



Implementation of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa - Report to MOP8

Introduction

The reporting module on the implementation of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027 was established in accordance with Resolution 7.1 of the 7th Meeting of the Parties (MOP7) to AEWA (South Africa, December 2018). In line with the mandate from AEWA Resolution 7.1, the format for the AEWA PoAA reporting module was prepared by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, reviewed by the AEWA TC and StC and approved by the latter for the purpose of reporting to AEWA MOP8.

The PoAA reporting module complements the general National Reporting on the implementation of AEWA in the African region. Its purpose is to obtain feedback on the delivery of those actions and processes outlined in the AEWA PoAA which are under the lead responsibility of the AEWA African Contracting Parties. The present PoAA reporting module covers expected deliverables scheduled for the period 2019-2020, for the purpose of reporting to AEWA MOP8. Actions and processes scheduled to be delivered beyond MOP8 are not taken into account but will be captured for reporting to subsequent MOPs.

List of Acronyms

AEWA: Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds / African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement

CBD: Convention on Biological Diversity

CEPA: Communication, Education and Public Awareness

CEPA FP: (AEWA) CEPA Focal Point

CMS: Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

CSR: (AEWA) Conservation Status Report

EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment

FP: Focal Point

IBA: Important Bird and Biodiversity Area

IMSAP: (AEWA) International Multi-Species Action Plan

IRP: (AEWA) Implementation Review Process

ISWG: (AEWA) International Species Working Group

ISSAP: (AEWA) International Single Species Action Plan

IWC: International Waterbird Census

MAB: (UNESCO) Man and the Biosphere Programme

MEA: Multilateral Environmental Agreement

MOP: Meeting of the Parties

NBSAP: National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

NFP: (AEWA) National Focal Point

NGO: Non-Governmental Organisation

NSAP: National Species Action Plan

PoAA: (AEWA) Plan of Action for Africa

Ramsar: The Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention)

SAP: Species Action Plan

SDG: Sustainable Development Goal

SEA: Strategic Environmental Assessment

SPMS: (CMS) Strategic Plan for Migratory Species

UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme

WHS: World Heritage Site

WMBD: World Migratory Bird Day

WWD: (Ramsar) World Wetlands Day

General Information

Name of reporting Contracting Party

>>> Malawi

Sub-region to which the country belongs in the framework of AEWA

Northern Africa: ALGERIA, EGYPT, LIBYA, MOROCCO and TUNISIA;

Eastern Africa: BURUNDI, DJIBOUTI, Eritrea, ETHIOPIA, KENYA, RWANDA, Somalia, South

Sudan, SUDAN, UGANDA and TANZANIA;

Southern Africa: Angola, BOTSWANA, Comoros, ESWATINI, Lesotho, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MAURITIUS, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, SOUTH AFRICA, Zambia and ZIMBABWE;

Western Africa: BENIN, BURKINA FASO, Cabo Verde, CÔTE D'IVOIRE, THE GAMBIA, GHANA, GUINEA, GUINEA-BISSAU, Liberia, MALI, MAURITANIA, NIGER, NIGERIA, SENEGAL, Sierra Leone and TOGO;

Central Africa: Cameroon, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, CHAD, CONGO, Democratic Republic of the Congo, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, GABON and São Tomé and Príncipe;

Southern Africa

Date of entry into force of AEWA in the Contracting Party:

>>> 1st September 2019

Institutional Information

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Contributors to the AEWA PoAA National Report for the Period of 2019-2020

Please seek input from key stakeholders for the compilation of this report, as appropriate, given that implementation of the AEWA PoAA at the national level requires collaboration from various stakeholders. For each contributor (both governmental and non-governmental), please use the list below to enter his/her name and affiliation (institution, organization):

Contributor 1

Name of the contributor

>>> Dr Tiwonge Ivy Mzumara-Gawa

Name of the contributor's institution/organization

>>> Malawi University of Science and Technology

Type of organization (e.g. governmental/non-governmental/educational/etc.)

>>> Educational

Section 1. Species Conservation

Implementation of Objective 1: To strengthen species conservation and recovery and reduce causes of unnecessary mortality

1.1) Has a collaborative workflow /process been established, following the 7th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP7) to AEWA, which guides the review and update of relevant domestic legislation taking into account the amendments to the AEWA Annex 3, Table 1 as adopted by MOP7 (PoAA Targets 1.1.a and 1.1.b)?

No, the workflow/process has not been established: Briefly explain why and indicate whether there are plans to establish the workflow/process and when:

>>> Malawi is just a new Party currently in the process of domesticating the AEWA plan of Action for Africa

1.2) Has a review been undertaken in your country to assess the status of enforcement of relevant domestic legislation relating to AEWA species conservation (PoAA Target 1.1.c)?

Yes: Please indicate when the review was conducted

>>> Basically as a New Party, Malawi had reviewed its legislation in 2017 before becoming a Party. The National Parks and Wildlife Act was reviewed and amended in 2017 to strengthen the enforcement and penalties relating to various species which also include birds. Furthermore, new regulations were formulated namely the National Parks and Wildlife (Protected, Endangered and Listed Species) Declaration Order 2017 which includes a total of 152 bird species of which some are covered under the AEWA such as the African Skimmer, Eurasian Curlew, Great Snipe, Grey Crowned Crane, Wattled Crane and Madagascar Pond Heron etc.

1.3.) Has a review been undertaken in your country to assess the degree of compliance of relevant domestic legislation with the obligations relating to AEWA species conservation (PoAA Target 1.1.c)?

No, such a review of the degree of compliance is yet to be undertaken: Please explain why the review has not been undertaken and indicate whether this will be done in the future and when:

>>> As a New Party the review has not been undertaken. Yes this will be done in the future in 2022

1.4) Following MOP7, has your country established any measures to strengthen compliance with domestic legislation relating to the conservation of AEWA species (PoAA Target 1.1.c)?

No, such measures to strengthen compliance are yet to be established: Please explain why measures have not been established and indicate whether there are plans to establish them and when

>>> As a New Party, the Plans first are to domesticate the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa which provides the useful guidance on the implementation of AEWA.

1.5) Has the national AEWA implementing agency in your country taken any actions to raise the awareness of relevant national stakeholders regarding any updates to domestic legislation and related obligations that resulted from the amendments to the AEWA Text Annex 3, Table 1 adopted by AEWA MOP7 (PoAA Target 1.1.c)?

Not applicable, as no domestic legislative updates/new provisions were required following the review of the amendments to the AEWA Text, Annex 3, Table 1 adopted by AEWA MOP7: Please provide any additional explanation/justification

>>> Malawi is just a New Party since September 2019

1.6) Based on the current priority list of AEWA species/populations requiring International Single Species Action Plans (ISSAPs)/International Multi-Species Action Plans (IMSAPs), has the AEWA National Focal Point (NFP) created or updated the national list of AEWA species requiring AEWA ISSAPs/IMSAPs (PoAA Target 1.2.a)?

No, such a national AEWA ISSAP/IMSAP list has not yet been created/updated. Briefly explain why and indicate whether the list will be created/updated in future and when

>>> However, some activities have been undertaken to implement the AEWA International Single Species Action plan through monitoring of Lesser Flamingo populations in Elephant Marsh and Lake Chilwa. Also monitoring of Grey Crowned Crane population in Lunyangwa and South Rukuru wetlands have been undertaken. There will be need to update the ISSAP

1.7) Following MOP7, has your country been involved in / contributed to the development or revision of any AEWA ISSAPs/IMSAPs relevant for the country (PoAA Target 1.2.b)?

No: Please explain why

>>> Just a New Party

Text field for additional information (optional)

>>> The plans are there to develop the AEWA ISSAP in the next two years (2022)

1.8) For each of the existing AEWA ISSAPs/IMSAPs (i.e. Species Action Plans - SAPs) relevant for your country and for which International Species Working Groups (ISWGs) have been convened, please indicate what actions have been conducted in your country to contribute to the implementation of the plans, by selecting all applicable responses from the drop-down menu and providing additional information as required (PoAA Targets 1.2.c, 1.2.d and 1.2.g):

Malawi

Madagascar Pond-heron / *Ardeola idea*

A government representative to the ISWG has been designated

No: Briefly explain why and indicate when they will be designated

A National expert to the ISWG has been designated

No: Briefly explain why and indicate when they will be designated

>>> Malawi is a new party so these will be identified

A National Species Working Group has been established

No: Please explain why and indicate whether the ISWG will be established and when

>>> Malawi is only a new party to AEWA. The plan it to assign the team working on the birds national Red list (currently being reviewed) to identify individuals to form the ISWG

A National Species Action Plan (NSAP) has been developed

No: Please explain why and indicate whether it will be developed and when

>>> Malawi is a new party these are planned to be established in the next 2 yrs

Since MOP7, have any in-kind and/or financial resources been secured for implementation of the SAPs?

No: Please explain why

>>> Malawi is a new party, once a species action plan is in place, finances will be sought.

The ISSAP/IMSAP have been taken into consideration in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)

No: Please explain why and indicate whether this will be done in the future and when

>>> The NBSAP was developed before Malawi was party to AEWA. The next NBSAP review will explicitly state the ISSAP/IMSAP

Have any activities been conducted in your country to contribute to the implementation of the SAPs (including to elevate the importance of the species)?

Yes: Please indicate the kinds of activities, when they were conducted and any flyway collaboration efforts engaged (e.g. relating to flagship species or twinning of sites)

>>> Our partner WESM has coordinated bird monitoring activities is sites where the species was previously recorded

Corncrake / *Crex crex*

A government representative to the ISWG has been designated

No: Briefly explain why and indicate when they will be designated

>>> To be identified

A National expert to the ISWG has been designated

No: Briefly explain why and indicate when they will be designated

>>> To be identified

A National Species Working Group has been established

No: Please explain why and indicate whether the ISWG will be established and when

A National Species Action Plan (NSAP) has been developed

No: Please explain why and indicate whether it will be developed and when

>>> To be developed over the next 2years

Since MOP7, have any in-kind and/or financial resources been secured for implementation of the SAPs?

No: Please explain why

>>> NSAP not in place

The ISSAP/IMSAP have been taken into consideration in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)

No: Please explain why and indicate whether this will be done in the future and when

>>> NBSAP developed before Malawi was a party to AEWA

Have any activities been conducted in your country to contribute to the implementation of the SAPs (including to elevate the importance of the species)?

No: Please explain why and indicate whether there are plans to conduct such activities in the future and when

>>> IWC and IBA monitoring to target these

Great Snipe / Gallinago media

A government representative to the ISWG has been designated

No: Briefly explain why and indicate when they will be designated

>>> To be identified

A National expert to the ISWG has been designated

No: Briefly explain why and indicate when they will be designated

>>> To be identified

A National Species Working Group has been established

No: Please explain why and indicate whether the ISWG will be established and when

>>> To be established over the next 2yrs

Text field for additional information (optional)

>>> Malawi is just a New Party, and the National Expert to ISWG, Government Representative and National Species Working Group have not been established and the associated National Species Action Plan has also not been developed. The plans are to have these done by 2022.

1.9) Has your country produced the national list of waterbird populations for which it hosts >1% of the population and which have been identified as being in unfavorable conservation status and requiring conservation and management guidance (PoAA Target 1.3.c)?

No, such a national list of AEWA populations has not been produced: Briefly explain why and indicate whether there are plans to produce this list in the future and when

>>> There are plans to produce the national list in future 2022

1.10) Has a national waterbird monitoring scheme been developed/updated for your country (PoAA Target 1.4.a)?

No, the country has not yet developed/updated its national waterbird monitoring scheme: Please explain why and indicate whether the national waterbird monitoring scheme will be developed/updated in the future and when

>>> The national waterbird monitoring scheme will be updated in future 2022

1.11) At the time of this reporting, has a national committee been established/re-activated to coordinate the waterbird monitoring activities conducted by different stakeholders in your country (PoAA Target 1.4.a)?

No, but a national waterbird monitoring committee is in the process of being established/re-activated: Please indicate when the re-activation of the committee is expected to be completed

>>> Just a New Party

1.12) Following MOP7, has your country conducted any joint waterbird monitoring activities with neighbouring countries (transboundary) or other countries along the flyway (PoAA Target

1.4.a)?

No: Briefly explain why and indicate whether there are any plans to foster collaboration for waterbird monitoring at the transboundary or flyway level

Text field for additional information (optional)

>>> As a New Party, the priority is first to develop and domestic the National Action Plan for Malawi

1.13) Has your country established any mechanisms to collect relevant information/data on drivers of waterbird population trends in collaboration with existing schemes such as the International Waterbird Census (IWC) or Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA) (PoAA Target 1.4.b)?

No, so far, no such mechanisms have been established: Please explain why and indicate whether this will be addressed in the future and when:

Text field for additional information (optional)

>>> As a New Party, the priority is first to develop the National Action Plan which will inform and provide guidance on the specific actions for mechanisms to collect relevant information/data on drivers of waterbird population trends

1.14) Has monitoring of drivers of waterbird population trends been incorporated into the national biodiversity monitoring programme for your country (PoAA Target 1.4.b)?

No, but such monitoring is in the process of being incorporated into the national biodiversity monitoring programme: Please indicate when this is expected to be completed

Text field for additional information (optional)

>>> As a New Party, the priority is first to develop the National Action Plan which will inform and provide guidance on the specific actions for mechanisms to collect relevant information/data on drivers of waterbird population trends

1.15) Following MOP7, did the AEWA NFP/Technical Focal Point (TFP) retrieve from national IWC Coordinators waterbird data analysis based on the 7th edition of the Conservation Status Report (CSR7), IWC and other national monitoring data/schemes (PoAA Target 1.5.b)?

No, national waterbird data analysis based on CSR7, IWC and other monitoring data/scheme has not yet been retrieved from the national IWC Coordinator: Please explain why and indicate whether this will be done in the future and when

Text field for additional information (optional)

>>> As indicated above the priority is first to develop the National Action Plan for Africa.

1.16) In the years 2019 and 2020, did the AEWA TFP coordinate the analysis of national waterbird monitoring data (PoAA Target 1.5.b)?

No, the AEWA TFP did not coordinate the analysis of national waterbird monitoring data in 2019 and/or 2020: Briefly explain why and indicate whether there are plans to coordinate the analysis of national waterbird monitoring data in future years Text Field

>>> The TFP would like a small orientation analysing the national waterbird monitoring. Previously we have simply submitted it to IWC

1.17) Following MOP7, has your country influenced multilateral processes for advancing AEWA priorities related to preventing four causes of unnecessary additional mortality and other key threats to migratory waterbirds and their habitats (i.e. energy infrastructure, especially powerlines and wind turbines; illegal taking & killing; fisheries bycatch; and invasive alien species), at the national, international or regional levels? (PoAA Targets 1.6.b, 1.6.c and 1.6.d)

No: Please explain why

>>> Malawi is a new party

Section 2. Sustainable Use: Implementation of Objective 2 “To ensure that any use and management of migratory waterbird populations is sustainable across their flyways”

2.1) Following MOP7, has your country established any national mechanism(s) to estimate waterbird harvest (PoAA Target 2.1.b)?

No, so far, no national mechanism to estimate harvest of waterbirds has been established in the country: Please explain why and indicate whether there are plans to establish this in the future, and when

>>> There are plans to establish in the future

2.2) Following MOP7, has your country conducted any inventory of waterbird harvest at markets, production and supply chains, recreational hunting agencies, etc. (PoAA Target 2.1.b)?

Yes: Please describe the key findings or provide supporting documentation/weblinks for information on the outcomes of the inventory

>>> Studies done in the past (Wilson, J.G.M.1999. The Waterfowl of Lake Chilwa and their Utilization by Local Communities and Conservation Measures as Required by the Ramsar Convention. Lake Chilwa Wetland and Catchment Management Project, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs/ Danida. State of the Environment Study No. 20.

and Mgoola, O.W.2007. An assessment of the biological impact of bird hunting in Lake Chilwa Wetland,(MSc) Thesis, University of Malawi, Chancellor College, Zomba.

It was generally found that local communities around the Lake Chilwa wetland use various traditional bird hunting methods to supplement their livelihood household food security options especially during the rainy season (Nov-April) when there is low household income. This period also coincide with the influx of migratory birds.

2.3) Following MOP7, did the AEWA NFP coordinate the review of relevant domestic legislation relating to the use and management of waterbirds, based on the amendments to the AEWA Annex 3 (AEWA Action Plan), as adopted by MOP7 (PoAA Target 2.2.a)?

No, such a domestic legislative review has not yet been initiated: Please explain why and indicate whether there are plans to coordinate this review in the future and when

>>> Just New Party

2.4) With reference to the outcomes of the domestic legislative review relating to the use and management of waterbirds based on MOP7 amendments to the AEWA Action Plan (Annex 3), has a formal request been submitted to the relevant national institutions to amend existing legislation or adopt new legislative measures (PoAA Target 2.2.b)?

Not relevant, given that based on the outcomes of the national review, it was assessed that there was no need for developing/amending domestic legislation relating to the use and management of waterbirds: Please provide any additional explanation/justification

2.5) Following MOP7, has your country conducted a review of the enforcement of relevant domestic legislation relating to waterbird use, harvest and management (PoAA Target 2.2.c)?

No, the review of the enforcement of domestic legislation relating to waterbird use and harvest has not yet been initiated: Please explain why and indicate whether it will be conducted in the future and when

Text field for additional information (optional)

>>> In relation to question 2.4, the response is No. A formal request has not yet been submitted. As a New Party, there is need to develop the National Action Plan, and the formal request on the national review will be submitted by 2022

2.6) Following MOP7, has your country conducted a review of compliance of relevant domestic legislation with AEWA obligations relating to waterbird use, harvest and management (PoAA Target 2.2.c)?

No, the review has not yet been initiated: Please briefly explain why and indicate whether it will be conducted in the future and when

Text field for additional information (optional)

>>> As given above

2.7) Does your country coordinate among relevant institutions/stakeholders the application of

compliance mechanisms relating to waterbird use, harvest and management (PoAA Target 2.2.c)?

No: Please explain why and indicate whether there are future plans to coordinate the application of these compliance mechanisms among relevant institutions/stakeholders

Text field for additional information (optional)

>>> As a New Party, the National Action Plan will provide guidance and highlight actions on compliance mechanisms.

2.8) Has your country developed a time-bound work plan to phase out the use of lead shot in wetlands (PoAA Target 2.2.d)?

No, the development of such a work plan is not yet initiated: Please explain why and indicate whether this will be developed in the future and when

>>> Just a New Party

2.9) Following MOP7, has your country organized any events or disseminated any information, news or other communication on any national/regional/international forums regarding best practices relating to waterbird use and management (PoAA Target 2.2.f)?

Yes: Briefly describe the kind of event organized and/or the information/news/message/communication disseminated. Please indicate when this happened and which forums were used

>>> Basically, there was a press release in the print media and other media avenues following the accession of Malawi becoming a Party to AEWA

2.10) Has your country developed/updated best practice hunting codes (PoAA Target 2.3.a)?

No, so far, no best practice hunting codes have been developed/updated for the country: Please briefly explain why and indicate whether this will be developed in the future and when

Text field for additional information (optional)

>>> Malawi is just a New Party, the National action Plan will also highlight the priority actions in relation to bird hunting considering that mostly it is traditional bird hunting for livelihood needs.

2.11) Following MOP7, did your country identify training needs aimed at enhancing competence and responsibility within hunting communities (PoAA Target 2.3.a)?

No, the identification of such training needs has not been initiated: Please explain why and indicate whether this will be done in the future and when

Text field for additional information (optional)

>>> Malawi as a New Party, the National Action Plan to be developed will identify the country specific training needs to enhance competence for hunting communities by 2022

Section 3. Flyway Network of Sites

Implementation of Objective 3 “To establish and sustain a coherent and comprehensive flyway network of protected areas and other sites, managed to maintain - and where necessary restore - their national and international importance for migratory waterbird populations”

3.1) Following MOP7, has a review of known sites of national and international importance for AEWA populations been conducted in your country, based on the process developed by the AEWA Technical Committee and launched by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat in August 2020 (PoAA Target 3.1.a)?

Yes

Have the outcomes of the national site review process (i.e. the confirmed sites of national and international importance for AEWA populations) been submitted to the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat?

Yes: Please indicate when it was submitted

>>> 5 January 2021

If yes, based on the submitted outcomes of the site review, has the list of confirmed known sites of national and international importance for AEWA populations in your country been assessed and accepted by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat/Technical Committee?

No, the submitted list of known sites of national and international importance has not yet been assessed by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat/Technical Committee: Briefly explain why and indicate when this is expected to be finalized

>>> The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat/Technical Committee is still reviewing the submission, and is yet to comeback to the Party

Did the site review process include the identification of gaps in available site information?

No, the identification of gaps in site information has not yet been undertaken: Please briefly explain why and indicate whether this is planned in the future and when

>>> Malawi is just a New Party, and the site information submitted is for a few sites. It is planned by 2023 to complete the exercise

3.2) Has the list of confirmed sites of international importance for AEWA populations been assessed (in collaboration with the Ramsar National Administrative Authority/National Focal Point) to identify sites which qualify as Wetlands of International Importance (i.e. Ramsar Sites) (PoAA Target 3.3.b)?

Yes: Please indicate which sites were considered eligible for designation as Ramsar Sites and which partners were involved in the process

>>> For Lake Chilwa and Elephant Marsh sites, these are already designated Ramsar Sites. The Department of National Parks and Wildlife is also the Ramsar Administrative Authority in Malawi. Various partners were involved Government Sectors, Academia and NGOs such as Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM)

If yes, have any formal proposals for Ramsar Site designation been submitted for any of the qualifying sites of international importance for AEWA populations?

Not applicable: No new sites qualifying as Ramsar Sites were identified

3.3) Has the national wetlands inventory for your country been established/updated in collaboration with the Ramsar NFP, taking into consideration the confirmed sites of national and international importance for AEWA populations (PoAA Target 3.3.b)?

No, such development/update of the national wetlands inventory has not yet been initiated: Please indicate whether this is planned in the future and when

>>> Yes this is planned in the next 2 years

3.4) Are there any existing World Heritage Sites (WHSs) or Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Reserves among the list of confirmed sites of national/international importance for AEWA populations (PoAA Target 3.3.c)?

Yes: Please indicate which WHSs/MAB Reserves were confirmed as being of national or international importance for

AEWA populations

>>> Lake Chilwa wetland (Ramsar Site), and Lake Malawi National Park(WHS)

If yes, have any activities been conducted at the national level in collaboration with the responsible national authorities for the WHSs/MAB Reserves for the management of these sites (i.e. sites which are both WHSs/MAB Reserves and of national/international importance for AEWA populations)?

No: Please explain whether there are any plans for promoting such collaboration for the management of these sites

>>> Yes there are plans

3.5) Has the list of confirmed sites of national and international importance for AEWA populations been assessed (in collaboration with the relevant national authorities) to identify sites which qualify for future designation as WHSs/MAB Reserves (PoAA Target 3.3.c)?

No, such an assessment has not yet been initiated: Please explain why and indicate whether the assessment will be conducted in the future and when

>>> Malawi is a New Party to AEWA, there is need to collaborate with other partners, first by developing the National Action Plan to prioritize activities, to be done by 2022

3.6) Has your country developed/updated any national strategy/plan for the protection and management of the confirmed sites of national and international importance for AEWA populations it hosts (PoAA Target 3.3.a)?

No, the development/update of such national strategy/plan has not yet been initiated: Please briefly explain why and indicate whether this will be conducted in the future and when

>>> Malawi is just a New Party

3.7) Have any management plans been developed/updated for the confirmed key sites of national/international importance for AEWA populations (PoAA Target 3.3.a)?

Yes

Please indicate to what extent management plans have been developed for these sites:

Only for some of these sites: Please indicate which sites have management plans, when they were developed/updated, the key stakeholders involved in their development and provide supporting documentation/links to the management plans

>>> Most of the Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) in Malawi include protected areas such as National Parks, Wildlife Reserves and Nature Sanctuaries under the mandate of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW). All National Parks, and Wildlife Reserves have management plans to guide the management of biodiversity. Kasungu National Park- being updated and stakeholders include DNPW, Kasungu District Council, Traditional Leaders and Communities; Lake Malawi National Park, the management plan is being updated and stakeholders include DNPW, UNESCO Malawi, Department of Museums and Monuments; Nyika National Park and Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve have management plans; Liwonde National Park, Majete Wildlife Reserve and Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve being managed under the Public Private Partnership model have management plans; Lengwe National Park, and Mwabvi Wildlife Reserve management plans are currently being updated, and stakeholders include DNPW, World Bank GEF, District Councils.

Are the existing management plans for confirmed sites of national/international importance for AEWA populations in your country being implemented?

Yes, all these existing management plans are currently being implemented: For each management plan, indicate the degree of implementation and lead authority(ies) responsible for their implementation

>>> For Lake Malawi National Park almost 70% being implemented by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife which is the management authority. For Kasungu National Park could be rated at 65%. For Majete Wildlife Reserve based on the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) score done in Dec 2020 is rated 89%, Lengwe National Park the METT score done in Dec 2020 is rated at 55%, Mwabvi Wildlife Reserve METT score is 52%, and the Elephant Marsh Ramsar site which is not a protected area, the METT score done in Dec 2020 is rated at 54%. Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve and Nyika National Park could be rated at 65% and 70% respectively. For Liwonde National Park and Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve could be rated at 80% and 75% respectively

3.8) Has your country established any framework or mechanism to monitor and record adverse impacts at the confirmed sites of national/international importance for AEWA populations (PoAA Targets 3.5.a and 3.5.b)?

Yes: Please indicate when and describe briefly the monitoring framework/mechanism established

>>> There are general protected areas monitoring programs to monitor biodiversity. There is a Research and

Monitoring unit in the Department of National Parks and Wildlife that undertakes monitoring programs such as such as annual counts of animals which also include bird counts, protected area management effectiveness assessment and other ecological studies that provide information on the status of ecosystems.

If yes, following MOP7, have development activities been actively monitored by the national AEWA implementing agency in/around the sites of national/international importance for AEWA populations (PoAA Target 3.5.a and 3.5.b)?

Yes: Please indicate the sites concerned and briefly outline any key outcomes of the monitoring process

>>> Generally any development activities in and around sites of national/international importance are subjected to a process of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) as a legal requirement. For example the proposed case of mining close to Lake Chilwa wetland was rejected following the ESIA process and has never taken place

If yes, were any of the monitored developmental activities subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)/a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)/ any mitigation measures (PoAA Target 3.5.b)?

Yes: Please briefly indicate the key outcomes of the EIA/SEA process or the mitigation measures adopted and whether these are being implemented

>>> As explained above, it is a legal requirement in Malawi for any development to be preceded by an ESIA so that the negative impacts are mitigated and the positive impacts enhanced. The ESIA Reports are reviewed and evaluated by the Technical Committee on Environment (TCE) that comprises various experts who recommends on whether the proposed development can proceed or not depending on the degree of severity, and impact on the ecosystems and biodiversity

Also if yes, have any AEWA guidelines or other appropriate guidelines on addressing developmental cases with adverse impacts on waterbirds been applied in the cases where developmental activities were adversely impacting key sites of national/international importance for AEWA populations (PoAA Target 3.5.c)?

No: Please indicate what procedures and standards were followed to address the adverse developmental impacts at key sites of importance for AEWA populations

>>> Malawi as a New Party will need to include the AEWA guidelines and domesticate them according to the National Action Plan to be developed

3.9) Following MOP7, were there any cases of developmental activities with ongoing or potential adverse impacts on sites of national/international importance for AEWA populations, but which have not been communicated to the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat (PoAA Target 3.5.a)?

Not applicable as there were no known cases of such developmental activities in the country: Please provide any additional information as relevant

3.10) Has a national CEPA Action Plan been developed for your country (PoAA Target 3.4.c)?

No: So far, no national CEPA Action Plan has been developed: Briefly explain why and indicate whether it will be developed in the future and when

>>> Malawi is a New Party. plans are there in the next 2 years

Section 4. Habitat in the Wider Environment

Implementation of Objective 4 “To ensure there is sufficient quantity and quality of habitat in the wider environment for achieving and maintaining favourable conservation status for migratory waterbird populations”

4.1) Has your country undertaken any collaborative efforts with other countries within shared lake/river basins to promote and coordinate efforts for the conservation, management and monitoring of habitats of importance for AEWA populations (PoAA Target 4.4.a)?

Yes: Please indicate the lake/river basin concerned, the kinds of collaborative efforts undertaken, when they were undertaken, the key issues addressed and outcomes (e.g. water management, agriculture management, species/site monitoring, etc.) and partners/countries involved

>>> Malawi-Zambia Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) was formally established on 7 July 2015, when the bilateral treaty was signed by the presidents of Malawi and Zambia in Blantyre, Malawi. The TFCA was established with two components namely: the Nyika-North Luangwa and the Kasungu – Lukusuzi components which in total comprise of 32,278 sq.km. One of the key objectives for the TFCA is to promote and facilitate the development of a complementary network of protected areas within the MALAWI-ZAMBIA TFCA linked through corridors to safeguard the welfare and continued existence of migratory wildlife species which also include birds. The Department of National Parks and Wildlife (Malawi) and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (Zambia) are collaborating on a number of conservation issues.

If yes, did any of the collaborative efforts result in the establishment of any new partnership or consolidation of any ongoing partnership?

Yes: Please indicate the new partnerships established/ongoing partnerships consolidated and the key habitat conservation issues they cover

>>> The partnership has enhanced consolidation of cross border collaborative efforts. For example, the TFCA Performance on the key Performance Areas (KPAs) using the Performance Assessment Tool (PAT) such protected area management effectiveness has increased from a baseline of 19% to 50% currently.

4.2) Following MOP7, has your country compiled a project portfolio to secure resources for activities to support the conservation of key habitats for AEWA species/populations in the country (PoAA Target 4.4.b)?

No, the development of a project portfolio for habitat management activities has not yet been initiated: Please indicate whether this will be done in the future and when

>>> Malawi is a just a New Party

4.3) Following MOP7, has your country compiled/highlighted any examples of best practices for habitat conservation projects/activities/actions (PoAA Target 4.4.d)

Not applicable, given that no habitat conservation activities have been conducted so far in the country: Please provide any additional explanations/justifications

>>> Malawi is just a New Party

4.4) Did your country share any experience gained from the implementation of habitat conservation projects?

Yes: Briefly outline the type of habitat conservation experience shared and indicate the platforms/forums used for the dissemination of this information

>>> The country does share its experiences gained from the implementation of habitat conservation project. for example the management of Majete Wildlife Reserve, Liwonde National Park and Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve under the Public Private Partnership arrangement has demonstrated remarkable progress in the restoration and conservation since 2003 to date. There has been an increasing trend of wildlife animal species and corresponding visitor numbers. Similarly the riverine ecosystem with the reserve along the Shire River is an important bird habitat especially for the Rock Pratincole (*Glareola nuchalis*). The media platforms such the print, electronic are used. For example the translocation of 500 elephants from Liwonde National Park and Majete Wildlife Reserve to Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve, the first of its kind in Africa was publicised worldwide including being attended by Prince Harry. National Geographic on satellite Television also covered the story.

Section 5. Secure Resources

Implementation of Objective 5 “To ensure and strengthen the knowledge, capacity, recognition, awareness and resources required for the Agreement to achieve its conservation objectives”

5.1) Based on the identified gaps in scientific and technical information required for the implementation of AEWA at the Agreement level, has your country identified priority issues to be addressed at the national level (PoAA Target 5.1.a)?

No, but the process is underway to identify such priority issues: Please indicate when this process is expected to be completed

>>> As a New Party, the main issue is to domesticate the AEWA plan of Action for Africa (2019-2027), and develop a country AEWA action plan . By 2022, the plan will be developed.

5.2) Following MOP7, has your country actively engaged with any non-Party African range state to promote their accession to the Agreement (PoAA Target 5.2.a)?

No: Please explain why

>>> Malawi is just a New Party

5.3) Has your country established a national mechanism (e.g. national committee) responsible for coordinating the implementation of AEWA at the national level (PoAA Targets 5.3.b and 5.4.b)?

No, but the establishment of a national AEWA coordination mechanism is underway: Please indicate when it will be launched/become operational

>>> This is part of the domestication of the AEWA plan for Malawi

5.4) Does your country have an officially designated AEWA National Focal Point (NFP), Technical Focal Point (TFP) and Focal Point (FP) for Communication Education and Public Awareness (CEPA), each with updated contact details communicated to the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat (PoAA Targets 3.4.c, 5.4.b and 5.6.a)?

Yes, all required AEWA FPs have been designated: Please ensure that their names and up-to-date contact details have been provided under the section of this report relating to general information and indicate whether these have been officially communicated to the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat

If yes, have any actions been taken to enhance the efficacy of the designated AEWA FPs in your country (PoAA Target 5.6.a)?

No: Please indicate whether there are any plans to enhance the efficacy of the AEWA FPs in your country and when

>>> As a New Party there is need for orientation and a short training to enhance efficacy

5.5) Following MOP7, has your country conducted any activities to enhance the skill base or capacity of the network of persons involved in the implementation of AEWA at the national level (i.e. AEWA FPs, technical experts, members of the national AEWA coordination mechanism, etc.) (PoAA Target 5.4.b)?

No, so far, no such capacity building activities have been undertaken: Please explain why and indicate whether there are plans for conducting this in the future and when

>>> As stated above

5.6) Following MOP7, has the national AEWA implementing authority in your country been involved in national planning activities/actions related to other relevant international frameworks and processes, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Aichi Targets/the post-2020 biodiversity framework, Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS) and Ramsar Strategic Plan (PoAA Target 5.4.a)?

No: Briefly explain why and indicate whether the national AEWA implementing authority is expected to be involved in future planning relating to relevant international frameworks and processes in your country

>>> The AEWA implementing authority as a New Party will collaborate with other international frameworks in future planning.

5.7) Following MOP7, has your country developed a national AEWA PoAA implementation plan (PoAA Targets 5.4.a, 5.4.b and 5.6.b)?

No, the country has not yet developed a national AEWA PoAA implementation plan: Please explain why and indicate

whether it is expected be developed in the future and when

>>> The country has not yet developed a national AEWA PoAA implementation plan. this has been planned to be done by 2022

5.8) Following MOP7, has the national AEWA implementing authority in your country engaged in activities/measures to secure resources (financial, human or material) in contribution to the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan/PoAA/national AEWA PoAA implementation plan? (PoAA Target 5.6.b)?

No: Please explain why and indicate whether resource mobilization will be conducted in the future and how it will be done

>>> As a New Party the key issue is to domesticate the AEWA plan of Action which will determine the financial requirements.

5.9) Following MOP7, has the national AEWA implementing agency in your country identified any mechanisms to coordinate collaboration between the AEWA FPs (NFP, TFP or CEPA FP) and Focal Points of other MEAs in your country in order to communicate and promote the role and importance of AEWA (PoAA Target 5.4.b)?

No, please briefly explain why and indicate whether there are future plans to measures to promote such collaboration and when

Confirmation

This is to confirm that the information provided in the current AEWA PoAA National Report has been verified and approved for submission

In addition, a scanned copy of an official letter from the relevant state institution, approving the report for submission, can be attached.

Please confirm by checking this box

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

Administrative Authority Letter to AEWA 2021.jpg - Administrative Authority Letter

I declare that the information provided in the current report on the implementation of AEWA Plan of Action for Africa for the period 2019-2020 has been verified and that the relevant state institution in the country has approved submission of the report

Please confirm by checking this box

Date of submission

>>> 26th February 2021