



AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF
AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS



7th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES
4-8 December 2018, Durban, South Africa

“Beyond 2020: Shaping flyway conservation for the future”

RESOLUTION 7.1

**ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AEWA STRATEGIC PLAN AND PLAN
OF ACTION FOR AFRICA FOR THE PERIOD OF 2019-2027**

Recalling Resolution 4.7 which adopted the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 to guide the implementation of the Agreement at the national and flyway levels and Resolution 5.9 which adopted the Plan of Action for the implementation of AEWA in Africa 2012-2017 to further serve as an operational guideline for implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan in Africa,

Also recalling Resolution 6.14 which extended the validity of both the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa to 2018 to correspond with the timing of the 7th Meeting of the Parties (MOP7), and instructed the AEWA Standing Committee, working with the Technical Committee and supported by the Secretariat to prepare drafts of both plans covering the period of 2019-2027, for submission to MOP7,

Further recalling Resolution 5.9 which established the AEWA African Sub-Regional Focal Point Coordinators, to be identified among the AEWA National Focal Points in each sub-region, to guide implementation at the sub-regional level, as well as the Terms of Reference for their functioning as approved by the 9th Meeting of the AEWA Standing Committee,

Recognizing the positive contribution of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa in guiding and advancing the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the African-Eurasian flyways,

Expressing sincere appreciation to the Governments of all AEWA Contracting Parties, other relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and partner organizations, which have contributed towards the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa over the period of 2009-2018,

Further expressing sincere appreciation to the Governments of donor countries and donor organizations that have provided financial and other support towards the coordination and implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa,

Acknowledging the work of the consultants, the Working Groups for the development of the Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa, the Secretariat, the AEWA Technical and Standing Committees and the input and support from AEWA Contracting Parties and partner organizations regarding the preparation of the draft AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 and the draft Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027 for presentation to MOP7,

Also acknowledging the need to further strategize the actions, efforts and limited resources of the Agreement to effectively address changing priorities and emerging issues affecting migratory waterbirds and their habitats along the African-Eurasian flyways, as captured in the objectives, targets, actions and activities depicted in the draft AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027,

Further acknowledging the need to continue mobilizing significant financial and other resources for the effective and coordinated conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the African-Eurasian flyways, and particularly the need for dedicated support for advancing the implementation of AEWA in the African region due to the limited financial, human and material resources available for migratory waterbird conservation,

Equally acknowledging the importance of coordination and promoting collaboration for implementation of AEWA at the sub-regional level through the Sub-Regional Focal Point Coordinators, as well as the need to harmonise and align the roles of these Coordinators with those of the African Regional Representatives on the AEWA Standing Committee to ensure more effectiveness in their functioning,

Recalling also that the Technical Support Unit supported by France and the FFEM/FAO/EU RESSOURCE project provide significant assistance to African Parties for the implementation on the ground of the Agreement and particularly the Plan of Action for Africa,

Recalling that the AEWA Small Grants Fund (SGF), established by the AEWA MOP1 through Resolution 1.7, is the only dedicated financing mechanism to provide assistance to eligible developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the implementation on the ground of the Agreement and its Strategic Plan, including the Plan of Action for Africa,

Further recalling that since its launch in 2010 the SGF has operated on an annual basis and a total of 286,230 Euros have been disbursed for 18 projects in 17 AEWA Contracting Parties in Africa over the period of 2010-2015,

Considering the heavy reliance of the SGF on voluntary contributions for its functioning and the significant human and time resources required for the operation of the SGF programme,

Being aware that the 2015 SGF cycle was the last to be operated and that in the last triennium (2016-2018) there have not been new SGF cycles due to the unavailability of both voluntary and core-budget funding to support the programme,

Noting with concern that the SGF operations are currently paused and can only be resumed should substantial and regular financial resources become available to avoid further suspension of its operations,

Mindful of the need to harmonize efforts for migratory waterbird conservation with those of relevant MEAs, particularly regarding the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2015-2030, the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS) 2015-2023 and the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024, amongst others,

Acknowledging that the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework provides an important opportunity for a collaborative planning process that supports the objectives of the Agreement alongside the biodiversity community,

Further acknowledging the importance of strengthening cooperation between the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and AEWA, in order to improve the science-policy interface on the conservation and sustainable use of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, and to support the implementation of AEWA at all levels,

Concerned with the findings and conclusions of the Final Report on the Implementation of the Strategic Plan 2009-2018 (document AEWA/MOP 7.10), according to which the goal of the Plan has been highly insufficiently achieved and the overall implementation is assessed as average,

Taking due note of the conclusion of the Final Report on the Implementation of the Strategic Plan 2009-2018 that progress in the last decade has not been sufficient in many areas of work, including on fundamental obligations such as the accord to waterbird species of the appropriate legal status in the domestic legislation, and that the implementation performance in the period of the new Strategic Plan 2019-2027 has to be substantially improved and strengthened, by addressing the challenges identified related to the implementation of the previous Strategic Plan,

Noting the outcomes of the 7th edition of the Conservation Status Report, in particular that whilst the overall status of AEWA waterbird populations has improved during the period of the Strategic Plan 2009-2018, an increasing number of mainly marine and farmland species are listed as globally threatened and Near Threatened as well as in significant long-term decline, and *conscious* that species are becoming globally threatened more rapidly than they can be recovered,

Further noting that good governance is the most important determinant of the trend of waterbird populations and that species recovery plans positively influence the trend of waterbird populations in the long-term; *conscious*, however, that achieving AEWA's targets and ensuring its contribution to the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals require the adoption of proactive strategies that integrate bird conservation into a wide range of land and water use policies,

Mindful that the effective monitoring of the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action of Africa and the progress towards achieving their targets and objectives is dependent on the timely and comprehensive reporting by each Contracting Party,

Noting the desirability that decisions taken by the Meeting of Parties that relate to potential changes to the national reporting format set out the reporting requirements for Parties,

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Adopts* the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa for the period of 2019-2027 as presented in documents AEWA/MOP 7.15 and AEWA/MOP 7.16 respectively;
2. *Urges* all AEWA Contracting Parties and invites non-Party Range States, other governments and other stakeholders and financial institutions to allocate adequate and timely financial and other resources for the systematic and punctual implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027,
3. *Further urges* all AEWA Contracting Parties, and requests the AEWA Secretariat, in close consultation with the AEWA Standing and Technical Committees and other relevant stakeholders as identified

by the two Plans, to identify innovative actions that can link waterbird conservation with socio-economic development objectives, taking into account the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity;

4. *Calls on* the AEWA Contracting Parties to strongly consider allocating additional resources to the AEWA core budget to support the effective coordination and implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027;

5. *Strongly urges* donor countries and organisations to regularly provide funds to the AEWA Small Grants Fund in order to allow for annual disbursement of at least 50,000 Euros to eligible developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in Africa, as well as in Eurasia, to support the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, including the Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027;

6. *Also calls on* donor countries and organizations to provide support towards the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027 through financial and other contributions, meanwhile acknowledging the need to prioritize support to developing countries, countries with economies in transition and Small Island Developing States for the implementation of work plans associated with the AEWA Strategic Plan and/or the Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027;

7. *Further calls on* donor countries and organizations to consider providing additional Technical Support arrangements, such as the Technical Support Unit provided by the Governments of France and Senegal to the Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2018, to enhance the implementation of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027 in priority areas which have so far received relatively limited support;

8. *Requests* the AEWA Standing Committee, in collaboration with the Technical Committee and the Secretariat, to monitor the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027 and to report progress to each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, where such reporting should:

- i) consider the progress in the light of the variable time since Parties have acceded to the Agreement; and
- ii) present not only the status in respect of the achievement of the target, but also the trend of progress towards achievement over time;

9. *Approves* the revised Terms of Reference for the roles and responsibilities of the AEWA Sub-Regional Focal Point Coordinators as annexed to the current Resolution;

10. *Adopts* the format for national reports on the implementation of AEWA for the period 2018-2020 as presented in document AEWA/MOP 7.17.;

11. *Instructs* the Standing Committee, working with the Technical Committee and the Secretariat, to establish a module on the implementation of the Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027 in the national report format and to integrate the module in time for the reporting cycle to MOP8;

12. *Instructs* the Standing Committee, in close consultation with the Technical Committee and the Secretariat, to revise, amend and enhance the national report format after each session of the MOP, as necessary, so as to bring it in line with any relevant decisions of the MOP;

13. *Decides* that the deadline for submission of the national reports by Contracting Parties to MOP8 shall be 180 days before the opening date of MOP8, while the module on the status of native and non-native species of waterbirds shall be submitted by 30 June 2020 and the module on the implementation of the Plan of Action for Africa not later than 240 days before the opening date of MOP8;

14. *Urges* Contracting Parties to submit, in a timely manner, complete and thorough national reports on their progress towards the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027, as well as the other provisions of the Agreement, to each ordinary session of the AEWA MOP;

15. *Instructs* the Standing Committee, in close consultation with the Technical Committee and the Secretariat to identify, and in consultation with related convention secretariats, the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, concrete actions to advance synergies on reporting, *inter alia*, through:

- (i) Common indicators, where appropriate;
- (ii) Reporting modules on shared issues;
- (iii) Interoperability of information management and reporting systems;
- (iv) Other options for increasing synergies in national reporting among the biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions;

and to report back to the 8th Session of the Meeting of the Parties;

16. *Further instructs* the Secretariat to work closely with UN Environment, other relevant MEAs and partner organizations to harmonize the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027 with the implementation of relevant global and regional relevant frameworks, particularly the SDGs, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, SPMS, and the Ramsar Strategic Plan;

17. *Invites* Parties and the Secretariat to engage in the process related to the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, in the context of the Working Group established by CMS, with a view to contributing inputs and raising awareness on migratory wildlife, including waterbirds, and connectivity conservation;

18. *Invites* the Secretariat to provide input, resources permitting, into the process initiated by CMS to contribute to the development of the IPBES second work programme to be adopted at the IPBES-7 Plenary (29 April – 4 May 2019), with a view to set IPBES future priorities and to ensure that AEWA needs for science and policy guidance are addressed;

19. *Welcomes* the engagement of the Government of the Republic of South Africa to play a lead role in stimulating and advancing the implementation of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027 adopted by the AEWA MOP7 as a comprehensive guide towards the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 in the African region, through exemplary action on implementing the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa at the national level as well as through promoting strengthened collaboration at regional and flyway levels, and in particular by championing the implementation of the AEWA International Multi-species Action Plan for the Conservation of Benguela Current Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds and International Single Species Action Plans for the Conservation of the White-winged Flufftail and the Grey Crowned-crane across the applicable flyways, while ensuring to sustain a coherent and comprehensive network of suitable, protected and well managed sites of crucial importance for the survival of these populations of migratory waterbirds across their entire flyways.

Annex 1
Revised Terms of Reference
AEWA Sub-Regional Focal Point Coordinators in Africa

Background and mandate

The concept of AEWA Sub-Regional Focal Point Coordinators (SRFPCs) for Africa was established by the 5th Meeting of the Parties to AEWA through Resolution 5.9 on the Implementation of the AEWA African Initiative for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats in Africa. The Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the roles, responsibilities and functioning of SRFPCs was adopted by the 9th Meeting of the AEWA Standing Committee (September 2013 in Trondheim, Norway). The current revised Terms of Reference aim to harmonize and align the roles and responsibilities of the AEWA SRFPCs in Africa with those of the African regional representatives on the AEWA Standing Committee, in order to streamline and improve the efficiency of both coordination mechanisms.

Purpose

The main purpose of the AEWA SRFPCs in Africa is to guide implementation of the Agreement at the sub-regional level, as well as instigate and motivate action, and provide advice for implementation.

Representation/membership

A maximum of five SRFPCs will be nominated from the African region, based on the principle of sub-regional balance. As such, there shall be one SRFPC each from Northern, Eastern, Southern, Western and Central Africa.

The nominated AEWA Standing Committee regional representatives for Africa shall, by default, assume the role of SRFPC for their given sub-regions.

For the other sub-regions with no Party representative nominated to the AEWA Standing Committee, the officially designated AEWA National Focal Points shall nominate a SRFPC from among themselves and communicate the nomination to the AEWA Secretariat and the other AEWA Parties. The nomination of alternate SRFPCs shall be optional and shall follow the same principles as the nomination of the principal SRFPCs, with the alternate regional representatives on the AEWA Standing Committee assuming the role of alternate SRFPCs by default, where applicable.

The nomination of the SRFPCs shall be reviewed during each ordinary session of the AEWA Meeting of the Parties (MOP), in line with the approved institutional arrangements for the AEWA Standing Committee. However, the maximum term of office of SRFPCs shall expire at the close of the second ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties following the session at which they were originally nominated.

Responsibility

The SRFPCs will play an advisory, motivating and guiding role for promoting the implementation of the AEWA African Initiative, including the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa (PoAA) at the level of their respective sub-regions, through the following:

- Act as a central point of contact linking the AEWA National Focal Points in the respective sub-region with the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and other key partners at the international and regional levels (for example,

the Technical Support Unit or the African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership), to provide guidance, advice and information during the planning, development and implementation of activities aimed at implementing the AEWA PoAA at the sub-regional and flyway levels;

- Engage actively in the implementation and reporting of AEWA-related activities conducted at the sub-regional and flyway level as well as encourage the engagement of the AEWA National Focal Points and other relevant stakeholders in the respective sub-regions, to facilitating access to relevant waterbird-related data and information;
- Liaise with the AEWA National Focal Points in the respective sub-regions to identify priorities for the sub-region and/or flyway as relevant and provide feedback, guidance and advice for the implementation of activities applicable to the sub-region, and which are coordinated and/or led by the AEWA Secretariat, Technical Support Unit and/or other AEWA partners involved in supporting the implementation of the AEWA PoAA;
- Promote the implementation and reporting of activities in the AEWA PoAA by the Range States within their respective sub-regions;
- Mobilize, stimulate and coordinate AEWA National Focal Points in the sub-region to establish collaborative arrangements between Parties, with the aim to promote joint activities, projects or programmes that contribute to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats at transboundary, sub-regional or flyway scale;
- Support with the identification of relevant frameworks, forums and events in the sub-region and coordinate the representation of the Agreement by the AEWA National Focal Points at these events, within possible means;
- Promote the recognition of AEWA priorities in the framework of regional economic communities in the African region;
- Liaise with AEWA Range States of the sub-region that are not yet Contracting Parties to AEWA, to promote accession;
- Liaise with the National Focal Points of the sub-region to promote and coordinate the collation and sharing of information on AEWA relevant activities conducted at the sub-regional level;
- Ensure the full support of their respective Governments and/or host institutions in order to enable them to execute the above responsibilities (including ensuring their availability for attending relevant meetings¹, as applicable, in relation to executing their roles and responsibilities.

Communication

The AEWA SRFPCs shall communicate with the National Focal Points of their sub-region through various means as appropriate, including through the use of the existing sub-regional group email addresses, virtual meetings (for example, Skype meetings) or meeting in the framework of other forums.

¹ General rules and criteria for eligibility to travel support as defined by the Meeting of the Parties will be applicable to Sub-Regional National Focal Point Coordinators when attending AEWA meetings in their coordinator capacity.

SRFPCs should preferably have the necessary language skills to ensure effective communication with the AEWAs National Focal Points in their respective sub-regions.