

18th MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
14-16 March 2023, Bonn, Germany

**PROPOSAL FOR SIMPLIFYING NAMES OF POPULATIONS LISTED IN
TABLE 1 OF AEWA'S ANNEX 3**

Introduction

Table 1 of Annex 3 uses descriptive names since the beginning. In case of migratory species, the name includes both the breeding and the non-breeding (wintering) area of the population separated by a slash (/) sign. Since the 5th edition of the Waterbird Population Estimates (WPE), Wetlands International has aligned the WPE names with the AEWA names.

The advantage of such a nomenclature is that it is easy to form an idea about the geographic range of the population even without having the population delineation depicted on a map. In addition, it may promote ownership amongst range states. The disadvantage is that it is cumbersome to use such long-winded names. As a consequence of this, expert groups and scientists tend to use the old WPE names or come up with their own names, which leads to some confusion.

In addition, the online tools with maps and description of breeding and non-breeding ranges, such as the Waterbird Population Portal¹ and the Critical Sites Network Tool² makes the use of descriptive names less important nowadays. Therefore, it is proposed to revert the AEWA population names to the WPE4 population names or, in case of the names of new populations, use the same naming conventions as in the WPEs. Example of name changes are presented in Table 1.

Proposed naming conventions

In summary, the use of the following conventions is proposed

- Include the name of the subspecies;
- Resident or dispersive populations: name of the broad geographic area;
- Migratory populations defined based on the non-breeding (wintering) ground: name of the non-breeding (wintering) range followed by (nbr);
- Migratory populations defined based on the breeding ground: name of the breeding range followed by (br).

Action Requested from the Technical Committee

The Technical Committee is requested to review the proposals and to approve it for submission to the Standing Committee and ultimately to the next Meeting of the Parties.

¹ <https://wpp.wetlands.org/>

² <http://criticalsites.wetlands.org/en>

Table 1. Comparison of current and proposed (WPE) names

Current population names in AEWA's Table 1	Proposed (WPE) names
Family ANATIDAE (ducks, geese, swans)	
<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i> (White-faced Whistling-duck)	
- West Africa (Senegal to Chad)	W Africa
- Eastern & Southern Africa	E & S Africa
<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i> (Fulvous Whistling-duck)	
- West Africa (Senegal to Chad)	W Africa
- Eastern & Southern Africa	E & S Africa
<i>Thalassornis leuconotus leuconotus</i> (White-backed)	
- West Africa	W Africa
- Eastern & Southern Africa	E & S Africa
<i>Oxyura maccoa</i> (Maccoa Duck)	
- Ethiopian highlands	Ethiopian Highlands
- Eastern Africa	E Africa
- Southern Africa	S Africa
<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i> (White-headed Duck)	
- West Mediterranean (Spain & Morocco)	Spain, Morocco
- Algeria & Tunisia	Algeria, Tunisia
- East Mediterranean, Türkiye & South-west Asia	E Mediterranean, SW Asia
<i>Cygnus olor</i> (Mute Swan)	
- North-west Mainland & Central Europe	NW, C Europe
- Black Sea	Black Sea
- West & Central Asia/Caspian	W & Central Asia, Caspian
<i>Cygnus cygnus</i> (Whooper Swan)	
- Iceland/UK & Ireland	Iceland (br)
- North-west Mainland Europe	N mainland Europe
- N Europe & W Siberia/Black Sea & E Mediterranean	Black Sea, E Mediterranean (nbr)
- West & Central Siberia/Caspian	Caspian, Central Asia (nbr)
<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> (Tundra Swan, Bewick's)	
- Western Siberia & NE Europe/North-west Europe	NW Europe (nbr)
- Northern Siberia/Caspian	Caspian (nbr)
<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> (Brent Goose, Dark-bellied Brent Goose)	
- Western Siberia/Western Europe	W Europe (nbr)
<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> (Brent Goose, Pale-bellied Brent Goose)	
- Svalbard/Denmark & UK	Svalbard, N Greenland (br)
- Canada & Greenland/Ireland	Ireland (nbr)
<i>Branta leucopsis</i> (Barnacle Goose)	
- East Greenland/Scotland & Ireland	E Greenland (br)
- Svalbard/South-west Scotland	Svalbard (br)
- Russia/Germany & Netherlands	Russia, Baltic and North Sea (br)
<i>Branta ruficollis</i> (Red-breasted Goose)	
- Northern Siberia/Black Sea & Caspian	N C Russia to E Europe