one billion people depend for agriculture, rearing of livestock, fishing and hunting. The project will attempt to evaluate the sustainability of exploiting the resources made up by waterbirds thanks to its integrated approach which aims to: (i) find out about the resource both in terms of the numbers and distribution and in terms of its socio-economic importance, especially for rural communities (ii) to preserve its habitats and (iii) to propose conservation measures at community level. This project led by FAO and supported by FFEM involves not only the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat but also key partners: ONCFS, CIRAD, OMPO.

#### Other flyways: Northern America

The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat was invited to attend the XXI Meeting of the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management held in Ottawa, 16-19 May 2016. Bringing together stakeholders from Canada, the USA and Mexico, the meeting had a particular focus as it was "celebrating 100 years of conservation of migratory birds and their habitats and looking ahead to the next 100 years". In this context, during the plenary the Executive Secretary of AEWA, presented the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement as a model for conservation across the continents. He showed that despite national and regional efforts, the conservation success is hampered if the flyway approach is not used as the basis for actions. As an intergovernmental treaty, AEWA is a tool for international cooperation for the flyway which encompasses the highest number of Range States – 119 - in the world.

#### **Fundraising**

Voluntary contributions received since MOP6 were earmarked for the organisation of MOP6, the update review on the status of non-native waterbird species within the AEWA area, sponsored delegates at MOP6, the AEWA 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary coffee table book, the European Goose Management Platform, the coordination and implementation of the International Single Species Action Plan for the Lesser White-fronted Goose, the coordination of the African Initiative, the organisation of World Migratory Bird Day, the Strategic Plan revision process, waterbird monitoring in Africa, the Velvet Scoter action planning workshop held in Vilnius, Lithuania on 4 - 6 October 2016, the White-headed duck action planning workshop held in Madrid, Spain on 24-26 October 2016 and the Dalmatian Pelican action planning workshop held in Lithotopos, Greece on 22 – 24 November 2016.

The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat would like to express its appreciation for the financial support received towards the implementation of the Agreement. It should, at the same time, be noted that this level of support is still far below the amount estimated as necessary to implement the Agreement at a satisfactory level.

Fundraising has become increasingly difficult over recent years due to the continuing global financial crisis and the Secretariat is spending more time on fundraising activities. It should be stressed that the mandatory reports for MOP7, such as the Conservation Status Report or the Site Network Review, are not yet commissioned due to the lack of any funding. To be ready for consideration by MOP7, these reports should be launched during the first quarter of 2017.

For more information, please refer to document AEWA/StC 12.17 Report of the Secretariat on Finance and Administrative Issues.

#### **MOP6 and preparation of MOP7**

The MOP6 proceedings have been published on the website and as hard copies, which were distributed to all Parties at the end of December 2016. The Secretariat is grateful to the BMUB (Germany) for printing them.

The Secretariat has approached several Parties in order to identify a host for MOP7. Four potential hosts have declined and three Parties are still considering hosting MOP7.

## **The AEWA African Initiative**

The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat has promoted the implementation of the Agreement in the African region, particularly with regard to Resolution 5.9 on the implementation of the African Initiative and the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa. Details can be found in the report on the implementation of the African Initiative, submitted to the meeting as document AEWA/StC 12.9.

## **3. COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND OUTREACH**

### **Joint CMS/AEWA Unit**

Through Resolution 6.22, the Meeting of the Parties requested the UNEP/AEWA and UNEP/CMS Secretariats to develop a proposal within three months after MOP6 detailing implementation arrangements for the joint CMS/AEWA Information Management, Communication and Awareness-raising Unit (IMCA Unit) including staff time and budget sharing ratios, management structure, monitoring and evaluation indicators, among others, to be approved by the Standing Committee.

Considering the importance of this issue, the Committee granted the Secretariat extra time to prepare a detailed proposal in consultation with the CMS Secretariat.

During this period, we have tested and assessed a method to monitor staff time allocation within the IMCA Unit and to discuss extensively the draft proposal with the UNEP/CMS Secretariat.

The proposal for the IMCA Unit, as requested by Resolution 6.22, was circulated on 27 September 2016 and approved by the members of the Standing Committee on 24 October 2016.

### **Communication Activities**

AEWA-related communication activities conducted between December 2015 and December 2016 are provided in detail in Document AEWA/StC 12.16.

## **4. SCIENCE, IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE**

As 2016 was a year following a session of the MOP, it was a year with many follow-up tasks and new initiatives on the basis of the various Resolutions adopted at MOP6, including the AEWA TC workplan. These primarily concerned the launch of the development of the next Strategic Plan for 2019-2027, a wide array of Species Action and Management Plan activities, including the establishment of the European Goose Management Platform (EGMP), an Implementation Review Process (IRP) on-the spot appraisal mission to Iceland, involvement in the project on climate resilience of the site network, contribution to the preparation of a proposal for an EU regulation on the phase out of lead shot for hunting in wetlands and participation in the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI) under CAFF.

### **Development of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027**

Building on AEWA's first Strategic Plan, which initially covered the period 2009–2017 but was extended to 2018 by MOP6, the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019–2027 will provide the framework for implementation of the Agreement by the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Technical Committee, Secretariat and Partners. It covers three complete triennia (or intersessional periods) between Meetings of the Parties (MOPs), from MOP7 (in 2018, when the draft Strategic Plan 2019–2027 will be tabled for discussion and final adoption by Contracting Parties), to MOP10 due to be held in 2027.

MOP6 (Bonn, November 2015) instructed the Standing Committee, working with the Technical Committee and Secretariat, to revise the existing Strategic Plan and to present a draft covering the period 2019–2027 for consideration at MOP7 (2018). The Standing Committee established a Strategic Plan Working Group (SPWG) with participation as follows:

Parties: Uganda (Chair of Standing Committee and Chair of SPWG), France (Vice-Chair of Standing Committee), Georgia, Ghana, Libya, Netherlands, (all Standing Committee members), plus the EU, plus nine other Parties (appointed on a ‘first-come, first-served’ basis) – Benin, Germany, Czech Republic, Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, and the United Kingdom.

Technical Committee: Chair & Vice-Chair, three thematic experts, invited CEPA expert, NGO members (CIC, IUCN, Wetlands International).

Observers and Partners: CMS, AEWAs African Initiative Technical Support Unit, BirdLife International, FACE, OMPO, WWT.

A facilitated meeting of the SPWG was held in Bonn, 28–30 June 2016. This discussed the findings of an evaluation of the existing Strategic Plan and identified some of the key elements to be included in the new Strategic Plan, including provisional Objectives and content for many of the associated Targets and Actions. A preliminary consultation draft was circulated to members of the SPWG on 26 September 2016.

A revised draft will be produced to take account of comments from Working Group members received by the 31 October 2016 and this will be transmitted to all Contracting Parties (in both English and French) by March 2017. Based on feedback from Parties, a final draft will be produced and forwarded for consideration by MOP7 in 2018.

It should be noted that, in parallel, a new Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027 will be prepared following the same process. The concept note for the development of this PoAA was submitted to the Standing Committee on 5 October 2016.

### **Species Action and Management Plans**

#### *Lesser White-fronted Goose*

The coordination of the AEWAs Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group continues to be facilitated by the AEWAs Associate Programme Officer for Single Species Action Plan Support based at the UNEP/AEWAs Secretariat. The [3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the AEWAs Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group](#) was kindly hosted by the Norwegian Environment Agency at their premises in Trondheim on the 12-14 April 2016. The meeting agenda included the development of a work plan outlining priority activities for implementation during 2016-2019 as well as break-out group discussions regarding the preparation of a new EU LIFE project proposal, further conservation work in the wintering areas of the Western main population, the preparation of an extensive monitoring mission in Kazakhstan as well as producing an action-planning framework for the Eastern main population with experts from China and Japan as well as Russia.

The Secretariat is a partner in the current EU LIFE+ project for the Lesser White-fronted Goose lead by BirdLife Greece. Key outcomes of the project, which have, in particular, benefited the wider conservation efforts for the species, include the adoption of a common monitoring scheme (including identification and monitoring training across the flyways) for the species as well as the decision to establish a network of critical sites. The project was one of the [2016 winners of the European Natura 2000 Award](#), placing first in the category “Cross-border cooperation and Networking”.

A revision of the AEWAs International Single Species Action Plan for the Lesser White-fronted Goose was scheduled to be adopted at MOP6 in November 2015, which would have included an update of the Action Plan framework. However, due to differences in the positions of various Range States which could not be bridged, the Standing Committee decided that the draft revised document would not be submitted to MOP6 for approval and reverted the revision back to the International Working Group for discussion.

Additional projects facilitated by the Secretariat under the framework of the Working Group include monitoring missions as well as projects to lessen the impact of illegal killing in Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Russia and Iran. Funding for these projects has been provided by the Norwegian Environment Agency, the Finnish Ministry of the Environment and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety.

### *Black-tailed Godwit*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the North-West European Breeding Range States of the [AEWA Black-tailed Godwit International Working Group](#) took place in The Hague, the Netherlands on the 23-24. November 2016, hosted by the AEWA Focal Point Ms Wilmar Remmelts at the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs.

### *Benguela coastal seabirds*

In the course of 2016, the Secretariat concluded a Memorandum of Cooperation with BirdLife South Africa, who will be coordinating the implementation of the multi-species action plan for the Benguela coastal seabirds. BirdLife South Africa is providing a coordinator on part-time basis.

### *Velvet Scoter*

An action planning workshop was held on 4-6 October 2016 in Vilnius, Lithuania as part of the development of the Velvet Scoter Single Species Action Plan. It was hosted by the Lithuanian Ministry of Environment, organised by the Lithuanian Ornithological Society, and facilitated by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat. This work is being undertaken in the framework of the EuroSAP project supported by the EU Life programme and coordinated by BirdLife International. The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat is co-sponsoring this project. The draft species action plan will be submitted for approval to MOP7 in 2018.

### *Dalmatian Pelican*

Similarly, to the Velvet Scoter, a workshop was hosted by the Greek Ministry of Environment and Energy on 22-24 November 2016 at Lithotopos, Lake Kerkini National Park contributing to the development of the International Single Species Action Plan for the Dalmatian Pelican. This workshop was organised by the Hellenic Ornithological Society and facilitated by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat. This work is being undertaken in the framework of the EuroSAP project supported by the EU Life programme and coordinated by BirdLife International. The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat is co-sponsoring this project. This draft species action plan will be also submitted for approval to MOP7 in 2018.

### *White-headed Duck*

The AEWA White-headed Duck International Working Group was convened by the Secretariat in 2016 and the [1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Working Group](#) was hosted by the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and the Environment on the 24-26 October 2016 at their premises in Madrid, Spain. The meeting was organised by SEO/BirdLife Spain under the framework of the EuroSAP project supported by the EU LIFE programme and coordinated by BirdLife. The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat is co-sponsoring this project. The main objective of the meeting was to prepare a revision of the current CMS/AEWA Action Plan for the species, which was adopted in 2008. This draft revised Species Action Plan will also be submitted for approval to MOP7 in 2018.

### *Long-tailed Duck*

The Secretariat concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT), which will be coordinating the AEWA European Sea Ducks International Working Group. This Working Group will be expected to coordinate the implementation of the AEWA Long-tailed Duck International Single Species Action Plan adopted at MOP6 as well as the International Action Plan for the Velvet Scoter, which is expected to be adopted at MOP7 (see above). WWT is providing a coordinator on a part-time basis.

### *Eurasian Curlew*

The Secretariat also concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), which will be coordinating the AEWA Eurasian Curlew International Working Group. RSPB is also providing a coordinator on a part-time basis.

## **European Goose Management Platform**

Following the mandate by MOP6 (see Resolution 6.4), the Secretariat convened a [negotiation meeting on 11-12 May 2016](#) that was hosted in Paris by the French Ministry of the Environment, Energy and the Sea. The attending Range States agreed on the establishment of the European Goose Management Platform under the modalities suggested by the Secretariat. As part of the EGMP, the Secretariat convened a European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG), which is the decision-making body of this initiative and by nature is inter-governmental.

This Working Group is set to have annual meetings to decide on the annual regulations with respect to management of the goose populations under its remit. The first meeting of the EGM IWG took place on 14-16

December 2016 and was hosted in Kristianstad by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. This first meeting focused on the management plan for the Pink-footed Goose, which has been under implementation since 2012, and the newly approved (in 2015) action plan for the Taiga Bean Goose. The IWG also agreed on its modus operandi and elected a chair country for the next biennial period. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 15-16 June 2017 in Copenhagen to be hosted by the Danish Nature Agency.

Planning has advanced on the development of management plans for the Barnacle Goose and the Greylag Goose. Full funding has been secured for the Barnacle Goose management planning process and it will be rolled out early in 2017 with the first workshop of this process taking place on 12-14 June 2017 back-to-back with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the EGM IWG. For the Greylag Goose, 75% of the budget has been pledged and further resources will be sought and arrangements will be negotiated with the French Ministry of the Environment, Energy and the Sea, which is the main promoter of this process, in order to launch it sometime in 2017.

The Secretariat also attended a meeting of the EU Expert Group on the Birds and Habitats Directives (NADEG) in early November at the European Commission in Brussels to introduce the EGMP concept to the EU Members States.

### **Implementation Review Process**

The main activity in 2016 related to the Implementation Review Process has been the on-the-spot appraisal mission to Iceland in conjunction with the Bern Convention Secretariat. The mission took place on 23-27 May 2016 and the report was finalised on 19 October 2016. This matter will be reported in detail under agenda item 9 and the mission report is made available as document AEWA/StC 12.10.

### **Climate resilient site network project**

The project “Climate resilient site network in the African-Eurasian flyway” was launched at MOP6 in November 2015 is funded by the International Climate Initiative of the German Government and is coordinated by Wetlands International. The Secretariat is involved as a co-funder and contributor. The project is entitled and its concept evolved on the basis of the AEWA climate change agenda and mandates from the MOP and it involves some site assessments, two pilot projects in Mali and Ethiopia, production of guidelines and training of practitioners in African Parties. The Secretariat is on the project’s Steering Committee and in 2016 attended the first face-to-face meeting in Bondo, Kenya as well as the other two remote meetings of the Committee. The project is being implemented according to schedule despite certain complications related to safety and security at the pilot sites in Mali and Ethiopia.

### **Lead shot phase out in the EU**

In 2016, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) initiated a process of compiling a report and draft regulation commissioned by the European Commission in order to implement the AEWA provisions of phase out of the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands. This involved provision of evidence by various stakeholders to which the Secretariat responded, working together with the Technical Committee (TC). The Secretariat also attended together with the TC Vice-chair a meeting at ECHA on 28 September to review the compilation of evidence and will remain involved in the follow-up process of finalising the report and drafting the proposed text of the regulation.

### **Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative**

The AEWA Secretariat continued to contribute to the implementation of the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI), established under the Arctic Council’s biodiversity-related working group CAFF (Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna). The Secretariat attended the AMBI Steering Group Meeting as well as the 1<sup>st</sup> AMBI Implementation Workshop organised by the CAFF Secretariat and hosted by the Dutch government on the 4-7 April 2016 on Texel in the Netherlands. The main activities in the AMBI work plan for the African-Eurasian flyway which are being coordinated and implemented by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat pertain to reducing the threat of illegal killing of Lesser White-fronted Geese as well as to reducing the threat of afforestation AEWA species in Iceland (see IRP report).

## **Publications**

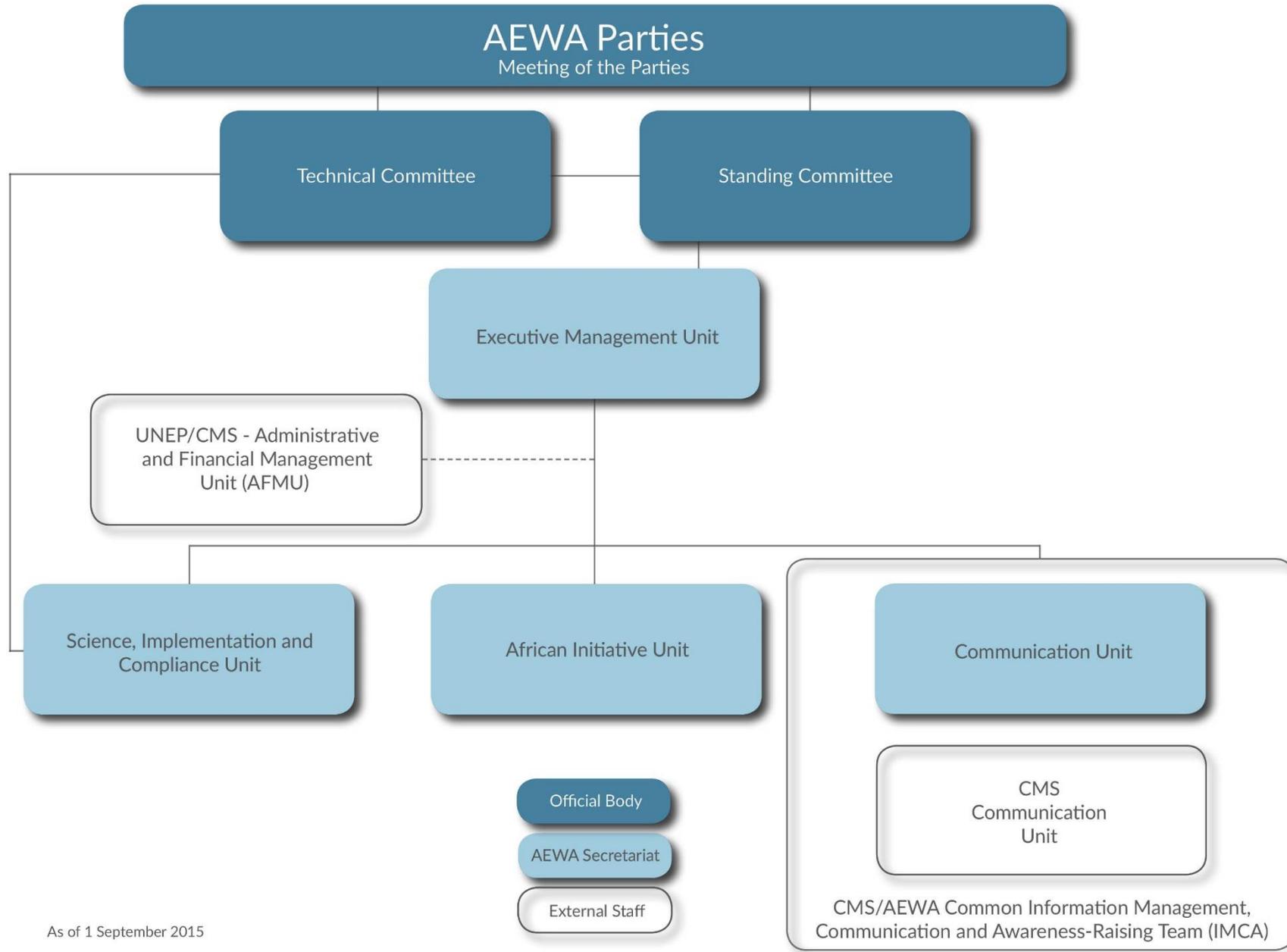
The following publications have been produced in the framework of the AEWA Technical Series:

- AEWA Technical Series No. 55 – International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Northern Bald Ibis (*Geronticus eremita*)
- AEWA Technical Series No 56 - International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Taiga Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis fabalis*)
- AEWA Technical Series No. 62 / AEWA Conservation Guidelines No. 5 - Guidelines on Sustainable Harvest of Migratory Waterbirds (Revision 1)

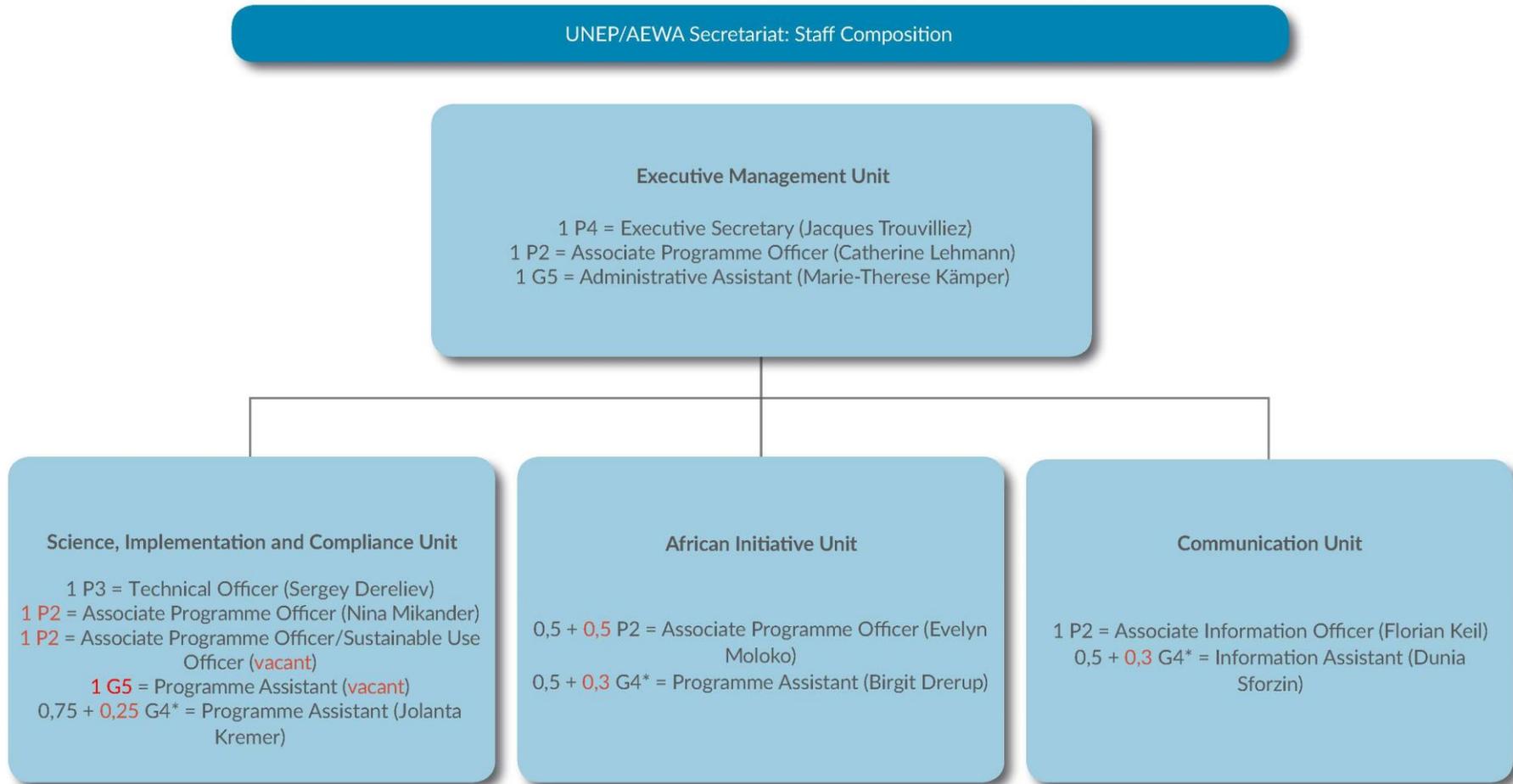
## **5. CAPACITY BUILDING**

In partnership with EuroNatur, a German-based NGO, which provided financial and logistical support, a training workshop was been organised for the National administrative and Technical Focal Points of the AEWA Parties from the Adriatic flyway (Albania, Croatia, Montenegro, Slovenia and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). The event was held on 13-15 September 2016 in Samobor, Croatia, and was aimed to enhance cooperation and implementation of AEWA for countries situated along the Adriatic Flyway. In the absence of dedicated capacity-building personnel at the Secretariat, this work was undertaken by the Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit.

ANNEX I – UNEP/AEWA Secretariat: Organisational Structure



ANNEX II – UNEP/AEWA Secretariat: Staff Composition



P = Professional Staff Category  
 G = General Staff Category  
 \* = currently being reclassified

Figures in black = Full-time or part-time posts funded through core budget  
 Figures in red = Posts or extensions dependent on voluntary contributions or savings

As of 1 January 2017