

The Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)



AEWA

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Species: The Agreement covers 235 species and 521 populations of birds ecologically dependent on wetlands for at least part of their annual cycle, including many species of divers, grebes, gannets, pelicans, cormorants, herons, egrets, bitterns, storks, cranes, flufftails, coots, moorhens, plovers, pranticoles, the black-winged stilt, the pied avocet, oystercatchers, rails, lapwings, snipes, godwits, curlews, redshanks, greenshanks, sandpipers, knots, ibises, spoonbills, flamingos, ducks, swans, geese, cranes, waders, gulls, terns and even the southern African penguin. For a complete list see the AEWA website or the separate sheets in this series.

Range States: The whole of Europe and Africa; the Middle East, parts of West Central Asia; parts of Arctic and North-Eastern Canada and Greenland

Parties: as at 1 November 2008: **Eurasia** – Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, EU, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, FYR Macedonia, Moldova, Monaco, The Nether-

lands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan; **Africa** – Algeria, Benin, Congo (Brazzaville), Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania

Key Dates: The Final Act was signed by 53 states and the EU on 16 June 1995. AEWA entered into force on 1 November 1999. The First Meeting of the Parties took place in Cape Town in 1999, the Second in Bonn 2002, the Third in Dakar, Senegal in 2005 and the Fourth in Antananarivo, Madagascar in 2008.

Threats: Among the threats are habitat destruction and degradation, depletion of food supplies (through overfishing for example), unsustainable levels of taking and climate change.

Actions: The comprehensive AEWA Action Plan details such key issues as: species and habitat conservation; management of human activities; research and monitoring; education and information; and implementation. An important element of the strategy is the development of international action plans for individual species. As at mid-2007 eight such plans have been approved and more are in the pipeline.

Priorities are avoiding any extinctions among the 521 populations covered by the Agreement, reducing the risk of extinction and ensuring that 75% of the populations have a positive trend (i.e. being stable or growing).

Key facts:

- AEWA is the largest Agreement concluded under CMS with 119 Range States.
- AEWA is a leading partner in a major US \$ 12 million conservation project being supported by a US \$ 6 million grant from GEF (Wingover Wetlands – www.wingoverwetlands.org)
- AEWA is the main coordinator of the annual World Migratory Bird Day – see www.worldmigratorybirdday.org
- 235 waterbird species are covered by AEWA

