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

Strategic Plan 2009-2017

Adopted by the 4th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA in September 2008

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AEWA Strategic Plan 2009–2017

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5. Introduction

The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) provides the legal framework for the implementation of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA). AEWA is a comprehensive agreement among States for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory waterbirds. AEWA's primary aim is to implement and provide for the effective and coordinated implementation of the CMS in the region. AEWA is unique in that it is the only treaty under the CMS that is binding for the region, and it addresses the management of migratory waterbirds across the region.

The Strategic Plan of AEWA is a document that sets out the strategic direction for the implementation of AEWA over a period of five years. It is a key instrument for guiding the implementation of AEWA's objectives and ensuring the effective and efficient use of resources.

2. Background

At the 4th Conference of the Parties (CoP) in 2001, AEWA Parties endorsed the AEWA Strategic Plan. This Plan is a tool for guiding the implementation of AEWA's objectives and provides a framework for the coordinated and effective use of resources.

The Plan sets out the strategic direction for the implementation of AEWA over a period of five years. It is a key instrument for guiding the implementation of AEWA's objectives and ensuring the effective and efficient use of resources.

To achieve the objectives of AEWA, the Plan has been developed to provide a clear and coherent framework for the implementation of AEWA's objectives. The Plan focuses on the identification of key priorities for the implementation of AEWA's objectives, and it sets out specific targets and activities to achieve these priorities.

In summary, the Plan is a key instrument for guiding the implementation of AEWA's objectives and ensuring the effective and efficient use of resources. It sets out the strategic direction for the implementation of AEWA over a period of five years, and it identifies specific targets and activities to achieve these priorities.

3. AEWA

The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) is a multilateral environmental agreement that provides a legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory birds. AEWA is a comprehensive agreement among States for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory waterbirds. AEWA is unique in that it is the only treaty under the CMS that is binding for the region, and it addresses the management of migratory waterbirds across the region.

The Plan sets out the strategic direction for the implementation of AEWA over a period of five years. It is a key instrument for guiding the implementation of AEWA's objectives and ensuring the effective and efficient use of resources.

In summary, the Plan is a key instrument for guiding the implementation of AEWA's objectives and ensuring the effective and efficient use of resources. It sets out the strategic direction for the implementation of AEWA over a period of five years, and it identifies specific targets and activities to achieve these priorities.

Through this Plan, AEWA Parties aim to achieve the objectives of AEWA and to ensure the effective and efficient use of resources. The Plan sets out specific targets and activities to achieve these priorities, and it provides a framework for the coordinated and effective implementation of AEWA's objectives.

In summary, the Plan is a key instrument for guiding the implementation of AEWA's objectives and ensuring the effective and efficient use of resources. It sets out the strategic direction for the implementation of AEWA over a period of five years, and it identifies specific targets and activities to achieve these priorities.

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In summary, the Plan is a key instrument for guiding the implementation of AEWA's objectives and ensuring the effective and efficient use of resources. It sets out the strategic direction for the implementation of AEWA over a period of five years, and it identifies specific targets and activities to achieve these priorities.
4. Approach

Many of the CMS Parties, which have been involved in developing the CMS Strategic Plan, are also Contracting Parties to AEWA. During the process, considerable consensus-building took place, which fits the AEWA Strategic Plan. It is therefore expected that the Parties will support the Strategic Plan with equal enthusiasm and commitment. AEWA is expected to fit within the AEWA Strategic Plan. It is therefore expected that the Parties will support the development of a Strategic Plan for AEWA along similar lines to the CMS Strategic Plan, in terms of format. In addition, the AEWA Strategic Plan formulates the Agreement’s specific objectives and targets to reflect AEWA’s distinct identity and role.

Figure 1. Geographical coverage of AEWA Contracting Parties as at August 2008

5. Duration

This Strategic Plan was developed for and adopted by MOP4 in 2008. It is valid for a period of nine years, from 2009 to 2017. A new Strategic Plan will be prepared in accordance with the Parties at MOP7. The Strategic Plan could be revised and updated at each MOP to ensure its continued relevance (please see chapter 6 Evaluation & Review on page 10).
6. The AEWA Strategic Plan 2009–2017

6.1 Scope

The AEWA Strategic Plan is intended to provide the coherent and strategic framework for the implementation of the Agreement to encourage the Contracting Parties in preparing plans after the Standing Committee and/or the Technical Committees, as necessary, and/or for parties to the Agreement. It is intended also to ensure a harmonized regional framework.

6.1.3 Status

All species along the different Flyways share similar issues concerning their management and are part of the same phenomenon. Therefore, cooperation and awareness raising within the different species, their populations and their areas are necessary to implement effectively the philosophy of AEWA and to provide conservation and people who need to work together to conserve a threatened environment.

6.1 Goal

To maintain or to restore migratory bird species and their populations at a favourable conservation status throughout their flyways.

In the case of flying bird species, this collaboration is essential for maintaining bird populations along their global flyways. It is also necessary to ensure the implementation of all conservation measures taken by the Standing Committee in order to maintain and/or restore the migratory bird species and their populations.

6.2 Context


The first three objectives are related to policies and action programmes carried out within AEWA, and the next three are concerned with interventions, assistance and knowledge development and sharing specific and coherent objectives, as well as supporting institutional capacity that the Agreement is striving to achieve.
Within the Strategic Plan’s Logical Framework, the targets have been aligned to fit the National Reporting Format, which is included where appropriate in the Table of Sources as means of verification.

A.5 Targets and Indicators

To achieve each objective, a series of targets has been set. With the help of quantifiable indicators, the success of these targets can be measured at certain moments in time. The sources and indicators have also been identified, and have been reflected in the Table of Sources as means of verification.
4.1 Objectives

The objectives are to deliver, in a more effective, consistent, timely, and transparent manner, the Action Plan for the protection of waterbirds and their habitats and ecosystems, as well as to ensure that the implementation of the Action Plan is consistent with the recommendations for sustainable development contained in the AEWA Strategic Plan 2020–2029.

4.2 Objectives 1

To achieve the conservation objective of waterbirds and their habitats and ecosystems:

1.1 To develop and implement a comprehensive and integrated conservation strategy for waterbirds and their habitats and ecosystems, which will be based on the best available scientific knowledge and will be regularly reviewed to ensure that it remains effective.

1.2 To develop and implement a comprehensive and integrated monitoring program for waterbirds and their habitats and ecosystems, which will be based on the best available scientific knowledge and will be regularly reviewed to ensure that it remains effective.

1.3 To develop and implement a comprehensive and integrated management program for waterbirds and their habitats and ecosystems, which will be based on the best available scientific knowledge and will be regularly reviewed to ensure that it remains effective.

4.3 Objectives 2

To ensure that the implementation of the Action Plan is sustainable:

2.1 To establish and maintain a comprehensive and integrated information system for waterbirds and their habitats and ecosystems, which will be based on the best available scientific knowledge and will be regularly reviewed to ensure that it remains effective.

2.2 To develop and implement a comprehensive and integrated education and training program for waterbirds and their habitats and ecosystems, which will be based on the best available scientific knowledge and will be regularly reviewed to ensure that it remains effective.

2.3 To develop and implement a comprehensive and integrated communication and awareness-raising program for waterbirds and their habitats and ecosystems, which will be based on the best available scientific knowledge and will be regularly reviewed to ensure that it remains effective.

2.4 To develop and implement a comprehensive and integrated monitoring program for waterbirds and their habitats and ecosystems, which will be based on the best available scientific knowledge and will be regularly reviewed to ensure that it remains effective.
4.3 Objectives 3

To improve communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) about migratory bird species and their threats, and to ensure that awareness and concern are raised to deal with new threats. (III.8.3)

Within the past three years, the AEWA has developed a communication strategy that provides the framework for the continued development of this. However, it is essential that such awareness is maintained and further developed, as the level of awareness will determine the success of the AEWA Agreement as a means of achieving its objectives and ensuring the continued survival of the AEWA species. Therefore, the implementation of the AEWA communication strategy is essential to achieving the objectives of the AEWA Agreement.

4.4 Objectives 4

To improve the status of migratory birds and the international cooperation and support towards the conservation and management of important species of migratory birds. (III.8.4)

Cooperation within the Contracting Parties, as well as between them internationally, is key to the success of the AEWA Agreement. There is a need to improve cooperation and to ensure that all Contracting Parties are fully committed to the AEWA Agreement's objectives.
AEWA Strategy Plan 2015-2020

1. Operational principles (OP)

Reflecting the principles of AEWA, no new agreements and no other convention(s) and their respective protocols should be included or excluded from the family for implementation. The AEWA Plan, will be adapted and applied as Operational Principles in implementation agreements.

OP.1. The Strategy Plan is a guiding document to the implementation of the Agreement.

OP.2. To regulate the general provisions of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the phases of implementation.

OP.3. To formulate new agreements and their respective protocols, or to exclude agreements, and/or other convention(s) and their respective protocols, from the AEWA family.

OP.4. To standardize the specific roles and responsibilities of the host country and the effectiveness of the host country in the implementation of the Agreement.

OP.5. To ensure that all steps are taken to meet the new strategies as set forth in the revised AEWA Strategic Plan.

OP.6. To monitor and promote implementation and all events throughout the implementation of the Agreement.
4.3 Evaluation & Review

Evaluation of performance, achievements and impact is internally linked to coherent and strategic implementation of the Agreement, and described in the Strategic Plan. This linkage may be achieved by the IWP of demonstrating, in order-to-require an appropriate model of strategic and tactical implementation of the Agreement. Therefore, the Strategic Plan, which serves to bring the provisions on IWP to life, is considered as an integral part of the Agreement.

The Strategic Plan and the newly developed National Reporting Format have been designed so as to first meet the information requirements as well as providing a strategic context within which the parties are to deliver Plan, the Conceptual Plan, and other relevant aspects are expected to develop into the IWP have certain implications on the Strategic Plan at their level.

An evaluation is recommended at a European Bank Plan to form a country the Strategic Plan, the Conceptual Plan, and the Implementation Plan. This evaluation should be conducted at the end of the Strategic Plan, and the Implementation Plan. The Strategic Plan should be evaluated in light of these findings and reviewed by the Executive Committee on a regular basis to ensure alignment with the Strategic Plan at the European Bank Plan level.

Amendments to the Strategic Plan could be approved by the IWP. Proposed amendments can be submitted in light of the Strategic Plan, the Conceptual Plan, and the Implementation Plan. Amendments should be considered by the Executive Committee prior to the adoption of the IWP, then being included in the amendment for amendments to the Strategic Plan.
### AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017

#### 8. Logical Framework Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Output Indicator</th>
<th>Monitoring</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Measurable Outputs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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All countries along the AEWA Critical Flyway should consider a target population of waterbirds throughout the region endorsed, including MOP3 as the platform for this target to be endorsed.

- **Goal:** To maintain or return to pre-migratory conditions.
- **Target:** To maintain or return to pre-migratory conditions.
- **Indicator:** The AEWA Conservation Status Review (CSR) 2008 assessed that 58% of the populations with known trends (n = 370) have stable or growing trends. 29% of all AEWA populations (n = 522) are with unknown trends, and 41% of all populations are either stable or growing.

Additional notes (if any):
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Main Actors</th>
<th>Overall Status of Indicator</th>
<th>Species Status, National Red List Ing</th>
<th>Reason for Improvement</th>
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Overall, the status of indicators has improved, as measured by the Waterbird Indicator. The extinction risk of waterbirds has reduced, as measured by the Red List Index. 20% of threatened and Near Threatened species have been downlisted to lower categories of threat.
AEWA Strategic Plan 2009–2017

Targets (To be achieved by 2017)

Indicators (Quantifiable measures of achievement)

Means of Verification (Sources of information for indicators)

Main Actions applicable

species in any CPs territory

Current favourable status of AEWA waterbird species, as breeding, migrating or wintering species, within any CPs has been retained

At least 75% of AEWA waterbird species occurring in any CP have a positive trend (stable or growing)

20% of threatened and Near Threatened species have been downlisted to lower categories of threat in each CP

Objective 1

To undertake conservation measures so as to improve or maintain conservation status of waterbird species and their populations

1.1 Full legal protection is provided to all Column A species

All CPs have adopted national legislation protecting all Column A species

National reports (Species matrix – legal status) CPs
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Range</th>
<th>Impact Assessment</th>
<th>Environmentally Sustainable Development</th>
<th>Management Measures</th>
<th>Threats and Impacts</th>
<th>Coherence of Delivery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009-2017</td>
<td></td>
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AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017
AEWA Strategic Plan 2009–2017

15. Targets (Targets to be achieved by 2017)

15.1 Inicators (Quantifiable measures of achievement)

15.2 Means of Verification (Sources of information for indicators)

Main Actions on non-native species by other international fora, such as CBD, Bern Convention, and GIIS specific measures for invasive non-native species of waterbirds and are implementing them in order to ensure their control or eradication questions 9-11

AEWA review on the status of introduced non-native waterbird species and hybrids thereof

Objectives

2. To ensure that any use of waterbirds in the Agreement area is sustainable

2.1 The use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands is phased out in all CPs

All CPs have adopted national legislation prohibiting the use of lead shot (in wetlands)

No authenticated report of continued use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands in the Agreement area is received by the Secretariat


Internationally coordinated collection of harvest data is developed and implemented internationally coordinated harvest data collection in place involving at least 25% of the CPs

International reports (Presslus and replies – 6. Management of human activities, 6.1. Hunting, questions 17)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Achievement</th>
<th>Monitoring</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Threats</td>
<td>Vector Objectives</td>
<td>Knowledge and actions needed to reduce threat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strategic management interventions.

3.3 Nationa...
### AEWA Strategic Plan 2009–2017

#### Targets (Targets to be achieved by 2017)

| Indicator | Description | Monitoring and Evaluation | Main Actions
|-----------|-------------|----------------------------|--------------
| Indicator 1 | Description 1 | Monitoring and Evaluation 1 | Main Actions 1
| Indicator 2 | Description 2 | Monitoring and Evaluation 2 | Main Actions 2
| Indicator 3 | Description 3 | Monitoring and Evaluation 3 | Main Actions 3

#### Indicators:
- Quantifiable measures of achievement

#### Means of Verification:
- Sources of information for indicators

#### Main Actions:
- Underpin relevant conservation decision-making triennium

#### Objective 1
- To improve Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) about migratory waterbird species, their flyways, their role in alleviating poverty, threats to them and the measures needed to conserve them and their habitats

#### Objective 2
- Support for the implementation of the Communication Strategy (CS) is secured: 100% funding and other support, as appropriate (e.g. expertise, network, skills and resources) is secured for the Communication Strategy implementation

#### Implementation Progress:
- The Communication Strategy has been monitored annually and reviewed and updated on a tri-annual basis
- The strategy document Secretariat Secretariat reports CPs, other donors

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**Note:** The table represents the strategic plan's objectives, targets, indicators, and main actions. Each column corresponds to a different aspect of the plan's implementation and progress tracking.
## Targets (Targets to be achieved by 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Source of Information</th>
<th>Main Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Training workshop reports</td>
<td>Training workshops have been held in each AEWA region (CS 3.1)</td>
<td>Secretariat, CEPA</td>
<td>At least one training of trainers workshop for CEPA has been held in each AEWA region</td>
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</table>
### AEWA Strategic Plan 2009–2017

#### Targets (to be achieved by 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Quantifiable measures of achievement</th>
<th>Sources of information for indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Main Actions supported by monthly electronic updates (CS4.2)**

- The infrastructure for e-discussions is in place and the discussions facilitated (CS4.3)
- The e-forum Secretariat reports
- The guidelines have been updated and distributed to all non-CPs (CS4.4)
- The guidelines distribution list is produced, and distributed, providing a set of resource materials for awareness raising at the national level (CS4.5)

**At least 25% of CPs have developed and are implementing programmes for raising awareness and understanding on waterbird conservation and AEWA**

**National reports** (Presse and ressources - 8. Education and formation, 8.1 AEWA)
## Target

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Means of Verification</th>
<th>Main Actions</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.1 The membership of the Agreement is expanded</td>
<td>AEWA Membership has increased to 75 Parties by MOP5, to 85 Parties by MOP6, and to 90 Parties by MOP7, with particular focus on Central Asia and the Middle East</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
AEWA Strategic Plan 2009–2017

Targets (to be achieved by 2017)

Indicators (quantifiable measures of achievement)

Means of Verification (sources of information for indicators)

Main Actions

5.6 Capacity of national staff to implement the Agreement is increased through proper training mechanisms.

At least 300 government staff members have been trained in at least 20 countries. Training reports to the Secretariat

5.7 Appropriate national coordination mechanism for implementation of AEWA leading to national coordination mechanisms for other biodiversity MEAs are established.

At least 50% of the Contracting Parties have established and are operational on regular basis. National reports (Presectoral and sectoral – 9. Implementation, questions 36)

AEWA is recognized by other biodiversity MEAs as a MEA whose effectiveness in protecting waterbirds can be used as an indicator for sustaining biodiversity on a global level. All global biodiversity MEAs are referring to the effectiveness of AEWA as an indicator for sustaining biodiversity on a global level. AEWA and other biodiversity MEAs' resolutions to this end.
8. Definitions

**Strategic site**

A site which is a component of a network of sites which together form a network of sites considered for the conservation of a species or species group of Community interest. (Article 4(3)

**Strategic area**

An area or part of an area which is a component of a network of areas which together form a network of areas considered for the conservation of an ecosystem or ecological community of Community interest. (Article 4(3)

**Strategic ecosystem**

An ecosystem or part of an ecosystem which is a component of an area of ecosystems which together form an area of ecosystems considered for the conservation of a biological component or components of an ecosystem of Community interest. (Article 4(3)

**Strategic habitat**

A habitat or part of a habitat which is a component of a network of habitats or parts of habitats which together form a network of habitats considered for the conservation of a species, or species group, or species and habitat of Community interest. (Article 4(3)

**List A**

Species, where populations are listed as in Table 1 or Annex I of the CMS.

**List B**

Species, where populations are listed in Table 1 or Annex I of the CMS.

**List C**

Species, where populations are listed in Annex I of the CMS.

**List D**

Species, where populations are listed in Annex I of the CMS.

**List of Species**

The list of species for which the CMS was established in May 2002.

**List of Habitats**

The list of habitats for which the CMS was established in May 2002.

**List of Ecosystems**

The list of ecosystems for which the CMS was established in May 2002.

**List of Areas**

The list of areas for which the CMS was established in May 2002.

**List of Populations**

The list of populations for which the CMS was established in May 2002.

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