



4th 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 4.6

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW PANEL

Expressing deep concern with the findings of the fourth edition of the Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds in the Agreement Area, that of populations covered by the Agreement, ‘nearly twice as many show decreasing trends (41%) rather than increasing trends (21%)’ and in the Agreement Area in Asia, ‘the situation is much worse: only 11% are known to be increasing, but five times as many, fully 55% of populations are known to be decreasing...’;

Further deeply concerned about the continuing negative trend of the Red List Index for the AEWA species as presented in the above Report, which indicates that the overall conservation status of all migratory waterbirds continues to decrease within the Agreement area;

Recalling that the Agreement states “*that migratory waterbirds constitute an important part of the global biodiversity, which, in keeping with the spirit of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992, and Agenda 21 should be conserved for the benefit for present and future generations;*” and its recognition of “*the need to take immediate action to stop the decline of migratory waterbird species and their habitats in the geographical area and of the African-Eurasian waterbird migration systems;*”;

Further recalling that the target established in 2002 by world leaders at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), Johannesburg, of “*a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity*” by 2010; and the more challenging target set in 2001 by European Union Heads of State in Göteborg “*that biodiversity decline should be halted with the aim of reaching this objective by 2010*”;

Emphasizing the need to take such immediate action in light of the progressively worsening status of Africa’s and Eurasia’s migratory waterbirds, and that much more needs to be done by the Parties to this Agreement if these targets are to be attained;

Noting that the findings of the Review of the Implementation of Single Species Action Plans (SSAPs) indicate that of the seven SSAPs published in 1996 only two have met their targets of improving the status of the waterbird populations concerned;

Further noting that the findings of the Report on the phasing out of lead shot indicates that only 17 Range States to AEWA out of a total of 64 having responded to the related survey have introduced legal measures to phase out the use of lead shot, despite their longstanding commitment to do so;

Concerned that notwithstanding 30 years of inter-governmental action for waterbirds, notably through the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and AEWA, as well as other multilateral environmental agreements addressing biodiversity conservation in general and the conservation of migratory waterbirds in Europe in particular, their overall conservation status continues to decrease;

Aware that waterbirds have considerable potential as indicators, acting as surrogates of the overall ecological status of wetlands, since they can be, and often are, more readily and easily surveyed than other features of wetlands;

Expressing deep concern and regret over recent incidents of loss and threats of loss, of waterbird sites and habitats occurring in the territory of Contracting Parties to this Agreement, regarding which, the Secretariat has been requested to gather and evaluate information in line with its duties under Article VIII (e) to the Agreement;

Emphasizing the need to prevent such incidents in the future, and in particular, to attempt to halt and reverse the decline of migratory waterbirds by 2010;

Taking into consideration the obligations of Parties under AEWA, and in particular Article III.2. (e), to ‘investigate problems that are posed or are likely to be posed by human activities and endeavour to implement remedial measures, including habitat rehabilitation and restoration, and compensatory measures for loss of habitat;’, and paragraph 3.2.3 to the Action Plan, ‘Parties shall endeavour to make wise and sustainable use of all the wetlands in their territory...’;

Conscious of the very extensive science base for waterbird populations in the African-Western Eurasian region, invaluable for assessing progress towards the 2010 targets established by the world’s governments, but, noting however, this science base is still not being fully utilized by those responsible for making decisions affecting the ecological character of the wetlands on which waterbirds depend;

Emphasizing the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005), that:

- the degradation and loss of wetlands is more rapid than that for other ecosystems;
- the status of both freshwater and, to a lesser extent, coastal species has deteriorated faster than that of species in other ecosystems; and that
- wetland-dependent biodiversity in many parts of the world is in continuing and accelerated decline.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Establishes* a subsidiary body to assist in the implementation of the Agreement pursuant to its authorities according to Article VI.9.(e) to the Agreement that shall be called the AEWA Implementation Review Panel (IRP);
2. *Directs* the IRP to assume the following functions:
 - a) Upon receiving information on adverse effects or potential adverse effects on either migratory waterbirds or on their sites and habitats as a result of human activities, the IRP shall submit the information to the Party in whose territory the above activities occur who shall respond immediately, addressing the incident under question.
 - b) In agreement with the Party concerned, the IRP may request a mission to assess the impact of the activity at issue on waterbirds, or on their sites and habitats on the spot.
 - c) Upon the conclusion of its on-site assessment, the mission shall report to the IRP on its findings. Based on these findings, the IRP shall make recommendations to the Party concerned as to preventing or mitigating the impact at issue on waterbirds, or on their sites and habitats.
 - d) The Party concerned will ensure that any measures undertaken regarding the activity, site or habitat under issue will be in accordance with its obligations under the Agreement and will be based on the precautionary principle. The Party concerned will inform the IRP as to the above measures at the earliest opportunity, but no later than the next meeting of the IRP.
 - e) The IRP shall prepare and submit to each ordinary session of the Meetings of the Parties, a report on its operation.
3. *Decides* that
 - a) the functions of the IRP will be assumed by the Standing Committee until a further decision of the MOP;

- b) the Meeting of the Parties may impose additional duties upon the IRP;
- c) the Secretariat shall assist the IRP, resources permitting, in performing its functions under this Resolution.