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**PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THE AEWA STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2017**  
(update 2012-2015)



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*“Making flyway conservation happen”*

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### PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AEWA STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2017 (update 2012-2015)

*Compiled by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat for the AEWA Standing Committee*

#### Summary

The AEWA Strategic Plan for the period 2009-2017 was adopted by MOP4 in 2008. This progress report (for the period 2012-2015) is compiled by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat for the Standing Committee and is an update from the previous report presented to MOP5 in 2012.

To achieve the Strategic Plan goal, five objectives have been set, each with its associated targets, amounting to 26 altogether. The targets are measured by 35 quantifiable indicators. Another 12 indicators have been assigned to measure the overall progress towards the goal. This report has been produced on the basis of the Strategic Plan Logical Framework. The assessments are drawn from various sources, predominantly other MOP6 documents. Each target or indicator has been assessed and placed in one of six categories.

At MOP5, with 2/3 of the indicators in the “red zone” the overall progress towards achieving the Strategic Plan goal was described as very insufficient; since then, a further decline has been registered. The present report, unlike the one in 2012, did not identify indicators that have been achieved or have registered significant progress. In addition, the proportion of indicators showing good progress has dropped.

The overall progress towards achieving the Strategic Plan objectives is currently described as average, but it registered a slight improvement since MOP5. A high proportion of targets (35%) are showing good progress and a number of targets have been reached (8%) or are scoring significant progress (11%).

While the proportion of targets with good progress has been retained, the targets that have been achieved or are in significant progress have increased, however, at the expense of the decreasing number of targets with limited progress, which still represent 31%.

Amongst the five objectives none is outstanding in terms of progress towards reaching its associated targets. Compared to MOP5 all objectives show improvement apart from Objective 4. It should however be noted, that indicators of a number of targets, have shown a declining trend (even if the relevant progress categories did not have to be lowered as a result). One possible explanation for the sliding parameters of a number of indicators could be the lower rate of national reporting to MOP6.

A detailed overview was made of the progress towards each objective and its associated targets, including comparative analysis with the previous assessment, and the report concludes with recommendations on advancing the implementation of the Strategic Plan and improving the monitoring of its implementation, which will require further cooperation, resources and capacity.

A discrepancy has been identified between the slightly increased level of implementation of the Strategic Plan since MOP5 and a drop in the progress towards achieving the overall goal of the Plan. This discrepancy points at the need to allocate more attention to targets that can directly influence the status of the AEWA waterbirds.

## Introduction

The AEWA Strategic Plan for the period 2009-2017 was adopted in 2008 by the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) with resolution 4.7. The Strategic Plan aims at providing the context for implementation of the Agreement, putting forward a medium-term perspective, by setting the overall goal, the objectives and targets for a period of nine years (three triennial MOP cycles). It is intended to provide coherent and strategic guidance to the Contracting Parties and other stakeholders in their endeavour to act effectively both nationally and regionally whilst cooperating internationally along the flyways. The Strategic Plan further provides guidance to the AEWA governing bodies (the Meeting of the Parties, the Standing and Technical Committees) and the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat.

Resolution 4.7, amongst others, requested the Standing Committee to monitor the implementation of the Strategic Plan and report progress to each ordinary session of the MOP.

This updated progress report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2009-2017 for the period 2012-2015 has been compiled by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat for the StC and approved by the Committee for submission to MOP6.

## Report structure and approach

The vision put forward in the Strategic Plan is as follows:

*'All countries along the African-Eurasian Flyways share viable waterbird populations, and people throughout the region understand, respect, facilitate and sustain the phenomenon of their migration'.*

The goal of this Strategic Plan is **to maintain or to restore migratory waterbird species and their populations at a favourable conservation status throughout their flyways** and it sets five related objectives corresponding to the headings of the AEWA Action Plan, each aiming at achieving, respectively, favourable conservation status, sustainable use, increased knowledge, improved communication, and improved cooperation and capacity.

To achieve each objective, a series of targets has been set – three for Objective 4, five for each of Objectives 1, 2 and 3, and eight for Objective 5. Each target is measured by quantifiable indicators, usually one per target, with the exception of Targets 2.1 and 3.1 (two indicators) and Target 4.2 (nine indicators), amounting to 35 in total. Twelve indicators have also been assigned to measure the progress towards achieving the overall goal of the Strategic Plan – eight of which are at the Agreement-wide level and four at the national level. The sources of these indicators have also been identified, and have been reflected in the Strategic Plan Logical Framework as 'means of verification'.

To compile this report, the detailed overview of progress against each target and indicator was produced first, on the basis of the Strategic Plan Logical Framework, which is presented in Tables 3-8. Summaries of progress have been drawn from a number of other MOP6 documents, such as:

- AEWA/MOP 6.9 (*Report of the Secretariat*);
- AEWA/MOP 6.11 (*Report on the implementation of the African Initiative for the period June 2012 - August 2015*);
- AEWA/MOP 6.13 (*Analysis of AEWA National Reports for the triennium 2012-2014*);
- AEWA/MOP 6.14 (*6<sup>th</sup> edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report*);
- AEWA/MOP 6.16 (*Overview on the status of preparation and implementation of AEWA International Single Species Action and Management Plans as well as Multi-Species Action Plan*), and
- other documents, as well as some other information sources.

Progress towards each indicator or target has been assessed on the basis of the available information and they have been placed in one of the following six categories: *not achieved/not reached/no progress, limited progress, good progress, significant progress, achieved/reached, not assessed*. The change since the MOP5 progress report has been recorded for each indicator.

On the basis of these accounts, an overall assessment was made of the progress towards achieving the Strategic Plan goal, all objectives as a whole and each objective separately and a comparison has been drawn with the results of the MOP5 progress report. The major achievements have been acknowledged and the significant gaps have been pointed out. Recommendations for further actions have also been proposed and shall be addressed by the Parties, the Agreement’s governing bodies, the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and all other involved stakeholders and partners.

## Progress towards achieving the Strategic Plan goal

The Strategic Plan goal follows the Agreement’s fundamental principles (Article II) and aims at **maintaining or restoring migratory waterbird species and their populations at a favourable conservation status throughout their flyways**. The progress towards the overall goal is measured through 12 indicators - eight at the Agreement-wide level and four at the national level. Table 1 presents the distribution of these 12 indicators across the six categories of progress.

|                              | International level | National level | Overall |
|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------|
| Not achieved/<br>no progress | 3 / 5               | 2 / -          | 5 / 5   |
| Limited progress             | 2 / 2               | 1 / -          | 3 / 2   |
| Good progress                | 2 / 1               |                | 2 / 1   |
| Significant progress         |                     |                |         |
| Achieved                     | 1 / -               |                | 1 / -   |
| Not assessed                 |                     | 1 / 4          | 1 / 4   |
| Overall                      | 8                   | 4              | 12      |

Table 1. Number of Strategic Plan goal indicators according to their category of progress. The number on the left in black represents situation at MOP5 in 2012, the number on the right in red is current situation.

Overall, 42% of indicators have not been achieved with another 17% registering only *limited progress*, while only 8% (one indicator) are on a good course and the remaining 33% have not been assessed (see Figure 1).

In comparison to the situation at MOP5 in 2012 (see Figure 2), the only indicator that was then achieved has now been assessed as *not achieved* and one of the indicators showing good progress is also downgraded to the category - *not achieved*. The majority of the other indicators assessed as *not achieved* or with *limited progress* show a negative trend compared to the previous assessment in 2012. Three more indicators have not been assessed now, compared to MOP5, but in 2012 they were either *not achieved* or with *limited progress*.

**At MOP5, with 2/3 of the indicators in the “red zone” the progress towards achieving the goal was described as very insufficient; since then a further decline has been registered.**

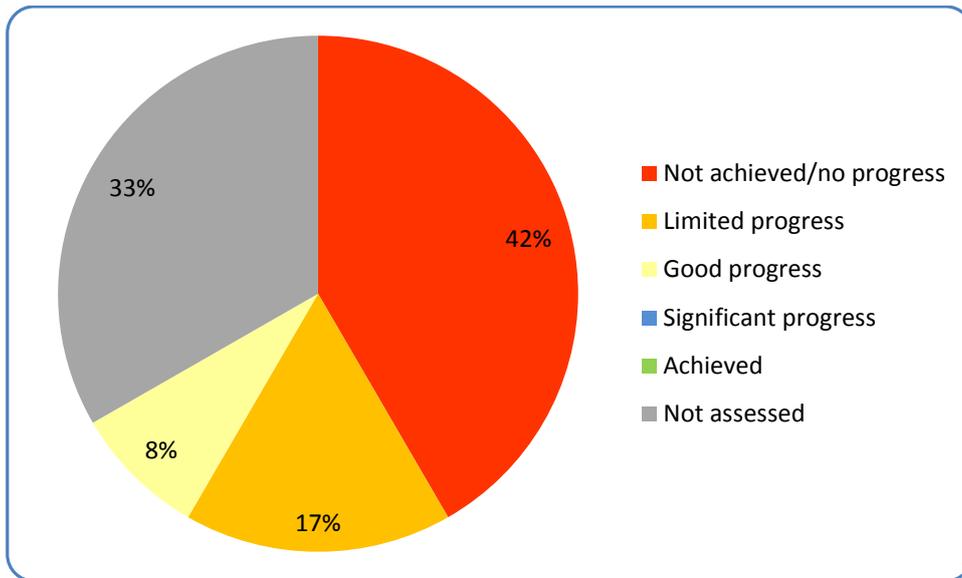


Figure 1. Proportion of Strategic Plan goal indicators per category of progress.

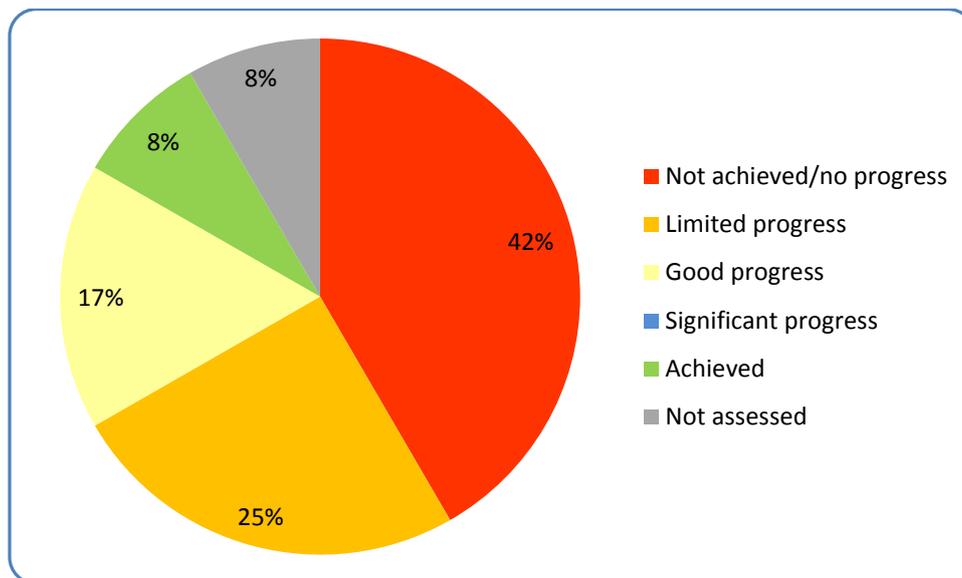


Figure 2. Proportion of Strategic Plan goal indicators per category of progress at MOP5 (2012).

The progress towards achieving the Agreement-wide level indicators (G1-G8) has declined compared to the previous assessment in 2012 (see *Figures 3 and 4*). The proportion of *not achieved* indicators has increased from 37% to 62%, the ones with limited progress remained 25%, but only 13% (one indicator) scored good progress. No indicators have been achieved or are with significant progress towards being achieved. The national level indicators (G9-G12) have not been assessed as national reports to MOP6 did not involve reporting on species status (see *Figure 5*).

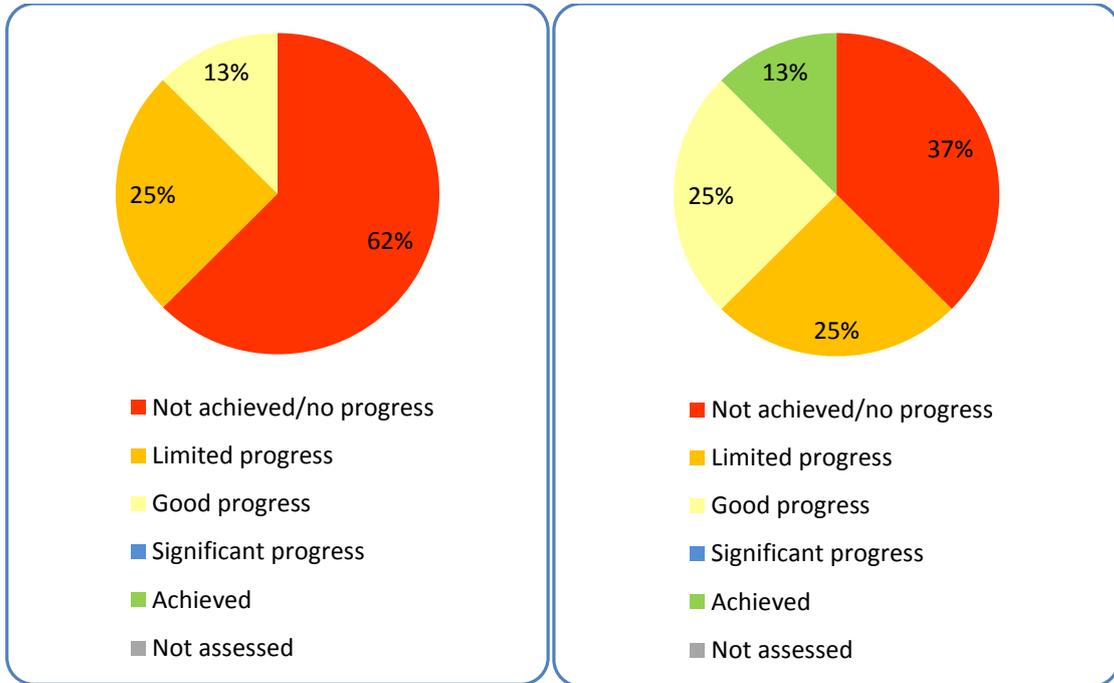


Figure 3 (left). Proportion of Strategic Plan goal indicators at the Agreement-wide level (G1-G8) per category of progress.

Figure 4 (right). Proportion of Strategic Plan goal indicators at the Agreement-wide level (G1-G8) per category of progress at MOP5 (2012).

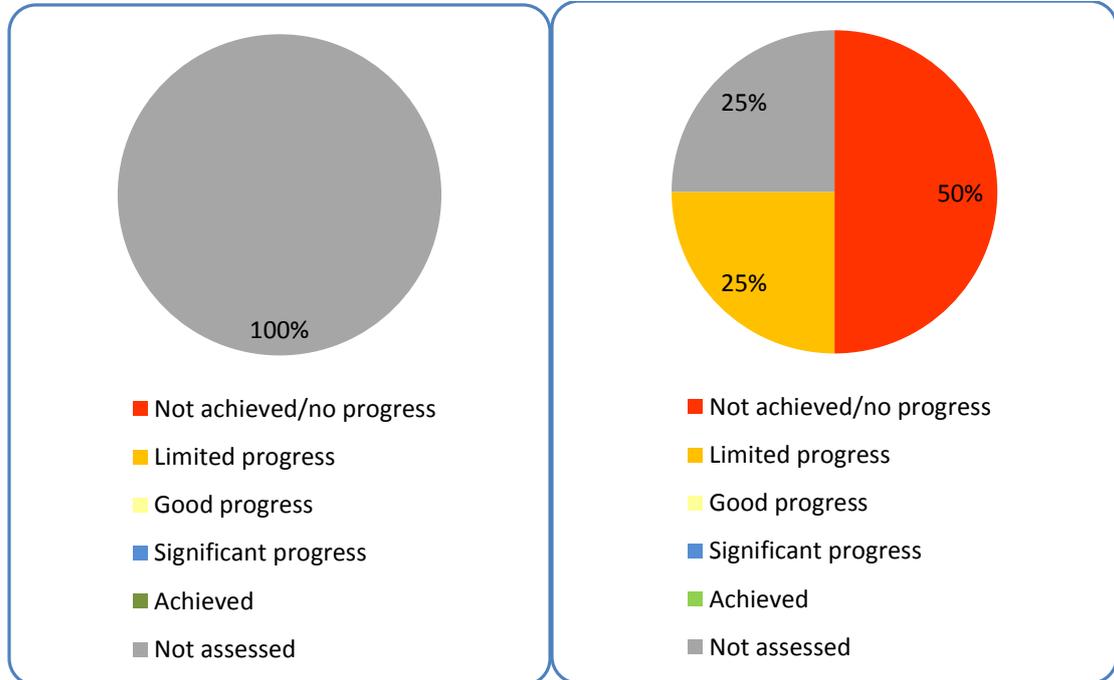


Figure 5 (left). Proportion of Strategic Plan goal indicators at the national level (G9-G12) per category of progress.

Figure 6 (right). Proportion of Strategic Plan goal indicators at the national level (G9-G12) per category of progress at MOP5 (2012).

The indicators which failed to be achieved, relate to populations retaining their favourable conservation status (G2), reducing extinction risk (G5), downlisting on the IUCN Red List (G6) all the three with further negative trends compared to the MOP5 assessment, and fewer populations listed in category 1 of Column A (G7) and in Column A in general (G8) (see *Table 3*). The category of progress of the latter two indicators was downgraded from *good progress* to *not achieved / no progress* and from *achieved / reached* to *not achieved / no progress* for G7 and G8 respectively.

Limited progress has been recorded in achieving the threshold of populations with a positive trend (G3) and an improved overall status as measured by the waterbird Indicator (G4). G3 is the only indicator that showed a slight positive trend compared to MOP5, while G4 is also sliding down.

The only indicator on a good course towards being achieved is the prevention of extinction of AEWA populations (G1), which has retained its category of progress since MOP5 and has a neutral change. No population has been declared extinct, but one critically endangered species – the Slender-billed Curlew (*Numenius tenuirostris*) – has not been observed since 1998.

### Overall progress towards achieving the Strategic Plan objectives

Five objectives have been set towards achieving the Strategic Plan goal each aiming at, respectively, favourable conservation status, sustainable use, increased knowledge, improved communication, improved cooperation and capacity.

|                             | Objective 1 | Objective 2 | Objective 3 | Objective 4 | Objective 5 | Overall |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Not reached/<br>no progress |             |             |             |             |             |         |
| Limited progress            | 3 / 1       | 1           | 2 / 1       | 2 / 2       | 3 / 3       | 10 / 8  |
| Good progress               | 2 / 3       | 4 / 3       | 1           |             | 3 / 2       | 9 / 9   |
| Significant progress        |             | 1           | 1 / 1       |             | 1 / 1       | 2 / 3   |
| Reached                     |             |             |             | 1 / 1       | 1           | 1 / 2   |
| Not assessed                | 1           | 1 / -       | 2 / 2       |             | 1 / 1       | 4 / 4   |
| Overall                     | 5           | 5           | 5           | 3           | 8           | 26      |

*Table 2. Number of targets per Strategic plan objective according to their category of progress. The number on the left in black represents situation at MOP5 in 2012, the number on the right in red is current situation.*

Altogether 26 targets have been identified - three for Objective 4, five for each of Objectives 1, 2 and 3, and eight for Objective 5. Through the indicators associated with each of these targets, the progress towards the achievement of the objectives is measured. Table 2 presents the distribution of these 26 targets across the six categories of progress.

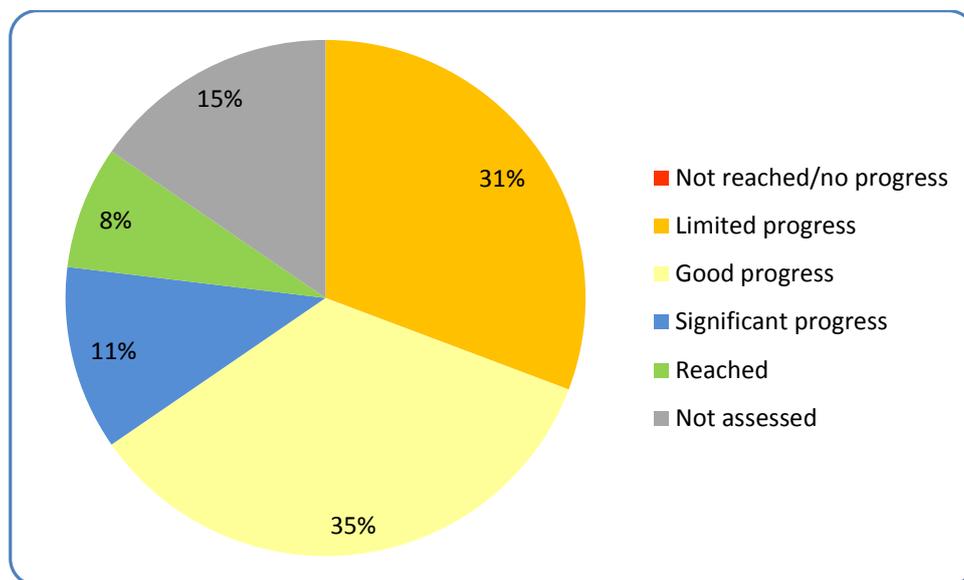


Figure 7. Proportion of the targets associated with the Strategic Plan objectives per category of progress.

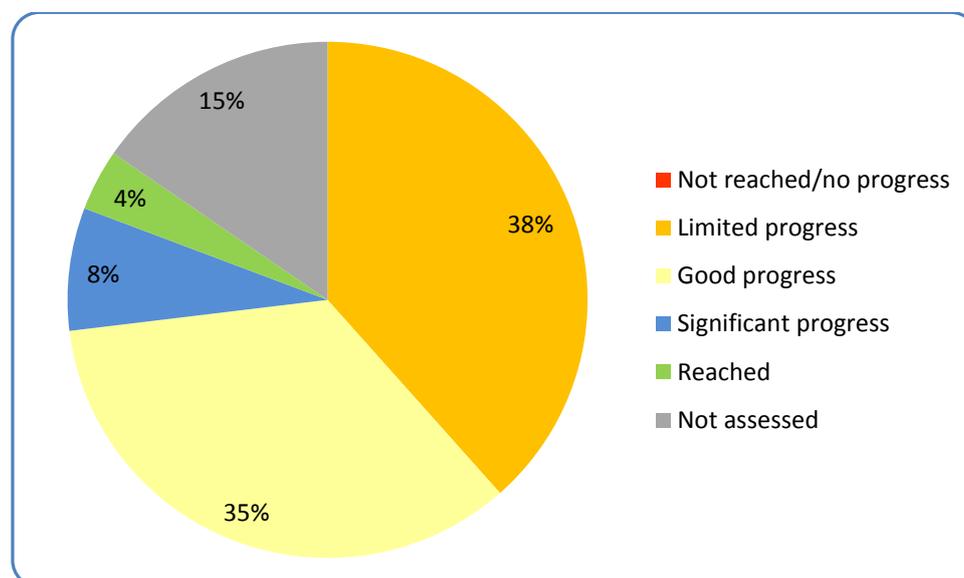


Figure 8. Proportion of the targets associated with the Strategic Plan objectives per category of progress at MOP5 (2012).

No target has been identified as completely lacking progress, which sets a positive background; however 31% of targets have registered only limited progress (see Figure 7). A high proportion of targets (35%) are showing good progress and a number of targets have been reached (two targets) or are scoring significant progress (three targets), respectively 8% and 11%. A relatively high proportion of targets (15%) have not been assessed yet. **Overall the progress towards achieving the Strategic Plan objectives can be described as being average, however, it shows a slight improvement compared to the previous assessment at MOP5 (see Figure 8).** While the proportion of not assessed targets and those with good progress has been retained, the

targets that have been achieved or are showing significant progress have increased, at the expense of a decreasing number of targets with limited progress.

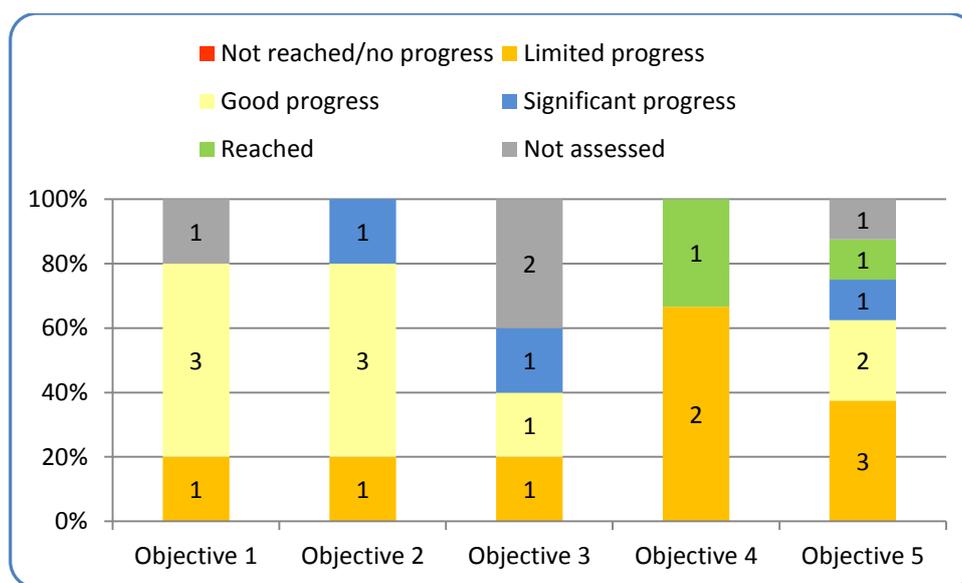


Figure 9. Proportion of the targets of each Strategic Plan objective per category of progress.

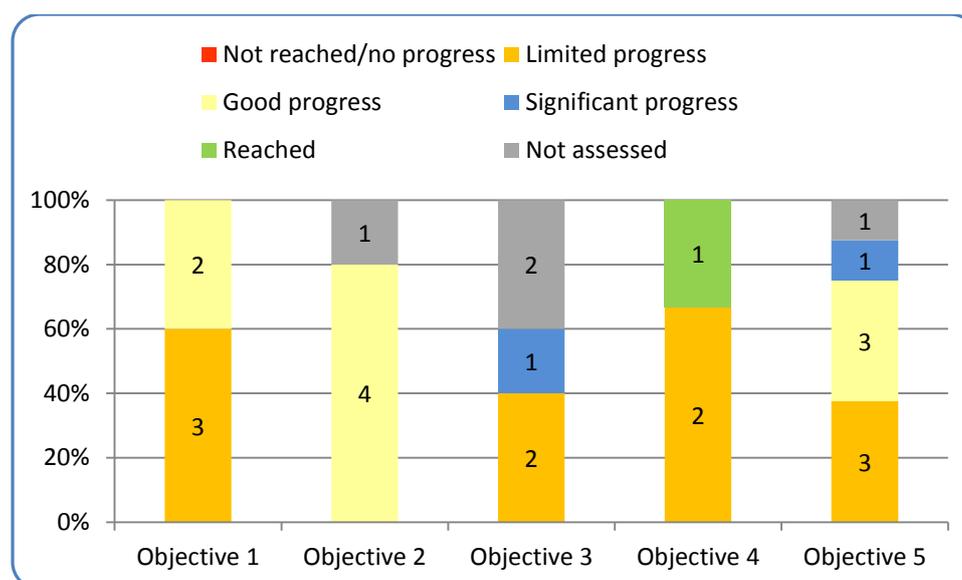


Figure 10. Proportion of the targets of each Strategic Plan objective per category of progress at MOP5 (2012).

Comparing all objectives (see Figure 9), none is outstanding in terms of progress towards reaching its associated targets. Compared to the situation in 2012 (see Figure 10) all objectives show improvement apart from Objective 4. Objectives 1 and 3 have less targets with limited progress, while the ones with good progress have increased. Objective 2 scored one target in category *limited progress*, which is a step back compared to 2012, but another target has been now assessed as having significant progress. Objective 5 brings the second achieved target of the Strategic Plan to date, which has happened since MOP5. Four targets in Objectives 1, 3 and 5 have not been assessed yet. It should however be noted, that indicators of a number of targets, even if the relevant category of progress was not downgraded as a result, have shown a declining trend. One possible explanation for the sliding parameters of a number of indicators could be the lower national reporting rate to MOP6.

## Progress towards achieving Objective 1

Objective 1 aims **to undertake conservation measures so as to improve or maintain conservation status of waterbird species and their populations**. Five targets have been set to achieve this objective. 60% of the five targets set for Objective 1 are showing good progress and the remaining 20% (one target) still remaining at limited progress and 20% are not assessed. A detailed account is presented in Table 4.

A positive trend has been recorded for Target 1.4 since MOP5 with some more action plans developed for globally threatened and asterisk-marked species and further international coordination mechanisms put in place. As a result, its category of progress has been upgraded. Implementation at national level by Contracting Parties will however need to be stepped up if this target is to be reached. Tackling the threats posed by non-native waterbirds remains insufficient (Target 1.5) and control and eradication measures need to be established or their implementation strengthened.

Progress on the application of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)/Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) (Target 1.3) scored a slight decrease compared to MOP5 and still not all projects with potential impact on AEWA species or habitats/sites on which they depend have been the subject of EIA/SEA, which has to be addressed in future. A lower proportion of Contracting Parties have reported identified site networks (Target 1.2) with the designation parameters remaining similar; however the site management still requires attention. A more elaborated analysis needs to be made available to MOP7 through the revised 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the Site Network Report. The aspect of resilience of the site networks to climate change effects was reported for the first time by Contracting Parties in 2015 and it shows that only 20% of the Parties have assessed the resilience of their site networks which calls for more work in this area.

Target 1.1 on legal protection of all Column A-listed species was not assessed as the necessary data was not available due to the fact that national reporting to MOP6 did not include reporting on species status. The assessment in 2012 showed very limited progress and considering that the legal status is a fundamental prerequisite for effective conservation, this area requires the highest attention of the Contracting Parties.

## Progress towards achieving Objective 2

Objective 2 aims **to ensure that any use of waterbirds in the Agreement area is sustainable**. This objective is to be achieved through five targets. A total of 80% of the targets are showing either good (60%, 3 targets) or significant (20%, 1 target) progress with one target (20%) assessed as having limited progress (see *Table 5*).

With nearly 1/4 of Contracting Parties having fully banned the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands and an additional 7% which introduced partial bans, there has been a positive move towards achieving Target 2.1, but this issue still requires strong attention by the Parties and other stakeholders since the progress has been slow and the previous deadline set in the AEWA Action Plan (year 2000) was not met, which subsequently led to an amendment of the provision in the Action Plan at MOP4 (2008). The progress towards reaching this target shows a slightly negative tendency compared to the MOP5 assessment.

While 41% of the Contracting Parties report harvest data collection systems in place, only 13% describe them as being comprehensive (covering all AEWA species, all harvesting activities and the whole territory of the country). This is beyond the threshold of the indicator, but the essential element of international coordination and synchronisation of the data collection systems is missing, therefore Target 2.2 will require further work to be undertaken with the hunting community in the lead. There has been a negative tendency for the progress on this target since MOP5 with declining proportions of Parties with harvest data collection systems in place and with comprehensive systems.

There has been a pronounced slide back on the progress towards Target 2.3 on reducing illegal taking of waterbirds with 9% fewer Parties reporting pertinent legislation and measures in place and only 20% (against 37% at MOP5) of the Contracting Parties assessing the effectiveness of their measures as being highly effective. The first-time assessment of the progress towards elimination of the use of poison baits and non-

selective methods of taking showed that only 34% of the Contracting Parties have banned all AEWA-listed non-selective methods. These changes and the new assessment warrant downgrading the category of progress for this target to *limited progress*.

The category of progress towards Target 2.5 on the other hand has been increased to *significant progress*. This is justified by the successful ongoing implementation of the Species Management Plan for the Svalbard population of the Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) and the development of two more Species Action Plans with elements of adaptive harvest management, which are submitted to MOP6 for approval.

Target 2.4 on enforcing legally binding best practice standards associated with waterbird harvest was assessed for first time for MOP6 and with 24% of the Contracting Parties reporting best practice codes and standards in place out of 32% of Parties which confirmed that such an approach is considered a priority, the progress has been qualified as good.

### Progress towards achieving Objective 3

Objective 3 aims at **increasing knowledge about species and their populations, flyways and threats to them, as a basis for conservation action** and five targets have been set to achieve this objective. The progress towards this objective is improving with significant progress on one target (20%), good progress on another target (20%) and limited on a third target (20%), with another two targets still lacking assessment (see *Table 6*).

Advanced progress has been recorded on Target 3.2 where above half of the countries report comprehensive or partial year-round waterbird monitoring schemes; however a negative trend has been recorded in the progress on this target since MOP5. A closer analysis of the existing national monitoring schemes will be useful to understand the actual monitoring coverage.

Target 3.1, aiming at long-term resourcing of the international waterbird monitoring processes in order to secure data for status assessments, is essential. The production of the International Waterbird Census (IWC) summary reports, the AEWA Conservation Status Report and the global Waterbird Population Estimates has been kept on track, with some challenges for the completion of WPE6 due to insufficient funding. Financial sustainability of the IWC has not been yet achieved despite the very good progress in the last three years. Only 11 Contracting Parties provided support to the IWC at international level either through voluntary financial contributions or through funding and bi-lateral or sub-regional collaborative projects, in the last triennium.

Nationally, 37% of Parties have supported the IWC, which is a decline from MOP5. The target to increase the numbers of populations whose international status was assessed on the basis of regular monitoring data has been surpassed in the last three years (75% increase achieved against 50% target), which is a result of the stepped up support for and development of the waterbird monitoring in the Agreement area since MOP5. Overall progress towards reaching Target 3.1 has increased since MOP5 and its category has been elevated to *good*. However, a strengthened strategic approach needs to be maintained and the sustainability of the IWC still needs to be ensured.

52% of the Contracting Parties, nearly as many as at MOP5, provided lists of research activities and results in their national reports, which is half way towards reaching Target 3.5. However, accessibility has to be provided through the development of an analytical tool to the Online Reporting System used for national reporting.

Further criteria needs to be defined for assessing progress towards Target 3.3 on the establishment of new AEWA-linked research programmes and assessment of Target 3.4 has to be undertaken in cooperation with the editors of [www.conservationevidence.com](http://www.conservationevidence.com). Both of these targets have not been assessed so far.

## Progress towards achieving Objective 4

Objective 4 aims **to improve Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) about migratory waterbird species, their flyways, their role in alleviating poverty, threats to them and the measures needed to conserve them and their habitats.** This objective is to be achieved through three targets. No change has been recorded since MOP5 with one target reached, but the other two have registered only limited progress (see *Table 7*).

With 28% of the Contracting Parties reporting that they have established and are implementing programmes for awareness raising on waterbird conservation and AEWA, the threshold of the indicator (25%) of Target 4.3 has been surpassed. This is however a significantly lower figure compared to MOP5 (39%). A more comprehensive analysis should be undertaken to assess the level and type of CEPA activities of the Parties.

With only 10% of the Contracting Parties reporting funding and other support provided for the implementation of the Communication Strategy since MOP5 and with no specific assessment of the progress towards the achievement of this target made at Secretariat level, further considering that progress towards most of the other communication-related indicators has been limited and that in those cases funding has been restricted or not available, the category of progress towards Target 4.1 has been retained as limited.

The implementation of the Communication Strategy (Target 4.2) is being measured through multiple (9) indicators and their achievement has been estimated to be at various levels of progress. With more than half (56%) of the indicators either with limited progress or no progress at all the aggregated progress towards the target has been assessed as limited. Only one indicator (11%) has been achieved and another has scored a significant progress, with the remaining two (22%) in the average level. Most of the indicators showed a positive trend with one receiving an upgrade of the category of progress, but the category of another one was downgraded..

## Progress towards achieving Objective 5

Objective 5 aims **to improve the capacity of Range States and international cooperation and capacity towards the conservation of migratory waterbird species and their flyways** and eight targets have been set to achieve this objective. This is the only objective with targets achieved (one target, 12%) and also scoring significant progress (one target, 12%). Progress towards two of the targets is assessed to be good (25%) with the remaining 39% (three targets) with limited progress and one (12%) not assessed (see *Table 8*).

Training of government staff on the implementation of the Agreement has been delivered jointly with the Convention on Migratory Species and the indicator for Target 5.6 has been surpassed.

With 37% of the Contracting Parties reporting, that they have operational national coordination mechanisms for AEWA implementation, there has been significant progress achieved towards Target 5.7 and this represents a slight increase compared to 2012. These operational mechanisms shall be strengthened and more Parties shall establish them; experiences shall be shared.

The number of Contracting Parties only grew marginally from 61 at MOP4 to 75 at present, which is significantly below the threshold of the indicator of Target 5.1 - *at MOP6 the Agreement should have had 85 Parties*. Since MOP5, nine new Parties acceded to the Agreement – eight from Africa and one from Europe, while central Asia and the Middle East still largely remain white spots. The work of the Secretariat to recruit new Parties shall be stronger, complemented by additional efforts from the Agreement's Parties. The progress remains limited considering that another 15 new Parties need to join in the next triennium in order to reach the target, which is one more than the number of Parties that joined since MOP4 in 2008.

There has been a good progress in establishing or reinforcing synergies with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements or other key partners (Target 5.3) although no change has been registered in this respect since MOP5. Efforts should continue in this direction.

Only half of what has been targeted has been disbursed through the Small Grants Fund (SGF) since MOP4 (Target 5.4). Further voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties will be required in order to maintain the operations of SGF and it shall be also extended to eligible countries beyond the African region.

The rate of submission of national reports to MOP6 (55%) has dropped below the rates for MOP5 (69%) and MOP4 (64%) which led to lowering the category of progress towards Target 5.5 to *limited*. Some of the Parties have not reported to two, three, four or even five consecutive MOPs. The lower reporting rate to MOP6 could be one possible explanation for the sliding parameters of a number of indicators. In order to reach this target Parties need to approach national reporting responsibly and address report quality and completeness, as well as timely submission. Funding permitting, training will be useful to this end.

Assessment on Target 5.8 on the recognition of AEWA by the other biodiversity-related MEAs is still pending and no specific assessment has been made on Target 5.2 related to full funding for the implementation of the Strategic Plan. However, taking into account that progress towards a substantive number of other targets has been limited and that in those cases funding has been restricted or not available, the progress towards the latter has been judged as limited.

## **Recommendations on advancing the implementation of the Strategic Plan**

With 2/3 of the Strategic Plan time span behind us and overall progress of implementation assessed as average, it is necessary to step up efforts and allocate increased funding and other resources if the Strategic Plan objectives were to be achieved and the goal reached.

While the level of implementation of the Strategic Plan has slightly improved since MOP5, we have also witnessed a drop in the progress towards achieving the overall goal of the Plan. This discrepancy points at the need to allocate more attention to targets that can make a tangible difference in the status of the AEWA species. The only two achieved targets so far relate to capacity building of government staff and to implementation of awareness-raising activities, both of which are prerequisites for conservation outcome, but could hardly deliver such without being complemented by a stronger focus on targets that can directly influence the status of the AEWA waterbirds.

While Parties shall strive to achieve all indicators and reach all targets, some specific recommendations on priorities, to be addressed during the last inter-sessional period in the life span of this Strategic Plan until MOP7, can be made to this end. These were extracted from the overall list of suggestions shared in this report while taking into account the identified discrepancy between improved implementation and sliding progress towards the goal:

**Target 1.1:** All Parties shall, as a matter of importance and urgency, adjust their national legislation so as to provide full protection to all Column A-listed species occurring on their territory;

**Target 1.2:** All Parties shall address outstanding priority site designation and management issues, including also taking into account the tentative conclusions and recommendations of the *Preliminary Report on the Site Network for Waterbirds in the Agreement Area* (document AEWA/MOP 5.15);

**Target 1.3:** All Parties shall develop legislation on Environmental Impact Assessment & Strategic Environmental Assessments and shall apply it in all cases when there is risk of impact on AEWA species or habitats/sites on which they depend;

**Target 1.4:** Parties and other involved stakeholders shall increase funding and other capacity to implement the Single Species Action Plans for globally threatened species and develop such plans for all globally threatened species;

**Target 1.5:** Parties shall step up work on eradication or control programmes for non-native species of waterbirds posing threat to AEWA native waterbirds and their habitats;

**Target 2.1:** Learning from the experience of those Parties which have already phased out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands, all other Parties shall introduce self-imposed deadlines for such complete bans, inform the Secretariat and other Parties and introduce the bans as soon as possible;

**Target 2.2:** With the hunting community in the lead, an internationally coordinated system for waterbird harvest data collection shall be established and made operational;

**Target 2.3:** Illegal taking of waterbirds needs to be comprehensively addressed at all levels in each Contracting Party and in particular legislation shall introduce ban on all non-selective methods of taking;

**Target 3.1:** Parties shall ensure a mechanism leading to long-term basic structural funding availability for the International Waterbird Census (IWC) and take a strengthened strategic approach to the development and maintenance of IWC.

**Target 4.2:** Approve a revised Communication Strategy and strengthen its implementation at international and national levels by providing funding and other resources;

**Target 5.1:** More Parties shall complement Secretariat's efforts for recruiting new Parties to the Agreement;

**Target 5.4:** Parties shall provide more regularly voluntary contributions to the Small Grants Funds to allow for maintaining its operation and extending it to also other eligible range states outside of the African region;

**Target 5.5:** Means should be made available for training of National Focal Points and Designated National Respondents in the use of the CMS Family Online Reporting System in order to improve quality and completeness of reports as well as increase reporting rates.

To improve the monitoring of implementation of the Strategic Plan and progress towards achieving its objectives, in addition to the recommendation on Target 5.5 above, some targets and indicators will still need to be assessed:

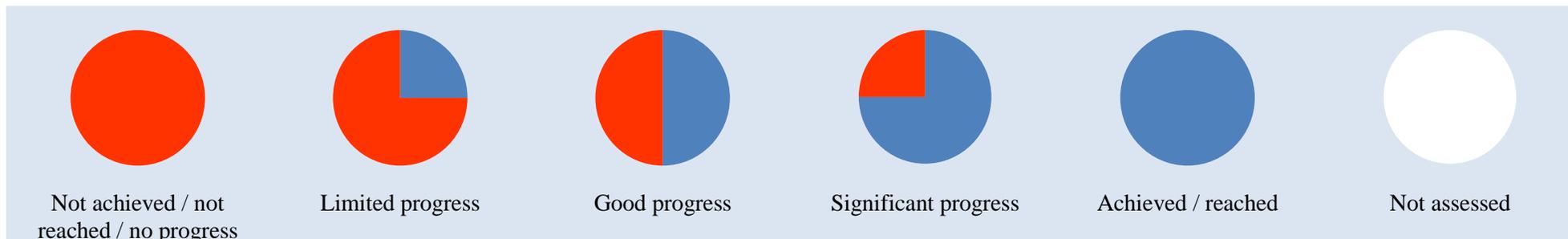
**Targets 1.1, 3.3, 3.4 and 5.8:** These targets have not been assessed in the current report and efforts shall be made to provide that for the final assessment at MOP7;

**Targets 3.2, 4.3 and 5.7:** Further data and comprehensive analysis on the advanced progress towards these targets will be useful;

**Indicators G9-12:** Assessment is missing on these four indicators and shall be provided for the final assessment at MOP7. It will be feasible only if all Contracting Parties provide comprehensive and national reports in a timely manner.

The Meeting of the Parties is invited to note this report and take its conclusions and recommendations into account in the decision-making process. The recommendations will require to be addressed through joint planning and action by the Parties, the Agreement's governing bodies, the Secretariat and all other involved stakeholders and partners. Increased cooperation, resources and capacity will be essential in order to make necessary progress on the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan.

*Key to pie charts and color code used in Tables 1-8*



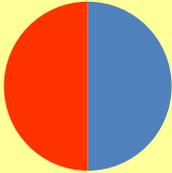
**Lacking or insufficient implementation; indicator/target not achieved/reached or distant. Requires initiation of activities or further significant resources and implementation.**

**Implementation underway; on a good course towards achieving/reaching the indicator/target. Implementation shall continue and be strengthened.**

**Fully implemented or advanced implementation; indicator/target achieved/reached or closely approached. Review the indicator/target or step up action for full implementation and achieving/reaching the indicator/target.**

**No assessment available. Shall be provided to next Meeting of the Parties.**

Table 3. Goal: To maintain or to restore migratory waterbird species and their populations at a favourable conservation status throughout their flyways

| Progress  | Indicator<br>(at the Agreement level)   | Summary and reference  |
|---|---|--|
|  | <p><b>G1<sup>1</sup>: No AEWA waterbird population has become extinct in the Agreement area</b></p>   | <p>On the basis of the available information and the IUCN Red List 2014, no population has been identified as being extinct. However, no sightings of the Critically Endangered Slender-billed Curlew (<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>) have been confirmed since 1998 and the extensive surveys launched in the end of 2008 did not prove extant birds of the species. There is a risk that the species might be extinct.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> No change.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report (document AEWA/MOP 6.14)</p>  |
|  | <p><b>G2: All AEWA waterbird populations at a favourable conservation status at the time of MOP4 (September 2008) have retained that status</b></p> | <p>Thirty-five populations formerly listed in Categories 1 of Columns B and C (considered as having a favourable conservation status) have now been classified under other categories describing poorer status) due to significant long-term decline (25 population; 14 more since the previous assessment in 2012) or lower population estimates (10 populations; 2 more since the previous assessment in 2012).</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Negative. The number of populations that have been reclassified to other categories describing poorer status has increased from 20 in 2012 to 35 in 2015.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report (document AEWA/MOP 6.14);<br/>Proposals to MOP6 for amendments to Annexes 2 and 3 of AEWA (document AEWA/MOP 6.22)</p> |

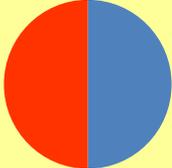
<sup>1</sup> The numbering of the indicators associated with the Strategic Plan Goal from G1 to G12 does not exist in the Strategic Plan, but has been introduced in this report for ease of reference.

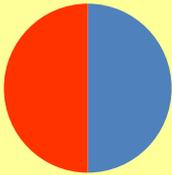
| Progress   | Indicator<br>(at the Agreement level)  | Summary and reference  |
|--|--|--|
|   | <p><b>G3: At least 75% of the AEWA waterbird populations show a positive trend (growing or stable)</b></p> | <p>64% of the populations with known population trends have a positive trend. There is a slight increase of 4% as compared to the assessment of 2008, but still significantly below the target.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Positive. There is a slight increase from 61% in 2012 to 64% in 2015 of the AEWA populations with positive trends.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report (document AEWA/MOP 6.14)</p>  |
|   | <p><b>G4: Overall status of indicator species has improved, as measured by the Waterbird Indicator</b></p> | <p>The value of the Waterbird Indicator is currently -0.1144 (N<sub>2014</sub> = 376) compared to -0.1363 (N<sub>2008</sub> = 396) at MOP4 which is higher compared to the assessment of 2008, however, still more populations are declining than increasing.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Negative. The value of the Waterbird Indicator has dropped from -0.1118 (N<sub>2011</sub> = 391) to -0.1144 (N<sub>2014</sub> = 376).</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report (document AEWA/MOP 6.14)</p> |
|  | <p><b>G5: Overall extinction risk of waterbirds has reduced, as measured by the Red List Index</b></p>     | <p>The Red List Index for the AEWA species has declined by 1.6 % since 1988 compared to 0.9% for all species: they have declined in status proportionately much faster over the period 1988-2012.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Negative. The Red List Index has declined from 1% during the previous assessment to 1.6% at the present one.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report (document AEWA/MOP 6.14)</p>  |

| Progress  | Indicator<br>(at the Agreement level)   | Summary and reference   |
|---|---|---|
|    | <b>G6: 20% of threatened and Near Threatened species have been downlisted to lower categories of threat</b> | <p>No Threatened or Near Threatened species has been down-listed between 2008 and 2013. From 2008 to date three species have had their IUCN Red List status revised (deteriorated status) due to genuine change of status. These have been recorded since the last assessment presented at MOP5. Since MOP5 two other species have been reclassified to higher categories (deteriorated status) due to improved knowledge.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Negative.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report (document AEWA/MOP 6.14)</p>   |
|    | <b>G7: Fewer populations to be listed in Category 1 in Column A (20% reduction)</b>                         | <p>13% more populations have been listed in category 1 of Column A since 2008.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Negative (lowered category of progress – from category <i>good progress</i> to <i>not achieved / no progress</i>). While a 7% reduction of category 1 Column A listed populations was reported at MOP5, there has been a significant slide into the negative direction for this indicator.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report (document AEWA/MOP 6.14);<br/>Proposals to MOP5 for Amendments to Annexes 2 and 3 of AEWA (document AEWA/MOP 6.22)</p>  |
|  | <b>G8: Fewer populations to be listed in Column A (5% reduction)</b>  | <p>The number of populations listed in Column A has increased from 198 in 2008 to 2014 at present, which represents an increase of 9%. This increase is a result of lower population estimates, identified long-term decline or up-listing of species on the IUCN Red List.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Negative (lowered category of progress – from category <i>achieved / reached</i> to <i>not achieved / no progress</i>). While at MOP5 this indicator was reported surpassed (achieved 8% reduction of Column A listed populations), there has been a significant slide into the negative direction for this indicator.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report (document AEWA/MOP 6.14);<br/>Proposals to MOP5 for amendments to Annexes 2 and 3 of AEWA (document AEWA/MOP 6.22)</p> |

| Progress  | Indicator<br>(at the national level)   | Summary and reference   |
|---|--|---|
|    | <b>G9: No AEWA waterbird population has gone extinct as a breeding, migrating, or wintering (whichever is applicable) species in any CPs territory</b> | <p>Not assessed (no national reporting on population status to MOP6).</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Unknown (moved to category <i>not assessed</i> from <i>not achieved / no progress</i>). At MOP5 eight Contracting Parties (CPs) reported extinctions of breeding populations involving 19 species. These extinctions range from 1% to 9% of the species reported as breeding within the respective CPs. Some of these extinctions are however based on population assessments from the early 2000s.</p>                    |
|    | <b>G10: Current favourable status of AEWA waterbirds, as breeding, migrating or wintering species, within any CPs has been retained</b>                | <p>Not assessed (no national reporting on population status to MOP6).</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> No change.</p>   |
|   | <b>G11: At least 75% of AEWA waterbird species occurring in any CP have a positive trend (stable or growing)</b>                                       | <p>Not assessed (no national reporting on population status to MOP6).</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Unknown (moved to category <i>not assessed</i> from <i>limited progress</i>). At MOP5 only four Contracting Parties (CPs) (7% of the CPs) reported 75% or more of their breeding populations with a positive trend with another 12 CPs (19% of the CPs) approaching the target (50-75%). In 21 CPs (34% of the CPs) the proportion is below 50% and for the rest of the parties no information is available.</p>           |
|  | <b>G12: 20% of threatened and Near Threatened species have been downlisted to lower categories of threat in each CP</b>                                | <p>Not assessed (no national reporting on population status to MOP6).</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Unknown (moved to category <i>not assessed</i> from <i>not achieved / no progress</i>). At MOP5 only one Contracting Party (CP) reported downlisting more than 20% of their threatened and Near Threatened species to lower categories with two more CPs approaching the target. However, some of the down-listing reported by the CP could have resulted from change in the method used in the different assessments.</p> |

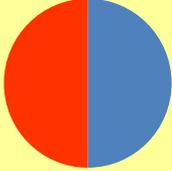
Table 4. Objective 1: To undertake conservation measures so as to improve or maintain conservation status of waterbird species and their populations

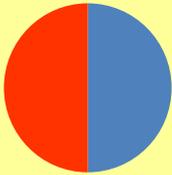
| Progress  | Target   | Indicator   | Summary and reference   |
|---|--|---|---|
|  | <p><b>1.1: Full legal protection is provided to all Column A species</b></p>   | <p><b>All CPs have adopted national legislation protecting all Column A species</b></p>   | <p>Not assessed (no national reporting on population status to MOP6).</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Unknown (moved to category <i>not assessed</i> from <i>limited progress</i>). At MOP5 only 10 Contracting Parties (CPs) (16% of the CPs) reported full protection of all Column A species occurring in their respective territories with additional 15 CPs providing protection to 76-99% of their Column A species. <b>Considering that legal status is a fundamental prerequisite for effective conservation this progress was deemed insufficient.</b></p>  |
|  | <p><b>1.2: A comprehensive and coherent flyway network of protected and managed sites, and other adequately managed sites, of international and national importance for waterbirds is established and maintained, while taking into account the existing networks and climate change</b></p> | <p><b>All CPs are in place and maintain comprehensive national networks of sustainably-managed, protected, and other managed areas, that form a coherent flyway site network, which aims to be resilient to the effects of climate change</b></p> | <p>52% of the Contracting Parties (CPs) have indicated that they have fully or partially identified their networks of sites. Information provided by up to 48% of CPs on their nationally or internationally important sites (or both) shows very high proportion of sites protected (&gt;99% and 81% respectively) and of those protected sites 68% of nationally important sites have management plans in place while a lower proportion of internationally important sites are managed (51%). Only 20% of the CPs have assessed the resilience of their site networks for migratory waterbirds with additional 3% that have assessed resilience of individual sites.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Slightly negative. 13% fewer CPs are now reporting identified national site networks, although some other parameters have retained their values or have increased.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> Analysis of AEWA National Reports for the triennium 2012-2014 (document AEWA/MOP 6.13)</p> |

| Progress  | Target   | Indicator  | Summary and reference   |
|---|--|--|---|
|  | <p><b>1.3: Environmental Impact Assessment &amp; Strategic Environmental Assessments are used to reduce the impact of new development on waterbird species and populations</b></p>                           | <p><b>All CPs use EIA/SEA to reduce the impact on waterbirds</b></p>   | <p>51% of the Contracting Parties (CPs) reported EIA/SEA legislation in place and in 49% of the CPs EIA/SEA has been used for all relevant projects to assess their impact on AEWA species or habitats/sites on which they depend.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Slightly negative. 7% less countries report EIA/SEA legislation in place.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> Analysis of AEWA National Reports for the triennium 2012-2014 (document AEWA/MOP 6.13)</p>   |
|  | <p><b>1.4: Single Species Action Plans (SSAPs) are developed and implemented for most threatened species listed in category 1 and categories 2 and 3, marked with an asterisk on column A of Table 1</b></p> | <p><b>SSAPs are in place and being effectively implemented for all globally threatened species and species marked with an asterisk</b></p> | <p>Of the 27 AEWA species classified as globally threatened in 2013, AEWA SSAPs have been adopted or developed for 11 species and four species are covered by a newly developed Multi-species Action Plan. Of these, international mechanisms for coordination of implementation have been established for seven SSAPs, although not all of them are fully operational yet, and for another three SSAPs as well as the MSAP such mechanisms will be convened soon after MOP6.</p> <p>SSAPs for two further species are in the process of development and will be ready in 2018. For an additional four species SSAPs exist under frameworks other than AEWA and/or require update and revision. SSAPs have been developed for two of the three populations marked with an asterisk (one was adopted by MOP5 and the other one is pending approval by MOP6). For the species with adopted SSAPs just a few national action plans have been developed and implemented by very few Contracting Parties.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Positive (increased category of progress – from category <i>limited progress</i> to <i>good progress</i>. Additional 7 globally threatened species and one asterisk-marked species are now covered by SSAPs or the first AEWA MSAP. Two more SSAPs are being drafted.</p> |

| Progress  | Target  | Indicator  | Summary and reference  |
|---|---|--|--|
|   |   |  | <p>International coordination mechanisms are in place or are about to be convened for four additional SSAPs and the MSAP.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report (document AEWA/MOP 6.14);<br/> Analysis of AEWA National Reports for the triennium 2012-2014 (document AEWA/MOP 6.13);<br/> Overview on the status of preparation and implementation of AEWA International Single Species Action and Management Plans as well as Multi-Species Action Plan) (document AEWA/MOP 6.16)</p>                      |
|  | <p><b>1.5: Waterbirds are considered thoroughly in the context of the delivery of National Action Plans on non-native species by other international fora, such as CBD, Bern Convention, and GISP</b></p> | <p><b>CPs have incorporated, as part of National Action Plans on non-native species, specific measures for invasive non-native species of waterbirds and are implementing them in order to ensure their control or eradication</b></p> | <p>Only 13% of the Contracting Parties have in place National Action Plans on non-native species. Of the 17 CPs confirming breeding non-native species on their territories only eight CPs are implementing or developing control/eradication programmes on six species.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Neutral. Although 5% more CPs report National Action Plans in place, the level of implementation of measures have not increased.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> Analysis of AEWA National Reports for the triennium 2012-2014 (document AEWA/MOP 6.14)</p> |

Table 5. Objective 2: To ensure that any use of waterbirds in the Agreement area is sustainable

| Progress  | Target   | Indicator   | Summary and reference   |
|---|--|---|---|
|  | <p><b>2.1: The use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands is phased out in all CPs</b></p>               | <p><b>All CPs have adopted national legislation prohibiting the use of lead shot (in wetlands)</b></p> <p><b>No authenticated report of continued use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands in the Agreement area is received by the Secretariat</b></p> | <p>24% of the Contracting Parties have fully phased out the use of lead shot with an additional 7% having introduced partial ban.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Slightly negative. Although the proportion of CPs with full ban has been retained, only 7% report partial ban as opposed to 16% at MOP5.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> Analysis of AEWA National Reports for the triennium 2012-2014 (document AEWA/MOP 6.13)</p>   |
|  | <p><b>2.2: Internationally coordinated collection of harvest data is developed and implemented</b></p> | <p><b>Internationally coordinated harvest data collection in place involving at least 25% of the CPs</b></p>  | <p>41% of the Contracting Parties (CPs) have confirmed harvest data collection systems in place and for 13% of the CPs these systems cover all AEWA species, the whole territory of the country and all harvesting activities. <b>However, the international coordination and synchronization of these national schemes is still lacking.</b></p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Negative. 9% less countries confirmed harvest data collection systems in place and 18% CPs less countries reported comprehensive systems covering all species, the whole territory and all harvesting activities.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> Analysis of AEWA National Reports for the triennium 20012-2014 (document AEWA/MOP 6.14)</p> |

| Progress   | Target   | Indicator  | Summary and reference  |
|--|--|--|--|
|   | <p><b>2.3: Measures to reduce, and as far as possible eliminate, illegal taking of waterbirds, the use of poison baits and non-selective methods of taking are developed and implemented</b></p> | <p><b>All CPs have pertinent legislation in place which is being fully enforced</b></p>    | <p>52% of the Contracting Parties (CPs) confirmed that measures are in place to reduce/eliminate illegal taking of waterbirds within their country, while only 20% of the CPs consider the effectiveness of these measures to be high. Only 34% of the CPs have indicated that all non-selective methods of taking, as listed in the AEWA Action Plan, including poison baits, have been prohibited.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Negative (lowered category of progress – from <i>good progress</i> to <i>limited progress</i>). With sliding down proportions of CPs with pertinent and effectively implemented legislation in place, as well as the first-time assessment of the prohibition of non-selective methods of taking standing at only 34%, the category of progress for this indicator has been lowered.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> Analysis of AEWA National Reports for the triennium 2012-2014 (document AEWA/MOP 6.13)</p> |
|  | <p><b>2.4: Best practice codes and standards, such as bird identification, are developed and prompted, in order to achieve proper enforcement of legally binding provisions</b></p>              | <p><b>50% of CPs are effectively enforcing legally binding best practice standards</b></p> | <p>24% of the CPs reported that best practice codes and standards are in place (from 32% of CPs which confirmed that legally binding best practice codes and standards are considered priority)</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Unknown (not assessed at MOP5). At its first assessment this indicator has been placed in category <i>good progress</i>.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> Analysis of AEWA National Reports for the triennium 2012-2014 (document AEWA/MOP 6.13)</p>  |

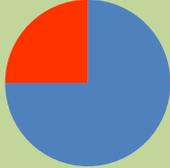
| Progress  | Target   | Indicator  | Summary and reference  |
|---|--|--|--|
|  | <p><b>2.5: Adaptive harvest management of quarry populations is ensured at international scale</b></p> | <p><b>International harvest management plans (IHMP) for two quarry populations developed and implemented</b></p> | <p>The Species Management Plan for the Svalbard population of the Pink-footed Goose (<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>), which was adopted by MOP5 is being successfully and thoroughly implemented. Two more draft Single Species Action Plans – for the Taiga Bean Goose and for the Eurasian Curlew – contain elements of adaptive harvest management and are pending approval by MOP6.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP6:</b> Positive (increased category of progress – from category <i>good progress</i> to <i>significant progress</i>). The Pink-footed Goose SSMP implementation is well underway and two more plans for huntable populations that aim at adaptive harvest management, amongst other things, have been compiled.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> Draft International Species Action Plans for the Taiga Bean Goose and for the Eurasian Curlew (documents AEWA/MOP 6.26 and AEWA/MOP 6.28);<br/> Overview on the status of preparation and implementation of AEWA International Single Species Action and Management Plans as well as Multi-Species Action Plan) (document AEWA/MOP 6.16)</p> |

Table 6. Objective 3: To increase knowledge about species and their populations, flyways and threats to them, as a basis for conservation action

| Progress  | Target   | Indicator  | Summary and reference  |
|---|--|--|--|
|  | <p><b>3.1: Necessary resources are in place to support, on a long-term basis, the international processes for gathering monitoring data for status assessment.</b></p> | <p><b>Timely production of annual IWC summary report and the AEWA CSR and global <i>Waterbird Population Estimates</i></b></p> <p><b>50% increase of species/populations whose international status is being assessed with regular monitoring data</b></p> | <p>Annual International Waterbird Census (IWC) summary reports (national totals) have been published in 2013 and 2014 covering the period 2011-2014. The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report (CSR) was produced in 2015 and submitted to MOP6. The production of the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Waterbird Population Estimates (WPE) started in 2014 but not yet completed due to insufficient funding to cover data collection and review globally. However, population size and trend estimates from the CSR6 are available through the WPE portal.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Slightly negative. Production of all outputs has been kept on track apart from the WPE which did not received sufficient funding for its sixth edition. .</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report (document AEWA/MOP 6.14);<br/>Communication from Wetlands International to the AEWA Secretariat;<br/><a href="#">IWC annual national totals</a></p> <p>The number of populations whose international status was assessed on the basis of regular monitoring data increased from 102 in 2008 to 180 in 2015, i.e. by 75%, which is higher than the target.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Positive. Number of populations increased from 107 to 180.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report (document AEWA/MOP 6.14)</p> |

| Progress | Target | Indicator | Summary and reference  |
|----------|--------|-----------|--|
|          |        |           | <p>Although most of the financial targets outlined in document AEWA/MOP 5.42 were largely met, majority of the funding is project-based and short- or maximum medium-term without any guarantee of long-term sustainability. Only 10 CPs have reported financial and/or logistical support provided to the International Waterbird Census at international level and 11 CPs reported bi-lateral technical or financial support to other CPs/Range States.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Positive. However, financial sustainability of IWC has not been achieved.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> Report on the development of the waterbird monitoring along the African-Eurasian flyways (document AEWA/MOP 6.24);<br/>Analysis of AEWA National Reports for the triennium 2012-2014 (document AEWA/MOP 6.13)</p> <p>Nationally, 37% of the CPs have funded or logistically supported IWC activities.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Negative. 7% less CPs supported IWC compared to 2012.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> Analysis of AEWA National Reports for the triennium 2012-2014 (document AEWA/MOP 6.13)</p> <p><b>Overall change since MOP5:</b> Positive (increased category of progress – from category <i>limited progress</i> to <i>good progress</i>).</p> |

| Progress  | Target   | Indicator  | Summary and reference   |
|---|--|--|---|
|  | <p><b>3.2: Capacity of national monitoring systems to assess the status of the waterbirds is established, maintained and further developed</b></p>   | <p><b>Half of CPs have year-round (as appropriate) monitoring systems in place</b></p> | <p>52% of the Contracting Parties (CPs) confirmed that waterbird monitoring schemes for AEWA species are in place in their countries, but only 7% reported full coverage of all three periods (breeding, passage/migration and non-breeding/wintering). The proportion of CPs reporting either full or partial coverage of all three periods is significantly higher (42%). <b>Further details and closer analysis of national monitoring schemes will be useful.</b></p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Negative. All parameters above have declined; however, the category of progress has been retained.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> Analysis of AEWA National Reports for the triennium 2012-2014 (document AEWA/MOP 6.13)</p> |
|  | <p><b>3.3: Nationally responsible state agencies, academic and other wildlife-related research institutions are encouraged to establish research programmes to support implementation of waterbird conservation priorities</b></p> | <p><b>Ten new AEWA-linked research programmes are established</b></p>                  | <p>35% of the Contracting Parties (CPs) reported that research-related to waterbirds and their conservation had been undertaken over the past triennium. A large number of projects was listed, although not all of them were initiated in the last triennium and they also have different levels of research objectives. <b>Further criteria need to be defined for assessing progress towards this target.</b></p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> No change.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> Analysis of AEWA National Reports for the triennium 2012-2014 (document AEWA/MOP 6.13)</p>  |

| Progress  | Target  | Indicator  | Summary and reference  |
|---|---|--|--|
|  | <p><b>3.4: Best practices, including traditional knowledge, for waterbird conservation programmes are collated and incorporated</b></p>             | <p><b>50 best practices collated and published at <a href="http://www.conservationevidence.com">www.conservationevidence.com</a></b></p> | <p>Not assessed.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> No change.</p>   |
|  | <p><b>3.5: Sharing and accessibility of relevant data and information are enhanced so as to underpin relevant conservation decision- making</b></p> | <p><b>Web-based list of research related to waterbirds and their conservation in each CP per triennium</b></p>                           | <p>A large number of projects was listed by 52% the Contracting Parties reporting to MOP5. However, this list is still not readily accessible and searchable, which <b>can be addressed through the development of an analytical tool to the CMS Family Online Reporting System.</b></p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> No change.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> Analysis of AEWA National Reports for the triennium 2012-2014 (document AEWA/MOP 6.13)</p> |

Table 7. Objective 4: To improve Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) about migratory waterbird species, their flyways, their role in alleviating poverty, threats to them and the measures needed to conserve them and their habitats

| Progress   | Target  | Indicator  | Summary and reference   |
|--|---|--|---|
|   | <p><b>4.1: Support for the implementation of the Communication Strategy (CS) is secured</b></p> | <p><b>100% funding and other support, as appropriate (e.g. expertise, network, skills and resources), is secured for the Communication Strategy implementation</b></p> | <p>While no specific assessment of the progress towards the achievement of this target has been made at Secretariat level and with only 10% of CPs reporting financial or other support provided, considering that progress towards a substantial number of other Communication Strategy related indicators has been limited and that in those cases funding has been restricted or not available, it will be justified to assess the progress towards target 4.1 as limited.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Unknown.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> Analysis of AEWA National Reports for the triennium 2012-2014 (document AEWA/MOP 6.13)</p>   |
|  | <p><b>4.2: The AEWA Communication Strategy is implemented</b></p>                               | <p><b>The Communication Strategy has been monitored annually and reviewed and updated on a tri-annual basis</b></p>  | <p>Detailed reports on the implementation of the CS were presented to MOP4 (September 2008), 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee (StC6) (June 2010), StC7 (November 2011), MOP5 (May 2012) and StC9 (September 2013). No specific reviews of the CS have been undertaken for StC10 (July 2014), but a summary of communication related activities by the Secretariat were included in the Report of the Secretariat to the StC. Development of a new AEWA Communication Strategy was initiated in 2014 by the Secretariat and a new CS is submitted to MOP6 for consideration.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Neutral.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> Various reports to StC and MOP meetings; Draft revised Communication Strategy (document AEWA/MOP 6.21)</p> |

| Progress | Target | Indicator  | Summary and reference   |
|----------|--------|--|---|
|          |        | <p><b>At least one Training of Trainers workshop for CEPA has been held in each AEWA region (CS 3.1)<sup>2</sup></b></p>   | <p>Three Training of Trainers (ToT) workshops using the WOW Flyway Training Kit (FTK) took place in the framework of the Wings over Wetlands (WOW) project for four sub-regions (West Africa and Central Africa (Cameroon), the Middle East (Jordan) and Central Asia &amp; Caucasus (Kazakhstan) since MOP4.</p> <p>Two ToT courses using the WOW FTK took place after MOP5. On 6-10 May 2013 a workshop for Anglophone countries in Southern and Eastern Africa took place in Naivasha, Kenya gathering 19 participants from 13 countries. Another workshop, for Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa took place on 27-31 January 2014 in Luanda, Angola and brought together 21 participants from five countries.</p> <p>The focus of these ToT's has not been on CEPA per se, although the workshops do include CEPA related topics and training elements.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Positive. Two ToT training workshops took place.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> Report on the Implementation of the African Initiative for the Period June 2012 – August 2015 (document AEWA/MOP 6.11)</p> |
|          |        | <p><b>In at least three AEWA regions, follow-up trainings for CEPA at the national level have been conducted by the people trained under target 3.3 (CS 3.2)</b></p> | <p>Only one CP reported that training for CEPA, conducted by staff trained in the framework of the AEWA Training of Trainers programme, had taken place. Two Parties reported that AEWA Training of Trainers programme are being planned in their country.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Slightly positive. One national training has taken place and two are planned for 2015 and 2016.</p>   |

<sup>6</sup> Between brackets and, where appropriate, the targets are linked to the Communication Strategy (CS), the number given reflects the respective activity in the Communication Strategy

| Progress | Target | Indicator  | Summary and reference   |
|----------|--------|--|---|
|          |        | <p><b>Regional Centres for the exchange of information on AEWA have been established in all regions (CS 2.2)</b></p> | <p><b>Reference:</b> Analysis of AEWA National reports for the triennium 2012-2014 (document AEWA/MOP 6.13)</p> <p>While 40% of Contracting Parties reported that they had not yet considered hosting a Regional AEWA Exchange Centre, five Parties (Ethiopia, Germany, Madagascar, Morocco and South Africa) indicated that they have considered and are interested in hosting a Regional AEWA Exchange Centre, while three Parties (Mali, Slovakia and Swaziland) indicated that they are currently considering it.</p> <p>The four regional centers established in the framework of Wings over Wetlands (WOW) project in Dakar, Almaty &amp; Moscow, Nairobi and Amman, in many ways, functioned as <i>de facto</i> information exchange and capacity building centres on AEWA over the course of WOW project implementation (2006-2010). However, after the closure of the project the level of activity of these centres has significantly reduced and <b>further funding will be required to resume their operation as AEWA exchange centres</b>. Funding would also be required to support the set-up of Regional AEWA Centres in some of the countries which have indicated that they would be interested in hosting one.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> No change.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> Analysis of AEWA National reports for the triennium 2012-2014 (document AEWA/MOP 6.13);<br/>Report on the implementation and revision of the communication strategy (document AEWA/MOP 5.18)</p> |

| Progress | Target | Indicator  | Summary and reference   |
|----------|--------|--|---|
|          |        | <p><b>The AEWA website has been improved and maintained, and in particular made more interactive (CS 4.1)</b></p>                              | <p>The new AEWA website was launched in May 2014 as part of the CMS Family Website Project, but it still requires further work and investment to meet the needs of the AEWA constituency Further improvements on the overall usability and presentation of the website is ongoing.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Positive (increased category of implementation – from category <i>limited progress</i> to <i>good progress</i>). New website launched and work to improve it further is ongoing.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> Report of the Secretariat (document AEWA/MOP 6.9);</p>  |
|          |        | <p><b>The AEWA newsletter is being published regularly, and twice yearly in hard copy supported by monthly electronic updates (CS 4.2)</b></p> | <p>The AEWA E-Newsletter has evolved to become one of the primary communication tools of the Secretariat to reach out to the currently 4000+ contacts on bi-monthly basis. A total of 42 E-Newsletters have been sent out since the availability of the tool in 2006 (25 E-Newsletters since MOP4). With the development of the new AEWA Website in 2014, a new E-Newsletter creation and dissemination tool has also been developed.</p> <p>The last hard copy Newsletter was produced in-house in January 2008 and <b>funds will be required to resume the regular production and dissemination of a hard copy Newsletter to compliment the E-Newsletter.</b></p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Positive. 15 E-Newsletters have been sent since MOP5.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> Report on the implementation and revision of the communication strategy (document AEWA/MOP 5.18); AEWA Website E-Newsletter Archive</p> |

| Progress | Target | Indicator   | Summary and reference   |
|----------|--------|---|---|
|          |        | <p><b>The infrastructure for e-discussions is in place and the discussions facilitated (CS 4.3)</b></p>   | <p>E-mail discussion groups were set up in 2012 and 2013 to support the coordination of the AEWa African Initiative. In addition, the CMS Family National Focal Point E-Community has been established and is designed to function as a state-of-the-art electronic discussion forum for National Focal Points of all CMS Family Instruments.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Slightly positive. E-mail discussion groups in place for African Parties and CMS Family NFP Community developed.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> Report on the Implementation of the African Initiative for the Period June 2012 – August 2015 (document AEWa/MOP 6.11); CMS Family NFP Community Website</p> |
|          |        | <p><b>Guidelines for Accession have been updated and distributed to all non-CPs (CS 4.4)</b></p>  | <p>Accession guidelines have been produced by the Secretariat in English, French, Arabic and Russian languages and widely distributed to non-Contracting Parties.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Positive. Revised guidelines have been published and distributed.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> Report on the Secretariat (document AEWa/MOP 6.9)</p>   |
|          |        | <p><b>A flexible toolkit is produced, and distributed, providing a set of resource materials for awareness raising at the national level (CS 4.5)</b></p> | <p>Not implemented.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> No change (lowered category of progress – from category good progress to limited progress). At MOP5 it was reported that most materials for the toolkit are ready, but it was never compiled and distributed due to lack of funding. This warrants lowering of the category of progress.</p>   |

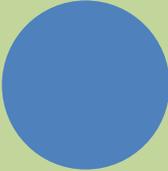
| Progress  | Target  | Indicator   | Summary and reference   |
|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   | <p><b>Reference:</b> Report on the Secretariat (document AEWA/MOP 6.9)</p>  |
|  | <p><b>4.3: Awareness and understanding of waterbird conservation issues in general and of AEWA in particular are increased at all levels within the CPs</b></p> | <p><b>At least 25% of CPs have developed and are implementing programmes for raising awareness and understanding on waterbird conservation and AEWA</b></p> | <p>28% of the Contracting Parties (CPs) reported that they have in place and are implementing programmes for awareness raising on waterbird conservation and AEWA. A further 4% are developing such programmes. <b>A more comprehensive analysis should be made, funding permitting, to assess the level and type of CEPA activities and the extent of the programmes developed by the CPs.</b></p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Negative. Although still surpassing the target, the proportion of CPs reporting programmes in place has dropped from 39% at MOP5 to 28% at MOP6.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> Analysis of AEWA National Reports for the triennium 2012-2014 (document AEWA/MOP 6.13)</p> |

Table 8. Objective 5: To improve the capacity of Range States and international cooperation and capacity towards the conservation of migratory waterbird species and their flyways

| Progress  | Target  | Indicator   | Summary and reference  |
|---|---|---|--|
|    | <p><b>5.1: The membership of the Agreement is expanded</b></p>  | <p><b>AEWA Membership has increased to 75 Parties by MOP5, to 85 Parties by MOP6, and to 90 Parties by MOP 7, with particular focus on Central Asia and the Middle East</b></p> | <p>The number of Contracting Parties (CPs) increased by 14 from 61 at MOP4 (as of 1 September 2008) to 75 at MOP6 (as of 1 May 2015) with 13 new CPs from Africa and two from Europe. Only seven CPs reported approaching non-CPs to encourage them to accede to the Agreement.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Positive. Additional eight African and one European countries acceded to the Agreement between MOP5 and MOP6.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> Report of the Depositary (document AEWA/MOP 6.8); Analysis of AEWA National reports for the triennium 2012-2014 (document AEWA/MOP 6.13)</p> |
|   | <p><b>5.2: Sufficient funding for the implementation of the SP is raised from different sources</b></p> | <p><b>Full funding is raised</b></p>  | <p>While no specific assessment of the progress towards the achievement of this target has been made, considering that progress towards a substantial number of other targets has been limited and that in those cases funding has been restricted or not available, it will be justified to assess the progress towards target 5.2 as limited.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> No change.</p>  |
|  | <p><b>5.3: Cooperation with other MEAs and key partners is enhanced</b></p>                             | <p><b>At least 5 new MoU/MoC between AEWA and other MEA's and key partners are established</b></p>  | <p>At the AEWA 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium in June 2010, a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) was signed with the Ramsar Convention, BirdLife International and Wetlands International to continue the joint work and partnership established during the Wing over Wetlands (WOW) project (post-WOW partnership).</p>   |

| Progress  | Target  | Indicator   | Summary and reference   |
|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   | <p>An MoC with Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) was signed on 12 July 2012 during Ramsar COP11.</p> <p>An MoC was signed at MOP5 between the Ramsar Convention and the CMS (also on behalf of its instruments, including AEWA) under which a Joint Work Plan of 2004 between AEWA and Ramsar was renewed.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Neutral.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> Report of the Secretariat (document AEWA/MOP 6.9)</p>   |
|  | <p><b>5.4: The Small Grants Fund (SGF) is activated</b></p> | <p><b>At least 100,000 EUR annually is disbursed to developing countries for implementation of AEWA</b></p> | <p>Starting from 2010 there have been five cycles of the the AEWA SGF, which have disbursed 251,890 EUR altogether, which amount has been divided between the cycles as follows: 2010 – 93,071 EUR; 2011 – 43,400; 2012 – 45,382 EUR; 2013 – 30,393 EUR and 2014 – 39,644. The SGF has been fed with resources from the AEWA core budget, which provided to date 140,000 EUR (20,000 EUR annually from 2009 to 2012 and 30,000 EUR annually in 2013 and 2014) and by voluntary contributions from Parties and individuals amounting to 113,032 EUR, including UNEP 13% PSC. These voluntary contributions were provided by France (56.500 EUR), Switzerland (27.398 Euros), United Kingdom (28,684 EUR) and Mr Sergey Dereliev (450 EUR).</p> <p>All the five cycles have been limited only to the African region due to geographic restrictions of the available funding.</p> <p>The amount disbursed so far in the five cycles constitutes just above 50% of the target.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Negative. Although amounts to each cycle have been variable, the overall trends is downwards.</p> |

| Progress   | Target   | Indicator   | Summary and reference  |
|--|--|---|--|
|  |  |   | <p><b>Reference:</b> Report on the implementation of the African Initiative for the period June 2012 – August 2015 (document AEWA/MOP 6.11)</p>  |
|   | <p><b>5.5: The rate of submission of National Reports is increased</b></p>   | <p><b>All Contracting Parties regularly provide complete national reports</b></p>               | <p>Submission rate of national reports to MOP6 is 55%, which is a decrease compared to MOP5 (69%) and MOP4 (64%). There are still Parties which have not submitted reports to two, three, four or even five consecutive MOPs. <b>Although above 1/2 of the Contracting Parties submitted reports, their quality and completeness, as well as timely submission are yet to be addressed.</b></p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Negative (lowered category of progress – from category <i>good progress</i> to <i>limited progress</i>). 14% less CPs submitted national reports to MOP6 compared to MOP5. This warrants a lowering of the category of progress for this indicator.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> Analysis of AEWA National reports for the triennium 2012-2014 (document AEWA/MOP 6.13)</p> |
|  | <p><b>5.6: Capacity of national staff to implement the Agreement is increased through proper training mechanisms</b></p> | <p><b>At least 30 governmental staff members have been trained in at least 20 countries</b></p> | <p>In the framework of the ENRTP Strategic Cooperation Agreement between the European Commission - Directorate General for the Environment and UNEP a three-year capacity building project was launched in 2012 and was implemented by UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWA Secretariats. The two Secretariats compiled a set of guidelines entitled “CMS Family National Focal Points Manual”. This Manual was the basis for the training delivered to 40 NFPs or their representatives from 26 African countries in a training workshop organised by both Secretariats and hosted by South Africa on 29-31 October 2013 in Cape Town.</p>  |

| Progress  | Target  | Indicator   | Summary and reference   |
|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   | <p>Another workshop for the East Adriatic parties to AEWA (Albania, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro and Slovenia) as well as Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina as a country in the process of accession, is planned to take place in Croatia in 2016 and will be organised by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat in cooperation and with the support of the German NGO Euronatur.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Positive (increased category of progress – from category <i>limited progress</i> to <i>achieved / reached</i>).</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> Report on the implementation of the African Initiative for the period June 2012 – August 2015 (document AEWA/MOP 6.11)</p> |
|  | <p><b>5.7: Appropriate national coordination mechanism for implementation of AEWA linking to national coordination mechanisms for other biodiversity MEAs are established</b></p> | <p><b>In at least 50% of the Contracting Parties AEWA national coordination mechanisms have been established and are operational on regular basis</b></p> | <p>37% of the Contracting Parties reported that they have such national coordination mechanism and they are operating regularly. Some more countries reported non-operational mechanisms, mechanisms in preparation or described other system for national coordination of the Agreement.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5:</b> Slightly positive. 3% additional CPs have reported operational coordination mechanisms in place.</p> <p><b>Reference:</b> Analysis of AEWA National Reports for the triennium 2012-2014 (document AEWA/MOP 6.13)</p>   |

| Progress  | Target  | Indicator   | Summary and reference  |
|---|---|---|--|
|  | <p><b>5.8: AEWA is recognized by other biodiversity MEAs as an MEA whose effectiveness in protecting waterbirds can be used as an indicator for sustaining biodiversity on a global level</b></p> | <p><b>All global biodiversity MEAs are referring to the effectiveness of AEWA as an indicator for sustaining biodiversity on a global level</b></p> | <p>Not assessed.</p> <p><b>Change since MOP5: No change.</b></p> |