



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 7.8

REVISION AND ADOPTION OF CONSERVATION GUIDANCE

Recalling Article IV paragraph 4 of the Agreement, and paragraph 7.3 of the Agreement’s Action Plan, which require the development and review of conservation guidelines in order to assist Contracting Parties with their implementation of the Agreement,

Further recalling Resolutions 1.10, 2.3, 4.13, 5.10 and 6.5, which adopted conservation guidelines focussing on various aspects of waterbird conservation practice,

Noting that these conservation guidelines, although legally non-binding, provide a common framework for action, which aids the coherent implementation of the Agreement by the Contracting Parties to the Agreement, as well as other Range States and interested parties and that it is for each Party to determine to which extent the guidance will be implemented, whilst having regard to their international obligations and commitments,

Recalling Resolution 4.3 which requested the Technical Committee, amongst other things, to review the purposes for exemptions listed in paragraph 2.1.3 a-e of the AEWA Action Plan and provide advice,

Thanking the Technical Committee for its comprehensive work on this request and the compilation of guidance on the application of exemptions from the prohibitions laid down in paragraphs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 as per paragraph 2.1.3,

Further thanking the Technical Committee for its initiative to develop guidance on the implementation of AEWA’s provisions on non-native species, in order to assist with the implementation of Article 3.2(g) of the AEWA Agreement and of paragraphs 2.5, 3.3, 4.3.10 and 4.3.11 of the AEWA Action Plan,

Recalling Resolution 5.6 which requested the Technical Committee to continue to develop ideas as to how to address multi-species and regional scale declines and *thanking* the Committee for developing a guide to guidance on these issues in the past triennium,

Thanking the African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership for supporting the Technical Committee in revising the AEWA Conservation Guidelines No. 9 on Waterbird Monitoring and the Government of the Netherlands for providing financial resources for this work,

Further recalling Resolution 5.10 that, *inter alia*, adopted guidance on defining periods of breeding and pre-nuptial migration for migratory African-Eurasian waterbirds, with respect to the implementation of paragraph 2.1.2(a) of the AEWA Action Plan, which can be primarily utilised for Palearctic migrants while intra-African migrants would benefit from further focused work,

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Adopts* the following:
 - a. *Guidance on Satisfying the Conditions of Paragraph 2.1.3 of the AEWA Action Plan* as presented in document AEWA/MOP 7.32,
 - b. *Guidance on AEWA's Provisions on Non-native Species*, as presented in document AEWA/MOP 7.33,
 - c. *Guidance on Taking a Systematic Approach to Responding to Waterbird Declines: A Checklist of Potential Actions* as presented in document AEWA/MOP 7.34 Rev. 1,
 - d. *Revised Conservation Guidelines No. 9 on Waterbird Monitoring* as presented in document AEWA/MOP 7.35;
2. *Calls upon* Contracting Parties to utilise these guidelines in a practical way that leads to a minimum of additional bureaucracy and that recognises the different social, economic and environmental conditions within the Agreement area;
3. *Instructs* the Secretariat to disseminate these guidelines to all Range States, and relevant international governmental and non-governmental organisations, and to promote and monitor their use to the extent that this is possible;
4. *Reminds* Parties of the requirement to inform the Agreement secretariat of any exemptions granted pursuant to the provisions of paragraphs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 of the AEWA Action Plan and to do so as soon as possible;
5. *Reiterates* the request to the Technical Committee, outlined at paragraph 4 of Resolution 6.5, to:
 - *implement* its rolling programme to revise and update existing conservation guidelines, as necessary; and
 - *work towards achieving* this programme, resources permitting;
6. *Requests* the Technical Committee to consider how new or topical information relating to existing Conservation Guidelines can best be disseminated to Parties and others, including through existing publication platforms and social and other media, resources permitting; make recommendations to the Standing Committee to that effect; and in developing any such mechanisms always to make clear that such information does not form part of, or supersede, the relevant Conservation Guidelines;
7. *Encourages* Parties to ensure that conservation actions are informed by the most robust available evidence, including using such evidence to assess the likely effectiveness of proposed actions and, where resources allow, to evaluate the effectiveness of actions that are undertaken, including disseminating the conclusions of such actions in the most effective manner possible, such as web-based evidence depositories; and
8. *Urges* all Contracting Parties in Africa to identify at national level, the periods of breeding and of pre-nuptial migration for all AEWA-listed species and their respective populations occurring on their territories and apply this knowledge in the context of implementation of paragraph 2.1.2(a) of the AEWA Action Plan.