



8th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES
26-30 September 2022, Budapest, Hungary

“Strengthening Flyway Conservation in a Changing World”

RESOLUTION 8.6

INVENTORY AND MONITORING OF THE AEWA FLYWAY SITE NETWORK

Recalling Article III.2(c) of the AEWA Agreement text, in terms of which Contracting Parties shall, *inter alia*, identify sites and habitats for migratory waterbirds occurring within their territory, and paragraph 3.1.2 of the AEWA Action Plan, in terms of which Contracting Parties shall “endeavour, as a matter of priority, to identify all sites of international or national importance for populations listed in Table 1”,

Referring to Target 3.1 of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 which aims at, in the first instance, reviewing and confirming known sites of national or international importance for populations listed in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan in conformity with Paragraph 3.1.2 of the Action Plan,

Recalling Action 3.1.(a) of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 which sets out that by MOP8, Parties should review and confirm an inventory of the known nationally and internationally important sites in their territory, taking into consideration existing site inventories and using a simple framework to be developed and disseminated by the Technical Committee,

Thanking the Technical Committee for its work and for developing a framework for the review and confirmation of the inventory of nationally and international important sites as well as the Secretariat, with the support of Wetlands International and BirdLife International, for producing written guidance and video tutorial and rolling out the process of inventory review and confirmation in August 2020 to Contracting Parties and non-Party Range States,

Noting that by MOP8 only 33 Contracting Parties, 41% of all Contracting Parties, submitted their reviewed and confirmed site inventories,

Referring to Target 3.2 of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 which aims at assessing at flyway scale the status of, the threats to, and the effectiveness of conservation measures implemented at flyway network sites,

Recalling Action 3.2.(a) of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 which sets out that by MOP8, a monitoring framework for the AEWA flyway site network should be developed, building on the preliminary Site Network Review presented to MOP5, and coordinated with similar reporting under other multilateral processes, such as the Ramsar Convention, the EU Birds Directive and the Bern Convention Emerald Network,

Further recalling, that the EU Natura 2000 Standard Data Form (SDF) is under review and that after its finalisation a reconsideration of the SDF fields for the monitoring framework will be necessary,

Thanking the Technical Committee for its work and for developing with the support of BirdLife International, Wetlands International and SOVON (Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology) a framework for monitoring and reporting on the status of, threats to, and the effectiveness of conservation measures at sites of the AEWA flyway network (document AEWA/MOP 8.29) and *thanking* the Governments of Switzerland and the Netherlands for financially supporting the development of this document.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Noting* the low level of responses to date, *urges* Contracting Parties, which have not submitted their reviewed and confirmed site inventories yet or which still need to work additionally on their inventories following the review by the Secretariat, to submit their site inventories as soon as possible and not later than 30 June 2023;
2. *Requests* the Secretariat, working with Wetlands International and BirdLife International, in line with Action 3.1.(b) of the Strategic Plan, by MOP9 to update the Critical Site Network Tool¹ with the site information submitted by Contracting Parties and non-Party Range States;
3. *Reminds* Contracting Parties to conduct field surveys, in line with Action 3.1.(c) of the Strategic Plan, for filling gaps in site information where identified during the site inventory review and confirmation process and communicate that new information to the Secretariat;
4. *Approves*, for use by Contracting Parties where appropriate, the framework for monitoring and reporting on the status of, threats to, and the effectiveness of conservation measures at sites of the AEWA flyway network (document AEWA/MOP 8.29);
5. *Clarifies* that in view of the need to avoid duplication of efforts, the assessments of the state, pressure and response indicators under the EU Natura 2000 Network/SDFs are sufficient for the purpose of the monitoring of the AEWA Flyway Site Network and notes that, where necessary, data gaps are filled with data generated by other existing monitoring and reporting processes;
6. *Requests*, by MOP9, the Technical Committee to further develop the monitoring protocol set out in document AEWA/MOP 8.29, including data entry tools allowing as much as possible for an automatic collection of data from the SDFs and including, where appropriate, guidance for Contracting Parties on reporting on the status of, threats to, and the effectiveness of conservation measures at their flyway network sites.

¹ <http://criticalsites.wetlands.org/en>