



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

>>> GHANA

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;

Afrique de l'Ouest

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

>>> 1st October 2005

Institutional Information

Designated National AEWA Implementing Authority

Full name of the institution:

>>> WILDLIFE DIVISION, FORESTRY COMMISSION

Title and full name of the head of the institution:

Select title:

Mr

Name:

>>> Bernard Asamoah-Boateng

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Designated National Focal Point (NFP) for AEWA matters

Title and full name of the NFP:

Select title:

Mr.

Full Name:

>>> Dickson Agyeman

Institutional Affiliation (organization, department):

>>> Wildlife Division, Forestry Commission

Function:

>>> Wetlands Operation Manager

Physical address (street and house number):

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Designated AEWA Technical Focal Point (TFP)

Title and full name of the TFP:

Select title :

Mr

Designated PoAA respondent in charge of the compilation of the AEWA PoAA National Report to MOP8:

Title and full name of the designated National Respondent:

Same as for the designated AEWA NFP (see contact details above)

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:

>>> Domestic legislation already covers the protection of wildlife species and amendments in the future will focus on increasing the penalties for its lack of compliance. Along time ago prior to MOP7 and the amendments made to AEWA Annex 3, some amendments were made and has still not received the approval of our legislature. It is hoped that these amendments are upheld soon.

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)?

No, such a review of enforcement is yet to be conducted: Please explain why the review has not yet been conducted and indicate whether there are plans to conduct it in the future and when

>>> Training on the Ramsar Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (R-METT) has been completed for all coastal wetland managers. Completion and submission of these reports will be soon implemented.

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:

>>> At a protected area/site level, managers of these sites carry out operations to monitor compliance with domestic legislation. Records are taken of non-compliance and mostly prosecuted. However a review of the degree of compliance has not been initiated although the data and information might be there. Then again, there has been no review of domestic legislation following MOP7 and amendments to AEWA Annex 3.

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)?

Yes, such measures to strengthen compliance were established: Please briefly outline the key measures established and indicate when they were established

>>> Measures to strengthen compliance with domestic legislation are a part of our daily operations as an institution. These are implemented through our law enforcement and CEPA activities, which include regular routine monitoring patrols within nationally and internationally important sites for AEWA species, prosecution of law breakers and regular education programmes in schools, social gatherings and through the media.

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)?

No, awareness-raising on relevant legislation amendments has not yet been undertaken: Briefly explain why and indicate whether there are plans to address this in the future, and when

>>> There is still ongoing awareness creation on the current domestic legislations since no amendments have been done to them. This is usually done during forums and stakeholder meetings among relevant stakeholders.

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

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)?

Not relevant, as there was no AEWA ISSAP/IMSAP development or revision process relevant for my country during this reporting period

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):

Ghana

Great Snipe / Gallinago media

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

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

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

No: Please explain why

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

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

Black-winged Pratincole / Glareola nordmanni

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

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

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

No: Please explain why

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

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

Black-tailed Godwit / Limosa limosa

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

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

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

No: Please explain why

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

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

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

>>> The use of the online CSN Tool to extract information such as the global 1% threshold is not known as there has been no training on the use of such tools to extract information. However the information will be sought and the list soon created.

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

No, but the country is in the process of developing/updating its national waterbird monitoring scheme: Please explain when the process is expected to be completed and indicate the lead organization on this process as well as stakeholders involved

>>> Waterbird monitoring scheme is intended to begin during the second quarter of 2021 with all Ramsar sites. It will later expand to other wetlands as and when there is increased capacity and resources.

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)?

Yes, a national waterbird monitoring committee exists and does not require re-activation: Please indicate when it was created, the stakeholders involved and whether it is currently functional

>>> Waterbird monitoring under the International Waterbird Census programme is already carried out by the Wildlife Division in partnership with the Centre for African Wetlands.

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

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:

>>> Although there is an existing collaboration with the IWC, data collected may not be conclusive in determining drivers of waterbird population trends. Other factors may be necessary(eg. pressures/threats,

ecological changes etc). Some private institutions may have such mechanism in place but such information has not been shared with the implementing authority.

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, such monitoring is not yet incorporated into the national biodiversity monitoring programme: Please explain why and indicate whether this will be done in the future and when:

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)?

Yes

Please indicate in which period

Within 6 months after MOP7, as required by the PoAA

Based on the waterbird data analysis, did the AEWA NFP/TFC develop recommendations to improve national implementation of AEWA?

No, so far, no such recommendations have been developed: please briefly explain why and indicate whether this will be developed in the future and when

>>> Such a report on waterbird data analysis was developed but no recommendations were made specifically to waterbird conservation

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)?

Yes

Please indicate in which period

In 2019 and 2020: Please indicate which partners were involved

>>> 1. Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission of Ghana
2. Centre for African Wetlands, Ghana

Based on the outcomes of the waterbird data analysis, did the AEWA TFP coordinate the preparation of an annual report including conclusions and recommendations for action on waterbird conservation?

No, so far, no such report has been prepared: Briefly explain why and indicate whether there are any plans to prepare such a report in the future and when

>>> As already stated a report was prepared but did not include recommendations for action on waterbird conservation.

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)

Yes

If yes, in which of the following ways did your country influence these multilateral processes ? Please select all applicable options.

Through communication and advocacy actions at national/regional/international levels that contribute to preventing these threats: Please specify the kinds of communication/advocacy actions, when they were conducted, the target audience and the key information communicated

>>> Through our Communication, Education and Public Awareness programmes organized during World Wetlands Day celebrations, stakeholder workshops and other social events. Among the target audience are traditional leaders, community people, heads of government agencies, school children and other relevant stakeholders. Among the several stakeholder engagements held one was the 2020 WWD celebration. It was a healthy interaction with farmers, schools children and the media to share information on the important role of wetlands in biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihood.

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)?

Yes

Please indicate in which period

By 2020 as indicated in the PoAA: Please describe in detail the type and nature of the established mechanism(s)

>>> At the park/site level all site management carry out activities that involve regular monitoring as part of their operations. These activities have been a part of our operations even before the establishment of the PoAA. All cases of waterbird harvest are reported, recorded and most times prosecuted as and when they are encountered. However on a national level such an estimate has not been done, although the mechanisms are in place and the data may be available. The information is only used as and when needed.

Do the established national mechanisms take into consideration the different modes of and motivations for taking of waterbirds (e.g. subsistence, livelihood, commercial, cultural, recreational or management)?

Yes: Please indicate which modes of/motivations for taking of waterbirds were taken into account

>>> Subsistence, Commercial and recreational

Based on the established national mechanism(s) for estimating waterbird harvest, have any practical procedures been developed for the actual estimate of waterbird harvest in the country?

No, the development of such practical procedures has not yet been initiated: please briefly explain why and indicate whether there are plans to develop these in the future, and when

>>> There are structures in place to monitor and report any cases of waterbird harvesting through strict monitoring, law enforcement, and the use of a network of informants. However the data is only used to provide information as and when its needed.

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

>>> Through law enforcement and CEPA activities wetland communities are closely monitored for such occurrences. There have been a few recorded cases but not occurring at critical levels as compliance to legislations is very high.

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

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

>>> The R-METT will soon be initiated and the enforcement of domestic legislation will through that process be

reviewed.

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

>>> Because there is a high level of compliance from observations made. However review may soon be initiated.

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)?

Yes: Please indicate the lead coordinating institution/organization and key stakeholders involved in the application of these compliance mechanisms

>>> The lead coordinating institution with the legal backing to ensure compliance is the Wildlife Division. However this is done in close partnership with community groups, traditional leaders , NGO's, other government agencies (eg. EPA) etc..

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

>>> The use of lead shot is not an occurring practice in our wetlands of national or international importance for AEWA populations.

Its practice may or may not be occurring in other wetlands. As and when such evidence becomes obvious, a work plan might be considered for initiation.

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)?

No: Please explain why and indicate whether there are any future plans to share such best practices on waterbird use and management from your country, and when

>>> Most communication has been centered on the conservation and wise use of wetland habitats as waterbird persecution is not a major or pertinent threat in Ghana due to high compliance with domestic legislation with regards to waterbird harvest and wildlife harvest in general.

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

>>> Even though there is no separate hunting codes there are rules stipulated in domestic legislation to guide on the do's and don't's of hunting in Ghana.

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

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

Please indicate in which period

By 2020 as required by the PoAA: Please indicate the stakeholders involved in the national site review process

>>> Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission.

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

>>> December 2020

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, but the assessment of these sites is still on-going with the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat/Technical Committee: Please indicate when it is expected to be completed

>>> There has been no response received from the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat or the Technical Committee after submission. We can therefore assume that assessment is still on-going.

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

Yes: Briefly indicate the extent of site information gaps identified as well as the stakeholders/partners involved in the process and any projects/initiatives linked to it

>>> Some of the databases didn't have the boundaries of the site properly represented.

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

>>> Most of the sites confirmed as important for AEWA populations are already Ramsar Sites. There are also a few that even though are important for AEWA populations, do not meet criteria to be included as Ramsar Sites.

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

>>> There is a need for a national Wetlands inventory and the Administrative Authority is doing its best to commit resources to that endeavour. Future planning will include such activities and see to its implementation.

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

>>> Songor Ramsar Site and UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve

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)?

Yes: Briefly outline the kinds of site management activities conducted in synergy, when they were conducted, the relevant national authorities involved, and the sites concerned

>>> The Man and Biosphere Reserve is a Ramsar Site and is protected just like all other Ramsar Sites in Ghana.

Also if yes, has your government liaised with any Range States or partners at flyway level to promote synergies for the management of existing WHSs/MAB Reserves that are of national or international importance for AEWA populations (PoAA Target 3.3.c)?

Yes: Please indicate the key actions undertaken, when they were undertaken and the concerned flyway, site(s) and range states/partners involved

>>> Meetings were held in 2019 with Wildlife departments from Benin and Togo to basically share ideas on management of MAB Reserves along the African Eurasian Flyway.

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)?

Yes: Please indicate outcomes of the assessment, listing any sites proposed for future designation as WHSs/MAB Reserves and partners involved

>>> Sites have been assessed but not for the purpose of designation as a WHS or MAB Reserve.

If yes, have any formal proposals been submitted for the designation of any of the sites of national or international importance for AEWA populations as WHSs/MAB Reserves?

Not applicable: None of the confirmed sites of national/international importance for AEWA populations were considered to qualify for potential designation as WHSs/MAB Reserves

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)?

Yes: Please indicate when and provide a brief overview of/supporting documentation/link on the national strategy/plan that was developed/updated

>>> The National Wetlands strategy was developed, implemented and ended in 2016. However due to lack of funding, it hasn't been updated. Although critical aspects of the strategy are still in use in all Ramsar Sites.

If yes, have any activities or actions been conducted to implement the national strategy/plan for the protection and management of sites of national and international importance for AEWA populations?

Yes: Briefly outline the types of activities conducted/underway, sites concerned, and partners involved:

>>> Regular monitoring activities and a collaborative approach with stakeholders to manage all Wetlands. Partner organisations included the Administrative Authority itself, Environmental Protection Agency, Water Resources Commission, NGO's, The Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology & Innovation, Traditional Authorities etc...

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

>>> All the RAMSAR Sites in Ghana have management plans with some of them reviewed and updated.

Unfortunately there are still some that are old and hence need updating. Nonetheless they are still relevant and still in use. There are plans to allocate resources into reviewing and updating all Ramsar Site management plans.

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

>>> All management plans are being implemented by the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission of Ghana.

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

>>> The wildlife Division has a network of managers on all Ramsar Sites who monitor, record and report all such adverse impacts in Ramsar Sites.

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

>>> Monitoring is done in all Ramsar Sites. Key outcomes of such monitoring process point out urbanization as the key driver of developments in and around the Ramsar Sites and wetlands of national and international importance.

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)?

No: Please explain why

>>> It is required by law that an EIA be performed before any developments are carried out in a wetland but individuals with complete disregard for the law flout them. Part of the challenge is due to our land tenure and ownership system.

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

>>> Unknown

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)?

Yes: Please describe the nature of the incidents/activities, when they occurred, the sites concerned, and any mitigation measures taken

>>> Due to rapid urbanization, developmental activities are widespread across all Wetlands and this is because most of them are within densely populated urban areas.

Among the Ramsar Sites worst affected are the Sakumo Ramsar Site and Densu Delta Ramsar Sites. The occurrence of these activities is rampant and there have been several efforts with some ongoing to demolish these structures. Legal efforts have also been taken but are very slow in dealing with the problem

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

Yes: Please indicate when, the partners involved and provide additional information or supporting documentation/links to access the plan

>>> Action Plans are developed yearly for the country to include all Wildlife protected areas including wetlands. These plans are developed during the last quarter of every year for implementation during the preceding year.

If yes, does the national CEPA Action Plan include actions that contribute to promoting

knowledge and information on the key sites of international and national importance for AEWA populations in your country?

Yes: Please describe the nature/kinds of CEPA activities relating to the key sites of national/international importance for AEWA populations in your country

- >>> 1. Community education programmes
2. Use of social media and media outlets
3. Environmental day celebrations
4. Organising ecotourism and its related activities
5. Development of educational materials for the public etc...

Unfortunately due to the COVID -19 pandemic most of the activities planned for CEPA couldn't be achieved. However, there was heavy use of social media platforms and mainstream media platforms like radio talk shows etc.

Also, if yes, is the National CEPA Action Plan being implemented?

Yes: Please indicate the types of activities conducted, when they were conducted, issues addressed, and audience targeted

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

>>> Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana's commitment to creating a transboundary Marine Protected Area between Assinie (Côte d'Ivoire) and Half Assini (Ghana) is a big step towards cooperation for conservation between these countries, and for the West African region more broadly.

This area suffers from pollution, mangrove deforestation, overfishing, as well as uncontrolled urbanization, often occurring within a context of land- and sea-use conflicts. As a result, habitats and biodiversity in general are being damaged, and marine mammals such as manatees, hippopotami, dolphins, and whales are becoming increasingly endangered.

Furthermore, sardinella stocks located off the Cap des Trois Pointes in Côte d'Ivoire migrate to Ghana (as well as Togo and Benin) and are crucial to the fisheries industry in both countries; their sustainable management constitutes a key element in strengthening bilateral cooperation.

Preparing a framework for transboundary cooperation to protect the area and its biodiversity took a series of working meetings organized by the Abidjan Convention Secretariat and GRID-Arendal between October 2017 and November 2019. They culminated in the meeting on July 30th 2020, in which the attending Environment Ministers of the two countries approved the process, and gave the final green light for the creation of the transboundary MPA.

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

>>> Partnership between the Ministries of Environment of both countries.

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

>>> There are plans to develop a portfolio to secure resources for the wetlands unit of the implementing authority for such activities. This is hoped to be initiated soon.

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)

No: Please explain why and indicate whether there are plans to compile/highlight examples of best practice habitat conservation actions in the future and when

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

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

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, the identification of such priority issues has not yet been undertaken: Please explain why and indicate whether there are plans to address this in the future and when

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

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, the national AEWA coordination mechanism has not yet been established: Briefly explain why and indicate whether the establishment of such a mechanism is planned in the future and when

>>> Due to the recent change in hands of leadership of the Administrative Authority, a new mechanism or committee has not yet been set up. However it is hoped that as soon possible this team will be constituted and operational.

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, but Only some of the required AEWA FPs are currently designated: Please provide the names and up-to-date contact details of the designated AEWA FPs under the section of this report relating to general information and indicate whether these have been officially communicated to the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat; for any pending designations of FPs, please indicate when they are expected to be completed and communicated to the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat

>>> Due to recent changes in leadership of our institution, some FP designations are still pending ie. TFP and CEPA FP. As and when these designations are made, they will be reported 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

>>> Not all the AEWA FP's have been designated.

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)?

Yes: Please indicate the kinds of capacity building activities undertaken and the target audience

>>> All site managers were taken through training on R-METT on the 10th of December 2020. Further training and capacity building opportunities are being sought.

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

>>> There has been some planning activities although not taking some of these international frameworks into consideration. It may however turn out that some planned activities may have links to these frameworks and may lead to achievement of targets set in those frameworks.

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

>>> Due to recent changes in institutional leadership, there was no knowledge of the PoAA, hence no development of an implementation plan. However steps are going to be taken to implement the PoAA in the current development of the institutions strategic plan.

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)?

Yes

Please indicate in the downloadable table below details on the types of resource mobilization efforts made, approaches used, donors or partners approached and resulting outcomes:

Important note: To answer this question please download the table provided here. Once you have completed the table, please upload it as an attachment to this question using the paper clip icon below.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[AEWA PoAA Report Q5-8 Table4_en.xlsx](#)

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

>>> The AEWA implementing agency is the same institution as the Ramsar Administrative Authority in Ghana.

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

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

>>> 25th February 2021