



**4<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES**  
15 – 19 September 2008, Antananarivo, Madagascar

*“Flyway Conservation at Work – Review of the Past, Vision for the Future”*

---

**DRAFT RESOLUTION 4.15**

**THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS**

*Recalling* Resolution 3.17 on Climate change and migratory waterbirds which instructed the Technical Committee, to give priority to an assessment of current evidence of the effects of changing climate on migratory waterbirds, to review the implications of modelled future patterns of climate change on waterbirds, and to outline possible means of adapting to these changes, and to report conclusions to a future session of the Meeting of Parties;

*Noting* the findings and recommendations of the Review of the effects of climate change on migratory waterbirds within the African-Eurasian region (document AEWA/MOP 4.27);

*Acknowledging* unequivocal evidence of change to global climate systems, apparent from increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, redistribution of precipitation, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global average sea levels;

*Recognising* that scientific modeling shows that migratory waterbirds throughout the Agreement area are likely to be increasingly adversely affected by climate change through geographic shifts of their breeding, staging and wintering grounds; loss and fragmentation of their habitats; changes in timing of seasonal aspects in their life cycle; and possible long-term changes in their survival and productivity;

*Further recognizing* that socio-economic consequences of climate change are likely to pose an additional negative impact on migratory waterbirds, because of increase in human demand for water resources and associated changes in agriculture and water management practices;

*Conscious* that species with small populations and/or ranges (especially where this is highly fragmented), species associated with threatened or vulnerable habitats, and species with specialist ecological requirements are those considered most at risk from climate change;

*Further noting* that species or populations are particularly vulnerable when they are associated with montane habitats, habitats on poleward edges and seasonal wetlands in arid regions;

*Also noting* that, on the basis of current scientific knowledge, two species listed in Annex 2 of the Agreement are judged to be critically threatened by climate change, seven are considered highly threatened, 14 considered moderately threatened, and a further 61 judged to experience some threat from climate change; but *Also noting* that knowledge is still not sufficient to fully predict impacts of climate change on migratory waterbirds;

*Acknowledging* that some Range States lack the expertise and finances to provide adequate conservation responses to the impacts of climate change;

*Thanking* the United Kingdom for the provision of resources that have facilitated a review of the effects of climate change on migratory waterbirds within African-Eurasian flyways (document AEWA/MOP

4.27), and the development of Conservation Guidelines (document AEWA/MOP 4.28) on means of adaptation to such impacts.

*The Meeting of the Parties:*

1. *Calls upon* Contracting Parties to direct future climate-change related waterbird research, monitoring and conservation action in particular towards vulnerable species and populations listed in Appendices 1 and 2 of this Resolution, and to focus future research on possible means of adaptation of these and other species to climate change;
2. *Instructs* the Secretariat to assist in gathering and disseminating knowledge and expertise on climate-related waterbird research at national and international scales; and
3. *Requests* the Technical Committee to identify further research priorities that will inform future adaptation measures, and to bring these to the next session of the Meeting of Parties for possible inclusion in the Action Plan;
4. *Urges* Contracting Parties to designate, establish and manage adequate networks of protected and managed sites, and other adequately managed sites, to accommodate range-shifts and facilitate waterbirds' dispersal;
5. *Further requests* the Technical Committee to assess whether the existing international networks of sites are sufficient for the protection of migratory waterbirds, including the projected climate change effects, and if necessary, to propose to the next session of the Meeting of the Parties which additional complementary approaches should be taken;
6. *Urges* Contracting Parties and other Range States to, as far as possible, maintain the ecological character of the sites important for waterbird populations under climate change conditions through appropriate management measures;
7. *Further urges* Contracting Parties and other Range States to provide wider habitat protection for species with dispersed breeding ranges, migration routes or winter ranges where the site conservation approach would have little effect, especially under climate change conditions.

## Appendix 1

### **Species listed in the AEW A Annex 2, which are either critically threatened or highly threatened by climate change**

#### **Critically threatened**

Slender-billed Curlew *Numenius tenuirostris*  
White-winged Flufftail *Sarothrura ayresi*

#### **Highly threatened**

Cape Gannet *Morus capensis*  
Crowned Cormorant *Phalacrocorax coronatus*  
Bank Cormorant *Phalacrocorax neglectus*  
Slaty Egret *Egretta vinaceigula*  
Northern Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita*  
Madagascar Pratincole *Glareola ocularis*  
Damara Tern *Sterna balaenarum*

## Appendix 2

### Populations listed in Table 1 of the AEWB Annex 3, which are either critically threatened or highly threatened by climate change

<b>CRITICALLY THREATENED</b>		
<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	White Stork	Southern Africa
<i>Geronticus eremita</i>	Northern Bald Ibis	South-west Asia & South Asia (win)
<i>Geronticus eremita</i>	Northern Bald Ibis	Morocco
<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	Sacred Ibis	<i>aethiopicus</i> - Iraq & Iran
<i>Anas capensis</i>	Cape Teal	Lake Chad basin
<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	White-headed Duck	Algeria & Tunisia
<i>Grus grus</i>	Common Crane	Turkey & Georgia (bre)
<i>Grus leucogeranus</i>	Siberian Crane	Iran (win)
<i>Grus virgo</i>	Demoiselle Crane	Turkey (bre)
<i>Grus virgo</i>	Demoiselle Crane	Black Sea (Ukraine) / North-east Africa
<i>Sarothrura ayresi</i>	White-winged Flufftail	Ethiopia and Southern Africa
<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>	Chestnut-banded Plover	<i>venustus</i> - Eastern Africa
<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>	Slender-billed Eurasian Curlew	Central Siberia / Mediterranean & SW Asia
<b>HIGHLY THREATENED</b>		
<i>Gavia adamsii</i>	White-billed Diver	Northern Europe (win)
<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Bittern	<i>capensis</i> - Southern Africa
<i>Egretta vinaceigula</i>	Slaty Egret	South-central Africa
<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Black Stork	South-west Europe / West Africa
<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Black Stork	Southern Africa
<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>balsaci</i> - Coastal West Africa (Mauritania)
<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>leucorodia</i> - West Europe / West Mediterranean & West Africa
<i>Anas hottentota</i>	Hottentot Teal	Lake Chad Basin
<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	Bewick's Swan	<i>bewickii</i> - Northern Siberia / Caspian
<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	Marbled Duck	East Mediterranean
<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	Marbled Duck	West Mediterranean / West Medit. & West Africa
<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	Velvet Scoter	<i>fusca</i> - Black Sea & Caspian
<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	White-headed Duck	West Mediterranean (Spain & Morocco)
<i>Fulica cristata</i>	Crested Coot	Spain & Morocco
<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>	Sociable Lapwing	Central Asian Republics NW India
<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>	Sociable Lapwing	SE Europe & Western Asia / North-east Africa
<i>Vanellus melanopterus</i>	Black-winged Lapwing	<i>minor</i> - Southern Africa
<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Dunlin	<i>schinzii</i> - Baltic/SW Europe & NW Africa