

10

years taking care of travelling waterbirds

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



1995
The Agreement concluded on 16 June in the Hague, the Netherlands.

1996
The Agreement opened for signature at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. An Interim Secretariat established and hosted by the Netherlands.

1999
The Agreement enters into force on 1 November after the first 17 countries ratified it. First session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) in Cape Town, South Africa.

2000
A permanent Secretariat, administered by UNEP established in Bonn, Germany and co-located with CMS and its agreements.

2002
MOP2 in Bonn, Germany. The number of Parties grows to 36.

2005
MOP3 scheduled to take place in October in Dakar, Senegal. In the beginning of the year the number of Parties is 48.

09-10 APRIL 2005:

MIGRATORY WATERBIRD DAYS - AN INTERNATIONAL EVENT UNDER THE AUSPICES OF AEWA

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

is a multilateral Agreement that deals with the conservation of migratory waterbirds in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. It was founded under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn Convention). The Agreement area covers 117 range states.

Many waterbird species migrate in response to biological requirements, such as the need to find suitable locations to breed and raise their young and to find favourable feeding areas. AEWA works to protect migrating waterbirds along their flyways.

The bird flyways - broad corridors, which may span long distances - cross many countries. Most of the birds nest along the way at stopovers or staging areas. During their migration the birds face numerous threats such as habitat destruction, drought and floods, oil pollution/toxic spills, over-fishing, powerlines, windfarms, unsustainable taking, etc. AEWA strives to identify these threats and to resolve the problems by initiating concerted action by the range states to which the Agreement applies.

The Agreement currently covers 236 species of birds ecologically dependent on wetlands for at least part of their annual cycle, including many species of pelicans, storks, flamingos, swans, geese, ducks, waders, gulls and terns.

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