



AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF
AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS



4th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES
15 – 19 September 2008, Antananarivo, Madagascar

“Flyway Conservation at Work – Review of the Past, Vision for the Future”

RESOLUTION 4.5

INTRODUCED NON-NATIVE WATERBIRD SPECIES IN THE AGREEMENT AREA

Recalling Article III.2(g) of the Agreement and Paragraph 2.5 of the AEWA Action Plan on describing the issue of introduction of non-native waterbird species as being of particular concern for the AEWA Contracting Parties,

Recalling also AEWA’s Guidelines on Avoidance of Introductions of non-native Waterbird Species,

Considering the threats posed by the introduction of non-native waterbird species on global biodiversity,

Considering paragraph 7.4 (g) of the AEWA Action Plan on the necessity for regular international reviews for “status of introduced non-native waterbird species and hybrids thereof”,

Noting the limited published literature on non-native and introduced waterbirds, and the need for comprehensive and up-to-date information on the status of non-native introduced waterbirds,

Further noting the Review on the Status of Introduced Non-native Species of Waterbirds (update 2007) presented in document AEWA/MOP 4.12, and

Congratulating the Government of the UK on the good progress made towards eradicating the non-native invasive Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Calls on* Contracting Parties and other Range States to strengthen their precautionary measures in order to prevent introductions, escapes and deliberate release of non-native waterbirds species and, as appropriate, enforce and improve national legislation to this effect;
2. *Invites* ornithological organizations in AEWA Range States to encourage counters to include non-native and hybrid waterbirds in their existing waterbird censuses and monitoring schemes, and regularly report such information;
3. *Requests* the AEWA Secretariat to explore ways and means of promoting research on the effects of non-native waterbird species on populations of native waterbird species, to identify the feasibility of control schemes, and to define priorities for action, liaising with relevant institutions to these ends;
4. *Calls on* Contracting Parties and other Range States to implement better regulation of the introduction of non-native populations of native waterbird species (for example for hunting purposes or amateur rearing of ornamental birds), where required, in order to avoid the introduction of inappropriate genetic material;

5. *Requests* Contracting Parties and other Range States to coordinate their efforts to control and eradicate non-native waterbird species;
6. *Invites* hunters, ornithologists and their organisations to assist Contracting Parties and other Range States in their national programs of monitoring and control of non-native waterbird species, as appropriate;
7. *Requests* Contracting Parties to consider better recording and monitoring of avicultural collections of non-native waterbirds;
8. *Invites* zoos, public collections and similar institutions to consider education and public awareness activities about the problems caused by the introduction of non-native waterbird species, including in the framework of captive breeding projects for endangered species;
9. *Requests* Contracting Parties and other Range States to prohibit, or introduce more stringent regulations, for keeping and trading of certain species that pose a particular risk to native biodiversity such as hybridization or competition;
10. *Invites* Contracting Parties and other Range States to allocate appropriate resources for research, monitoring and capacity building related to the prevention of introduction, control and eradication of non-native waterbird species;
11. *Encourages* Contracting Parties and other Range States, as well as other stakeholders to use the AEWA Guidelines on Avoidance of Introductions of non-native Waterbird Species;
12. *Further encourages* the Government of the UK to continue with the Ruddy Duck eradication programme towards a complete extermination of the UK population;
13. *Strongly urges* all other Contracting Parties and other Range States with Ruddy Duck populations, notably The Netherlands and France, to establish or step up complementary eradication measures in order to prevent the spread of the species in Europe and towards its complete eradication within the Agreement Area; and
14. *Further urges* France and any other Party where the species is present as a non-native species to undertake urgent measures to contain and eradicate the rapidly increasing population of the Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*.