



12th MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

31 January – 01 February 2017, Paris, France

12th MEETING OF THE AEWA STANDING COMMITTEE – FRANCE 2017 AEWA REGIONAL REPORT – WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA

1. Number. of Contracting Parties (CPs): **17**

Number. of Range States (RS): **26**

Number. of New Accessions since previous StC: **None**

2. Feedback from CPs and Range States for this report

Not much, except the call for information regarding the AEWA implementation for the purpose of this report. A letter requesting for information to prepare this regional report was sent to All focal points of contracting parties in both English and French with copy to the secretariat in November 2016. Unfortunately only Guinea provided information for the preparation of this report. Feedback from CPs and Range States was very poor, probably because of problem of communication barriers between myself and my Francophone neighbours.

3. *Has the Regional Rep actively promoted accession to AEWA among the Range States? If so, how has accession been promoted by the Regional Rep.?*

The Focal Points of **Liberia** and **Sierra Leone** were engaged on informal talks to promote their preparedness to the join the Agreement. To some extent the Regional Rep. has been promoting the Agreement by calling for information regarding the AEWA implementation for the purpose of preparatory reports to the StC Meeting. Unfortunately, the responses have always not been encouraging.

4. *. Which developments regarding the implementation of AEWA have taken place in the Region since the last Meeting of the Parties?*

Activities carried out in 2016 by Guinea

The republic of Guinea reported on the following activities

Celebrated world migratory waterbirds day

Developed a national action plan for the implementation of AEWA 2016-2020

Developed the national plan of action of two species, namely: the crowned crane and the Flamingo

Participated in the counting of water birds from 2016

Participated in the Pan-African ornithological Congress of birds in Dakar in October 2016

Waterbird database management workshop for Anglophone Contracting Parties in Africa

A technical workshop was organized by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, in collaboration with the TSU and Wetlands International, to enhance capacity for the management of waterbird data in the framework of the International Waterbird Census (IWC). This workshop took place from 22-24 October 2016 in Dakar, Senegal, after the 14th Pan Africa Ornithological Congress.

The workshop brought together some 20 participants, of which 13 came from African countries ((Angola, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe) out of which 4 came from the sub-region (Angola, Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria)

International Waterbird Counts

The Annual Contractual Agreement for the counting of waterbirds of the East-Atlantic Flyway for January 2016 coordinated by Wetlands International in Partnership with the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI) and the BirdLife International (CMB project) and the contracting Parties/range states (Ivory Coast, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo from West Africa and Burundi, DR Congo, Gabon and Congo from Central Africa) of the Sub-region took place.

World Migratory Waterbird Day (WMBD)

The celebration of the world Migratory Wetlands Day once again received some prominence in the African region for the 2016 campaign which had as its global theme...and when the skies fall silent? Stop the illegal killing, taking and trade. Two transboundary event in Mauritania (in collaboration with Senegal) and Togo (in collaboration with Benin and Ghana) took place in the sub region.. Through these events, attention was drawn to the need for migratory waterbird conservation, particularly the problems related to the illegal use of waterbirds.

5. Key challenge:

The AEWA Western and Central Regions face key challenge which needs concerted efforts to bridge over for effective implementation of the tenets of the Agreement. The Anglophone – Francophone language barrier limits communication and the share of information between the two language blocs - CPs and non-CPs in the Western and Central Regions.

6. Recommendations:

The AWEA Secretariat strengthens efforts at encouraging non-CP Range States to accede to the Agreement - it is internationally difficult for StC Representative, who tends to be the head of a lead agency for a CP in one's own country to encourage the government of a neighbouring non-CP Range State to ratify the AWEA.

7. Any other relevant information

The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany and BirdLife International through The Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI) supported Ghana's project titled *Sustaining Local Community Action for Wetlands and Waterbirds Conservation through Participatory Awareness and site Management at Sakumo Ramsar site-Ghana* in May 2016

Cameroon reported of national workshop in October 2016 in preparation for the ratification of the Agreement

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Annex 1: WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICAN AEWA CONTRACTING PARTIES AS AT JANUARY 2017

NO.	CONTRACTING PARTIES	DATE
	WESTERN AFRICA	
1	Benin	01-01-2000
2	Burkina Faso	01-10-2013
3	Côte d'Ivoire	01-06-2013
4	Gambia	01-11-1999
5	Ghana	01-10-2005
6	Guinea	01-11-1999
7	Guinea-Bissau	01-11-2006
8	Mali	01-01-2000
9	Niger	01-11-1999
10	Nigeria	01-07-2004
11	Senegal	01-11-1999
12	Togo	01-11-1999
13	Mauritania	01-05-2015
	Central African	
13	Chad	01-11-2011
14	Congo (Brazzaville)	01-11-1999
15	Equatorial Guinea	01-01-2003
16	Gabon	01-12-2012
No	NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES	
	WESTERN AFRICA	
1	Cape Verde	-
2	Liberia	-
3	Sierra Leone	-
	CENTRAL AFRICA	
5	Angola	-
6	Cameroon	-
7	Central African Republic	-
8	Democratic Republic of Congo	-
9	Sao Tome & Principe	-
10	South Sudan	