



**13<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**  
*03 - 05 July 2018, The Hague, the Netherlands*

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**REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT**

**INTRODUCTION**

The present report covers the work of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat for the period between 01 January 2017 and 31 May 2018.

The report is divided into five sections:

1. Organization of the Secretariat;
2. General Management, which includes recruitment of Parties and cooperation with other organizations;
3. Communication, Information Management and Outreach;
4. Science, Implementation and Compliance;
5. Capacity-Building.

The staffing of the Secretariat, which was presented in the context of section 1 in previous Secretariat reports, is now presented in [document StC13.32 - Report of the Secretariat on Finance and Administrative Issues in 2013-2015 and 2016-2018](#) for more coherence and to avoid duplication of information.

Activities reported in detail in other StC13 documents are only mentioned briefly here, with a reference to the relevant substantive document containing more information.

The day-to-day work of the Agreement Secretariat, which includes responding to incoming mail, maintaining the Secretariat's extensive network of contacts, internal meetings with the UNEP/CMS Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – now known as United Nations Environment - and/or UN Heads of Agencies etc. are not specifically mentioned in this report.

**1. ORGANIZATION OF THE SECRETARIAT**

There has been no change in the organization of the Secretariat since 01 January 2017. The individual staff members and units continue to work closely as a team, interacting with each other on cross-cutting issues on a daily basis; they are divided into four major areas of work (as described in Annex 1 – Organizational Structure and Annex II - Staff Composition of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat).

Each staff member has an annual work plan, which is approved and assessed annually as well as on a mid-term basis by his/her direct supervisor. All the work plans are examined by the Executive Secretary in order to ensure synergies between the units and to avoid duplication of efforts. The Secretariat nonetheless continues to face a number of challenges in the delivery of its mandate and is rather stretched. This is due to the ever-increasing range of services to be delivered without a matching increase in human resources.

Without the extension of the part-time positions through voluntary contributions, the availability of staff funded entirely through voluntary contributions and the support of interns, the Secretariat would not have been in a position to deliver all services requested over the period of 2017 and 2018.

## 2. GENERAL MANAGEMENT

### Recruitment of Parties

Since StC12, one new Contracting Party has acceded to AEWA (Botswana on 01 November 2017), bringing the total number of Parties to 77.

In addition, significant progress has been made in the accession process of a number of African non-Party Range States. Contacts at high level were established during various meetings, amongst them the CMS COP12 in Manila in October 2017 and the UNFCCC COP23 in Bonn in November 2017.

With the financial support of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), the Agreement Text has been translated into Portuguese for the benefit of the Portuguese-speaking Range States. The Portuguese translation of the Agreement Text has been available on the AEWA website since May 2017 at:

[http://www.unep-aewa.org/sites/default/files/basic\\_page\\_documents/aewa\\_agreement\\_text\\_2016\\_2018\\_Portuguese.pdf](http://www.unep-aewa.org/sites/default/files/basic_page_documents/aewa_agreement_text_2016_2018_Portuguese.pdf)

It contributes to facilitating the accession of the Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa (Angola, Cabo Verde, Mozambique and Sao Tomé-e-Príncipe).

The recruitment of Arabic-speaking countries was hampered by the lack of an accurate and updated Arabic translation of the Agreement Text. The latest version of the AEWA Text approved at MOP6 was kindly translated by the AEWA Depositary and reviewed by some Arabic-speaking Range States. The new Arabic text was distributed to all Arabic-speaking AEWA Range States and is now available on the AEWA website at:

[http://www.unep-aewa.org/sites/default/files/basic\\_page\\_documents/Agreement%20text%20and%20annexes%202016-2018\\_Arabic\\_March%202017\\_0.pdf](http://www.unep-aewa.org/sites/default/files/basic_page_documents/Agreement%20text%20and%20annexes%202016-2018_Arabic_March%202017_0.pdf)

The Secretariat has been regularly communicating with Saudi Arabia on the accession process, which is quite advanced, and will hopefully be concluded soon.

Efforts to recruit additional Parties in Europe and Central Asia, including Bosnia & Herzegovina, Greece, Serbia, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Russia, are also ongoing.

### Meeting of the AEWA Standing Committee

The 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee was held in Paris, France on 31 January - 01 February 2017, at the kind invitation of the Government of France. The StC12 meeting report is available at:

[http://www.unep-aewa.org/sites/default/files/document/aewa\\_stc12\\_meeting\\_report\\_en.pdf](http://www.unep-aewa.org/sites/default/files/document/aewa_stc12_meeting_report_en.pdf)

and as [Document StC Inf. 13.2 - Report of the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the AEWA Standing Committee](#).

### Meeting of the AEWA Technical Committee

The 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Technical Committee was held in Bonn, Germany, 10-13 April 2018. The meeting was convened with the aim to review and approve all the scientific and technical documents to be submitted to MOP7. Meeting documents are available at: <http://www.unep-aewa.org/en/meeting/14th-meeting-aewa-technical-committee>. The Report of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Technical Committee will be available on the same webpage in due course.

## Cooperation with UN Environment and Other Organizations

### *CMS Family and UN Environment*

A Strategic Meeting is convened every three months amongst the three CMS Family Executive Secretaries to liaise on the different cross-cutting areas of work including the accession of Parties, fundraising activities, upcoming meetings, programmatic synergies and common services (AFMU and IMCA team). A monthly meeting on administrative issues is also held between the three Executive Secretaries and the head of the Administrative and funds Management Unit.

On programmatic synergies, some items such as the illegal killing of birds, lead poisoning or the energy sector are now led by CMS following COP decisions broadening the mandate on these issues under the Convention. The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat is, however, still involved in the CMS Illegal Killing Task Force, the Energy Task Force and the Bird Poisoning Working Groups, as appropriate. These programmatic synergies have allowed the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat to focus more on AEWA-specific issues such as the further development of the European Goose Management Platform. In the meantime, the Secretariat uses every opportunity to promote common CMS Family issues, for example through the most recent op-ed on lead ammunition by the AEWA Executive Secretary (<http://www.unep-awa.org/en/news/opinion-banning-lead-shot-good-birds-people-world-migratory-bird-day-may-12-13> ).

Further, with regard to programmatic synergies, the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat continues to collaborate closely with the UNEP/CMS Secretariat and the CMS Raptors MOU in particular, both on issues related directly to bird conservation and sustainable use as well as to wider conservation issues such as bycatch. The main areas of collaboration are outlined in more detail below under the chapter on Science, Implementation and Compliance.

### *Ramsar Convention*

The cooperation with the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention has focused mainly on African topics. The Coordinator of the African Initiative attended the African regional preparatory meeting for the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention (February 2018) and was able to promote synergy with the Ramsar Secretariat's African Unit, as well as develop fruitful contacts with Ramsar National Focal points and many other stakeholders.

The Coordinator of the African Initiative attended and chaired the 3<sup>rd</sup> Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting for the BirdLife/MAVA Foundation project on the conservation of migratory birds (CMB) along the coast of West Africa (Guinea, October 2017). This helped to further align CMB project activities to support AEWA implementation and promote further collaboration with AEWA and the projects partners.

The AEWA African Initiative Unit and the Ramsar Convention Secretariats collaborated to secure funding from the Regional Partnership for the Conservation of the Marine and Coastal Zones of West Africa (PRCM) to support the participation of the three CMB2project NGOs from Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal at the GlobWetland Africa technical training workshop and official launch of the GlobeWetland Africa toolbox, organised in the margins of the Ramsar African pre-COP13 meeting (February 2018 in Dakar).

The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat is exploring possible collaboration with the Ramsar Secretariat for the organization of an AEWA training-of-trainers workshop on flyway conservation for francophone West and Central Africa, scheduled for early 2019, with funding secured by AEWA from the European Commission.

The Ramsar Secretariat is also a partner of the RESSOURCE project (see below) and both Secretariats collaborate in the framework of this project.

### Conservation Evidence

A new partnership has been launched with the information resource initiative, [Conservation Evidence](#). Based at the University of Cambridge, UK, with collaborators and advisers in all continents of the world, Conservation Evidence is a free, authoritative information resource designed to support decisions on maintaining and restoring global biodiversity. The idea is to give conservationists access to the very latest and most relevant ecological knowledge to support their policy or management decisions. (For further information, please see: <http://www.unep-aewa.org/en/news/aewa-launches-new-partnership-conservation-evidence>)

### BirdLife International

A four-day summit was convened by BirdLife International in association with the MAVA Foundation, the Ornithological Society of the Middle East (OSME) and CMS, among others. This summit took place in Abu Dhabi from 23-26 April 2018, with the participation of many key players in global bird conservation including NGOs, the scientific community, governments and the CMS Family. The main item under discussion was how migratory birds can be better protected at every point of their arduous journeys along the flyways. The head of the AEWAs Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit attended this meeting. More information can be found here: <http://www.unep-aewa.org/en/news/ground-breaking-flyways-summit-held-abu-dhabi>

### International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC)

The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat attended the 65<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the CIC, from 3-5 May 2018, in Madrid. The Executive Secretary participated at a special event on migratory birds and presented the concept of adaptive management for migratory waterbirds. The meeting was also a good opportunity to meet the Spanish authorities and also permitted useful contacts with other key Range States. CIC is also a partner of the World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) campaign.

### FAO and FFEM and the RESSOURCE Project

The project entitled RESSOURCE is the acronym for the French equivalent of "Strengthening expertise in Sub-Saharan Africa on birds and their rational use for communities and their environment". The ecosystems at the core of the project are based on the Senegal River Valley, the Inner Niger Delta, Lake Chad and parts of the River Nile. These are areas upon which almost one billion people depend for agriculture, rearing of livestock, fishing and hunting, and which are equally of critical importance to millions of waterbirds.

The project aims to evaluate the sustainability of exploiting the resources represented by waterbirds thanks to its integrated approach which includes: (i) assessing the resources in terms of the numbers, distribution and socio-economic importance, especially for rural communities (ii) preserving habitats and (iii) proposing conservation measures at community level. This project led by FAO and supported by FFEM involves not only the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, but also other key partners such as: ONCFS, CIRAD, OMPO, Wetlands International, BirdLife International and the Ramsar Convention, among others.

The Executive Secretary attended the first project Steering Committee meeting at the FAO Headquarters on 9-11 May 2017, where the programme of work was discussed between all the partners.

For further information, please see:

<http://www.unep-aewa.org/en/news/conserving-waterbirds-africa%E2%80%99s-sahelo-saharan-region>

The initial activities and outcomes of the project can be assessed here:

<http://www.eip.gov.eg/Upload/Publications/project%20ressource-%20july%202017.pdf>

### Other flyways: North America

On 26 October 2017, in the margins of the CMS COP12, a Partnership Agreement between Environment for the Americas (EFTA) and the UNE/CMS and UNEP/AEWA Secretariats was signed. The purpose is to develop a unified global recognition and appreciation of migratory birds and the need for their conservation across the globe. The result of the cooperation is that the International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) organized by EFTA for the Americas and the World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) organized by AEWA and CMS are now merged with, “World Migratory Bird Day” chosen as the official name for the new globally unified campaign.

### Other Flyways: East Asian-Australasian

The Ramsar Secretariat nominated Mr Sergey Dereliev, Head of the Science, Implementation and Compliance at the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat as a member of the Technical Committee of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP). His nomination was accepted and his membership status confirmed in March 2018. This exchange with the partnership in the East Asian-Australasian flyway will allow for a closer cooperation and coordination between the two instruments.

### Fundraising

From January 2017 to date, voluntary contributions received were earmarked for the:

- European Goose Management Platform;
- Implementation of the AEWA International Single Species Action Plans for the Lesser White-fronted Goose, the Eurasian Curlew, the White-winged Flufftail and for the Grey Crowned-crane;
- Organization of a flyway training of trainer’s workshop for francophone Western and Central Africa;
- Organization of the AEWA African Pre-MOP7 meeting;
- IKI project on climate resilient site network across the African-Eurasian flyway; and
- Various documents for the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties, i.e. the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Conservation Status Report, Guidance on the Targeting of Monitoring Schemes, Conservation Guidelines on Waterbird Monitoring, Guide to Guidance on Reducing the Impact of Marine Fisheries on Migratory Seabird Populations Listed under AEWA, Assessment of the Threats Posed by Marine Litter to Migratory Seabird Populations Listed under AEWA and Priorities for Seabird Conservation under AEWA.

The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat would like to express its appreciation for the financial support received towards the implementation of the Agreement. It should, at the same time, be noted that this level of support is still far below the amount estimated as necessary to implement the Agreement at a satisfactory level.

Fundraising has become increasingly difficult over recent years due to the continuing global financial crisis. The Secretariat is therefore spending more time on fundraising rather than on implementation. It should be stressed that some of the mandatory reports for MOP7, such as the Site Network Review, have not been commissioned due to the lack of funding.

For more information, please refer to [document AEWA/StC 13.32 Report of the Secretariat on Finance and Administrative Issues in 2013-2015 and 2016-2018](#).

### Preparation of MOP7

The Standing Committee members and the Secretariat are grateful to the Government of South Africa for having generously offered to host the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP7). MOP7 will be held from 4 - 8 December 2018 in South Africa. The identification of the exact venue for the meeting is currently ongoing and will be announced shortly. The host government representative will provide an update during the Standing Committee meeting.

The national reporting cycle to MOP7 was launched in February 2018 and reports were due for submission by 07 June 2018. Reminders have been sent as too few national reports were received at the time of writing.

#### The AEWA African Initiative

The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat has promoted the implementation of the Agreement in the African region, particularly with regard to Resolution 5.9 on the implementation of the African Initiative and the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa. Details can be found in [document StC13.8 –Report on the Implementation of the African Initiative and AEWA Plan of Action for Africa](#).

### **3. COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND OUTREACH**

#### Joint CMS/AEWA Unit

A separate report on the Joint CMS and AEWA Communication Unit is provided for the period January 2017 to May 2018 in [document StC13.9](#). The common unit was established in January 2014 and benefits both the UNEP/AEWA and UNEP/CMS Secretariats and has helped AEWA increase its visibility through many channels.

#### Communication Activities

AEWA-related communication activities conducted between January 2017 and May 2017 are provided in detail in [document StC 13.10](#).

### **4. SCIENCE, IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE**

#### Development of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027

Building on AEWA's first Strategic Plan (SP), which initially covered the period 2009–2017 but was extended to 2018 by MOP6, the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019–2027 will provide the framework for implementation of the Agreement by the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Technical Committee, Secretariat and Partners. It covers three complete triennia (or intersessional periods) between Meetings of the Parties (MOPs), from MOP7 (in 2018, when the draft Strategic Plan 2019–2027 will be tabled for discussion and final adoption by Contracting Parties), to MOP10 due to be held in 2027.

MOP6 instructed the Standing Committee, working with the Technical Committee and Secretariat, to revise the existing Strategic Plan and to present a draft covering the period 2019–2027 for consideration at MOP7. The Standing Committee established a Strategic Plan Working Group (SPWG) to lead the process.

A revised draft of the SP was transmitted to all Contracting Parties (in both English and French) in April 2017. Based on feedback from Parties, a final draft was produced in July 2017 (please see [document StC13.11](#)).

It should be noted that, in parallel, a new draft Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027 has been prepared following the same process (please see [document StC 13.12](#)).

#### AEWA International Species Action and Management Plans and AEWA International Species Working Groups

During this triennium, the Secretariat facilitated the production of five International Species Action and Management Plans, which are expected to be adopted at MOP7: two new AEWA International Single Species

Action Plans were developed for the Velvet Scoter and the Dalmatian Pelican, as well as a revised Action Plan for the White-headed Duck. All three Plans were developed under the framework of the EU LIFE EuroSAP project, coordinated by BirdLife International.

Two draft AEWA International Single Species Management Plans were developed for the Barnacle Goose and the Greylag Goose (NW/SW European Population) under the framework of the European Goose Management Platform. These drafts are presented in [documents StC13.15 to 13.19](#).

An overview on the current status of the establishment and coordination of AEWA International Species Expert and Working Groups is provided in the StC document ‘Summary of the Current Status of Single Species Action Plan and Species Management Plan Production and Coordination with Recommendations to MOP for Extension, Revision or Retirement of Plans’ ([document StC 13.20](#)).

#### AEWA Black-tailed Godwit International Working Group

The 1<sup>st</sup> regional meeting of the AEWA Black-tailed Godwit International Working Group for the countries hosting the species during winter along the East Atlantic Flyway, took place in Dakar, Senegal from 13-14 November 2017. Hosted by the Dutch Ambassador to Senegal at the Ambassador’s Residence, the meeting was chaired by Colonel Lamine Kane, Head of the Directorate of National Parks of the Ministry of Environment of Senegal.

The meeting was facilitated by the temporary Working Group Coordinator from Sovon, Marc van Roomen and the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat. The main outcome of the meeting is the development of a workplan detailing the most urgent conservation priorities for the East Atlantic Flyway Wintering Range States for the next three years, outlining detailed priority activities for each country, as well as overall urgent research needs. The meeting was kindly funded by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and organized by Sovon together with Wetlands International Africa. For more information, please visit the [AEWA website](#).

#### AEWA Northern Bald Ibis International Working Group

The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the AEWA Northern Bald Ibis International Working Group took place in September 2017. The Meeting was hosted by the Government of Morocco in Agadir and facilitated by the Coordinator of the Group, Chris Bowden from RSPB and the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat. The major outcome of this meeting is the triennial implementation plan, which defined the actions to be undertaken on the delivery of the ISSAP. Further information can be found here: <http://www.unep-aewa.org/en/meeting/2nd-meeting-aewa-northern-bald-ibis-international-working-group>

#### AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group

The coordination of the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group continues to be facilitated by the AEWA Associate Programme Officer for Single Species Action Plan Support based at the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat.

Activities included the implementation of actions to reduce the threat of illegal killing to Lesser White-fronted Geese in the Ob River Valley, Russia during autumn migration in 2016 and 2017, a project to assess the motivations behind illegal killing of Lesser White-fronted Geese in Northern Kazakhstan in autumn 2017, expeditions to Iran, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan during the winter of 2017-2018 to identify and monitor potential key wintering sites as well as raise awareness of the species and to enhance monitoring capacity.

June 2017 marked the end of the 6-year EU LIFE+ project on “Safeguarding the Lesser White-fronted Goose along its European Flyways” (LIFE10 NAT/GR/000638) in which the AEWA Secretariat was a partner. The main focus of activities lay in tackling the threat of illegal killing by undertaking various measures. In addition, the project included various actions on habitat management as well as on strengthening the international

network under the auspices of the AEWa Lesser White-fronted Goose International Species Working Group. National Action Plans for the species were adopted in Hungary and in Greece.

Funding for these activities as well as the AEWa Associate Programme Officer post has kindly been provided by the Norwegian Environment Agency, the Finnish Ministry of Environment, the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and the EU Commission.

#### AEWA European Goose Management Platform

The second meeting of the European Goose Management Working Group (EGM IWG2) took place on 15-16 June 2017 in Copenhagen, hosted by the Danish Ministry of Environment and Food, Environmental Protection Agency. At this second Meeting of the AEWa EGM IWG, working group members decided on the conservation and management measures to be implemented for the Svalbard population of the Pink-footed Goose and the Taiga Bean Goose. They also agreed on the way forward for the EGMP Task Forces, the national reporting process and project concepts such as a review of national hunting regulations and an EGMP communication strategy and work plan. For more information, please see:

<http://www.unep-awea.org/en/news/two-goose-management-meetings-took-place-denmark>

The EGMP Coordinator and a Programme Management Assistant were recruited in July 2017 and November 2017, respectively, to facilitate the coordination of the AEWa European Goose Management Platform.

The development of International Single Species Management Plans (ISSMPs) for the Barnacle Goose and the Greylag Goose was initiated in 2017. Full funding was secured to hold a stakeholder workshop for the development of the Barnacle Goose ISSMP. This first workshop took place on 12-14 June 2017 back-to-back with the EGM IWG2.

In addition, funding was secured to hold another species management planning workshop on 4-6 October 2017, in Paris, France, focused on the Northwest/Southwest European population of the Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*). The workshop was kindly hosted by the French Ministry of Environment and the François Sommer Foundation.

Following these two workshops, the Secretariat and the EGMP Data Centre organized an internal workshop that was held back-to-back with the first EGMP International Modelling Consortium Meeting in January 2018. The purpose of this workshop was to compile the information provided by Range States at the two species management planning workshops that were held in 2017 and to prepare the Framework for Action for the ISSMPs.

The third meeting of the EGM IWG (EGM IWG3) will take place on 20-21 June 2018, back to back with the first face-to-face meeting of the EGMP Task Forces (18 June 2018) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Management Planning Workshop for the Barnacle and Greylag Geese, in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands, hosted by the Province of Friesland.

The Secretariat presented the adaptive harvest management approach at the flyway scale, as well as the main objectives of the EGMP at the 33<sup>rd</sup> International Union of Game Biologists (IUGB) Congress in Montpellier, France, on 22-25 August 2017. The Secretariat also attended two debates at the European Parliament; one in Strasbourg in January 2017 together with Professor Jesper Madsen and one in Brussels in March 2017. The UNEP/AEWa Secretariat also introduced the EGMP to the EU Member States at the meetings of the EU Expert Group on the Birds and Habitats Directives (NADEG) in May 2017 at the European Commission in Brussels and is providing regular updates (November 2017 and May 2018). In addition, the flyway adaptive management approach has been presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> Pan-European Duck Symposium, Scotland, United Kingdom, 16-20 April 2018 and received the full support of the scientific community.

### Implementation Review Process

In September 2017 the Standing Committee opened an IRP inquiry with the Government of the United Kingdom over information about the hunting of the Greenland White-fronted Goose. An initial response was received recently from the United Kingdom, which is being considered and feedback is being prepared for submission to the Government of the United Kingdom.

### Climate Resilient Site Network Project

The project “Climate resilient site network in the African-Eurasian flyway” launched at MOP6 in November 2015 is funded by the International Climate Initiative of the German Government and coordinated by Wetlands International. The Secretariat is involved as a co-funder and contributor. The project is entitled, and its concept developed on the basis of the AEWA climate change agenda and mandates from the MOP. It involves some site assessments, two pilot projects in Mali and Ethiopia, production of guidelines and training of practitioners in African Parties.

The Secretariat is on the project’s Steering Committee and participated in the second and the third face-to-face meetings in April 2017 at Lake Langano in Ethiopia and in April 2018 in Ede, the Netherlands, as well as the other two remote meetings of the Committee. The project is being implemented according to schedule despite certain complications related to safety and security at the pilot site in Mali.

Version 2 of the [Critical Site Network Tool](#) is under development in the framework of the project and will serve as a useful information and decision-making tool for AEWA and Ramsar Range States and partners for waterbird conservation.

### Lead shot phase out in the EU

In 2016, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) initiated a process of compiling a report and draft regulation commissioned by the European Commission, in order to implement the AEWA provisions of phase out of the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands. This involved provision of evidence by various stakeholders to which the Secretariat responded, working together with the Technical Committee (TC). The Secretariat also attended expert meetings at ECHA together with the TC Vice-chair, to review the compilation of evidence and drafting the proposed text of the regulation.

Subsequently, the Secretariat - supported by the TC Vice-chair and other invited experts – has, since September 2017, been attending meetings of the relevant ECHA bodies (Risk Assessment Committee and Social and Economic Assessment Committee) as an accredited observer organization, providing expert advice on the further deliberations on the restriction proposal. The consultation process under ECHA is expected to be concluded in June 2018, after which deliberations will continue within the EU REACH Committee during the coming autumn.

### Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative

The Secretariat continued to contribute to the implementation of the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI), established under the Arctic Council’s biodiversity-related working group CAFF (Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna). The Secretariat serves on the Steering Group for the African-Eurasian flyway and attended the AMBI Steering Group Meeting. The main activities in the AMBI work plan for the African-Eurasian flyway, which are being coordinated and implemented by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, pertain to reducing the threat of illegal killing of Lesser White-fronted Geese, as well as to reducing the threat of afforestation to AEWA species in Iceland. The Secretariat also contributed to the midterm review of the AMBI 2015-2019 Workplan, which was concluded in April 2017.

### CMS Multi-stakeholder Energy Task Force

The Secretariat is a member of the CMS Multi-stakeholder Task Force and took part at its second meeting in September 2017 in Bonn. For more information please see: <http://www.cms.int/en/meeting/second-meeting-multi-stakeholder-energy-task-force>

The Secretariat was involved in the co-organization of side-events with the UNEP/CMS Secretariat in the margins of the UNFCCC meeting on 17 May 2017 (for further information, please see: <http://www.unep-aewa.org/en/news/energy-task-force-side-event-today-reconciling-energy-developments-migratory-species> ).

### CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT)

The Secretariat is also involved in the CMS MIKT and attended the joint meeting of the CMS MIKT and the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds that took place in June 2017 in Malta. For further information please see: <http://www.cms.int/en/meeting/joint-meeting-cms-intergovernmental-task-force-illegal-killing-taking-and-trade-migratory>

### CMS Working Group on Preventing Poisoning in Migratory Birds

Another CMS initiative in which the Secretariat is closely involved is the Working Group on Preventing Poisoning in Migratory Birds. This has a strong relevance for AEWAs, in particular, with respect to the mandate on phasing out the lead shot for hunting in wetlands, which the CMS Resolution 11.15 extended globally and to all types of habitats. The Secretariat attended the second meeting of the Working Group in Toledo, Spain in February 2017. Amongst other things, the Working Group decided on the establishment of its Lead Task Force. For further information please see: <http://www.cms.int/en/meeting/2nd-meeting-cms-preventing-poisoning-working-group-ppwg2>

### AEWA Technical Series Publications

The following publications have been produced in the framework of the [AEWA Technical Series](#):

#### Technical Series No. 55

International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Northern Bald Ibis (*Geronticus eremita*) – Revision 1. Available for download [here](#).

#### Technical Series No. 56

International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Taiga Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis fabalis*). Available for download [here](#).

#### Technical Series No. 57

International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) Available for download [here](#).

#### Technical Series No. 58

International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata* N. a. *orientalis* and N. a. *suschkini*). Available for download [here](#).

#### Technical Series No. 59

International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Grey Crowned-crane (*Balearica regulorum*). Available for download [here](#).

## **5. CAPACITY BUILDING**

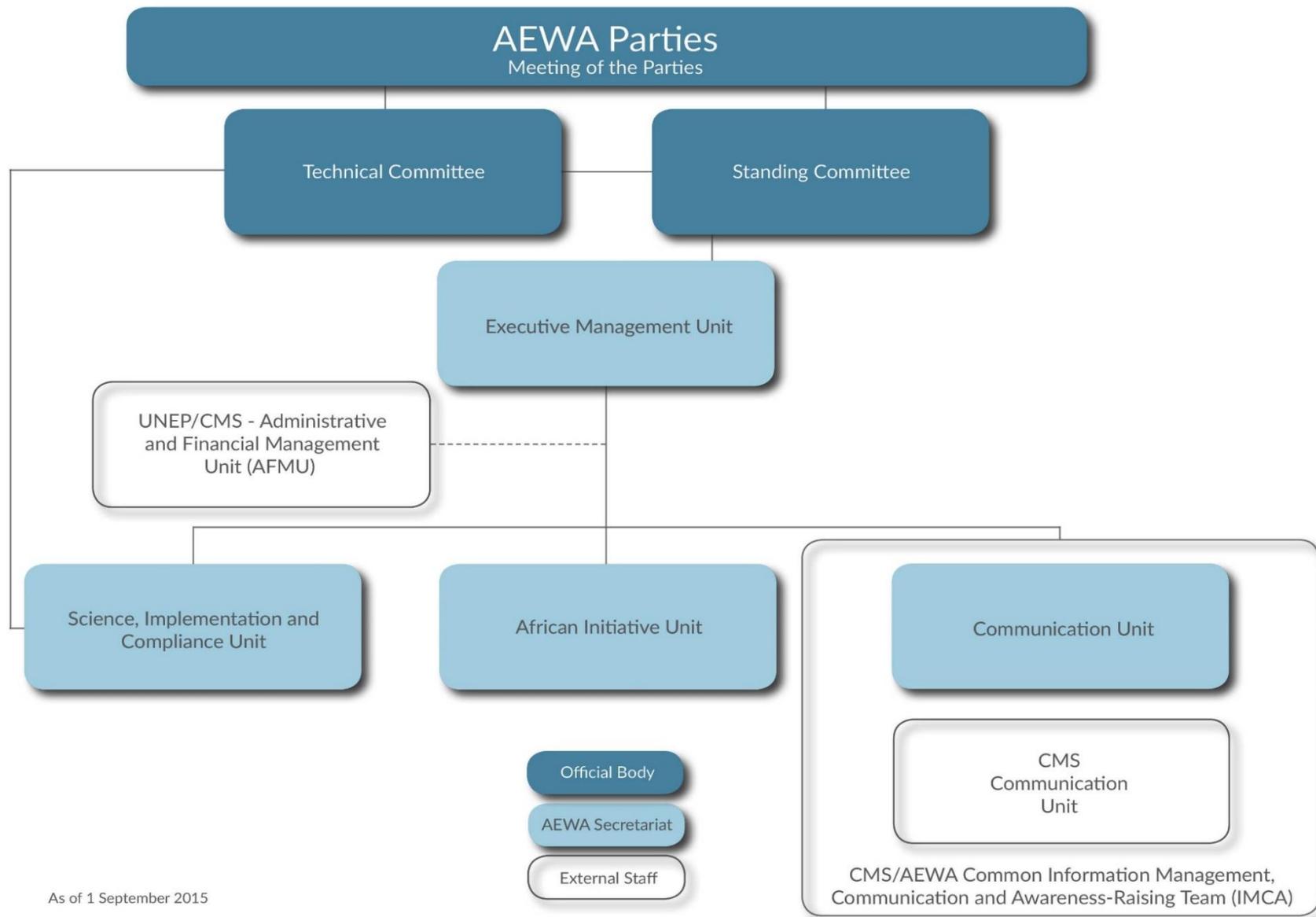
Capacity Building activities for the period 2017-2018 focused on the African region and details are provided in [document StC13.8](#).

Through a voluntary contribution from the Government of Sweden, support was provided towards the International Waterbird Census (IWC) in seven high priority African Parties along the West Asian/East African Flyway over the period 2016 - 2017 (Burundi, Chad, Madagascar, Rwanda, Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania).

The AEWA Small Grant Fund also contributed to Capacity Building activities through many projects initiated in Africa. The 24-month SGF project in Guinea entitled “Strengthening National Capacity for sustainable conservation of Migratory Waterbirds in Guinea”, was successfully completed in 2017. The project contributed to improving national capacity for waterbird monitoring and increased awareness on the importance of waterbird conservation. The SGF project in Gabon, led by the Ministry of Water and Forestry was completed in 2017 and contributed to enhancing technical and operational capacity for the survey and monitoring of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the country.

In June 2017, four new projects from AEWA Contracting Parties in Africa (Kenya, Mauritania, Nigeria and Zimbabwe) were approved for funding under the latest cycle of the AEWA Small Grants Fund in June 2017, all with a Capacity Building component.

ANNEX I – Organizational Structure of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat

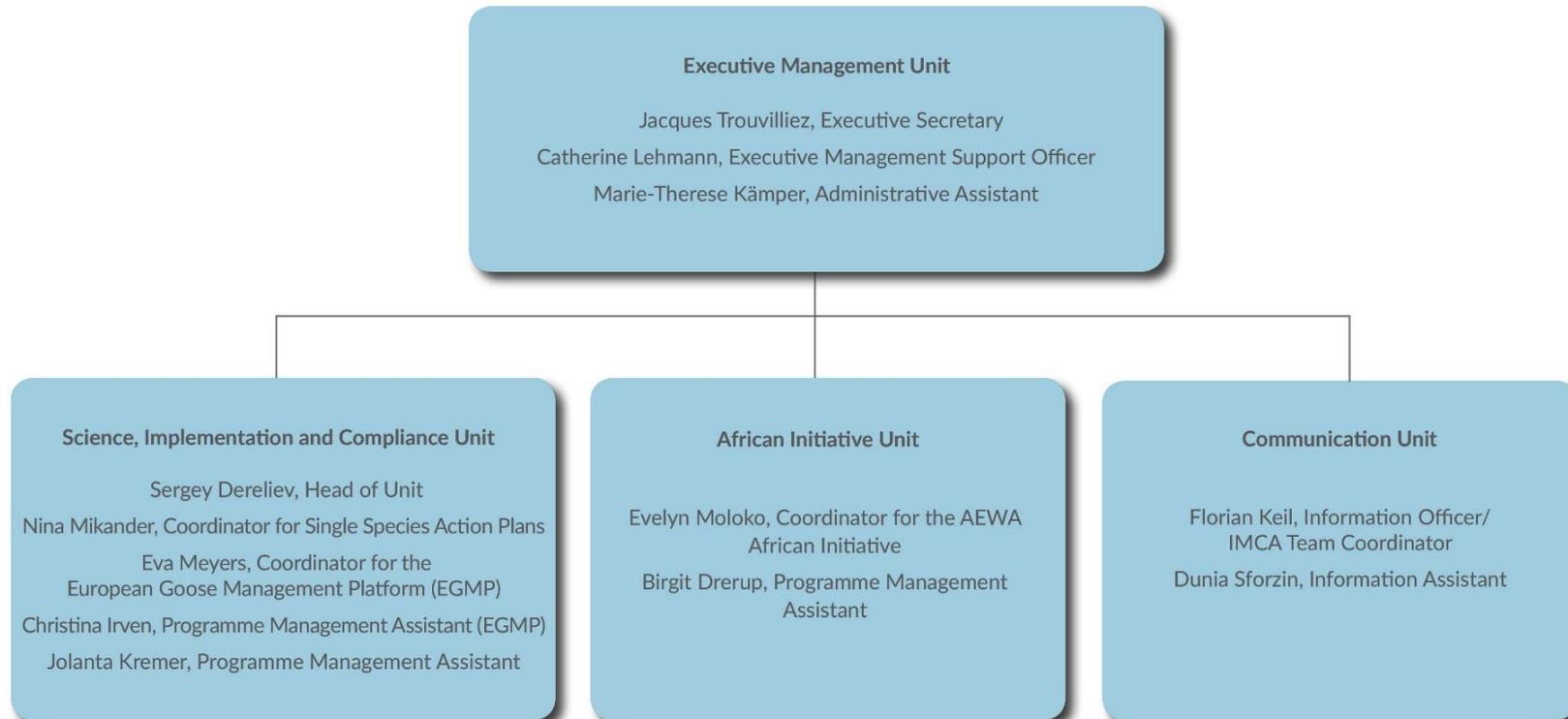


As of 1 September 2015

## ANNEX II - Staff Composition of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat



### UNEP/AEWA Secretariat: Staff Composition



As of 8 March 2018