



AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF
AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS



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

“Strengthening Flyway Conservation in a Changing World”

RESOLUTION 8.4

**ADOPTION, REVISION, RETIREMENT, EXTENSION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF
INTERNATIONAL SPECIES ACTION AND MANAGEMENT PLANS**

Recalling that paragraph 2.2.1 of the Action Plan of the Agreement states that the Parties shall cooperate with a view to developing and implementing International Single Species Action Plans, as a priority for those populations in Category 1 on Column A of Table 1 and those marked with an asterisk,

Further recalling that although International Species Action Plans are not directly binding, Parties are under a legal obligation to cooperate with a view to implementing such plans,

Noting that in accordance with target 1.2 of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, all priority species/populations shall be covered by effectively implemented International Species Action Plans at flyway level,

Further noting that in accordance with target 1.3 of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, for all other populations in unfavourable conservation status, science-based conservation and management guidance shall be made available for application by Parties and other stakeholders and *thanking* the Technical Committee for developing and making available such conservation and management guidance for an initial set of five priority species (documents AEWA/MOP Inf. 8.14-8.18),

Recalling Resolution 7.5 which, *inter alia*, requested the Technical Committee to facilitate the production of shorter conservation briefs for the International Single Species Action Plans for the Great Snipe, Ferruginous Duck, Lesser Flamingo, Maccoa Duck and Madagascar Pond Heron, which did not have international coordination mechanisms, to highlight any new scientific information and/or threats, to boost implementation and re-engage relevant Range States and *thanking* the Technical Committee for producing such conservation briefs in the past intersessional period (documents AEWA/MOP Inf. 8.9-8.13),

Also recalling paragraph 4.3.4 of the Action Plan of the Agreement, whereby Parties shall also cooperate with a view to developing management plans for populations which cause significant damage, in particular, to crops and fisheries,

Further recalling that in accordance with target 2.4 of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, adaptive harvest management regimes are to be established and effectively implemented at flyway level in the framework of International Species Action or Management Plans,

Following the positive recommendations from both the Technical and Standing Committees concerning the need to approve and implement one new International Single Species Action Plan for the Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*), and *thanking* the Government of Finland and the Regional Government of Åland for supporting the action-planning process,

Noting the current status of AEWA International Species Action and Management Plan production and coordination, including the Technical Committee recommendations for extension, revision or retirement of AEWA International Single Species Action and Management Plans, as outlined in document AEWA/MOP 8.22,

Recognising the progress made in establishing AEWA International Species Working Groups and AEWA International Species Expert Groups to coordinate the implementation of International Species Action Plans and Management Plans and the increased implementation of these Plans, as a result of the operations of such International Species Working and Expert Groups,

Also recognising the need to further develop the action- and management planning process under the Agreement including the adoption of a revised format for AEWA International Single and Multi-Species Action Plans, a new format for AEWA International Single and Multi-Species Management Plans as well as adopting a revised process for the revision, retirement and extension of International Species Action and Management Plans,

Recalling Resolution 3.12 which, inter alia, instructed the Standing Committee, after receiving positive recommendations from the Technical Committee, to consider approving intersessionally between Meetings of the Parties on an interim basis any International Single Species Action Plan that may emerge,

Acknowledging that despite progress made, continued efforts are necessary to ensure the long-term conservation and/or sustainable use of prioritised species/populations,

Noting with concern that implementation of the International Multi-Species Action Plan for Benguela Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds has stalled, and *highlighting* the urgent need to implement the actions identified by this plan and the potential for synergies with other international instruments, including the Benguela Current Convention,

Thanking all Parties which have provided funding and in-kind support towards the work of AEWA International Species Working and Expert Groups to implement existing International Species Action and Management Plans,

Further thanking all governmental and non-governmental organisations which provide support to the development, coordination and implementation of International Species Action and Management Plans.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Adopts* the International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Common Eider covering the following populations (document AEWA/MOP 8.25 Rev.1):

- Baltic, North & Celtic Seas (*Somateria m. mollissima*);
- Norway & Russia (*Somateria m. mollissima*);
- Svalbard & Franz Joseph (bre) (*Somateria m. borealis*);

2. *Encourages* Parties to implement this and previously adopted International Species Action and Management Plans pursuant to paragraphs 2.2.1 and 4.3.4 of the Agreement's Action Plan;

3. *Encourages* Range States that are not yet Contracting Parties to the Agreement to also implement this, as well as, previously adopted International Species Action and Management Plans;

4. *Takes note* of the conservation briefs for the International Single Species Action Plans for the Great Snipe (*Gallinago media*), Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*), Lesser Flamingo (*Phoeniconaias minor*), Maccoa Duck (*Oxyura maccoa*) and Madagascar Pond Heron (*Ardeola idae*) as presented in documents AEWA/MOP Inf. 8.9-8.13 and encourages Parties and invites Non-Party Range States to take these briefs into account when implementing the respective ISSAPs;
5. *Requests* the Technical Committee when developing Conservation Briefs to circulate these to Contracting Party and non-Contracting Party Range States for review to assure a comprehensive information update before adoption;
6. *Adopts* the amendment to the decision-making process for the revision and retirement of International Species Action Plans to include International Management Plans in the remit of the process as outlined in document AEWA/MOP 8.22;
7. *Retires* the International Single Species Action Plan for the Corncrake (*Crex crex*) for implementation in the framework of AEWA as the respective Action Plan goals have been achieved and the species is no longer a priority for action-planning (listed on Column C of Table 1 of AEWA's Annex 3) as outlined in document AEWA/MOP 8.22 noting that this joint Action Plan remains valid for implementation under the Convention of Migratory Species and the EU, unless otherwise decided by their respective governing bodies, and *instructs* the AEWA Technical Committee to continue to monitor this species as part of its triennial prioritisation of AEWA-listed species/populations for action- and management-planning;
8. *Retires* the International Single Species Action Plan for the Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*) Western Palearctic population, but calls on all Range States, relevant governmental and non-governmental organisations including the European Commission to continue the implementation of urgent conservation action and provision of funds for this globally threatened species and requests the AEWA Technical Committee to produce a conservation guidance note for the Lesser White-fronted Goose during the next triennium;
9. *Extends* the validity of the following International Single Species Action Plans for another ten years (2023-2032) as the main threats, as well as the corresponding goals, objectives, results and actions outlined in the respective Action Plans remain valid and the species/populations in question will still benefit from the existence of an international flyway conservation framework, as outlined in document AEWA/MOP 8.22, whilst noting that emergency reviews of any of these shall be undertaken if there are any sudden major changes liable to affect any of the species/populations in question:
 - a) Slaty Egret (*Egretta vinaceigula*);
 - b) Greenland White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*);
 - c) Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*);
 - d) Sociable Lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*);
10. *Requests* the Technical Committee to facilitate the production of a conservation brief for the extended Action Plan for the Greenland White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*), which is currently without an international coordination mechanism, highlighting any new scientific information and/or threats, to boost implementation and re-engage relevant range states;
11. *Extends* the validity of the International Single Species Management Plan for the Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) Svalbard population until 2025, to enable the revision of the Plan under the auspices of the European Goose Management Platform and its European Goose Management International Working Group and associated Pink-footed Goose Task Force with a view to bringing the revised Plan to MOP9 for adoption;

12. *Extends* the validity of the International Single Species Action Plan for the Black-winged Pratincole (*Glareola nordmanni*) until 2025 to enable the revision of the Plan subject to the availability of a champion Range State or organisation as well as adequate resources;
13. *Extends* the validity of the International Single Species Action Plan for the Bewick's Swan (*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*) Northwest European population until 2025, to enable an assessment of the implementation of the Plan under the auspices of the AEWA Bewick's Swan International Expert Group, as well as its revision should the Expert Group's assessment conclude that an update of the Plan is required, with a view to bringing the revised Plan to MOP9 for adoption;
14. *Calls upon* all Range States to coordinate the implementation of the International Multi-Species Action Plan for Benguela Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds, and to prioritise and allocate resources for further development of the system-wide models of threatened seabirds, to assess the multiple threats, cause and effect between intervention and outcome as well as to inform current and future conservation intervention; Furthermore, *encourages* all Range States to adopt and implement the recommendations and related actions from the Benguela Current Forage Fish Workshop;
15. *Encourages* all Range States, relevant governmental and non-governmental organisations and bilateral and multilateral donors to provide assistance for the coordination and implementation of International Species Action and Management Plans that have been adopted and extended, in particular through active participation in, and funding of, AEWA International Species Working and Expert Groups;
16. *Encourages* Parties and Range States that are not yet Party to the Agreement, as well as relevant non-governmental organisations and bilateral and multilateral donors to continue providing assistance for the development of new International Species Action and Management Plans as prioritised by the Technical Committee;
17. *Instructs* the Secretariat to disseminate the new International Species Action Plan to relevant Parties and organisations, to monitor the implementation of all adopted International Species Action and Management Plans, and to report to the Meeting of the Parties as specified in paragraph 7.4 of the Agreement's Action Plan and through the international review on the stage of preparation and implementation of Single Species Action Plans;
18. *Adopts* the revised format for AEWA International Single and Multi-Species Action Plans as outlined in document AEWA/MOP 8.23 Rev.1 as well as the format for AEWA International Single and Multi-Species Management Plans as outlined in document AEWA/MOP 8.24;
19. *Instructs* the Standing Committee, after receiving positive recommendations from the Technical Committee, to consider approving intersessionally between Meetings of the Parties on an interim basis also any International Multi-Species Action Plan and International Single or Multi-species Management Plan that may emerge, pending their formal adoption by the AEWA Meeting of the Parties;
20. *Takes note* of the conservation and management guidance notes for the Black Crowned Crane (*Balearica pavonina*), African Skimmer (*Rynchops flavirostris*), Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*), African Comb Duck (*Sarkidiornis melanotos*) and Garganey (*Spatula querquedula*) as presented in documents AEWA/MOP Inf. 8.14-8.18 and encourages Parties, invites Non-Party Range States, partner organisations and other stakeholders to apply the measures recommended in these guidance notes;
21. *Requests* the Technical Committee to develop by MOP9 more detailed guidance on the interpretation and establishment of favourable reference values building on existing definitions and ongoing work under

other relevant international frameworks, in particular the Convention on Migratory Species and the work on setting favourable reference values under the EU Habitats Directive;

22. *Acknowledges* the adoption of the revised AEWA Conservation Guidelines No.1: Guidelines on the Preparation of National Species Action Plans for Migratory Waterbirds (document AEWA/MOP 8.31) through Resolution 8.8;

23. *Welcomes* the EU Action Plan for the Conservation of the East Atlantic population of the Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*) (document AEWA/MOP Inf. 8.7);

24. *Requests* the AEWA Secretariat to convene, resources permitting, before the end of 2023, a meeting of interested Contracting Parties and Non-Party Range States as well as NGOs and other key stakeholders to determine a strategic, realistic and cost-effective way forward to enhance the implementation of AEWA International Species Action Plans and to consider re-establishing a group of AEWA International Species Working and Expert Group Coordinators to provide support to each other;

25. *Further requests* the Secretariat, resources permitting, to produce a dedicated webpage on the AEWA website explaining to non-technical audiences, the multiple species planning processes established by AEWA (including Multi- and Single Species International Action and Management Plans, Species Conservation Briefs); for which species these are applicable; how and by whom decisions are taken to initiate these and necessary processes; as well as explaining the processes that should then follow after the adoption of these documents including clearly linking to relevant Species Conservation and Management Guidance, and other information developed and adopted under the auspices of the Agreement.