



For immediate release

MEDIA ALERT

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY WATERBIRD CONFERENCE IN MADAGASCAR: 15 - 19 September 2008

Over 150 representatives of government and non-governmental organisations as well as waterbird experts from 80 countries will meet in Madagascar to discuss urgent conservation responses necessary to reverse the declines of many migratory waterbird species along the African-Eurasian Flyways.

Bonn / Antananarivo, 4 September 2008 - The meeting will highlight most recent findings showing continuing declines of many waterbird species in Africa and Eurasia and delegates will be discussing how best to restore the status of these species to meet the target of halting the decline of global biodiversity by 2010.

“Flyway conservation at work – review of the past, vision for the future” is the theme of the Fourth Meeting of the Parties (MOP4) to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (UNEP/AEWA) – a United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)-backed treaty dedicated to the conservation of species such as ducks, waders, storks, flamingos and many other migratory waterbirds which use the major bird migration routes along the African-Eurasian Flyways.

Highlights of the meeting from **15-19 September in Antananarivo** will include:

- The release of **new population trends for all AEWA protected waterbird species** (Status Report);
- The presentation of a new study on **the effects of climate change on migratory waterbirds**;
- Over 21 Resolutions on a number of issues affecting migratory waterbirds in Africa and Eurasia, such as the spread of **Avian Influenza (H5N1)**, **lead shot hunting in wetlands** and **climate change**;
- The adoption of new International Action Plans for a number of AEWA species, including the **Lesser Flamingo**, **Lesser White-fronted Goose**, **Eurasian Spoonbill** and the **Madagascar Pond-Heron**.

The international meeting will take place at the **Carlton Hotel, Antananarivo, Madagascar** and is being organised by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and the Ministry of the Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) of Madagascar.

UNEP/AEWA is an international environmental treaty dedicated to the protection of 235 species of waterbirds which migrate along the African-Eurasian Flyways. Countries which have become Parties to the Agreement commit to putting measures in place to conserve the region's waterbird populations and the habitats on which they depend. Currently 62 Parties out of 118 Range States in Africa and Eurasia have joined AEWA.

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