



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”

RESOLUTION 4.9

**AFRICAN INITIATIVE FOR THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS
AND THEIR HABITATS IN AFRICA¹**

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%)’; that Africa holds the highest proportion of populations recognised as being Globally Threatened with 34 of the 38 AEWA Globally Threatened or Near Threatened species being found in Africa; and that the sub-Saharan African parts of the AEWA area are among the regions where the need to improve the quality of population estimates is greatest,

Further being deeply concerned about the findings of the International Review on Hunting and Trade Legislation in the AEWA area that in 25 % of the African Parties to AEWA, neither hunting nor trade is prohibited for any population listed in Column A; that legislations in further African Parties do not entirely fulfil the Agreement’s obligations regarding Column A populations; that as a result of insufficient enforcement measures illegal hunting is particularly widespread in Africa compared to other regions within the AEWA area with 96 % of the African countries being affected,

Also expressing deep concern with the findings of the update report on the use of non-toxic shot for hunting in wetlands, that none of the African Parties have, so far, introduced a legal ban on lead shot and that particularly in Africa, general awareness on the issue as well as availability of non-toxic shot remain a major problem,

Acknowledging that Range States, especially in Africa, lack the expertise and finances to provide adequate conservation responses to the impacts of climate change on migratory waterbirds addressed in the Review of the effects of climate change on migratory waterbirds within the African-Eurasian region,

Recalling the need to mobilize resources for the conservation of migratory species of waterbirds and their habitats in Africa in the short, medium and long term,

Recognizing the importance of strengthening cooperation and exchange of information among African Range States with regards to the conservation of migratory waterbirds, and

Further recognizing the need and importance of the Secretariat to cooperate and collaborate with other relevant MEAs in the conservation of migratory waterbirds.

¹ This item was originally focused on the conservation of the Great Rift Valley; however during the course of the meeting, and, in close consultation with the respective stakeholders, the idea evolved to strengthen waterbird and wetland conservation capacity for the whole of Africa.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Instructs* the Secretariat to continue providing advisory services to the AEWA African Range States;
2. *Instructs* the Secretariat to mobilise the necessary resources, in close cooperation with other relevant biodiversity-related convention secretariats;
3. *Also instructs* the Secretariat, resources permitting, in close cooperation with the Technical Committee, to draft a plan of action for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in Africa, including a proposal for priority areas, to be submitted to MOP5;
4. *Further instructs* the Secretariat to envisage synergies and to enhance cooperation with existing activities of other relevant conventions and organisations in Africa such as on capacity building, the development of action plans or pilot projects for implementation of waterbird and habitat conservation projects;
5. *Requests* Contracting Parties to provide the financial resources or in-kind human resources to establish a post for an Officer to coordinate AEWA activities in Africa within the AEWA Secretariat; and
6. *Invites* all Range States, international organisations, development agencies, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other potential donors to support this African Initiative.