

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE MEETING
OF THE PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT ON THE
CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN
MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS**

**CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA
6-9 NOVEMBER 1999**

*AN AGREEMENT UNDER THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF
MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS*



Proceedings of the First Session of the Meeting of the Parties

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FOREWORD

In Article XIV paragraph 1 of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) it is laid down that: *'This Agreement will enter into force on the first day of the third month after at least fourteen Range States or regional economic integration organizations, comprising at least seven from Africa and seven from Eurasia, have signed without reservation in respect of ratification, acceptance or approval, or have deposited their instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval in accordance with Article XIII of this Agreement'*. By the end of August 1999 the required number of ratifications was achieved and the AEWA entered into force on the 1st of November 1999. Just a few days later the First Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP1) to AEWA took place. The Meeting of the Parties is the decision-making organ of the Agreement.

Although the Netherlands was willing to host this meeting, the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries of the Netherlands decided, in close consultation with South Africa and the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), to organise the MOP1 and the sixth Conference of the Parties to CMS 'back to back' in South Africa. The MOP1 took place from 6-9 November 1999 in Cape Town.

The Proceedings of the First Session of the Meeting of the Parties include, the report of the meeting, opening statements and the resolutions adopted by the Meeting of the Parties.

REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

Introduction

1. The first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) was held at the Lord Charles Hotel, Somerset West, Cape Town, South Africa, from 6 to 9 November 1999 at the invitation of the Government of South Africa.

I. OPENING OF THE SESSION AND OPENING STATEMENTS

2. The joint opening of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the first Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds took place at the Lord Charles Hotel, Somerset West, Cape Town, South Africa, at 4.30 p.m. on Saturday, 6 November 1999.

3. Opening statements were made by Mr. Pieter Botha, Deputy Director for Species Conservation, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism of South Africa; Mr Mohammed Valli Moosa, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism of South Africa; Ms. Geke Faber, State Secretary for Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries of the Netherlands; Ms. Gila Altmann, Parliamentary State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany; Mr. Kas Hamman, Director of Environment of the Western Cape Provincial Government; Mr. Dave Pritchard, of BirdLife International; Mr. Alwyn Nel, Senior Manager of Philatelic Services of the South African Post Office; and Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

4. Mr. Botha welcomed all participants, noting that more than 250 delegates from some 100 countries would be attending the AEWA and CMS meetings. The large number of observers from non-Party countries was also encouraging, since he believed that they would in due course become full members within the group of countries involved in the activities of CMS. The current meeting marked the first time since 1985 that a CMS Party had hosted a meeting of the Conference of the Parties. He considered it very appropriate that the meeting was taking place at the southernmost tip of Africa, at the end of the flyway of a large number of migratory birds, and with significant migratory populations of marine mammals.

5. Mr. Valli Moosa, welcoming all participants and officially opening the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS, said that South Africa's location on the migratory routes of many birds and marine mammals gave it an important role in their conservation and made it an ideal venue to celebrate these two milestones in the history of the Convention.

6. South Africa, he said, was one of the few countries that had anchored the environmental rights of its citizens within the Constitution. Great interest had been aroused by the country's recently issued 700-page report on the state of the environment, which contained highly detailed environmental information, including both good and bad news, thereby fulfilling South Africa's constitutional and international obligations for the provision of information. The report could be accessed on the Internet and he was happy to present a CD-ROM version of the report to the Executive Director of UNEP.

7. Drawing attention to recent agreements between South Africa and neighbouring countries on the formation of transfrontier conservation areas, including some of the biggest in the world, he said that such agreements recognised that ecosystems transcended national boundaries and that there was a need for transborder co-operation in the conservation and management of the shared natural resource for the benefit of the people of the region.

8. Ms. Faber thanked and congratulated the Government of South Africa for hosting the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA, which would serve as an exemplary agreement for the preservation of nature and would also allow for practical implementation of CMS. Because the efforts for the conservation of waterbirds would have a positive effect in many other fields, AEWA could be an important step in the development of an integrated strategy for sustainable development.

9. With regard to the important issue of the sustainable use of waterbirds, AEWA could play a key role in collecting and distributing information about the hunting of waterbirds. It could provide funds for protection programmes, training and education. The Netherlands was implementing a major project with Mali and other West African countries to promote sustainable use.

10. The agenda also contained an item on the secretariat of AEWA. For four years, the Netherlands had financed and housed the interim secretariat of AEWA. The Netherlands supported the idea of co-locating the secretariats of international agreements for reasons of efficiency and because it encouraged mutual policy development and gave the agreements more international clout. It therefore supported moving the AEWA secretariat to Bonn, where it could be housed in the Agreement Unit of CMS.

11. With regard to a third significant item on the agenda, the joint implementation of AEWA, she said that, by joining forces with other international organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNEP, AEWA could be transformed into a model agreement, which could have relevance for other fields as well. With those remarks, she officially opened the first Meeting of the Parties to AEWA.

12. Ms. Altmann, on behalf of the German Environment Minister Jürgen Trittin, said it was a pleasure to address representatives from countries and international organizations that were committed to conserving migratory species and, in particular, migratory waterbirds.

13. On the agenda of AEWA was the establishment of a permanent secretariat, in accordance with article VI, paragraph 7, within the framework of the CMS secretariat. That would mean that the interim secretariat, which to date had been provided and funded by the Government of the Netherlands, would move from the Hague to Bonn. As Bonn already housed the CMS secretariat, and other Agreement secretariats, such as those of the Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe (EUROBATS) and the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS), the Convention and the Agreements would benefit from a host of synergetic effects. On behalf of the German Government, she gave the assurance that Germany would do everything to provide the AEWA secretariat with optimum start-up and adequate working conditions. Germany had already submitted an offer to the Government of the Netherlands.

14. The success of AEWA and CMS depended on the Parties' or signatories' abilities to fulfil their commitments and, for many countries, that was a financial and capacity issue. Germany wished to make an additional annual contribution for projects or events of the secretariat, to support the conservation of migratory waterbirds in the Agreement area.

15. Turning to CMS, she observed that the Convention had held its twentieth anniversary in 1999 and, to mark that occasion, the German Minister for the Environment, Mr. Jürgen Trittin, had hosted an anniversary ceremony in Bonn. Germany's conclusion, after 20 years, was that CMS had passed the test

and had a future. The Convention on Biological Diversity supported CMS, it did not replace it. Germany recommended, however, that funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) should also be made available for CMS projects.

16. In 1979, 22 States had signed CMS in Bonn. The fact that more than 60 Parties were expected at the current Conference of the Parties was an encouraging development, but it was not enough. Many regions were not yet adequately represented and some large range States were not yet Parties. Some participated in the work under regional agreements or memorandums of understanding, without being Parties to CMS. Accordingly, Germany would continue its efforts to promote the Convention.

17. As an illustration of the great significance that Germany attached to CMS and AEWA, on behalf of her Government she extended its offer to host the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS and the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA in Bonn in late 2002 or early 2003.

18. Mr. Hamman, speaking on behalf of the government of the Western Cape Province and the organization Cape Nature Conservation, welcomed participants to the Western Cape, which was one of the world's six plant kingdoms, hosting more than 10,000 endemic species of plants and animals and also offering a large number of waterbird habitats. The Western Cape was also the site of South Africa's first biosphere reserve and had a large number of conservation areas, including conservancies, which, he said, represented a successful management tool, involving people on the ground in a self-regulatory mechanism. Looking forward to the forthcoming deliberations, he wished the participants in both bodies successful meetings.

19. Mr. Nel introduced the new issue of South African stamps featuring migratory species and presented commemorative sets of the stamps to Ms. Faber, representing the Netherlands Government, and Mr. Moosa, representing the South African Government. It was hoped that the stamp issue would help to raise public awareness of the species and would serve to illustrate the commitment of the South African Post Office to serving the goals of environmental conservation.

20. Mr. Pritchard, speaking on behalf of the non-governmental organizations present at the two meetings, in particular the four international conservation non-governmental organizations, BirdLife International, the World Conservation Union (IUCN), Wetlands International and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), stressed the need for more signatures and ratifications of the Convention and its various Agreements, especially in areas where there were significant gaps in coverage.

21. Expressing his appreciation for the access granted by the Convention and agreements to non-governmental interests, he welcomed the draft proposal before the CMS Conference of the Parties on permanent observer status in the Scientific Council for certain non-governmental organizations, and hoped that a similar move would be considered by the future AEWA technical committee.

22. He drew attention to the importance of enhanced synergy and integration among the various biodiversity-related conventions, including at the national level, and the need for effective implementation. In that connection, he pledged the support of the conservation non-governmental organizations for the proposals to add new species to the appendices; to encourage measures to combat by-catch; and for an Agreement on albatrosses.

23. In conclusion, he said that the partnership between Governments and non-governmental organizations represented at the current meetings offered a valuable opportunity for progress in addressing the urgent issues facing AEWA and CMS.

24. Mr. Töpfer drew attention to the close integration of biodiversity-related issues with those of other social parameters, such as linguistic and cultural diversity, and noted that, where diversity was reduced, instability increased. Accordingly, in the globalizing world, it was essential to be aware of and to safeguard regional identity and diversity in all their aspects. To succeed, efforts to promote conservation of

species, as exemplified by the current meeting, must be integrated into an enabling context, linked with efforts to reduce poverty. The recently launched GEO-2000 report identified two primary reasons for the environmental problems facing the world: the poverty of the majority of the world's population and the lifestyle and consumption patterns of a minority. It was essential to build a bridge between the poor and the rich, if the world's migratory species of wild animals-the "travellers without passports" in the phrase of the Secretary General of the United Nations-were to be protected.

25. To mark the holding of the two meetings, a message had been sent from Europe to Mr. Thabo Mbeki, President of South Africa, borne by four migratory eagles, whose passage over Africa was being tracked by satellite telemetry. The birds had left their breeding area in September 1999 and were currently nearing the northern frontier of South Africa. The message read:

“This eagle connects ecosystems of Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Migratory animals are paramount symbols of our common natural heritage.”

26. He stressed the need for intensified international efforts, such as the current meetings, to help protect and conserve the world's migratory species. In that context, he reaffirmed the support of UNEP, including for the implementation of CMS work programmes and in the submission of projects for GEF funding, and noted that a four-country project for the conservation of globally significant wetlands and migration corridors required by Siberian cranes and other migratory waterbirds in Asia had recently achieved GEF approval for funding. He looked forward to strengthened synergies between the work programmes of UNEP and CMS.

27. In conclusion, he commended the CMS secretariat on its organization of a young people's art competition on the theme of migratory species and congratulated its winner, Mechthild Meyer, who was a special guest at the opening ceremony. That competition and its winning entry, whose imagery captured the interaction between migratory species and the responsibility of all countries to protect and nurture those species, represented a wonderful example of co-operation and integration.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

28. Pending the election of officers, Mr. Müller-Helmbrecht, Executive Secretary of CMS, took the chair.

A. Adoption of the rules of procedure

29. Introducing document AEWA/MOP1.4 on the draft rules of procedure for the meetings of the AEWA Contracting Parties, the Acting Chair said that the draft rules had been prepared following the lead of the Convention on Wetlands, (Ramsar, 1971) for which similar rules of procedure had proved to be very efficient and he did not expect major concerns to be expressed in their regard. He proposed, and it was agreed by the Meeting, that the draft rules of procedure be adopted, with the proviso that some appropriate editorial revisions would be carried out by the Meeting Committee.

30. At the last session of the plenary, on Tuesday, 9 November 1999, it was proposed by the interim secretariat that rule 30 of the rules of procedure, as contained in document AEWA/MOP1.4, be amended to provide for a quorum for the Meetings of the Parties to be constituted by at least one half of the Parties to the Agreement, rather than two thirds, so that the rule would read:

“The President may declare a session of the meeting open and permit the debate to proceed if at least one half of the Parties to the Agreement are present, and may take a decision when representatives of at least one half of the Parties are present.”

31. In the ensuing discussion, the Executive Secretary of CMS confirmed that the proposed amendment would be in line with the CMS rules of procedure. The Meeting adopted the proposed amendment by consensus.

B. Attendance

32. The following Contracting Parties to the Agreement attended the session: Benin, Congo, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Gambia, Germany, Guinea, Mali, Monaco, Netherlands, Niger, Romania, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania.

33. The following States not Party to the Agreement were represented by observers: Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, European Community, France, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Ireland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Kazakstan, Kenya, Latvia, Malawi, Mauritius, Moldova, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Sao Tome and Principe, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Ukraine, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

34. Observers from the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and convention secretariats were also present: British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC UK); Bird Conservation Union Russia; BirdLife International; BirdLife International/CCAMLR; BirdLife South Africa; CIC-Migratory Bird Commission; CMS Scientific Council; Convention on Wetlands of International Importance; German Hunters' Association (DJV); Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe (EUROBATS); Fédération des Associations des Chasseurs de l'Union (FACE); Globe Southern Africa; Ligue Française pour la Protection des Oiseaux (LPO France); Noah's Ark Centre for the Recovery of Endangered species (NACRES); National Museum Kenya; Nature Protection Society Congo; Nordic Hunters' Association; Oiseaux Migrateurs du Paléarctique Occidental (OMPO); Ornithological Society of Ukraine; Tour du Valat France; United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals; Union Nationale des Fédérations Départementales de Chasseurs (Union FDC France); University of Cape Town; World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC); Wetlands International-Africa, Europe; Middle East (AEME); Wetlands International Asia Pacific; World Wide Fund for Nature Southern Africa Regional Office (WWF SARO); Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT UK).

C. Election of officers

35. The following officers were elected by acclamation:

Chair: Mr. Mbareck Diop (Senegal)

Vice-Chair: Mr. F.H.J. von der Assen (Netherlands)

36. On taking the chair, Mr. Diop said that the present Agreement was one of the most important agreements under CMS because of the number of countries and the number of species involved. The thanks of the Contracting Parties should be conveyed to the Netherlands Government for having provided the interim secretariat for the Agreement for four years, and for all the work and support it had provided. He also thanked the South African Government for hosting the first session, and UNEP and CMS for their help and support to the Agreement.

D. Adoption of the agenda and work programme

1. *Adoption of the agenda*

37. The Meeting adopted the following agenda, on the basis of the provisional agenda contained in document AEW/MOPI.1/Rev.1:

1. Opening.
2. Welcome addresses.
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
4. Election of officers.
5. Adoption of the agenda and work programme.
6. Establishment of the Credentials Committee and sessional committees.
7. Admission of observers.
8. Opening statements.
9. Reports by:
 - (a) Secretariat;
 - (b) Depositary.
10. Report of the Credentials Committee.
11. Adoption of amendments to the Agreement and Annexes.
12. Adoption of the Conservation Guidelines
13. International implementation of the Agreement:
 - (a) Adoption of the International Implementation Priorities 2000-2004;
 - (b) Establishment of a register for international projects.
14. Institutional arrangements:
 - (a) Establishment of the Agreement secretariat;
 - (b) Establishment of the Technical Committee.
15. Financial arrangements:
 - (a) Adoption of the budget for the period 2000-2002;
 - (b) Consideration of accepting contributions in kind;
 - (c) Establishment of a conservation fund.

16. Adoption of a format for reports of the Parties.
17. Presentation of the logo for the Agreement.
18. Adoption of the Brent Goose Management Plan.
19. Reports of sessional committees.
20. Date and venue of the second session of the Meeting of the Parties.
21. Other business.
22. Adoption of the report of the meeting.
23. Closure of the meeting

2. *Work programme*

38. The representative of the interim secretariat presented the work programme for the session. He said that, while the working procedure would be to cover most issues in the plenary, two working groups would still be needed, one on financial and administrative issues to be attended by Parties to the agreement and one to deal with substantive matters, on technical and biological issues, which would be open to all participants, including observers.

E. Establishment of the Credentials Committee and sessional committees

39. The Credentials Committee comprised representatives from Germany (Chair), Gambia, Monaco, Netherlands and United Republic of Tanzania.

40. The meeting decided to establish two sessional committees: a financial and administrative working group, co-ordinated by Mr. F.H.J. von der Assen (Netherlands), and a technical working group, co-ordinated by Mr. David Stroud (United Kingdom).

III. REPORTS

A. Report of the secretariat

41. At the invitation of the Chair, the representatives of the interim secretariat gave brief accounts of the work of that secretariat over the years 1996 to 1999, and introduced document reference number AEWA/MOP.1.5, containing a complete report of the secretariat's work for that period. It was recalled that the Agreement was to enter into force only after seven European Parties and seven African Parties had signed and ratified the Agreement; that had been achieved by the end of August 1999 and the Agreement had entered into force on 1 November 1999.

42. In connection with the list of Parties shown in a table in the report, the representative of France said that although her country had signed the Agreement, it had not yet ratified it, so France was not yet a Party to the Agreement. Several representatives and the Chair expressed thanks to the interim secretariat and the Government of the Netherlands on behalf of the Meeting, and the representative of Monaco said that a resolution should be framed to convey that sentiment formally.

B. Depositary

43. Mr. Jan Willem Sneep (Netherlands), as the representative of the Depositary, reported on the work of the Depositary. He confirmed that the Agreement had entered into force on 1 November 1999 for States that had been Parties on 31 August 1999. After 1 November 1999 it was no longer possible to become a signatory to the Agreement, and States could become Parties only by depositing instruments of accessio with the Depositary. He noted that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had become the first Party to accede to the Agreement after 1 November 1999. On behalf of the Depositary, he thanked all the States involved.

IV. REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

44. Mr. G. Emonds (Germany), the Chair of the Credentials Committee, reported for the plenary at its last meeting on Tuesday 9 November 1999, that the credentials of 15 States had been accepted by his Committee, and that therefore, in the light of amended rule 30 of the rules of procedure, a quorum was present at the session.

45. In reply to questions raised by representatives, he said that following rule 18, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure, only originals, and not facsimile copies, of the statements of credentials could be accepted by his Committee.

V. ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE AGREEMENT AND ANNEXES

46. In early 1997, Wetlands International had been requested to draw up draft proposals for the amendment of the Action Plan, appended as Annex 3 to the Agreement. Mr. Derek Scott, on behalf of Wetlands International, presented a report on that work, contained in document AEWA/MOP.1.7. He said that the document specified those changes required to expand the Action Plan to include all 170 species of waterbirds listed in Annex 2 to the Agreement and also identified recent changes in the conservation status of species and populations of waterbirds already included in the Action Plan.

47. Amendment to the Action Plan to include all 170 species listed in Annex 2 required only minor changes in the existing text in the context of potential conflict between human activities and fish-eating birds and the effects of disturbances on colonially nesting birds. That would entail adding the words “and to fisheries” after the words “in particular to crops” in sections 4.3.2, 4.3.3 and 4.3.4 of the Action Plan of the Agreement, and also adding a sentence after the first sentence in section 4.3.6 as follows:

“Special attention should be given to the problem of human disturbance at breeding colonies of colonially-nesting waterbirds, especially when these were situated in areas which are popular for outdoor recreation”.

48. One representative said that the new sentence should also include a reference to “brooding and night-roosting”. The representative of the United Kingdom questioned the validity of dividing the population of *Mergus serrator serrator* in north-west Europe into two populations.

49. A representative of the interim secretariat said that those minor changes could be introduced, and any other specific comments on species could be discussed in the technical working group. With regard to the effects of armed conflicts, which had been raised by a representative as a factor potentially affecting protected sites, he said that those effects could hardly be dealt with by the Agreement. The technical working group would also discuss some minor changes to the resolution on the Action Plan (contained in document AEWA/Res.1.9).

50. The Chair thanked Mr. Derek Scott, on behalf of Wetlands International, for his report, and the Parties for their input; after review by the technical working group, the amendments to the Action Plan would be proposed to the meeting for adoption.

51. At the afternoon plenary on Monday, 8 November 1999, the co-ordinator of the technical working group reported on the deliberations of the group. The comments made by members of the group had been taken into account and a revision of the draft resolution on amendments to the action plan was contained in document AEWA/Res.1.9/Rev.1, which was currently before the meeting for comment. He read out editorial corrections to the draft.

52. Following an exchange of views on the subject, and clarifications provided by the interim secretariat, one representative asked that the report reflect the fact that changes to the annexes of the agreement did not require ratification by the Parties and signatories to the Agreement and could be decided by the Meeting of the Parties. Any Party which objected to a proposed amendment to the annexes had an opportunity to state such an objection at the Meeting of the Parties.

53. The Meeting agreed to resubmit draft resolution 1.9 to the technical working group for further consideration and subsequent transmission to the plenary.

54. At the last meeting of the plenary, on Tuesday 9 November 1999, the Meeting of the Parties adopted resolutions 1.9 and 1.14, contained in annex I to the present report, as orally amended in the Meeting.

VI. ADOPTION OF THE CONSERVATION GUIDELINES

55. The representative of the interim secretariat, introducing the draft AEWA Conservation Guidelines (AEWA/MOP 1.8), stressed that, since the guidelines were called for in the Agreement and were at the very heart of its implementation, the interim secretariat had devoted a great deal of time and resources to their preparation, which had been co-ordinated by Wetlands International and had been subject to consultation. The guidelines represented a crucial document to be adopted and widely applied in practice. He thanked the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape/Division of Nature for the financial support provided for the preparation of the guidelines.

56. Mr. Janine van Vessem of Wetlands International, introducing the draft AEWA Conservation Guidelines, expressed thanks for the financial support provided by the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape/Division of Nature and to the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries of the Netherlands. A set of nine guidelines had been prepared: on the preparation of single-species action plans; on identifying and tackling emergency situations for migratory waterbirds; on preparation of site inventories for migratory waterbirds; on management of key sites for migratory waterbirds; on sustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds; on regulating trade in migratory waterbirds; on the development of ecotourism at wetlands; on reducing crop damage, damage to fisheries and other forms of conflict between waterbirds and human activities; and for a waterbird monitoring protocol. In addition, there were five appendices: populations of waterbirds requiring national single-

species action plans; globally threatened species in AEWA Range States; information sheet on Ramsar wetlands (RIS); Ramsar classification system for wetland types; and status of waterbird populations covered by trade regulations.

57. The guidelines had previously been considered by a number of experts with a wide range of expertise. Much of the work on single-species action plans had been prepared on the basis of existing material. Drafts of seven of the guidelines had been discussed at Workshop 2 during the International Conference on Wetlands and Development, held in Dakar in November 1998. They were to be viewed as guidance for Parties and Range States in the implementation of the AEWA action plan and had been formulated in a general way in order to be applicable to all 170 species of Appendix II and to all Range States under AEWA. Paragraph 7.6 of the action plan provided for the Technical Committee to assess and review the guidelines.

58. All representatives who took the floor welcomed the draft guidelines and expressed appreciation for the excellent work carried out to compile them. The representative of the European Commission, speaking on behalf of its member States participating in the current meeting, while generally endorsing the orientation of the draft and the way actions were defined and structured, stressed the role of the draft document as guidelines, implying that other measures were possible which would enable a Party to fulfil its obligations under the Agreement. He also believed that, in order to reach satisfactory results, it was not necessary to apply all measures provided for in a particular guideline. Concerning draft guideline number 6, regulating trade in migratory species, he considered there to be a significant overlap with the ongoing exercise by CITES/IUCN to give guidance to CITES scientific authorities in assessing whether trade was actually detrimental to a species. It appeared that there was an opportunity for synergy between two international instruments by liaising on that matter and that future revisions of the AEWA guidelines should take account of outcomes of the CITES/IUCN exercise.

59. The representative of Switzerland emphasised the need to harmonise AEWA key sites with Ramsar sites and to use the same reference basis in delimiting areas.

60. The Meeting agreed to refer draft resolution 1.10, contained in document AEWA/Res.1.10 to the technical working group for consideration.

61. At the afternoon plenary on Monday, 8 November 1999, the co-ordinator of the technical working group, Mr. D. Stroud, reported on the deliberations of the group. The comments made by members of the group had been taken into account and a revision of the draft resolution on conservation guidelines was contained in document AEWA/Res.1.10/Rev.1, which was currently before the meeting for comment. The co-ordinator pointed out that an annex to the draft decision was still under preparation.

62. The Meeting agreed to refer draft resolution 1.10 back to the technical working group for further consideration and subsequent submission to the plenary.

63. At the last meeting of the plenary, on Tuesday 9 November 1999, the Meeting of the Parties adopted resolution 1.10, contained in annex I to the present report, as orally amended by the Meeting.

VII. ADOPTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES 2000-2004

A. Adoption of the International Implementation Priorities 2000-2004

64. Introducing the draft international implementation priorities for the period 2000-2004, Mr. Mike Moser, Wetlands International, explained that the work already under way had identified critical gaps in information, knowledge and capacity throughout the region; and indicated priority activities to address

those gaps. He welcomed the UNEP Executive Director's comments about the importance of synergies and his invitation to AEWA to work with UNEP in accessing GEF funds, and urged the meeting to give strong support to a GEF proposal which was being drafted for the implementation of AEWA. He stressed that the list of priorities was still a draft, which would be revised in the light of comments by Parties, and urged that it should become a "rolling document" which would be regularly updated.

65. In the ensuing discussion, representatives drew attention to the need for a stronger reference to liaison with the Convention on Wetlands, with a view, in particular, to avoiding duplication; the need to exploit synergies with organizations such as the Convention on Wetlands and IUCN; the need to strengthen the reference to GEF support; the need to balance resource availability with conservation needs; the need for additional projects, including ones on the use of agrochemicals in Africa, on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and on exotic invasive plant species and the effects of those phenomena on waterbirds.

66. In response to those observations, Mr. Moser welcomed the suggestion that the reference to GEF in the resolution should be strengthened, as GEF had indicated that a strong signal from the current meeting would greatly facilitate access to GEF funds, but cautioned that the criteria for GEF funding were very stringent and the administrative procedures for applying were complex.

67. The representative of France said that, while her country was not yet a Party to the Agreement and hoped to be able to complete its ratification process as soon as possible, it would pledge the assessed contribution that it would have paid had it been a Party, as a voluntary contribution towards implementation projects.

68. Welcoming that offer, the Chair said that other sources of bilateral funding should also be explored, including from the Convention on Wetlands and IUCN.

69. At the afternoon plenary on Monday, 8 November 1999, Mr. Moser reported on the deliberations of the group concerning draft resolution 1.4, as contained in document AEWA/Res.1.4. on the international implementation priorities for 2000-2004. He read out the proposed amendments to the draft resolution.

70. The Meeting agreed to transmit draft resolution 1.4, as orally amended, for finalization and subsequent transmission to the plenary for adoption.

71. At the last meeting of the plenary, on Tuesday 9 November 1999, the Meeting of the Parties adopted resolution 1.4, contained in annex I to the present report, as orally amended in the Meeting.

B. Establishment of a register of international projects

72. Introducing, and orally supplementing, the draft register of international projects contained in document AEWA/MOP.1.17, Mr. Moser explained that the register had been prepared in response to the realisation that a large number of international projects relative to waterbirds were already in progress and to the consequent need to avoid duplication and to exploit the mutual synergies offered. He stressed that the document was a draft and should become a rolling text, which could be updated by the future meetings of the Technical Committee and formally updated by the Meeting of the Parties.

73. In the ensuing discussion, it was suggested that the criteria for inclusion in the register might be too stringent and that non-governmental organization projects should be included, at least for information purposes and that it was not necessary for the register to be formally adopted by the Meeting of the Parties: it was sufficient for the Meeting to take note of the register and its updates. A few representatives

suggested that some projects might have been overlooked and offered to submit clarifications in writing. It was also suggested that the register might be incorporated in the clearing-house mechanism under the Convention on Biological Diversity and that it should include an indication of time-scale.

74. The Meeting agreed to entrust the technical working group with the further consideration of the register and incorporation of additional projects provided by participants.

75. At the afternoon plenary on Monday, 8 November 1999, Mr. Moser reported on the deliberations of the technical working group concerning draft resolution 1.5, as contained in document AEWA/Res 1.5, on the establishment of a register of international projects and read out the proposed amendments to the draft resolution.

76. Following an exchange of views the Meeting approved draft resolution 1.5, as amended, for finalization and subsequent transmission to the plenary for adoption.

77. At the last meeting of the plenary, on Tuesday 9 November 1999, the Meeting of the Parties adopted resolution 1.5, contained in annex I to the present report, as orally amended in the Meeting

VIII. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

A. Establishment of the agreement secretariat

78. A representative of the interim secretariat introduced document AEWA/MOP.1.10, on the establishment of a permanent secretariat for AEWA.

79. The Executive Secretary of CMS said that the CMS secretariat would be interested in having similar terms of reference for all agreements, and he noted that the terms of reference in the document in question were not only those adopted by the Convention, but had also been approved by joint working groups of EUROBATS and ASCOBANS, and had been agreed by the United Nations Office at Nairobi. One minor change in paragraph 6 of annex 2 should be made, to add the words "in consultation with the UNEP Executive Director as appropriate" after the words "selected by the Executive Secretary of CMS".

80. The Chair proposed that the issue should be taken up by the financial and administrative working group, which would then report back to the plenary.

81. At the afternoon plenary on Monday, 8 November 1999, the co-ordinator of the financial and administrative working group, Mr. von der Assen, reported on the deliberations of the group. The comments made by members of the group had been taken into account and a revision of the draft decision on establishment of the permanent secretariat for AEWA was contained in document AEWA/Res.1.1/Rev.1, which was currently before the meeting for comment.

82. Following a proposal from the floor concerning the terms of reference annexed to the draft decision, which was accepted by the Meeting, the Meeting approved draft resolution 1.1 for finalization and subsequent adoption by the plenary.

83. At the last meeting of the plenary, on Tuesday 9 November 1999, the Meeting of the Parties adopted resolution 1.1, contained in annex I to the present report, as orally amended in the Meeting.

B. Establishment of the Technical Committee

84. The representative of the interim secretariat introduced the proposal on the establishment of the Technical Committee of AEWA, as set out in document AEWA/MOP.11, and explained the basis for the division into nine geographical and science-based regions, five in Africa and four in Eurasia. He also explained that, in addition to the nine experts representing regions, it was proposed that three independent experts would be appointed representing specific topic areas and three experts representing IUCN, Wetlands International and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC).

85. Two representatives requested that, in the delineation of the regions, their respective overseas dependencies be assigned to the appropriate geographical regions. Two other representatives suggested changes in the nomenclature of the regions and allocation of countries to those regions.

86. The Meeting accepted the proposal, on the understanding that, in its further elaboration, the secretariat would take into consideration the views expressed by delegates.

87. The representative of the interim secretariat introduced the draft resolution, contained in document AEWA/Res.1.8, and explained that some regions might have no Party. In that event, the region would be represented by an observer Party until such time as there was a member Party in the region, when that Party would assume the position.

88. There was discussion of whether the members of the Technical Committee should be nominated as individuals or whether specific countries should be nominated, which would then designate experts. It was also pointed out that the arrangements regarding alternates should be specified in the resolution, and not just left in the rules of procedure. Several representatives believed that, in the interests of flexibility and transparency, all Contracting Parties should be able to participate as observers in meetings of the Technical Committee.

89. In response, the representative of the interim secretariat explained that the rules of procedure were based on those of the Scientific Council of CMS, which did not admit observer participation by all Contracting Parties and pointed out that, if the Meeting decided to admit such participants, there would be no financial support for observers. It was also recommended that, in its further consideration of the arrangements, consideration should be given to a system of nominated contact points in each range State, as employed in the Convention on Wetlands.

90. The Meeting decided to forward draft resolution 1.8, as contained in document AEWA/Res.1.8, to the financial and administrative working group for its consideration.

91. At the afternoon plenary on Monday, 8 November, 1999, the co-ordinator of the financial and administrative working group, Mr. von der Assen, reported on the deliberations of the group. The comments made by members of the group had been taken into account and a revision of the draft resolution on establishment of the Technical Committee of AEWA was contained in document AEWA/Res.1.8/Rev.1, which was currently before the meeting for comment. He made a minor editorial correction to the annex of the draft resolution.

92. Following an exchange of views on whether names of individuals should be included in the text of a resolution of the Meeting of the Parties, it was agreed that the names of the people appointed would be contained in an appendix to the resolution. Several representatives observed that the next Meeting of the Parties would need to re-examine the resolution on the Technical Committee of AEWA and endeavour to find a more durable format for the resolution. The representative of the European Commission, speaking on behalf of its member States present at the meeting, wished to review the geographical groupings contained in the draft resolution. The co-ordinator of the financial and administrative working group requested that concerned representatives should provide their proposed amendments to him for incorporation in a new draft of the text.

93. The Meeting approved draft resolution 1.8, as amended, for finalization and subsequent transmission to the plenary for adoption.

94. The representative of the interim secretariat pointed out that not all nominations for the categories of membership of the Technical Committee had been received and he called upon the participants to provide the secretariat with the names of respective experts.

95. At the last meeting of the plenary, on Tuesday, 9 November 1999, the Meeting of the Parties adopted resolution 1.8, contained in annex I to the present report, as orally amended in the Meeting.

IX. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

A. Adoption of the budget for the period 2000-2002

96. Introducing the draft budget contained in document AEWA/MOP.1.12, the representative of the interim secretariat explained that the estimates had been based on the assumption of co-location in UNEP premises and had been prepared in accordance with the UNEP financial rules and procedures.

97. In the ensuing discussion, representatives noted the absence of any provision for implementation in the budget and, in particular, for implementation by developing countries. Several representatives also stressed the need for adequate funding for the attendance of meetings by the representatives of developing country Parties. One representative suggested the inclusion of a budgetary provision for an office in Africa. A concern was also expressed that the secretariat was too small to discharge the duties with which it would be entrusted. Other points raised included the possible need for a budget line covering voluntary contributions, in which context it was pointed out that such contributions would not be subject to the 13 per cent UNEP administrative levy. Attention was also drawn to the need for synergies with other organizations, including the Convention on Wetlands, as a means of reducing costs, and to the provision for small grant funding, which had proved very productive in the Convention on Wetlands.

98. In response to those comments, the representative of the interim secretariat said that, as voluntary contributions were very difficult to estimate, they had not been included in the budget. In addition, he explained that the proposed budget was exclusively for the operation of the secretariat: hence, no provision had been made for field activities.

99. The representative of Germany drew attention to his Government's offer to host the secretariat, which would have significant cost benefits to the Agreement, including a grant of DM 50,000 per year; the donation of computer equipment, estimated at \$10,000 in the proposed budget; and the provision of free interpretation for meetings held in Germany.

100. The meeting noted the offer of Germany with gratitude and entrusted the financial and administrative working group with further consideration of the proposed budget, including taking into account the savings contingent upon acceptance of the German offer.

101. At the afternoon plenary on Monday, 8 November 1999, the coordinator of the financial and administrative working group, Mr. von der Assen, reported on the deliberations of the group. The comments made by members of the group had been taken into account and a new revised budget estimate had been prepared. The draft resolution on financial and administrative matters, contained in document AEWA/Res.1.2/Rev.2, was currently before the meeting for comment. Following comments and

clarifications from the floor, the co-ordinator of the financial and administrative working group said that corrections and amendments would be made to the draft resolution 1.2, which would be resubmitted to the plenary.

102. At the last meeting of the plenary, on Tuesday 9 November 1999, the Meeting of the Parties adopted resolution 1.2, contained in annex I to the present report, as orally amended in the Meeting.

B. Consideration of accepting contributions in kind

103. Introducing the item, the representative of the interim secretariat drew attention to the draft guidelines for acceptance of financial contributions (AEWA/MOP.1.13) and the draft resolution on guidelines for the acceptance of contributions in cash and contributions in kind (AEWA/Res.1.6). He noted that the Final Act required the interim secretariat to consider the question of in-kind contributions after the entry in force of AEWA. The interim secretariat had undertaken research to prepare the draft guidelines which, in the case of voluntary contributions, were based on the guidelines of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS. Concerning contributions in kind, in lieu of payments in cash of the obligatory contribution for administrative costs of convention secretariats, the secretariat had found no precedents. He personally was concerned at the idea of setting a precedent in AEWA, which could give rise to problems over the question of the financial rules and regulations of international organizations, and the question of the obligations entered into when joining an agreement.

104. The Executive Secretary of CMS, expressing support for that view, said that a CMS consultant had examined the question of possible precedents in international conventions and had found none. Citing the example of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), which had exceptional arrangements for in-kind contributions, he personally did not recommend that AEWA follow such a line. He did not wish to preempt the decision to be taken by the Technical Committee concerning the instrument to be set up, but it was possible that, in the future, some possible option might be found to assist countries that lacked hard cash.

105. The meeting agreed to forward draft resolution 1.6 to the financial and administrative working group for consideration.

106. At the afternoon plenary on Monday, 8 November 1999, the co-ordinator of the financial and administrative working group, Mr. von der Assen, reported on the deliberations of the group. The comments made by members of the group had been taken into account and a revision of the draft resolution on guidelines for the acceptance of contributions in cash and contributions in kind was contained in document AEWA/Res.1.6/Rev.1, which was currently before the meeting for comment. He read out editorial corrections to the text of the draft resolution.

107. The Meeting approved draft resolution 1.6, as orally amended, for finalization and subsequent transmission to the plenary for adoption.

108. At the last meeting of the plenary, on Tuesday 9 November 1999, the Meeting of the Parties adopted resolution 1.6, contained in annex I to the present report, as orally amended in the Meeting.

C. Establishment of a conservation fund

109. The representative of the interim secretariat explained that the text of the Agreement clearly allowed for the possibility of creating a conservation fund. He drew attention to draft resolution 1.7 on the establishment of a small conservation grants fund. The Technical Committee was entrusted with

examining how such a fund would be channelled to projects. The main issue before the meeting itself was to consider whether such a fund should be established and only then examine how it should be managed, closely following the guidelines on voluntary contributions.

110. The Executive Secretary of CMS, expressing support for the idea that the fund be managed by another international organization, pointed out that whoever managed the fund had to adhere strictly to the rules and guidelines.

111. During the discussion on the item, several representatives believed that the administration of such a fund should not be unwieldy or cumbersome, as might be the case if it were to be managed by a large international organization. The funding had to be easily administered so as to be rapidly available. One representative, noting that the idea of such a fund was taken from the Convention on Wetlands, said that the administration of the fund should also follow that example. Another representative stressed the need to ensure that the small AEWA secretariat was not burdened with the task of administering the fund or making quick decisions on how to disburse it. There needed to be a clear division of responsibilities.

112. In answer to a query on why the draft decision referred to provision of the fund to developing countries, whereas Article 5, paragraph 3 of the Agreement mentioned no delimitation, the representative of the interim secretariat said that the resolution should perhaps follow the language of the Agreement, although he believed that the fund should give priority to those whose need was greatest. On the question of the management of the fund, he agreed that the AEWA secretariat should not be overburdened. The international organization to administer the fund did not have to be an intergovernmental organization -an international non-governmental organization could also assume the task. One representative cautioned that the Agreement itself was an intergovernmental organization and should examine carefully the question of empowering a non-governmental organization with the administration of the fund.

113. Following the debate, the meeting agreed to refer draft resolution 1.7 to the financial and administrative working group for further consideration.

114. At the afternoon plenary on Monday, 8 November 1999, the co-ordinator of the financial and administrative working group reported on the deliberations of the group. The comments made by members of the group had been taken into account and a revision of the draft resolution on establishment of a small conservation grants fund was contained in document AEWA/Res.1.7/Rev.1, which was currently before the meeting for comment. He read out editorial corrections to the text of the draft resolution.

115. Following a brief exchange of views, including proposed amendments from the floor, the Meeting approved draft resolution 1.7, as orally amended, for finalization and subsequent transmission to the plenary for adoption.

116. At the last meeting of the plenary, on Tuesday 9 November 1999, the Meeting of the Parties adopted resolution 1.7, contained in annex I to the present report, as orally amended by the Meeting.

X. ADOPTION OF A FORMAT FOR REPORTS OF THE PARTIES

117. Mr. D Stroud (United Kingdom), introducing the proposal by the United Kingdom on a format for country reports and the relevant resolution, contained in documents AEWA/MOP.1.14 and AEWA/Res.1.3, respectively, said that the proposal was target-based and followed an approach similar to that used by the Convention on Wetlands. The aim had been to streamline the procedure and to avoid duplication with reporting requirements under other agreements. The resolution urged Contracting Parties to prepare their initial reports by 1 September 2000, for consideration by the future Technical Committee at its first meeting.

118. The representative of the secretariat informed participants that Switzerland and Togo had submitted national reports, to test the proposed format, and that those reports were available to the meeting.

119. Many representatives endorsed the proposed format for national reports. One representative believed that the format was comprehensive and suggested that it should be adjusted to be more specific to the AEWA action plan. Another, referring to land-use conflicts over wetlands between farmers, fishermen and others, expressed the view that the effects of those conflicts should be taken into consideration in the draft format.

120. The representative of BirdLife International, commending the proposed format, said that it should be adjusted to take into account issues and problems arising during the reporting period and also to track and follow up issues from one triennium to another, as well as issues that arose at session of the Meeting of the Parties.

121. The observer from WCMC, addressing the issue of the harmonisation of national reports to related conventions, said that his organization was currently studying that aspect of reporting on behalf of the Convention of Biological Diversity.

122. In response to the points raised, it was observed that many of the useful suggestions made could readily be incorporated into the format. That could be done when the technical working group revised the draft format and its relevant draft resolution.

123. The representative of the interim secretariat drew the attention of the Meeting to the draft resolution on the national report format (document AEWA/Res.1.3) and said that matters to be looked into when the technical working group reviewed the resolution included the timing for submission of national reports, which had provisionally been set at 1 September 2000, and the wording dealing with liaison with related conventions on the harmonisation of data and information collection and management.

124. The Chair thanked the representative of the United Kingdom for the work his colleagues had done in preparing the draft format document and said that the technical working group would review the format in the light of the discussion and the suggestions made by representatives.

125. At the afternoon plenary on Monday, 8 November 1999, the co-ordinator of the technical working group reported on the deliberations of the group on the draft resolution on establishment of a triennial national report for AEWA, contained in document AEWA/Res.1.3. He informed the meeting that the technical working group would hold further discussions on the draft resolution and subsequently submit it to the plenary for adoption.

126. At the last meeting of the plenary, on Tuesday 9 November 1999, the Meeting of the Parties adopted resolution 1.3, contained in annex I to the present report, as orally amended in the Meeting.

XI. PRESENTATION OF THE LOGO FOR THE AGREEMENT

127. A representative of the interim secretariat made a brief presentation on the logo for the Agreement, which was based on a bird's wing on which the name of the Agreement was superimposed. The background colour would be blue in the English version and green in the French version.

XII. ADOPTION OF THE BRENT GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLAN

128. Mr. Sneep, on behalf of the Institute of Forestry and Nature Research of the Netherlands (IBN-DLO) presented a draft international action plan for the Dark-bellied Brent goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*), which had a current population of about 300,000. He said that the action plan sought international support and co-operation along the migration route of the species, so as to achieve an optimum level of population by conserving or restoring natural habitats, regulating hunting and minimising the effect of adverse human activities. Within the framework of the action plan, management options would be presented to each country. The plan could then be adjusted to the situation obtaining in each country. After three years, the action plan would be evaluated, and the role and input of the AEWA Technical Committee would be very useful in that regard.

129. The Chair thanked the representative for his presentation and said that the Meeting had taken note of the report.

XIII. DATE AND VENUE OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

130. A representative of the interim secretariat introduced the draft resolution on the date, venue and funding of the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA (AEWA/Res.1.11), which had been prepared prior to the opening of the Meeting. He said that, in the light of the offer to host the meeting by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, it was necessary to amend that draft decision and he read out the proposed amendments.

131. The Meeting approved draft resolution 1.11 for finalization and subsequent transmission to the plenary for adoption.

132. At the last meeting of the plenary, on Tuesday 9 November 1999, the Meeting of the Parties adopted resolution 1.11, contained in annex I to the present report, as orally amended in the Meeting

XIV. OTHER MATTERS

A. Atlas of wader populations

133. Mr. L. Underhill (Avian Demography Unit, University of Cape Town) on behalf of the International Wader Study Group introduced the recently prepared Atlas of wader populations for the AEWA area. He explained that the atlas was an initial draft, prepared by the the Wader Study Group and Wetlands International, drawing on the best expertise in a collaborative process. Funding for the next phase of the Atlas had been requested from the European Union and the final phase, for which a funding source was still being sought, would include printing of the atlas. He invited comments and feedback from all participants and other colleagues, which were to be sent to the address indicated in the draft.

B. GEF proposal on conservation measures for migratory waterbird wetlands areas

134. Mr. Moser (Wetlands International) reported on the development of a proposal to request funds from GEF to support a joint implementation of priorities, under AEWA and the Convention on Wetlands, for the Conservation of a network of critical wetland areas for migratory waterbirds along the African-Eurasian flyways, as contained in document AEWA/Inf.1.11. He said that the criteria for GEF funding were stringent and the proposed route for access to GEF funds would be through the submission of a

proposal which had been prepared for block B project preparation and development facility (PDF), which would result in the development and submission of a full GEF project brief, and would comprise a suite of catalytic activities at regional and national levels.

135. A key component of the proposed GEF project proposal would be the execution of between five and eight site-demonstration management projects for wetlands important for migratory waterbird conservation in different parts of the flyway, and that was one of the ways in which Parties could interlink directly to the project, through offering opportunities for such demonstration projects in their countries. A questionnaire had been attached to document AEWA/Inf.1.11 for that purpose. It was also important to provide written support from Governments and agencies for the project before the end of 1999; if countries were GEF-eligible countries, a letter of endorsement from national GEF focal points would also be helpful, and all such letters of endorsement should be sent to the AEWA secretariat.

136. He requested any Party requiring further information about the project to contact representatives of Wetlands International or the AEWA interim secretariat.

137. In the ensuing brief discussion, many representatives expressed their interest and support for the development of the GEF proposal and, in response to issues raised, Mr. Moser clarified that GEF eligibility was determined by ratification of the Convention of Biological Diversity as well as the condition of being a developing country.

C. Tribute to the organisers

138. At the last meeting of the plenary, on Tuesday 9 November 1999, the Meeting of the Parties adopted resolution 1.12 on a tribute to the organisers of the session, as contained in annex I to the present report, as orally amended in the Meeting.

XV. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

139. The present report was adopted by the meeting at its final plenary session, on Tuesday, 9 November 1999, on the basis of the draft report which had been circulated in document AEWA/MOP.1/L.1 and on the understanding that finalization of the report would be entrusted to the Rapporteur working in consultation with the interim secretariat.

XVI. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

140. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chair declared the session closed at 1.15 p.m. on Tuesday, 9 November 1999.

ANNEX 1

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE FIRST SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

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RESOLUTION 1.1

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT FOR THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds,

Recalling the Final Act of the negotiation meeting to adopt the Agreement on the Conservation of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, held in The Hague, in June 1995, which took note of resolution 4.4 adopted at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, held in Nairobi in 1994,

Referring to Article VI, paragraph 7 (a) of the Agreement providing for the first Meeting of the Parties to establish an Agreement secretariat,

Recalling also the decision by taken at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Geneva, in 1997, on resolution 5.5 on the co-location of Agreement secretariats and inviting the Contracting Parties to the Agreement to consider consolidation of secretariat functions in the Agreements Unit within the Convention secretariat¹,

Noting with appreciation the approval by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme that the United Nations Environment Programme would be prepared to administer the Agreement secretariat within the Convention secretariat, in accordance with the terms of reference annexed hereto,

Convinced of the need to have a permanent Agreement secretariat serving the Contracting Parties and implementing their decisions and implementing the Agreement as a whole,

Welcoming the offer of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to provide continuing support to the secretariat established in Bonn,

1. *Decides* to establish a permanent Agreement secretariat co-located with the Convention secretariat under the administration of the United Nations Environment Programme;
2. *Decides also* to integrate the Agreement secretariat into the proposed Agreements Unit under the terms of reference annexed hereto;
3. *Agrees* to provide the permanent secretariat for the Agreement with a working budget as adopted at the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement under resolution 1.2.

¹ See the annex to the present resolution.

Annex

Terms of reference for secretariat arrangements

For the establishment of the Agreements Unit the following terms of reference will apply:

1. The Agreements Unit will comprise personnel according to the budgets of the respective Agreements.
2. The Executive Secretaries to the Agreements will report to the Executive Secretary of CMS for internal administrative matters and communication with UNEP. They will report to the Parties as well as to the competent bodies of the Agreements on their work programme. The competent bodies of the Agreements shall contribute to the annual performance appraisal of an Agreement's Executive Secretary.
3. Staff members of the Agreements Unit will function independently and will report to their respective Agreements. When the need arises, reciprocal staff assistance might be accommodated for short periods of time as authorized by the Executive Secretary of CMS.
4. Apart from the cost of the Administrative and Fund Management Officer, which is borne by UNEP, the cost of personnel for common administrative support and of common secretarial services will be funded on a cost-sharing basis by budgets of the Convention and the Agreements.
5. Recruitment of all staff members will be carried out by UNEP on the basis of job descriptions prepared under the direction of the Executive Secretary to CMS with the agreement of the Chair of the competent body of the Agreement concerned. UNEP will be responsible for ensuring classification of all posts. The advertisement for any Executive Secretary to a given Agreement, as well as the subsequent appointment of a candidate, will be limited to the Contracting Parties to the Agreement concerned. Secondment of staff members from Governments should be encouraged, subject to mutually acceptable arrangements between UNEP and the Government concerned.
6. Primary screening of candidates for all posts will be conducted by a panel of three, selected by the Executive Secretary to CMS in consultation with the UNEP Executive Director, as appropriate, in accordance with set recruitment procedures and consisting of staff including officers from United Nations agencies in Bonn. The Chair of the competent body of the Agreement concerned will be actively involved in the screening of candidates for the post of Executive Secretary to that Agreement and will be a member of the panel. If the Chair is unable to attend panel sessions, he or she is entitled to appoint a substitute. Preliminary screening of general service staff applications and interviews will be organised by the responsible Executive Secretary, in consultation with senior UNEP/CMS staff. Current staff of the respective Agreements will be eligible to compete for the available posts. Recommendations of short-listed candidates for professional and general service staff posts will be submitted to UNEP through the Executive Secretary to CMS.

Financial arrangements

7. Parties to each Agreement will request the Executive Director of UNEP to establish separate Trust Funds for each Agreement. A separate budget will continue to be adopted for each Agreement and for the Convention, by the respective Meeting of the Parties or Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.
8. The Agreement Secretariats shall be entitled to appropriate local banking facilities for the conducting of day-to-day transactions.
9. The operating costs of the secretariats (e.g., telephone usage, postage, photocopying, special

printing cost, etc.) will be computed and budgeted separately for each of the constituent Agreements. Where it is impracticable to compute actual costs separately (e.g., for common office supplies), the Agreements are expected to agree a contributing figure to the overall costs for these items.

Trust Fund contributions

10. Contributions from Parties will continue to be calculated separately for each Agreement and for the parent Convention, and paid annually according to the United Nations scale of assessment. However, a rationalized system will be developed allowing Parties to the Convention and to one or more of the Agreements concerned to pay subscriptions in a single installment, giving clear instructions as to how the funds are to be allocated. Requests for payment will continue to be sent by UNEP in the form of an invoice, detailing the contributions to be made towards the Convention and any applicable Agreements. UNEP will administer one or more trust funds which will supply CMS and each of the Agreements concerned, according to contributions received and the overall budgets by the respective Meeting or Conference of the Parties.

11. Every effort should be made by the Parties to ensure adequate and timely contributions. Nevertheless, in the event of insufficient funds for salaries of Agreements Unit staff, the Executive Director of UNEP will be authorized, through a provision in the terms of reference of the CMS Trust Fund, to make special provision to cover these salaries on a reimbursable basis from the CMS Trust Fund if its resources allowed. UNEP will liaise with the UNEP/CMS Secretariat on such temporary transfers of funds from the parent Convention to any Agreement. Any such movements, however temporary, will be communicated to the competent bodies of the Convention and the Agreement concerned, and reported upon at the next session of the Meeting or Conference of the Parties.

RESOLUTION 1.2

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds,

Recalling the Final Act of the negotiation meeting to adopt the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, held at the Hague in June 1995,

Recalling Article V, paragraphs 2 (a) and 2 (b), of the text of the Agreement, stating that Parties shall contribute to the budget of the Agreement in accordance with the United Nations scale of assessment and that, at its first session, the Meeting of the Parties shall adopt a budget by consensus,

Appreciating the voluntary contributions by various Parties and Range States during the period of the functioning of the interim secretariat,

Recognizing the importance of all Range States being able to participate in the implementation of the Agreement and related activities,

1. *Confirms* that all Parties shall contribute to the budget adopted at the scale agreed upon by the Meeting of the Parties in accordance with Article V, paragraph 2 (a) of the Agreement;
2. *Adopts* the budget for 2000 - 2002 attached as annex I to the present decision;
3. *Agrees* to the scale of contributions of Parties to the Agreement, as listed in Annex II to the present decision, and to the application of that scale *pro rata* to new Parties;
4. *Requests* all Parties to pay their contributions promptly as far as possible but in any case not later than the end of June of the year to which they relate;
5. *Takes* note of resolution 1.4 on the international implementation priorities for the period 2000-2004 and related annexes;
6. *Invites* States not Parties to the Agreement, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other sources to consider contributing to the implementation of the Agreement on a voluntary basis;
7. *Approves* the terms of reference for the administration of the Agreement budget as set out in Annex III to the present resolution for the period 2000–2002.

Annex I

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2000-2002

(Budget lines correspond to standard UNEP budget codes)

Budget line	Estimated costs in US dollars			
	2000	2001	2002	Total
10 Personnel Component				
1100 Professional Staff				
1101 Executive Secretary (P3)* 1	113,500	113,500	113,500	340,500
1102 Administrative and Fund Management Officer (UNEP)* 2	0	0	0	0
1199 Total	113,500	113,500	113,500	340,500
1200 Consultants				
1201 English Translators	7,500	8,500	20,000	36,000
1202 French Translators	7,500	8,500	20,000	36,000
1203 Arabic/ Russian Translators	3,000	4,000	6,000	13,000
1204 Report Writers (at MOP and TC)	2,000	2,000	11,500	15,500
1205 Interpreters (at MOP and TC)	7,500	7,500	45,000	60,000
1220 Consultancies for MOP	25,000	25,000	50,000	100,000
1221 Consultancies to develop Information materials	7,500	7,500	10,000	25,000
1222 Consultancies to carry research on....	15,000	15,000	15,000	45,000
1299 Total	75,000	78,000	177,500	330,500
1300 Administrative support				
1301 Secretary (G4)*3	40,000	41,000	42,000	123,000
1399 Total	40,000	41,000	42,000	123,000
1600 Travel on official business				
1601 General	20,000	20,000	20,000	60,000
1602 Meeting of the Parties	0	0	5,000	5,000
1699 Total	20,000	20,000	25,000	65,000
1999 Component Total	248,500	252,500	358,000	859,000
20 Subcontract Component				
2200 Subcontract component				
2201 Organization of MOP	0	0	65,000	65,000
2199 Total	0	0	65,000	65,000
2999 Component Total	0	0	65,000	65,000

Budget line	Estimated costs in US dollars			
	2000	2001	2002	Total
30 Personnel Component				
3300 Meetings				
3301 Meetings of the Parties (50 part. x 3 days)	0	0	87,500	87,500
3302 Meeting of the Technical Committtee (15 part x 2 days)	26,250	26,250	26,250	78,750
3303 Participation in meetings of unspecified experts	5,250	5,250	5,250	15,750
3199 Total	31,500	31,500	119,000	182,000
3999 Component Total	31,500	31,500	119,000	182,000
40 Equipment and Premises Component				
4100 Expendable equipment				
4101 Miscellaneous office supplies	4,500	4,500	5,000	14,000
4199 Total	4,500	4,500	5,000	14,000
4200 Non-expendable equipment				
4201 Office equipment	0	2,500	2,500	5,000
4299 Total	0	2,500	2,500	5,000
4300 Premises				
4301 Rent and maintenance costs* 4	0	0	0	0
4399 Total	0	0	0	0
4999 Component Total	4,500	7,000	7,500	19,000
50 Miscellaneous Component				
5100 Operation and Maintenance				
5101 Operation/maintenance of computers	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000
5102 Operation/maintenance of photocopiers	500	500	750	1,750
5103 Operation/ maintenance -others	500	500	500	1,500
5199 Total	2,000	2,000	2,250	6,250
5200 Reporting Costs				
5201 Document production (external)	15,000	10,000	20,000	45,000
5202 Information material	15,000	15,000	15,000	45,000
5203 Reference material	500	500	500	1,500
5299 Total	30,500	25,500	35,500	91,500

Budget line	Estimated costs in US dollars			
	2000	2001	2002	Total
5300 Sundry				
5301 Telephone, Fax	12,500	12,500	17,500	42,500
5302 Postage and miscellaneous	7,500	7,500	12,500	27,500
5399 Total	20,000	20,000	30,000	70,000
5400 hospitality	2,500	2,500	2,500	7,500
5499 Total	2,500	2,500	2,500	7,500
5999 Component Total	55,000	50,000	70,250	175,250
SUBTOTAL	339,500	341,000	619,750	1,300,250
6000 UNEP overhead costs 13 %	44135	44330	80567.5	169032.5
GRAND TOTAL	383,635	385,330	700,318	1,469,283
Voluntary contribution of Germany (50.000 DM)	25,000	25,000	25,000	75,000
*1 Post Grade pending on classification from UNEP				
*2 Provided from UNEP programme support cost (in elation to the Common Administrative Unit)				
*3 Post grade pending clasification from UNEP				
*4 Paid entirely by the host country as long as the Secretariat remains in Germany				

Annex II

AEWA CONTRIBUTION FOR THE YEAR IN US DOLLARS

Party	UN Scale in %	AEWA Contribution for the year in United States dollars		
		2000	2001	2002
Benin	0.009	46	47	85
Congo	0.013	70	70	127
Finland	2.338	12588	12643	22979
Denmark	2.980	16042	16113	29284
Egypt	0.280	1507	1513	2751
Gambia	0.004	23	23	42
Germany	42.443	95909	96333	175080
Guinea	0.013	70	70	127
Jordan	0.026	139	140	254
Mali	0.009	42	42	77
Monaco	0.017	93	93	169
Netherlands	7.027	37832	38000	69062
Niger	0.009	46	47	85
Romania	0.241	1298	1304	2370
Senegal	0.026	139	140	254
Spain	11.157	60064	60329	109645
South Africa	1.576	8484	8522	15488
Sudan	0.026	139	140	254
Sweden	4.646	25013	25124	45661
Switzerland	5.210	28050	28174	51204
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	0.017	93	93	169
Togo	0.004	23	23	42
United Kingdom	21.926	95909	96333	175080
United Republic of Tanzania	0.013	70	70	127
Total	100	383365	385330	700318

Annex III

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST FUND FOR THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS.

1. The terms of reference for the Trust Fund of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) shall refer to the financial years beginning 1 January 2000 and ending 31 December 2002.
2. The Trust Fund shall be administered by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) subject to the approval of the Governing Council of UNEP and the consent of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
3. The administration of the Trust Fund shall be governed by the financial regulations and rules of the United Nations, the staff regulations and rules of the United Nations and other administrative policies or procedures, promulgated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.*
4. In accordance with United Nations rules, UNEP shall deduct from the income an administrative charge equal to 13 per cent of the expenditure charged to the AEWA Trust Fund in respect of activities financed under AEWA.
5. The financial resources of the Trust Fund for 2000-2002 shall be derived from:
 - (a) Contributions made by the Parties by reference to Annex 2, including contributions from any new Party; and
 - (b) Further contributions from Parties and contributions from States not Parties to the Agreement, other governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other sources.
6. All contributions to the Trust Fund shall be paid in fully convertible United States dollars. For contributions from States that become Parties after the beginning of the financial period, the initial contribution (from the first day of the third month after deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession till the end of the financial period) shall be determined *pro rata* based on the contribution of other States Parties on the same level of the United Nations scale of assessments, as it applies from time to time. However, if the contribution of a new Party determined on this basis would be more than 25 per cent of the budget, the contribution of that Party shall be 25 per cent of the budget for the financial year of joining (or *pro rata* for a part year). The scale of contributions for all Parties shall then be revised by the Secretariat on 1 January of the next year. Contributions shall be paid in annual instalments. The contributions shall be due on 1 January 2000, 2001 and 2002. Contributions shall be paid into the following account:

* *Note by the AEWA secretariat:* Paragraphs 2 and 3 replace the former paragraph 2, to bring the terms of reference into line with the procedures of the United Nations. The new paragraphs are included here subject to their approval and adoption by the Meeting of the Parties at its next session.

Trust Funds Account
Account No. 400-932520
Chase Manhattan Bank
International Agencies Banking
270 Park Avenue, 43rd floor
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

7. For the convenience of the Parties, for each of the years of the financial period the Executive Director of UNEP shall as soon as possible notify the Parties to the Agreement of their assessed contributions.
8. Contributions received into the Trust Fund that are not immediately required to finance activities shall be invested at the discretion of the United Nations, and any income shall be credited to the Trust Fund.
9. The Trust Fund shall be subject to audit by the United Nations Board of Auditors.
10. The budget estimates covering income and expenditures for each of the three calendar years constituting the financial period to which they relate, prepared in US dollars, shall be submitted to the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement.
11. The estimates of each of the calendar years covered by the financial period shall be divided into sections and objects of expenditure shall be specified according to budget lines, shall include references to the programmes of work to which they relate, and shall be accompanied by such information as may be required by or on behalf of the contributors, and such further information as the Executive Director of UNEP may deem useful and advisable. In particular, estimates shall also be prepared for each programme of work for each of the calendar years, with expenditure itemized for each programme so as to correspond to the sections, objects of expenditure, and budget lines described in the first sentence of this paragraph
12. In addition to the budget estimates for the financial period described in the preceding paragraphs, the Secretariat of the Agreement, in consultation with the Technical Committee and the Executive Director of UNEP, shall prepare a medium-term plan as envisaged in chapter III of the Legislative and Financial Texts Regarding the United Nations Environment Programme and Environment Fund. The medium-term plan will cover the years 2003-2009, inclusive, and shall incorporate the budget for the financial period 2003-2006.
13. The proposed budget and medium-term plan, including all the necessary information, shall be dispatched by the Secretariat to all Parties at least ninety days before the date fixed for the opening of the Meeting of the Parties.
14. The budget and medium-term plan shall be adopted by unanimous vote of the Parties present and voting at the Meeting of the Parties.
15. In the event that the Executive Director of UNEP anticipates that there might be a shortfall in resources over the financial period as a whole, the Executive Director shall consult with the Secretariat, who shall seek the advice of the Technical Committee as to its priorities for expenditure.
16. Commitments against the resources of the Trust Fund may be made only if they are covered by the necessary income of the Agreement. No commitments shall be made in advance of the receipt of contributions.

17. Upon the request of the secretariat of the Agreement, after seeking the advice of the Technical Committee, the Executive Director of UNEP should, to the extent consistent with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, make transfers from one budget line to another. At the end of the first or second calendar year of the financial period, the Executive Director of UNEP may proceed to transfer any uncommitted balance of appropriations to the second or third calendar year respectively, provided that the total budget approved by the Parties shall not exceed, unless this is specifically sanctioned in writing [by the Technical Committee]
18. At the end of each calendar year of the financial period², the Executive Director of UNEP shall submit to the Parties, through the Agreement Secretariat, the accounts for the year. The Executive Director shall also submit, as soon as practicable, the audited accounts for the financial period. These shall include full details of actual expenditure compared to the original provisions for each budget line.
19. Those financial reports required to be submitted to the Executive Director of UNEP shall be transmitted simultaneously by the Secretariat of the Agreement to the members of the Technical Committee.
20. The Secretariat of the Agreement shall provide the Technical Committee with an estimate of proposed expenditures over the coming year simultaneously with, or as soon as possible after, distribution of the accounts and reports referred to in the preceding paragraphs.
21. The present terms of reference shall be effective from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2002 and implemented by staff of the Interim Secretariat until the moment that a permanent Secretariat has been established at the UNEP/CMS premises in Bonn and a full time Executive Secretary has been appointed.

² The calendar year 1 January to 31 December is the accounting and financial year, but the accounts official closure date is 31 March of the following year. Thus, on 31 March the accounts of the previous year have to be closed, and it is only then that the Executive Director can submit the accounts of the previous calendar year.

RESOLUTION 1.3

ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRIENNIAL NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT FOR THE AFRICAN- EURASIAN WATERBIRD AGREEMENT

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds,

Aware that implementation of the Agreement and Action Plan will be enhanced by regular review of national implementation,

Desiring that AEWA adopts forms of national reporting which are not unnecessarily complex and do not duplicate the data and information gathering already undertaken by other Conventions and related international programmes,

Noting that the preparation of national reports can be greatly assisted with the involvement of appropriate expertise,

Further noting that Article V paragraph 1 (c) of the Agreement calls on the Meeting of the Parties at its first session to determine the format of reports,

1. *Adopts* the attached format of national reports and notes the attached guidance³ which outlines the rationale for this adopted format;
2. *Stresses* the need to review regularly the implementation of relevant resolutions of the Meetings of the Parties within national reports;
3. *Encourages* all Contracting Parties to prepare a preliminary national report outlining current actions to implement the Agreement to be submitted by 1 September 2000 for consideration to the Technical Committee at its first meeting, to be held in 2000;
4. *Recommends* that Contracting Parties consult, if appropriate, with relevant non-governmental organizations and others with technical expertise in the preparation of national reports and implementation plans;
5. *Instructs* the Technical Committee and Agreement Secretariat to liaise actively with related international conventions, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre and other international organizations concerning all aspects of the implementation of the Agreement, especially the harmonization of data and information collection and management, so as to encourage the development of synergies;
6. *Urges* all Contracting Parties to prepare national reports and submit them to the Meeting of the Parties at its second session in accordance with the timetable outlined in Article V, paragraph (c), of the Agreement;
7. *Requests* the Meeting of the Parties, at its second session, to review the national reporting format in the light of experience and, if necessary, recommend changes that may be desirable.

³ Annex and AEWA/MOP.1.14

Annex

ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRIENNIAL NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT

Background

In support to the interim Secretariat of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has helped develop a format for national reports based on the AEWA Action Plan. A draft reporting format and supporting guidance is presented to the Meeting of the Parties at its first session for discussion, modification and adoption. The draft reporting format has been developed for countries to prepare national reports to the Meeting of the Parties at its second session. The format is designed to complement existing triennial reporting commitments to other conventions and streamline reporting by recognizing common information requirements.

The draft reporting format includes three sections:

- (a) Overview of Action Plan implementation;
- (b) Structured questions related to each of the Action Plan headings; and
- (c) Series of appendices, e.g., list of sites of international importance for waterbird conservation.

It is structured in such a way as to urge countries to describe their progress to implement the Action Plan and identify a programme of targets that set out future priorities for migratory waterbird conservation.

Preparation of national reports as working examples for the first session of the Meeting of the Parties

Two Contracting Parties have agreed to test the draft reporting format and prepare national reports in one of the official languages of the Agreement (English or French) prior to the first Meeting of the Parties. Switzerland and Togo have prepared national reports for the Meeting. The practical experience gained through testing the draft reporting format should inform discussions at the Meeting of the Parties, aid the development and adoption of a national report format and supporting guidance.

Subsequent activities

After the first session of the Meeting of the Parties, Parties are urged to prepare a preliminary report for consideration by the Technical Committee at its first meeting. This would provide an insight into the current policies, practices and activities that each Contracting Party is undertaking to support waterbird conservation and implement AEWA.

RESOLUTION 1.4

INTERNATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES FOR 2000-2004

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds,

Aware that resources for the implementation of the Agreement (information, expertise and funds) are unequally distributed throughout the Agreement Area, and that an effective implementation of the Agreement will require strong international co-operation,

Considering that Contracting Parties, particularly developing countries and countries with economies in transition, require a clear prioritization of activities in order to apply their limited resources most effectively,

Further considering that bilateral and multilateral donors will be greatly assisted in their allocation of funds for international co-operation, by a clear prioritization of needs,

Recalling that Article V, paragraph 4, of the Agreement encourages Parties to provide training and technical and financial support to other Parties on a multilateral and bilateral basis to assist them in implementing the provisions of this Agreement,

1. *Adopts* the international implementation priorities for 2000-2004, as contained in document, AEWA/MOP1.9, with amendments as listed in Annex I, as the medium-term priorities for international co-operation activities for implementation of the Agreement;

2. *Notes* the particular importance of identifying the key sites network and migration patterns of the species covered by the Agreement, and also how migratory waterbird conservation can contribute to sustainable development, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

3. *Urges* Contracting Parties and specialized international organizations to develop new international co-operation projects for the implementation of the Agreement, according to the priorities outlined in AEWA/MOP1.9 and Annex 1, and to keep the Agreement secretariat fully informed of progress;

4. *Further urges* Contracting Parties, the Agreement secretariat and specialized international organizations to seek innovative mechanisms and partnerships to enable implementation of the priorities listed in AEWA/MOP1.9 and Annex I, including joint ventures, twinning arrangements, secondment and exchange programmes, corporate sector sponsorships and species adoption programmes;

5. *Requests* bilateral and multilateral donors to provide financial assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the implementation of the Agreement, by supporting implementation of the priorities listed in AEWA/MOP1.9 and Annex I;

6. *Further requests* the support of the Global Environment Facility to assist eligible countries with the joint implementation of priority actions of the Agreement and the Convention on Wetlands for the network of critical wetlands used by migratory waterbirds in Africa/Eurasia;

7. *Instructs* the Agreement secretariat to disseminate the international implementation priorities for 2000-2004 (AEWA/MOP1.9 and Annex I), to coordinate closely with related conventions and international organizations for their implementation, to seek appropriate donors, and, following the recommendations of the Technical Committee, to bring to each future session of the Meeting of the Parties reports on progress with implementation and an updated list of priorities.

Annex I

Amendments to International Implementation Priorities for 2000-2004 (AEWA/sMOP 1.9)

The following new (additional) projects are to be added to the 30 projects listed in AEWA/MOP1.9:

Review of the use of agrochemicals in Africa, and their impacts on migratory waterbirds (AP 4.3.2, 4.3.3)

A wide range of agrochemicals are used, both legally and illegally, in Africa for agriculture and for pest control purposes. A number of these products are highly toxic to wetland fauna and flora, including to migratory waterbirds, and some of them have already been banned in other parts of the world. The impacts on migratory waterbirds may be either direct through impacts on survival or reproductive rates, or indirect through food-chain effects.

This project proposes a review of the use of such agrochemicals, and their impacts on migratory waterbirds. This may involve bibliographic studies, questionnaires and field studies in selected countries. The results will be published in a report to the AEWA Technical Committee and Secretariat, and may include recommendations for further work under the AEWA. A joint approach with the FAO or other organizations may be appropriate for this project.

Indicative budget: US\$ 60,000
Duration: 2 years
Activities: desk study, review, surveys, report and recommendations

Rehabilitation of important sites for migratory waterbirds, which have been degraded by invasive aquatic weeds. (AP 3.3)

A large number of wetlands (including many of international importance to migratory waterbirds), particularly in tropical Africa, have been degraded by invasions of species of aquatic weeds. Such weed infestations greatly affect the ecological character of these wetlands. The impacts on migratory waterbirds may occur either through the direct removal or alteration of their habitats, or by effects on the food chain.

This project will review the extent of the problem and the species involved (both aquatic weeds and migratory waterbirds), and will assess the likely impacts on migratory waterbirds. It will build on a literature review, questionnaire survey and possibly some field studies. The review will result in a report providing recommendations for further action under the AEWA. Partnerships with appropriate organizations and Conventions must be ensured in the execution of this project, to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort.

Indicative budget: US\$ 60,000
Duration: 2 years
Activities: desk study, review, surveys, report and recommendations

Exchange of know-how on traditional approaches to wetland and waterbird management in Africa. (AP 3.3, 4.2.2, 6.1, 6.2)

Rural communities in several African countries have developed traditional norms, regulations and technologies for the wise use of migratory waterbirds and their wetland habitats. Such approaches offer a valuable insight into options for sustainable development and utilisation of these resources by rural communities, which may be replicated in other countries.

This project proposes a review of such practices, to document traditional knowledge and make it available to others. The project will result in a report to the AEWA Technical Committee and Secretariat, containing detailed case studies, together with recommendations for future action under the AEWA (including training and awareness programmes).

Indicative budget: US\$ 60,000
Duration: 2 years
Activities: desk study, review, surveys, report and recommendations

RESOLUTION 1.5

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGISTER OF INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS.

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds,

Recalling that Article V, paragraph 4 of the Agreement encourages Parties “to provide training and technical and financial support to other Parties on a multilateral and bilateral basis to assist them in implementing the provisions of this Agreement”,

Further recalling that Article II of the Agreement requires Parties to “take coordinated measures to maintain migratory waterbird species in a favourable conservation status or to restore them to such status”,

Aware that many international co-operation projects already exist throughout the Agreement area which, together, provide a powerful impetus for the successful implementation of the Agreement,

1. *Endorses* the importance of the international co-operation projects included in the *Register of International Projects* (AEWA/MOP1.17, with amendments as listed in Annex I) as making a first and valuable and direct contribution to the implementation of the Agreement;
2. *Authorizes* partners in the projects listed in the *Register of International Projects* and Annex I to use the Agreement logo in association with the project, to promote the Agreement through the activities of their project, and to provide reports on progress of their project to the Agreement secretariat;
3. *Requests* the Technical Committee at each of its meetings to review and approve new projects for inclusion in the *Register of International Projects*, and to remove projects that are complete or inactive, and to submit a revised version to each future session of the Meeting of the Parties;
4. *Instructs* the Agreement secretariat to maintain the *Register of International Projects*, to disseminate information on these projects (including through the Convention on Biological Diversity clearing-house mechanism), and (upon request) to provide the partner organizations in the projects (including donors) with a displayable “Certificate of Endorsement” for the contribution of their project to the Agreement.

Annex 1

AMENDMENTS TO THE REGISTER OF INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS AEWA/MOP1.17

1. Delete criterion (iv) from the introductory page.
2. Project No. 10. Add *Netta rufina* to the list of species for which action plans are in preparation.
3. The following projects are added to the register shown in documents AEWA/MOP.1.17:

The following new (additional) projects are to be added to the Register (see following page):	Project title	Key Partners (lead agency first)	Description/Status
New	International Management Plan for Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>).	Iceland, Ireland, Greenland, United Kingdom.	Management plan developed in 1996, involving all four range States, to enhance the conservation status of the species on its breeding grounds in W. Greenland, its staging areas in Iceland and its wintering grounds in Ireland and UK. The plan also addresses conflicts with human activities (agriculture).
New	United Kingdom Habitat Conservation Stamp Programme.	United Kingdom (Wildlife Habitat Trust (<i>wht@basc.demon.co.uk</i>)) Wetlands International and recipient countries.	Stamp scheme to raise funds from UK hunters for habitat conservation. Support to projects to conserve key habitats within the range of UK migratory waterbirds.
New	Restoration of the N'Diael wetland, Senegal.	Senegal (DG Eaux et Forêts, Conseil Regional), France (SMACOPI), OMPO.	Management works to re-flood the wetland, including the elaboration and implementation of a management plan.
New	Preliminary evaluation of waterbird harvests in West Africa (1999 -).	France (Office National de la Chasse (<i>f.lamarque@onc.gouv.fr</i>)), west African countries.	Preliminary inventory of waterbird hunting practices and sites in West Africa.
New	Guinea Bissau – Trilateral Waddensea Project.	Denmark (National Forest and Nature Agency (<i>sta@sns.dk</i>)), Germany, The Netherlands, Guinea Bissau.	Education and training of ornithological team in Guinea Bissau, including monthly counts and total surveys of waterbirds.

The following new (additional) projects are to be added to the Register (see following page):	Project title	Key Partners (lead agency first)	Description/Status
New	Waterbird monitoring training package.	France (Office National de la Chasse (<i>j.y.mondain@onc.gouv.fr</i>), Tour du Valat Biological Station), West African countries.	Production of a set of materials (manuals, CDs, software etc.) to facilitate training activities for waterbird monitoring in Africa.
New	Compilation of important sites of terrestrial migratory waterbirds in the circumpolar Arctic (1996-). (www.wcmc.org.uk/Arctic/data/birds)	World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) (<i>info@wcmc.org.uk</i>), Conservation of Arctic Fauna and Flora (CAFF), Wetlands International, Russian Federation (Academy of Science, Institute of Biogeography, Moscow).	Database compilation of key sites provided in GIS format and available on the world wide web.
New	“African Odyssey” (1994 -) (capi.fido.cz/en/)	Czech Republic (Czech Radio 2 – Praha, Czech Ornithological Society, Czech Union for Nature Conservation.), range states of the Black Stork. (<i>Africaodysea@Internet.cz</i>)	Migration and life history study of Black Storks from the Czech Republic using satellite transmitters.
New	South African Bird Ringing Unit (SAFRING) (www.uct.ac.za/depts/stats/adu/)	South Africa (University of Cape Town), ringing schemes in other Southern African countries.	Supply of bird ringing services within southern Africa (north to Malawi and Mauritius).
New	European Union for Bird Ringing (EURING)	EURING coordination office, national bird ringing schemes throughout Europe.	Coordination of the European bird ringing schemes and maintenance of the EURING database of bird ringing recoveries.
New	Long-term support to training of professional wildlife managers in francophone countries of West Africa.	Burkina Faso, Cameroun (Garoua Training School), Niger, Togo, France (ONC), Ramsar Bureau, OMPO	Waterbird counting and monitoring techniques; inventory and management of their habitats.

RESOLUTION 1.6

GUIDELINES FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS IN CASH AND CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds,

Recalling the Final Act of the Negotiation Meeting on the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds held in The Hague, in June 1995 which “invited the Meeting of the Parties to consider at its first session the possibility of accepting from a given Party contributions in kind in lieu of contributions in cash to the budget of the Agreement, with the understanding that such contributions in kind from a given Party should be permitted only in exceptional circumstances and that the nature of the contribution must correspond to the needs and objectives of the Agreement”,

Aware of the need to create such circumstances that all Range States can contribute to the functioning and implementation of the Agreement,

Recalling resolution 5.7 of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention held in Geneva in 1997 which gave guidance to the Convention secretariat on the acceptance of contributions, both financial and in kind,

Convinced that the rules applied under Agreements, memorandums of understanding and other legal arrangements under the Convention must be similar or harmonized as far as possible,

1. *Instructs* the secretariat to examine, in close consultation with the Technical Committee, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Convention secretariat, the feasibility of countries making their contributions to the Agreements budget in kind instead of in cash and to report to the next Meeting of the Parties;
2. *Further instructs* the secretariat of the Agreement, if such a possibility is an option, to develop, with the Technical Committee and in close consultation with the United Nations Environment Programme and the Convention secretariat, criteria to establish a preliminary list of Range States to which this decision might apply, for discussion at the first meeting of the Technical Committee;
3. *Also instructs* the secretariat to apply the Convention Guidelines for Acceptance of Financial Contributions, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Agreement.

RESOLUTION 1.7

ESTABLISHMENT OF A SMALL CONSERVATION GRANTS FUND

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds,

Aware that, in many countries, the basic implementation of the Agreement will be severely constrained by the lack of adequate financial resources,

Noting the success of the Ramsar Small Grants Fund for Wetland Conservation and Wise Use in facilitating the development and implementation in developing countries and countries with economies in transition of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance,

Taking into account that Article V, paragraph 3, of the Agreement authorises the Meeting of the Parties to establish a conservation fund from voluntary contributions of Parties or from any other source for the purpose of financing monitoring, research, training and projects relating to the conservation, including protection and management, of migratory waterbirds,

Recalling that Article V, paragraph 4, of the Agreement encourages Parties to provide *inter alia* financial support to other Parties on a multilateral and bilateral basis to assist them in implementing the provisions of this Agreement,

1. *Decides* to establish a Small Conservation Grants Fund (the Fund) to facilitate the implementation of the Agreement, to become operational from the time of the second session of the Meeting of the Parties;
2. *Instructs* the Agreement Secretariat, taking into account the advice of the Technical Committee and learning from the experience of the Ramsar Small Grants Fund for Wetland Conservation and Wise Use, to submit to the second session of the Meeting of the Parties proposals for the operation of the Fund, including administration, eligibility criteria, submission and evaluation of proposals, allocation of funds and fund-raising. Management of the Fund by an appropriate international organization should be taken into consideration;
3. *Further instructs* the Agreement secretariat to establish an interim mechanism to enable Contracting Parties and other donors to make voluntary contributions for the purpose of providing small grants for the implementation of the Agreement between the first and second session of the meeting of the Contracting Parties;
4. *Urges* Contracting Parties and donors to make voluntary contributions to the Agreement secretariat, for the purpose of providing small grants for the implementation of the Agreement between the first and the second session of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties;
5. *Decides* that the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals guidelines for Acceptance of Financial Contributions as annexed hereto apply *mutatis mutandis*;
6. *Instructs* the secretariat with the assistance of the Technical Committee to consult with Parties and potential sponsors concerning sponsorship.

Annex

GUIDELINES FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

1. Background

- 1.1 The Meeting of the Parties to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, at its first meeting, considered the funding of special projects by external voluntary contributions. It invited all Parties, non-Party range States, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other sources to contribute to its trust fund or to special activities.
- 1.2 The secretariat and the Technical Committee will continue to identify key priority areas in accordance with which projects should be developed as appropriate.

2. United Nations framework

- 2.1 Regarding guidelines for voluntary contributions, the United Nations Financial Rules (rules 107.5, 107.6, 107.7) state as follows:

Rule 107.5

In cases other than those approved by the General Assembly, the establishment of any trust fund or the receipt of any voluntary contribution, gift or donation to be administered by the United Nations requires the approval of the Secretary-General, who may delegate this authority to the Under-Secretary General for Administration and Management.

Rule 107.6

No voluntary contribution, gift or donation for a specific purpose may be accepted if the purpose is inconsistent with the policies and aims of the United Nations.

Rule 107.7

Voluntary contributions, gifts or donations which directly or indirectly involve an immediate or ultimate financial liability for the Organization may be accepted only with the approval of the General Assembly.

- 2.2 Although the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA has the competence to approve or reject voluntary contributions and to decide on general guidelines, in doing so it should take account of the above United Nations rules *mutatis mutandis*.

3. Approval of list of donors

- 3.1 Donors which are not governmental institutions of Parties or non-Parties to the Agreement must be approved as such by the Technical Committee before their contributions are accepted by the secretariat. The Technical Committee may authorize its Chair to decide on its behalf, should it not be possible, for practical reasons, to solicit the approval of the Technical Committee in a timely manner, or should the proposed contribution be insubstantial (i.e., less than \$15,000).
- 3.2 Sources that are known to have been involved in interests or activities which conflict with the aims of the Agreement and any organization or individual that has deliberately brought, or might bring, the Agreement into public disrepute, shall be excluded. The same shall apply where there is a risk that the source might try to influence the decisions of any organ of the Agreement where the source, in the opinion of the Technical Committee, has, or has had in the past, an environmentally unfriendly attitude.

4. Acceptance of extraordinary contributions

- 4.1 Voluntary contributions may be accepted only when the purpose is consistent with the policies and aims of the Agreement.
- 4.2 Voluntary contributions shall not have an immediate or ultimate financial liability for the AEWA trust fund without the prior consent of the Meeting of the Parties or the Technical Committee.
- 4.3 All monetary contributions shall be paid in freely convertible currency; exceptions may, however, be made for special projects if the currency in question can be used effectively.
- 4.4 Voluntary contributions in kind may be accepted, provided that they are used to cover activities approved by the Meeting of the Parties or the Technical Committee. These may include *inter alia*, direct or indirect involvement in a joint project, free office accommodation, equipment, or the secondment of staff.

RESOLUTION 1.8

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds,

Recalling the Final Act of the negotiation meeting to adopt the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds held in the Hague, June 1995, inviting the interim secretariat to prepare proposals for the establishment of the Technical Committee,

Recalling the informal consultation with many Range States, governmental and non-governmental organizations during the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, held in Geneva in 1997 and the Second International Conference on Wetlands and Development, held in Dakar in 1998,

Recalling Article VII of the Agreement on the general composition and tasks of the Technical Committee,

Emphasizing the need for establishing a close link between the Technical Committee and the network of waterbird scientists and experts in each Contracting Party, so that the Agreement may benefit from the array of existing knowledge and experience,

Noting that the composition of the Technical Committee with regard to regions to be represented shall be adopted by the first session of the Meeting of the Parties,

1. *Determines* that:

- (a) The membership of the Technical Committee shall consist of:
 - (i) A person chosen from the representatives of each of the nine geographical regions as outlined in document AEWA/MOP1.11;
 - (ii) One representative from the World Conservation Union (IUCN), one from Wetlands International and one from the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC);
 - (iii) One expert from each of the following fields: rural economics, game management and environmental law; and
 - (iv) Each person chosen as an alternate member for a member described in subparagraphs (i) or (ii) to be represented at meetings only in the absence of the member for which it is an alternate;
- (b) Parties shall be entitled to be represented at meetings of the Technical Committee by an observer;

2. *Adopts* as the rules of procedure for the Technical Committee, as attached in annex I to the present resolution;

3. *Instructs* the secretariat to provide the necessary support to the Technical Committee in accordance with Article VII of the Agreement, the provisions in the budget for the Agreement and the activities of the Technical Committee or the Agreement secretariat as adopted by resolution 1.2;

4. *Appoints* to the Technical Committee in the first instance until the second session of the Conference of the Parties the following persons and their alternates, as mentioned in annex II to the present resolution, in their capacity as:

- (a) Experts representing the following regions of the Agreement Area:
 - North- and Southwestern Europe
 - Eastern Europe
 - Central Europe
 - Southwestern Asia
 - Northern Africa
 - Central Africa
 - Western Africa
 - Eastern Africa
 - Southern Africa;

- (b) One representative from:
 - World Conservation Union (IUCN)
 - Wetlands International ⁴)
 - International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC);

- (c) One expert from each of the following fields:
 - Rural economics
 - Game management
 - Environmental law;

5. *Requests* each Contracting Party to nominate by the end of April 2000 a suitably qualified technical expert in that country to act as a focal point for Technical Committee matters, and, as appropriate, to provide input to the work of the Technical Committee either directly or through liaison with other suitably qualified technical experts and to disseminate the work of the Committee in their country.

⁴ Wetlands International is the legal successor of the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau (IWRB), which is mentioned in the Agreement text.

Annex I

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR MEETINGS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS (AEWA)

General functions

Rule 1

The Technical Committee, established in accordance with Article VII of the Agreement, provides scientific and technical advice and information, to the Meeting of the Parties or through the Secretariat to the Parties. Its functions are defined in Article VII paragraph 3.

Rule 2

In particular, it makes recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties concerning the Action Plan, implementation of the Agreement and further research to be carried out.

Rule 3

In the event of an emergency the Technical Committee may request the Agreement Secretariat to urgently convene a Meeting of Parties involved to avoid deterioration of the conservation status of one or more migratory waterbird species.

Representation and attendance

Rule 4

The Committee shall, in accordance with Article VII paragraph 1, comprise: nine experts representing the Agreement Area, one representative from the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), one representative from Wetlands International, one representative from the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) and one expert from each of the following fields: rural economics, game management, and environmental law.

The nine experts representing the different regions shall be elected among the Parties from each of the four regions in Eurasia (Southwestern Asia, North- and Southwestern, Central and Eastern Europe) and of the five African regions (Northern, Central, Western, Eastern and Southern Africa) on the recommendation of the Parties of each of those regions. Furthermore Wetlands International, CIC and IUCN shall be invited to appoint a representative. Any Party has the right to recommend an expert in the fields of rural economics, game management and environmental law for nomination by the Meeting of the Parties. All the above mentioned fifteen Members, being experts or representatives, shall name an Alternate Member for each of position to be approved by the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 5

Except as provided for in Rule 8, attendance at meetings of the Technical Committee shall be limited to members of the Technical Committee or their Alternates and observers of the Parties.

Rule 6

Only Members shall exercise the voting rights. In his/her absence, the Alternate shall act in his or her place.

Rule 7

The membership of experts and representatives and their Alternates other than those appointed directly by the Parties shall be reviewed at each ordinary Meeting of the Parties. The membership of the nine experts to the Committee representing a geographical region shall be reviewed at each ordinary meeting of the Meeting of the Parties, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the meeting. The term of office of these members shall expire at the close of the second ordinary Meeting following that at which they were nominated. At each ordinary meeting of the Meeting of the Parties, elections shall be held only for those regional members whose term of office will have expired at the close of the meeting and for any regional member who indicates a desire to stand down without completing a full term of office. The same provisions shall apply with respect to the alternate members nominated in accordance with rule 4.

Rule 8

The Chairperson may invite observers of non-contracting Parties and invite or admit a maximum of four observers from specialised international inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Officers

Rule 9

The members of the Committee shall elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson from their regional representatives of the Parties, for terms corresponding to those of the Meetings of the Parties,. This election will normally take place immediately before the Meeting of the Parties, and the newly elected officers shall assume their functions at the conclusion of the corresponding Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 10

The Chairperson shall preside at meetings of the Committee, approve the provisional agenda prepared by the Secretariat for circulation, and liaise with committees between meetings of the Committee. The Chairperson may represent the Committee as required within the limits of the Committee mandate, and shall carry out such other functions as may be entrusted to him/her by the Committee

Rule 11

The Vice-Chairperson shall assist in the execution of the Chairperson's duties, and shall preside at meetings in the absence of the Chairperson.

Rule 12

The Agreement Secretariat shall serve the meetings of the Committee.

Elections

Rule 13

If in an election to fill one place no candidate obtains an overall majority in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken, restricted to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If the second ballot the votes are equally divided, the presiding officer shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

Rule 14

If in the first ballot there is a tie amongst candidates obtaining the second largest number of votes, a special ballot shall be held amongst them to reduce the number of candidates to two.

Rule 15

In the case of a tie amongst three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes in the first ballot, a special ballot shall be held amongst them to reduce the number of candidates to two. If a tie then results amongst two or more candidates, the presiding officer shall reduce the number to two by drawing lots, and a further ballot shall be held in accordance with Rule 11.

Meetings

Rule 16

Meetings of the Committee shall be convened by the Agreement Secretariat in conjunction with each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties and at least once between ordinary sessions of the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 17

Where in the opinion of the Committee an emergency has arisen, which requires the adoption of immediate measures to avoid deterioration of the conservation status of one or more migratory waterbird species, the Chairperson may request the Agreement Secretariat to urgently convene a meeting of the Parties concerned.

Rule 18

Notice of meetings, including date and venue, shall be sent to all Parties by the Secretariat at least 45 days in advance and, in the case of extraordinary meetings, at least 14 days in advance.

Rule 19

A quorum for a meeting shall consist of half of the members of the Committee. No decision shall be taken at a meeting in the absence of a quorum.

Rule 20

Decisions of the Committee shall be taken by consensus unless a vote is requested by the Chairperson or by three members.

Rule 21

Decisions of the Committee by voting (pursuant to Rule 20) shall be passed by a simple majority vote of the members present. In the case of a tie, the motion shall be considered rejected.

Rule 22

A summary record of each meeting shall be prepared by the Secretariat as soon as possible and shall be communicated to all Party and Conference appointed experts/representatives.

Working groups

Rule 23

The Committee may establish such ad hoc working groups as may be necessary to deal with specific tasks. It shall define the terms of reference and composition of each working group.

Rule 24

Insofar as they are applicable, these Rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the proceedings of working groups.

Rule 25

The Committee shall receive reports from other committees and working groups established under the Agreement, as necessary.

Communication procedure

Rule 26

Any member or the Secretariat may submit a proposal to the Chairperson for a decision by postal procedure. The Secretariat shall communicate the proposal to the members for comments within 60 days of the date of communication. Any comments received within these limits shall also be so communicated.

Rule 27

If, by the date on which comments on a proposal were due to be communicated, the Secretariat has not received any objection from a Party appointed member, the proposal shall be adopted, and notice of the adoption shall be given to all members.

Rule 28

If any member objects to a proposal within the applicable time limit, the proposal shall be referred to the next meeting of the Committee.

Other functions

Rule 29

The Chairperson shall submit a written report on the Committee's work since the previous ordinary meeting to each ordinary Meeting of the Parties.

Final provisions

Rule 30

These Rules shall be applied at the first meeting of the Committee following their approval by the Meeting of the Parties, and may be amended by the Committee as required, in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement and decisions of the Meeting of the Parties.

Annex II

MEMBERS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

REGION	REPRESENTATIVES	ALTERNATE
NORTH AND SOUTH WESTERN EUROPE	Dr. Gerard. C. Boere	Dr. Mike. Moser
CENTRAL EUROPE	Prof. Dr. Dan Munteanu	Dr. Branco Micevski
EASTERN EUROPE	Dr. V. Serebzyabov	Dr. Ion Bejanaru
SOUTHWESTERN ASIA	(Jordan)	(still to be determined)
NORTH AFRICA	Mr. Sherif Mohammed Baha el Din	Mr. Mohamed Haffane
CENTRAL AFRICA	Mr. Ikonga Jerome Mokoko	Mr Kasula Seya Makonga
WESTERN AFRICA	Mr. Seydou Seyni	Mr. Momodou Lamin Kassa
EASTERN AFRICA	Dr. Charles Mlingwa	Mr. Oliver Nasirwa
SOUTHERN AFRICA	Mr. Barry Taylor	Mr. Yousouf Mungroo
 ORGANIZATION		
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (IUCN)	Dr. Mariano Giminez-Dixon	Dr. Susan Mainka
WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL	Dr. Janine van Vessem	Mr. Simon Delany
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR GAME AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (CIC)	Dr. Herby Kalchreuter	Mr. Christian Krogell
 EXPERTS		
Rural Economics	Dr. Elijah Danso	
Environmental law	Mrs. Rachel Adam	
Game Management	Dr. Jesper Madsen	

RESOLUTION 1.9

AMENDMENTS TO THE ACTION PLAN

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds,

Recalling the Final Act of the negotiation meeting to adopt the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, held in the Hague, in June 1995, inviting the interim secretariat to prepare amendments of the Action Plan with regard to species or families of species listed in Annex 2 to the Agreement,

Recalling Article X of the Agreement concerning the procedures to amend the Action Plan and its Annexes,

Acknowledging that all waterbirds listed under Annex 2 of the Agreement should be included within the provisions of the Action Plan so as to ensure coherent conservation actions,

Convinced that urgent actions are needed for many species not yet included in the Action Plan as adopted at the Final Negotiation Meeting (the Hague, June 1995),

1. *Adopts* the following textual amendments to the Action Plan:
 - (a) In the section 4.3.2, 4.3.3 and 4.3.4 the words “and to fisheries” are added after the words “in particular to crops”;
 - (b) In the section 4.3.6, after the first sentence the following text is added:

“Special attention should be given to the problem of human disturbance at breeding colonies of colonially–nesting waterbirds, especially when these are situated in the areas which are popular for outdoor recreation.”
2. *Notes* that Table 1 “Status of the populations of migratory waterbirds” is replaced by annex I of the present resolution;
3. *Further adopts* the most recent conservation status of populations as indicated by square brackets in Tables 1 (a) and 1 (b) of AEW/MOP 1.7, in preference to the conservation status deduced from the second edition of *Waterfowl Population Estimates* (1997) and for reasons outlined in AEW Inf.1.1;
4. *Asks* the Technical Committee, in consultation with the Scientific Council of the Convention secretariat as appropriate, to consider for addition to Annex 2 of the Agreement and table 1 of the Action Plan a number of species which appear from AEW/Inf.1.1 and other sources to merit such listing, and in particular *Oxyura maccoa*, *Sarothrura ayresi*, *Crex crex*, *Glareola ocularis*, *Glareola nuchalis* and *Rhynchops flavirostris*;
5. *Notes* the high degree of uncertainty related to current population estimates of *Lymnocyptes minimus*, and urges the Technical Committee, working with relevant organizations, to review current data and information and bring an evaluation of status to the second session of the Meeting of the Parties;

6. *Requests* the Secretariat to monitor the implementation of the amendments and to stimulate the preparation of single species action plans for those species as identified to be in an unfavourable conservation status;

7. *Calls* on all Parties to provide the necessary resources to undertake priority actions on an international level, e.g., the drafting of single species action plans where these are most needed.

Annex I

Table 1

STATUS OF THE POPULATIONS OF MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

KEY TO CLASSIFICATION

The following key to Table 1 is a basis for implementation of the Action Plan:

Column A

- Category 1: (a) Species which are included in Appendix I to the Convention;
(b) Species which are listed as threatened in the 1996 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals; or
(c) Populations which number less than around 10,000 individuals.
- Category 2: Populations numbering between around 10,000 and around 25,000 individuals.
- Category 3: Populations numbering between around 25,000 and around 100,000 individuals and considered to be at risk as a result of:
- (a) concentration onto a small number of sites at any stage of their annual cycle;
 - (b) dependence on a habitat type which is under severe threat;
 - (c) showing significant long-term decline; or
 - (d) showing extreme fluctuations in population size or trend.

For species listed in Categories 2 and 3, above, see paragraph 2.1.1 of this Annex.

Column B

- Category 1: Populations numbering between around 25,000 and around 100,000 individuals and which do not fulfil the conditions in respect of Column A, as described above.
- Category 2: Populations numbering more than around 100,000 individuals and considered to be in need of special attention as a result of:
- (a) concentration onto a small number of sites at any stage of their annual cycle;
 - (b) dependence on a habitat type which is under severe threat;
 - (c) showing significant long-term decline; or
 - (d) showing extreme fluctuations in population size or trend.

Column C

- Category 1: Populations numbering more than around 100,000 individuals which could significantly benefit from international co-operation and which do not fulfil the conditions in respect of either Column A or B, above.

REVIEW OF TABLE 1

This Table shall be:

- (a) reviewed regularly by the Technical Committee in accordance with Article VII, paragraph 3(b), of this Agreement; and
- (b) amended as necessary by the Meeting of the Parties, in accordance with Article VI, paragraph 9(d) of this Agreement, in light of the conclusions of such reviews.

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

bre:	breeding	win:	wintering
N:	Northern	E:	Eastern
S:	Southern	W:	Western
NE:	Northeastern	NW:	Northwestern
SE:	Southeastern	SW:	Southwestern

() : Population status unknown. Conservation status estimated.

*: By way of exception for those populations marked by an asterisk, hunting may continue on a sustainable use basis where hunting of such populations is a long-established cultural practice (see paragraph 2.1.1).

NOTES

1. The population data used to compile Table 1 as far as possible correspond to the number of individuals in the potential breeding stock in the Agreement Area. The status is based on the best available published population estimates.
2. Suffixes (bre) or (win) in population listings are solely aids to population identification. They do not indicate seasonal restrictions to actions in respect of these populations under this Agreement and Action Plan.
3. The brief descriptions used to identify the populations conform with the descriptions used in the second edition of *Waterfowl Population Estimates* with some amendments following the Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds in the Agreement Area (Doc. AEWA Inf. 1.1).
4. Slash signs (/) are used to separate breeding areas from wintering areas.
5. Where a species' population is listed in table 1 with multiple categorization, the obligations of the Action Plan relate to the strictest category listed.

	A	B	C
<i>Gavia stellata</i>			
- Northwestern Europe (win)		2c	
- Caspian, B Sea & E Med (win)		(1)	
<i>Gavia arctica arctica</i>			
- Western Siberia/Europe		2c	
<i>Gavia arctica suschkini</i>			
- Central Siberia/Caspian			(1)
<i>Gavia immer</i>			
- Europe (win)	1c		
<i>Gavia adamsii</i>			
- Northern Europe (win)	(2)		
<i>Podiceps grisegena grisegena</i>			
- Northwestern Europe (win)		1	
- Black Sea & Med (win)		(1)	
- Caspian (win)	2		
<i>Podiceps auritus auritus</i>			
- NW Europe (large billed)	1c		
- NE Europe (small billed)		1	
- Caspian & South Asia (win)	2		
<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>			
- Europe & Western Asia (bre)	1a 3c		
<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>			
- Black Sea & Mediterranean (win)	1a 1b 1c		
- SW Asia & S Asia (win)	1a 1b 2		
<i>Phalacrocorax pygmaeus</i>			
- Black Sea & Mediterranean	2		
- Southwestern Asia		1	
<i>Phalacrocorax nigrogularis</i>			
- Gulf & Arabian Sea		2a (2c)	
<i>Egretta vinaceigula</i>			
- Southern Africa	1b 1c		
<i>Ardea purpurea purpurea</i>			
- Western Mediterranean (bre)	2		
- E Europe & SW Asia (bre)		(2c)	
<i>Casmerodius albus albus</i>			
- Black Sea & Med (win)	2		
- Southwestern Asia (win)		(1)	
<i>Ardeola idae</i>			
- Madagascar & Aldabra (bre)	1c		
<i>Ardeola rufiventris</i>			
- Tropical E & S Africa		(1)	
<i>Ixobrychus minutus minutus</i>			
- Europe & Northern Africa (bre)		2c	
- West & Southwest Asia (bre)		(1)	
<i>Ixobrychus sturmii</i>			
- Subsaharan Africa		(1)	

	A	B	C
<i>Botaurus stellaris stellaris</i>			
- Europe (bre)	3c		
- Southwestern Asia (win)	2		
<i>Mycteria ibis</i>			
- Subsaharan Africa		1	
<i>Ciconia nigra</i>			
- SW Europe/Western Africa	1c		
- Central & Eastern Europe (bre)	2		
<i>Ciconia episcopus microscelis</i>			
- Tropical Africa		1	
<i>Ciconia ciconia ciconia</i>			
- Southern Africa	1c		
- Iberia & NW Africa (bre)	3b		
- Central & Eastern Europe (bre)		2c	
- Southwestern Asia (win)	3b		
- Central & SE Europe (bre)	2		
<i>Plegadis falcinellus falcinellus</i>			
- Subsaharan Africa (bre)			(1)
- Black Sea & Med/W Africa	[3c]	1	
- Southwestern Asia/E Africa	2*	[1]	
<i>Geronticus eremita</i>			
- Morocco	1a 1b 1c		
- Southwestern Asia	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus aethiopicus</i>			
- Subsaharan Africa			1
- Iraq & Iran	1c		
<i>Platalea leucorodia leucorodia</i>			
- Eastern Atlantic	1c		
- Central & SE Europe (bre)	2		
<i>Platalea leucorodia archeri</i>			
- Red Sea	1c		
<i>Platalea leucorodia major</i>			
- SW & S Asia (win)	2		
<i>Platalea alba</i>			
- Subsaharan Africa	2*		
<i>Phoenicopterus ruber roseus</i>			
- Western Africa	3a		
- Eastern Africa	3a 3c		
- Southern Africa	3a 3c		
- Western Mediterranean	3a		
- Eastern Med, SW & S Asia		2a	
<i>Phoenicopterus minor</i>			
- Western Africa	2		
- Eastern Africa		2a 2c	
- Southern Africa	3a 3c		

	A	B	C
<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>			
- Western Africa			(1)
- Eastern & Southern Africa			(1)
<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>			
- Western Africa			1
- Eastern & Southern Africa			1
<i>Thalassornis leuconotus leuconotus</i>			
- Western Africa	1c		
- Eastern & Southern Africa	2*		
<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>			
- Western Mediterranean	1a 1b 1c		
- Algeria & Tunisia	1a 1b 1c		
- E Med, Turkey & SW Asia	1a 1b 2		
<i>Cygnus olor</i>			
- NW Mainland & Central Europe		2d	
- Black Sea		1	
- W & Central Asia/Caspian		2a 2d	
<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>			
- Iceland/UK & Ireland	2		
- NW Mainland Europe		1	
- N Europe & W Sib/B Sea & E Med	2		
- W & Cent Siberia/Caspian	2		
<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>			
- W Siberia & NE Europe/NW Europe		1	
- Northern Siberia/Caspian	1c		
<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>			
- E Greenland & Iceland/UK		2a	
- Svalbard/NW Europe		1	
<i>Anser fabalis fabalis</i>			
- W Sib & NE Europe/NW Europe		1	
<i>Anser fabalis rossicus</i>			
- W & C Siberia/NE & SW Europe			(1)
<i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i>			
- NW Sib & NE Europe/NW Europe			1
- W Siberia/Central Europe	3c*		
- W Siberia/Black Sea & Turkey			1
- N Siberia/Caspian & Iraq	2		
<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>			
- Greenland/Ireland & UK	3a*		
<i>Anser erythropus</i>			
- N Europe & W Sib/B Sea & Caspian	1a 1b 2		
<i>Anser anser anser</i>			
- Iceland/UK & Ireland		1	
- NW Europe/SW Europe			1
- Central Europe/N Africa	2*		
<i>Anser anser rubrirostris</i>			
- Black Sea & Turkey		1	
- W Siberia/Caspian & Iraq			1

	A	B	C
<i>Branta leucopsis</i>			
- E Greenland/Scotland & Ireland		1	
- Svalbard/SW Scotland	2		
- Russia/Germany & Netherlands			1
<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>			
- W Siberia/W Europe		2b	
<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>			
- Svalbard/Denmark & UK	1c		
- Canada/Ireland	2		
<i>Branta ruficollis</i>			
- N Siberia/Black Sea & Caspian	1a 1b 3a		
<i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>			
- Western Africa	2		
- Eastern & Southern Africa			(1)
<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>			
- Northwestern Africa	1c		
- E Med & Black Sea/NE Africa	2		
- W Asia & Caspian/Iran & Iraq		1	
<i>Tadorna cana</i>			
- Southern Africa		1	
<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>			
- Northwestern Europe		2a	
- Black Sea & Mediterranean		1	
- W Asia/Caspian & Middle East		1	
<i>Plectropterus gambensis gambensis</i>			
- Western Africa	3c		
- Eastern Africa			1
<i>Plectropterus gambensis niger</i>			
- Southern Africa		1	
<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos melanotos</i>			
- Western Africa		1	
- Southern & Eastern Africa			1
<i>Nettapus auritus</i>			
- Western Africa	2		
- Southern & Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Anas penelope</i>			
- W Sib & NE Europe/NW Europe			1
- W Sib & NE Europe/B Sea & Med		2c	
- W Sib/SW Asia & NE Africa		2c	
<i>Anas strepera strepera</i>			
- Northwestern Europe		1	
- NE Europe/Black Sea & Med		2c	
- W Sib/SW Asia & NE Africa			(1)
<i>Anas crecca crecca</i>			
- Northwestern Europe			1
- W Sib & NE Europe/B Sea & Med			1
- W Sib/SW Asia & NE Africa		2c	

	A	B	C
<i>Anas capensis</i>			
- E Africa to Western Africa	2		
- Southern Africa			1
<i>Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos</i>			
- Northwestern Europe			1
- N Europe/Western Mediterranean			1
- E Europe/Black Sea & E Med		2c	
- Western Siberia/SW Asia			(1)
<i>Anas undulata undulata</i>			
- Southern Africa			1
<i>Anas acuta</i>			
- Northwestern Europe		1	
- W Sib, NE & E Eur/S Eur & W Afr		2c	
- W Siberia/SW Asia & E Africa			(1)
<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>			
- Southern Africa			1
- Eastern Africa			1
- Madagascar	2		
<i>Anas hottentota</i>			
- Western Africa	1c		
- Eastern Africa			1
- Southern Africa		1	
<i>Anas querquedula</i>			
- W Siberia & Europe/W Africa		2c	
- W Sib/SW Asia, NE & E Africa			(1)
<i>Anas clypeata</i>			
- NW & Central Europe (win)		1	
- W Sib, NE & E Eur/S Eur & W Afr		(2c)	
- W Sib/SW Asia, NE & E Africa		2c	
<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>			
- W Mediterranean/W Africa	1a 1b 1c		
- Eastern Mediterranean	1a 1b 1c		
- Southwestern Asia	1a 1b 2		
<i>Netta rufina</i>			
- SW & Cent Europe/W Med	2*		
- Black Sea & E Mediterranean	3c		
- Western & Central Asia/SW Asia			1
<i>Netta erythrophthalma brunnea</i>			
- Southern & Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Aythya ferina</i>			
- NE Europe/NW Europe		2c	
- Cent & NE Europe/B Sea & Med		2c	
- Western Siberia/SW Asia		(2c)	
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>			
- W Mediterranean/W Africa	1a 1b 1c		
- E Europe/E Med & Africa	1a 1b 3c		
- W Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa	1a 1b 1c		

	A	B	C
<i>Aythya fuligula</i>			
- Northwestern Europe (win)			1
- Cent Europe, B Sea & Med (win)			1
- W Sib/SW Asia & NE Africa			(1)
<i>Aythya marila marila</i>			
- Northern Europe/Western Europe			1
- W Siberia/B Sea & Caspian			1
<i>Somateria mollissima mollissima</i>			
- Baltic, Denmark & Netherlands			1
- Norway & Russia			1
<i>Somateria mollissima islandica</i>			
- Svalbard & Franz Joseph (bre)		1	
<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>			
- E Greenland, NE Europe & W Sib			1
<i>Polysticta stelleri</i>			
- Western Siberia/NE Europe	1a 1b	1	
<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>			
- Iceland & Greenland			1
- Western Siberia/North Europe			1
<i>Melanitta nigra nigra</i>			
- W Sib & N Eur/W Eur & NW Africa		2a	
<i>Melanitta fusca fusca</i>			
- W Siberia & N Europe/NW Europe		2a	
- Black Sea & Caspian	1c		
<i>Bucephala clangula clangula</i>			
- NW & Central Europe (win)			1
- NE Europe/Adriatic		1	
- W Siberia & NE Europe/Black Sea	2		
- Western Siberia/Caspian	2		
<i>Mergellus albellus</i>			
- NW & Central Europe (win)	3a		
- NE Europe/Black Sea & E Med		1	
- Western Siberia/SW Asia		1	
<i>Mergus serrator serrator</i>			
- NW & Central Europe (win)			1
- NE Europe/Black Sea & Med		1	
- Western Siberia/SW & Cent Asia	1c		
<i>Mergus merganser merganser</i>			
- NW & Central Europe (win)			1
- NE Europe/Black Sea	1c		
- Western Siberia/Caspian	2		
<i>Grus leucogeranus</i>			
- Iran (win)	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Grus virgo</i> ¹			
- Black Sea (bre)	1c		
- Turkey (bre)	1c		
- Kalmykia (bre)		1	

	A	B	C
<i>Grus paradisea</i>			
- Extreme Southern Africa	1b 2		
<i>Grus carunculatus</i>			
- Northernmost Southern Africa	1b 2		
<i>Grus grus</i>			
- Northwest Europe (bre)		1	
- NE & Central Europe (bre)		1	
- Black Sea & E Med (win)	3c		
- Black Sea & Turkey (bre)	1c		
- Southwest Asia (win)	3c		
<i>Sarothrura boehmi</i>			
- Central Africa	(3b)		
<i>Porzana parva parva</i>			
- Western Eurasia/Africa		2c	
<i>Porzana pusilla intermedia</i>			
- Europe (bre)	2		
<i>Porzana porzana</i>			
- Europe/Africa		2c	
<i>Aenigmatolimnas marginalis</i>			
- Subsaharan Africa		(2b)	
<i>Fulica atra atra</i>			
- Black Sea & Med (win)			1
<i>Dromas ardeola</i>			
- NW Indian Ocean, Red Sea & Gulf	3a		
<i>Himantopus himantopus himantopus</i>			
- Subsaharan Africa (bre)			(1)
- Western Mediterranean (bre)		1	
- B Sea & E Mediterranean (bre)		1	
- Southwestern Asia (win)	2		
<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>			
- Southern Africa (bre)	2		
- Eastern Africa (bre)		(1)	
- W Europe & W Med (bre)		1	
- B Sea & E Mediterranean (bre)	(3c)		
- W & SW Asia/Eastern Africa	2		
<i>Glareola pratincola pratincola</i>			
- Western Mediterranean (bre)	2		
- B Sea & E Mediterranean (bre)	2		
- Southwestern Asia (bre)		(1)	
<i>Glareola nordmanni</i>			
- W & Cent Asia/E & S Africa		2b 2c	
<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>			
- Iceland & Faroes/E Atlantic			1
- N Europe/W Europe & NW Africa			1
- UK, Ireland, DK & Ger (bre)	3c*		
- Western Siberia (bre)		(1)	

	A	B	C
<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>			
- Eastern Atlantic (win)			1
- SW Asia & Eastern Africa (win)		1	
<i>Charadrius hiaticula hiaticula</i>			
- Europe & Northern Africa (win)		1	
- Western Africa (win)			(1)
<i>Charadrius hiaticula tundrae</i>			
- SW Asia, Eastern & Southern Africa (win)			(1)
<i>Charadrius dubius curonicus</i>			
- Europe/Western Africa			1
- West & SW Asia/Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Charadrius pecuarius pecuarius</i>			
- Subsaharan Africa			(1)
<i>Charadrius tricollaris tricollaris</i>			
- Southern & Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Charadrius forbesi</i>			
- Western & Central Africa		(1)	
<i>Charadrius pallidus pallidus</i>			
- Southern Africa	1c		
<i>Charadrius pallidus venustus</i>			
- Eastern Africa	(2c)		
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus</i>			
- Eastern Atlantic	3c		
- Black Sea & E Mediterranean (bre)	3c		
- SW Asia & NE Africa (win)			(1)
<i>Charadrius marginatus tenellus</i>			
- Southern & Eastern Africa		(1)	
<i>Charadrius marginatus mehowi</i>			
- West-central Africa		(1)	
<i>Charadrius mongolus pamirensis</i>			
- SW Asia & Eastern Africa (win)		(1)	
<i>Charadrius leschenaultii columbinus</i>			
- B Sea & E Mediterranean (bre)	1c		
<i>Charadrius leschenaultii crassirostris</i>			
- SW Asia & Eastern Africa (win)		(1)	
<i>Charadrius asiaticus</i>			
- Western Asia/E & S Africa	3c		
<i>Eudromias morinellus</i>			
- Europe (bre)		2c	
- Asia (bre)		(1)	
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>			
- Europe (bre)		2c	
- Western Asia (bre)			(1)
<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>			
- Black Sea & Mediterranean (bre)		1	
<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>			
- Western & Central Africa		(1)	

	A	B	C
<i>Vanellus senegallus senegallus</i>			
- Western Africa		(1)	
<i>Vanellus senegallus solitaneus</i>			
- Southwestern Africa		(1)	
<i>Vanellus senegallus lateralis</i>			
- Eastern & Southeastern Africa		(1)	
<i>Vanellus lugubris</i>			
- SW West Africa, & Cent & E Africa		(1)	
<i>Vanellus melanopterus minor</i>			
- Southern Africa		(1)	
<i>Vanellus coronatus coronatus</i>			
- Eastern Africa			(1)
- Central Africa		(1)	
<i>Vanellus coronatus xerophilus</i>			
- Southwest Africa		(1)	
<i>Vanellus superciliosus</i>			
- Western & Central Africa	(2)		
<i>Vanellus gregarius</i> ²			
- Western Asia/NE Africa	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>			
- SW Asia & NE Africa (win)		1	
<i>Gallinago media</i>			
- Scandinavia (bre)		1	
- W Siberia & NE Europe (bre)		2c	
<i>Gallinago gallinago gallinago</i>			
- Europe (bre)		2c	
- Western Siberia (bre)			1
- Iceland (bre) (<i>faroeensis</i>)			1
<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>			
- Europe (bre)	(3c)*		
- Western Siberia (bre)		(1)	
<i>Limosa limosa limosa</i>			
- Western Europe/W Africa		2c	
- Eastern Europe/Eastern Africa		2c	
- SW Asia & NE Africa (win)		(1)	
<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>			
- Iceland (bre)	3a*		
<i>Limosa lapponica lapponica</i>			
- Western Palearctic (win)		2a	
- West & Southwest Africa (win)		2a	
- SW Asia & Eastern Africa (win)			(1)
<i>Numenius phaeopus phaeopus</i>			
- Europe/Western Africa			1
- Western Siberia/S & E Africa			(1)
<i>Numenius phaeopus alboaxillaris</i> ³			
- SW Asia/Eastern Africa	1c		
<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>			
- Gulf, Med & Morocco (win)	1a 1b 1c		

	A	B	C
<i>Numenius arquata arquata</i>			
- Europe (bre)			1
<i>Numenius arquata orientalis</i>			
- SW Asia & Eastern Africa (win)	3c		
<i>Tringa erythropus</i>			
- Europe/Western Africa			(1)
- SW Asia & Eastern Africa (win)		(1)	
<i>Tringa totanus totanus</i>			
- East Atlantic (win)		2c	
- E Europe/E Med & Africa		2c	
<i>Tringa totanus ussuriensis</i>			
- SW Asia & Eastern Africa (win)			(1)
<i>Tringa totanus robusta</i>			
- Iceland & Faroes (bre)			1
<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>			
- Europe/Western Africa		(1)	
- SW Asia & E & S Africa (win)		(1)	
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			
- Europe/Western Africa			1
- SW Asia & E & S Africa (win)			(1)
<i>Tringa ochropus</i>			
- Europe/Western Africa			1
- SW Asia & Eastern Africa (win)			(1)
<i>Tringa glareola</i>			
- Europe (bre)		2c	
- SW Asia, E & S Africa (win)			(1)
<i>Tringa cinerea</i>			
- SW Asia & Africa (win)		1	
<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>			
- Europe (bre)			1
- SW Asia & Eastern Africa (win)			(1)
<i>Arenaria interpres interpres</i>			
- Western Palearctic (win)		1	
- Western Africa (win)		1	
- SW Asia, E & S Africa (win)		(1)	
<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>			
- SW Asia & W South Asia (win)	1c		
<i>Calidris canutus canutus</i>			
- Western & Southern Africa (win)		2a 2c	
<i>Calidris canutus islandica</i>			
- NE Can & Greenland/NW Europe		2a	
<i>Calidris alba</i>			
- E Atlantic, W & S Africa (win)			1
- SW Asia, E & S Africa (win)			(1)
<i>Calidris minuta</i>			
- Europe & Western Africa (win)			1
- SW Asia, E & S Africa (win)			(1)

	A	B	C
<i>Calidris temminckii</i>			
- Europe/Western Africa		(1)	
- SW Asia & Eastern Africa (win)		(1)	
<i>Calidris maritima</i>			
- Eastern Atlantic (win)		1	
<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>			
- N Siberia/Europe & N Africa		2c	
- SW Asia & NE Africa (win)			(1)
<i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i>			
- Iceland & Greenland (bre)			1
- Baltic, UK & Ireland (bre)	3c		
<i>Calidris alpina arctica</i>			
- Greenland (bre)	2		
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>			
- SW Europe & W Africa (win)			1
- SW Asia, E & S Africa (win)			1
<i>Limicola falcinellus falcinellus</i>			
- N Europe/SW Asia & E Africa	3c		
<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>			
- Western Africa (win)		2c	
- SW Asia, E & S Africa (win)			(1)
<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>			
- Western Eurasia (bre)			1
<i>Phalaropus fulicaria</i>			
- African Atlantic coasts (win)			(1)
<i>Larus leucophthalmus</i>			
- Red Sea & nearby coasts	1a 1b 2		
<i>Larus hemprichii</i>			
- Red Sea, Gulf, Arabia & E Africa		2a	
<i>Larus audouinii</i>			
- Med/N & W Africa coasts	1a 3a		
<i>Larus armenicus</i>			
- Armenia, E Turkey & W Iran	3a		
<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>			
- Black Sea & Caspian/SW Asia	3a		
<i>Larus genei</i>			
- Western Africa (bre)	2		
- Black Sea & Mediterranean (bre)		2a	
- W, SW & S Asia (bre)		2a	
<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>			
- W Europe, Med & NW Africa		2a	
<i>Sterna nilotica nilotica</i>			
- Western Europe/Western Africa	2		
- Black Sea & E Mediterranean (bre)	2		
- Southwestern Asia (win)	2		

	A	B	C
<i>Sterna caspia caspia</i>			
- Southern Africa (bre)	1c		
- Western Africa (bre)	2		
- Europe (bre)	1c		
- Caspian (bre)	1c		
<i>Sterna maxima albidorsalis</i>			
- Western Africa (bre)	3a		
<i>Sterna bengalensis bengalensis</i>			
- Gulf/Southern Asia		2a	
<i>Sterna bengalensis par</i>			
- Red Sea/Eastern Africa	3a		
<i>Sterna bengalensis emigrata</i>			
- S Med/NW & W Africa coasts	1c		
<i>Sterna bergii bergii</i>			
- S Africa & Madagascar (bre)	2		
<i>Sterna bergii thalassinus</i>			
- Eastern Africa & Seychelles (bre)	1c		
<i>Sterna bergii velox</i>			
- Red Sea & NE Africa	3a		
<i>Sterna sandvicensis sandvicensis</i>			
- Western Europe/Western Africa		2a	
- Black Sea & Mediterranean (bre)		2a (2c)	
- SW & S Asia (win)		2a	
<i>Sterna dougallii dougallii</i>			
- Europe (bre)	1c		
<i>Sterna hirundo hirundo</i>			
- Southern & Western Europe (bre)			1
- Northern & Eastern Europe (bre)			1
- Western Asia (bre)			(1)
<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>			
- Western Eurasia (bre)			1
<i>Sterna albifrons albifrons</i>			
- Eastern Atlantic (bre)	3b		
- B Sea & E Mediterranean (bre)	3c		
- Caspian (bre)	2		
<i>Sterna albifrons guineae</i>			
- Western Africa (bre)	(2)		
<i>Sterna saundersi</i>			
- W S Asia, Red Sea, Gulf & E Afr		(1)	
<i>Sterna balaenarum</i>			
- S & Central Africa Atlantic	2		
<i>Sterna repressa</i>			
- W S Asia, Red Sea, Gulf & E Afr		2c	
<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>			
- E Europe & W Asia/Africa		2c	
<i>Chlidonias niger niger</i>			
- Europe & Asia (bre)		2c	

Footnotes to table 1:

- 1: This species is listed in Appendix II of the Bonn Convention under the name *Anthropoides virgo*.
- 2: This species is listed as *Chettusia gregaria* in Appendix I of the Bonn Convention.
- 3: The form “*alboaxillaris*” is thought by some authors to be only a colour morph of nominate *phaeopus*.

RESOLUTION 1.10

CONSERVATION GUIDELINES

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds,

Recalling the Final Act of the negotiation meeting to adopt the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, held in the Hague, in June 1995, inviting the interim secretariat to prepare conservation guidelines in order to assist the Parties in their implementation of the Agreement Action Plan,

Recalling Article IV paragraph 4 of the Agreement on the submission of conservation guidelines to the first session of the Meeting of the Parties and the need for regular review thereafter,

Recognizing the wide range of different conservation structures and national legislative frameworks currently occurring within the Agreement area, and through which the same conservation objectives can be achieved by different mechanisms,

Aware of the results of the informal discussions on the draft of the conservation guidelines at the Second International Conference on Wetlands and Development held in Dakar, in November 1998,

Convinced of the necessity that all Parties and Range States of the Agreement shall implement the Agreement in a similar and coherent way,

Noting that these conservation guidelines provide a common framework for action but have no legally binding effect,

1. *Adopts* the conservation guidelines as contained in AEWA/MOP1.8 as initial guidelines in the sense of Article IV of the Agreement, as guidance for the Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Agreement and its Action Plan;

2. *Requests* the Technical Committee to revise the initial guidelines as a matter of urgency, taking into account the comments provided by the participants in the Meeting of the Parties and seeking further input from Range States and other organizations;

3. *Calls upon* Contracting Parties to utilize these guidelines in a practical way that leads to a minimum of additional bureaucracy and that recognizes the different social, economic and environmental conditions within the Agreement area;

4. *Urges* the bilateral and multilateral donor agencies involved directly or indirectly in waterbird conservation, to take into consideration document AEWA/MOP.1.8 and the priorities for action at the national and international level identified herein;

5. *Instructs* the secretariat and the Technical Committee, within the available resources and in consultation with Parties and appropriate organizations, to review these guidelines regularly, in particular, taking account of the additional comments provided by participants to the Meeting of the Parties;

6. *Congratulates* Wetlands International on their efforts over a considerable period to develop and bring forward the conservation guidelines.

RESOLUTION 1.11

DATE, VENUE AND FUNDING OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds,

Recalling Article VI, paragraph 2, of the Agreement, which states that the Agreement Secretariat shall convene, in consultation with the Convention Secretariat, ordinary sessions of the Meeting of the Parties at intervals of not more than three years, unless the Meeting of the Parties decides otherwise,

Noting that the first session of the Meeting of the Parties was hosted by South Africa and the Netherlands, in conjunction with the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, to be held in Cape Town, 10-16 November 1999,

Appreciating the benefits that may accrue to the Agreement and to Parties, particularly those with developing economies, that host sessions of the Meeting of the Parties in different regions in the Agreement area,

1. *Decides* that the second session of the Meeting of the Parties shall take place before the end of 2002 or early 2003 at the latest;

2. *Welcomes* and accepts with great appreciation the offer from the Federal Republic of Germany to host the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds.

RESOLUTION 1.12

TRIBUTE TO THE ORGANIZERS

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds,

Holding its first session in an important region of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds,

Aware of the significant effort undertaken in the organization of the current session of the Meeting of the Parties by the Governments of South Africa and the Netherlands, along with the secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals,

Noting with satisfaction the arrangements made by the South African and Netherlands authorities and the secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals to facilitate participation by as many Range States as possible,

1. *Congratulates* the Governments of South Africa and the Netherlands on their joint activities in having the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds held in conjunction with the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals;

2. *Congratulates* also the interim secretariat on the excellent preparation of the current first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement;

3. *Expresses* its gratitude to the Governments of South Africa and the Netherlands for the arrangements made to provide an excellent venue and facilities for the work of both meetings;

4. *Expresses* its gratitude to the secretariat of the Convention for their good co-operation in organizing the current meetings and for solving the complex legal and administrative issues related to the trilateral arrangements;

5. *Also expresses* its appreciation to the Governments of Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for their support to the preparation of the current meetings and to the non-governmental organizations, in particular, Wetlands International, that provided substantial assistance.

RESOLUTION 1.13

ACCEPTING CANDIDATE PARTIES FOR THE RIGHT TO VOTE AT THE FIRST SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN WATERBIRDS

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds Agreement,

Aware of the fact that becoming a Party to the Agreement might be a long process that many States have embarked upon but have not yet been able to bring to completion in time for the start of the first session of the meeting of the Parties, on 6 November 1999,

Informed however by the Depository that some States have in fact completed the process in time for the start of first session of the Meeting of the Parties but must wait until the first day of the third month after the completion of its formal procedures in conformity with Article XIV, paragraph 2, of the Agreement,

Convinced that the decision-making process at the first session of the Meeting of the Parties will benefit from the active participation of as many Parties as possible,

1. *Decides* that the following countries: Benin, Denmark, Finland, South Africa and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, although they are officially required to wait, meet the above criteria for being a full Party and shall exceptionally be granted the status of full participating Party with the right to vote;

2. *Instructs* the Credentials Committee to monitor the credentials of Benin, Denmark, Finland, South Africa and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia according to the accepted procedures and report to the Plenary session;

3. *Decides* that this derogation shall only apply at this first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement.

RESOLUTION 1.14

PHASING OUT OF LEAD SHOT IN WETLANDS

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African—Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds,

Recalling paragraph 4.1.4. of the text of the Action Plan to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Waterbirds, stating that Parties shall endeavour to phase out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands by the year 2000,

Recognizing that, as outlined in the initial guidelines on sustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds contained in document AEWA/MOP.1.8, lead poisoning is an unacceptable waste of the waterbird resource,

Acknowledging that many Range States currently have technical difficulties in the phasing out of lead shot,

1. *Requests* the Technical Committee, in the light of paragraph 4.1.4 of the text of the Action Plan to the Agreement, to review the experience of those countries that have phased out, or are endeavouring to phase out, the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands, in consultation with hunting organizations, gun and ammunition manufacturers and traders, and accordingly bring elaborated guidance to the Meeting of the Parties at its second session.

ANNEX II

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE MEETINGS OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS.

Adopted by the Meeting of the Parties on 9 November 1999

PURPOSE

Rule 1

These rules of procedure shall apply to any Session of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, convened in accordance with article VI of the Agreement.

Insofar as they are applicable, these rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to any other meeting held in the framework of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds.

DEFINITIONS

Rule 2

For the purpose of these rules:

- a) "Agreement" means the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, concluded on 16 June 1995 at The Hague, the Netherlands and entered into force on 1 November 1999. This Agreement is an agreement within the meaning of article IV paragraph 3 of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979).
- b) "Convention" means the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, 1979.
- c) "Parties" means the Contracting Parties to the Agreement.
- d) "Meeting of the Parties" means the Meeting of the Parties in accordance with article VI;
- e) "Session" means any ordinary or extraordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties convened in accordance with article VI of the Agreement.
- f) The "President" means the President elected in accordance with rule 21, paragraph 1, of the present rules of procedure;
- g) "Subsidiary body" means all committees or working groups established by the Meeting of the Parties;
- h) "Technical Committee" means the body established in accordance with article VII;

- i) The “Meeting Committee”, which during a session of the Meeting of the Parties plays the role of Standing Committee; shall consist of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Technical Committee, the elected President and Vice-President of the current meeting, the President of the previous ordinary meeting, the Secretary-General or the Deputy Secretary-General of the Convention and the Agreement Secretary.
- j) “Secretariat” means the Secretariat of the Agreement established in accordance with article VIII;
- k) “Proposal” means a draft resolution or recommendation submitted by one or more Parties, by the Technical Committee, by the Meeting Committee or by the Secretariat.

PLACE OF MEETINGS

Rule 3

1. The Meeting of the Parties shall take place in the country chosen by the previous Meeting of the Parties on the basis of a formal invitation that should have been issued to this effect by the responsible authority of that country. If more than one Party issues an invitation to host the next session of the Meeting of the Parties, and two or more invitations are maintained after informal consultations, the Meeting of the Parties shall decide on the venue of the next session by secret ballot.
2. If no invitation has been received, the session of the Meeting of the Parties shall be held in the country where the Secretariat has its seat, unless other appropriate arrangements are made by the Secretariat of the Agreement or the Secretariat of the Convention.

DATES OF MEETINGS

Rule 4

1. Ordinary session of the Meetings of the Parties shall be held at intervals of not more than three years.
2. At each ordinary session, the Meeting of the Parties shall determine the year and venue of the next ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties. The exact dates and duration of each ordinary session shall be established by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Convention Secretariat and the host country of the meeting. Where it is possible to do so, such sessions should be held in conjunction with the ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.
3. Extraordinary sessions of the Meetings of the Parties shall be convened on the written request of at least one third of the Parties.
4. An extraordinary session shall be convened not later than ninety days after the request in accordance with paragraph 3 of this rule has been received.
5. In the event of an emergency situation, the Technical Committee may urgently request the Secretariat to convene a meeting of Parties concerned.

Rule 5

The Secretariat shall notify all Parties of the date, venue, and provisional agenda of an ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties at least 12 months before the session is due to commence. The notification shall include the draft agenda for the meeting and the deadline for submission of proposals by the Parties. Only Parties, the Technical Committee, the Meeting Committee and the Secretariat shall be entitled to submit proposals.

OBSERVERS

Rule 6

1. The Secretariat shall notify the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, in its role as Depository of the Agreement, the United Nations, its specialized Agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, any Range State not Party to the Agreement, and the secretariats of international conventions concerned *inter alia* with the conservation, including protection and management, of migratory waterbirds of the session of the Meeting of the Parties so that they may be represented as observers.
2. Such observers may, upon the invitation of the President, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any session of the Meeting of the Parties unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.

Rule 7

1. Any agency or body, national or international, whether governmental or non-governmental, technically qualified in conservation matters or in research on migratory waterbirds, which has informed the Secretariat of its wish to be represented at the Meetings of the Parties by observers, shall be admitted unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object. Once admitted these observers shall have the right to participate but not to vote.
2. Bodies or agencies desiring to be represented at the meeting by observers shall submit the names of their representatives, and in case of national non-governmental bodies or agencies, evidence of the approval of the State in which they are located, to the Secretariat at least one month prior to the opening of the session.
3. Such observers may, upon the invitation of the President participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any session unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.
4. Seating limitations may require that no more than two observer from any Range State not a Party, body or agency be present at a session of the Meeting of the Parties. The Secretariat shall notify those concerned of such limitations in advance of the meeting.
5. A standard participation fee may be fixed by the Secretariat of the Agreement, to be paid in advance of the Meeting by all non-governmental organisations. The fee will be announced in the letter of invitation and this Meeting will determine any fee for the next ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties.

AGENDA

Rule 8

The Secretariat shall prepare the provisional agenda of each meeting, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Technical Committee and the Convention Secretariat.

Rule 9

The provisional agenda of each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties shall include, as appropriate:

- a) Items arising from the articles or the Annexes of the Agreement;
- b) Items, the inclusion of which has been decided at a previous meeting or which emanate from decisions taken at a previous meeting;
- c) Items referred to in rule 15 of the present rules of procedure;
- d) Any item proposed by a Party, the Technical Committee or the Secretariat.

Rule 10

The documents for each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, as per Rule 54, and proposals received from the Parties, as per rule 5, shall be distributed in the official languages by the Secretariat to the Parties at least sixty days before the opening of the meeting.

Rule 11

The Secretariat shall, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Technical Committee, include any item which has been proposed by a Party and has been received by the Secretariat after the provisional agenda has been produced, but before the opening of the meeting, in a supplementary provisional agenda

Rule 12

The Meeting of the Parties shall examine the provisional agenda together with any supplementary provisional agenda. When adopting the agenda, it may add, delete, defer, or amend items. Only items which are considered by the Meeting of the Parties to be urgent and important may be added to the agenda.

Rule 13

The provisional Agenda for an extraordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties shall consist only of those items proposed for consideration in the request for the extraordinary meeting. The provisional agenda and any necessary supporting documents shall be distributed to the Parties at the same time as the invitation to the extraordinary meeting.

Rule 14

The Secretariat shall report to the Meeting of the Parties on the administrative and financial implications of all substantive agenda items submitted to the meeting, before these items are considered by the meeting. Unless the Meeting of the Parties decides otherwise, no such item shall be considered until the Meeting of the Parties has received the Secretariat's report on the financial and administrative implications.

Rule 15

Any item of the agenda of an ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, consideration of which has not been completed at the meeting, shall be included automatically in the agenda of the next ordinary meeting, unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties.

REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Rule 16

Each Party participating in a meeting shall be represented by a delegation consisting of a head of delegation and such other accredited representatives, alternate representatives, and advisers as the Party may deem necessary. Logistics and other limitations may require that no more than four delegates of any range State be present at a plenary session. The Secretariat shall notify Parties of any such limitations in advance of the meeting.

Rule 17

A representative may be designated as an alternate head of delegation. An alternate representative or an adviser may act as a representative upon designation by the head of Delegation.

Rule 18

1. The original of the statement of credentials of the head of delegation and other representatives, alternate representatives, and advisers, shall be submitted to the Secretariat of the Agreement or to his/ her designated representative if possible not later than twenty-four hours after opening of the meeting. Any later change in the composition of the delegation shall also be submitted to the Secretary or the representative of the Secretary.
2. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or his/ her equivalent. If other authorities in a Contracting Party are entitled to issue credentials for international meetings, this should have been notified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Secretary in advance of the meeting.
3. The credentials must bear a full signature of the appropriate authority or else be sealed and initialled by that authority. The seal and/or letterheading should clearly indicate that the credentials have been issued by the appropriate authority.
4. A representative may not exercise the right to vote unless his/ her name is clearly and unambiguously listed in the credentials.

5. If credentials are submitted in a language other than one of the working languages of the Agreement (French and English), they shall be accompanied by a suitable translation into one of these two languages to permit efficient validations of the credentials by the Credentials Committee.

Rule 19

A Credentials Committee composed of at least two Parties of the African region and two of the Eurasian region, elected at the first session of each ordinary meeting, shall examine the credentials and submit its report to the Meeting of the Parties for approval.

Rule 20

Pending a decision of the Meeting of the Parties upon their credentials, representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the meeting.

OFFICERS

Rule 21

1. At the commencement of the first session of each ordinary meeting, a President and a Vice-President shall be elected from among the representatives of the Parties present at the meeting, on the basis of a proposal put forward by the Meeting Committee. In preparing its proposal on this matter, the Meeting Committee shall consider first the candidate(s) put forward by the host country of the meeting for the post of President of the meeting.
2. The President and the Vice President shall be entitled to join the Meeting Committee as full members for the duration of the meeting.
3. The President shall participate in the meeting in that capacity and shall not at the same time exercise the rights of a representative of a Party. The Party concerned shall designate another representative who shall be entitled to represent the party in the meeting and to exercise the right to vote.

Rule 22

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon the President elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of the meeting, preside at the sessions of the meeting, ensure the observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote, and announce decisions. The President shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings and over the maintenance of order.
2. The President may propose to the Meeting of the Parties the closure of the list of speakers, limitations on the time to be allowed to speakers and the number of times each Party or observer may speak on a question, the adjournment or the closure of the debate, and the suspension or the adjournment of a session.
3. The President, in the exercise of the functions of that office, remains under the authority of the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 23

The President, if temporarily absent from a session or any part thereof, shall designate the Vice-President to act as President. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

Rule 24

If the President and/or Vice-President resign or are otherwise unable to complete the assigned term of office or to perform the functions of the office, a representative of the same Party shall be named by the Party concerned to replace the said officer for the remainder of that office's mandate.

Rule 25

At the first session of each ordinary meeting, the President of the previous ordinary meeting, or in the absence of the President, a representative of the same Party, shall preside until the Meeting of the Parties has elected a President for the meeting.

THE MEETING COMMITTEE, OTHER COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Rule 26

1. The Meeting Committee shall include the President of the previous ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, the elected President and Vice-President of the current Meeting of the Parties, the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Technical Committee, the Secretary-General or Deputy Secretary-General of the Convention Secretariat and the Secretary of the Agreement. Observers may be invited to attend meetings of the Meeting Committee, if required. The Meeting Committee shall be chaired by the President of the previous ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties.
2. The Meeting Committee shall meet at least once daily to review the progress of the meeting, including the draft of the report of the previous day prepared by the Secretariat, and to provide advice to the President in order to ensure the smooth development of the rest of the proceedings.
3. The Meeting of the Parties may establish other committees and working groups if it deems it necessary for the implementation of the Agreement. Where appropriate, meetings of these bodies shall be held in conjunction with the Meeting of the Parties.
4. The Meeting of the Parties may decide that any such body may meet in the period between ordinary meetings.
5. Unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties, the chairperson for each such body shall be elected by the Meeting of the Parties. The Meeting of the Parties shall determine the matters to be considered by each such body and may authorize the President, upon the request of the chairperson of a body, to make adjustments to the allocation of work.
6. Subject to paragraph 5 of this rule, each body shall elect its own officers. No officers may be re-elected for a third consecutive term.
7. Unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties, these rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the proceedings of such bodies, except that:

- a) A majority of the Parties designated by the Meeting of the Parties to take part in any such body shall constitute a quorum, but in the event of the body being open-ended, one quarter of the Parties shall constitute a quorum;
- b) The chairperson of any such body may exercise the right to vote;
- c) There shall be no requirement to provide interpretation in committee or working group sessions, including the Meeting Committee.

SECRETARIAT

Rule 27

1. The Head of the Agreement Secretariat shall be the Secretary of the Meeting of the Parties. The Secretary or the representative of the Secretary shall act in that capacity in all sessions of the Meeting of the Parties and of subsidiary bodies.
2. The Secretary shall provide and direct the staff as required by the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 28

The Secretariat shall, in accordance with these rules:

- a) Arrange for interpretation at the meeting;
- b) Prepare, receive, translate, reproduce and distribute the documents of the meeting;
- c) Publish and circulate the official documents of the meeting;
- d) Make and arrange for keeping of sound recordings of the meeting;
- e) Arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the meeting;
- f) Draft the report of the meeting for consideration by the Meeting Committee first and for final approval by the Meeting of the Parties; and
- g) Generally perform all other work that the Meeting of the Parties may require.

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 29

1. Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties shall be held in public, unless the Meeting of the Parties decides otherwise.
2. Sessions of subsidiary bodies shall be held in private unless the subsidiary body concerned decides otherwise.

3. Delegations shall be seated in accordance with the alphabetical order of the English language names of the Parties.

Rule 30

The President may declare a session of the meeting open and permit the debate to proceed if at least one half of the Parties to the Agreement are present, and may take a decision when representatives of at least two one half of the Parties are present.

Rule 31

1. No one may speak at a session of the Meeting of the Parties without having previously obtained the permission of the President. Subject to rule 32, 33, 34 and 36, the President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The Secretariat shall maintain a list of speakers. The President may call a speaker to order if the speaker's remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
2. The Meeting of the Parties may, on a proposal from the President or from any Party, limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each Party or observer may speak on a question. Before a decision is taken, two representatives may speak in favour and two against a proposal to set such limits. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call the speaker to order without delay.
3. A speaker shall not be interrupted except on a point of order. He may, however, with the permission of the President, give way during his/her speech to allow any other representative or observer to request clarification on a particular point in that speech.
4. During the course of a debate, the President may announce the list of speakers, and with the consent of the meeting, declare the list closed. The President may, however, accord the right of reply to any representative if a speech delivered after the list has been closed makes this desirable.

Rule 32

The chairperson or rapporteur of a subsidiary body may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by that subsidiary body.

Rule 33

During the discussion of any matter, a Party may at any time raise a point of order, which shall be decided immediately by the President in accordance with these rules. A Party may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be put to the vote immediately and the ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the Parties present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 34

Any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Meeting of the Parties to discuss any matter or adopt a proposal or an amendment to a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before the matter is discussed or a vote is taken on the proposal or amendment in question.

Rule 35

1. Proposals for amendment of the Agreement may be made by any Party. According to article X the text of any proposed amendment and the reason for it shall be communicated to the Agreement Secretariat not less than one hundred and fifty days before the opening of the session.
2. A new proposal, other than in paragraph 1 of this rule, that was not submitted to the Secretariat at least 60 days before the opening of the meeting and amendments to proposals, shall be introduced in writing by the Parties and handed to the Secretariat in at least one of the official languages, for submission to the Meeting Committee.
3. A new proposal shall deal only with matters that could not have been foreseen in advance of the session or arise out of the discussions at the session. The Meeting Committee shall decide if the new proposal meets this requirement, so as to introduce it formally for consideration by the meeting. If a new proposal is rejected by the Meeting Committee, the sponsor(s) shall be entitled to request the President to submit the question of its admissibility to a vote, as per Rule 34. The sponsor(s) shall be given the opportunity to make one intervention to present the arguments in favour of the introduction of the new proposal, and the President shall explain the reasons for its rejection by the Meeting Committee.
4. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any session unless copies of it, translated into the official languages of the Meeting of the Parties, have been circulated to delegations not later than the day preceding the session. Nevertheless, the President may permit the discussion and consideration of amendments to proposals or of procedural motions and, in exceptional circumstances, in cases of urgency and when deemed useful to advance the proceedings, permit the discussion and consideration of proposals even though these proposals, amendments or motions have not been circulated or have been circulated only the same day or have not been translated into all the official languages of the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 36

1. Subject to rule 33, the following motions shall have precedence, in the order indicated below, over all other proposals or motions:
 - a) To suspend a session;
 - b) To adjourn a session;
 - c) To adjourn the debate on the question under discussion; and
 - d) For the closure of the debate on the question under discussion.
2. Permission to speak on a motion falling within (a) to (d) above shall be granted only to the proposer and, in addition, to one speaker in favour of and two against the motion, after which it shall be put immediately to the vote.

Rule 37

A proposal or motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has begun, provided that the motion has not been amended. A proposal or motion withdrawn may be reintroduced by any other Party.

Rule 38

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered at the same meeting, unless the Meeting of the Parties, by a two thirds majority of the Parties present and voting, decides in favour of reconsideration. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to the mover and one other supporter, after which it shall be put immediately to the vote.

VOTING

Rule 39

Each Party shall have one vote. Regional economic integration organisations, which are Parties to this Agreement shall, in matters within their competence, exercise their voting rights with a number of votes equal to the number of their Member States which are Parties to the Agreement. A regional economic integration organization shall not exercise its right to vote if its Member States exercise theirs, and *vice versa*.

Rule 40

1. The Parties shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters of substance by consensus. If all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted and no agreement reached, the decision shall, as a last resort, be taken by a simple majority vote of the Parties present and voting, unless otherwise provided by the Agreement such as in the case of:
 - a) the adoption of the budget for the next financial period and any changes to the scale of assessment, which require unanimity (article V);
2. If on matters other than elections a vote is equally divided, a second vote shall be taken. If this vote is also equally divided, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.
3. For the purposes of these rules, the phrase "Parties present and voting" means Parties present at the session at which voting takes place and casting an affirmative or negative vote. Parties abstaining from voting shall be considered as not voting.

If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the Meeting of the Parties, unless it decides otherwise, shall vote on the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted. The Meeting of the Parties may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

Rule 42

Any representative may request that any parts of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal be voted on separately. The President shall allow the request unless a Party objects. If objection is made to the request for separate voting, the President shall permit two representatives to speak, one in favour of and the other against the motion, after which it shall be put to the vote immediately.

Rule 43

If the motion referred to in rule 42 is adopted, those parts of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal which are approved shall then be put to the vote as a whole. If all the operative parts of a proposal or amendment have been rejected, the proposal or amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Rule 44

A motion is considered to be an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from, or revises parts of that proposal. An amendment shall be voted on before the proposal to which it relates is put to the vote, and if the amendment is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

Rule 45

If two or more amendments to a proposal are put forward, the Meeting of the Parties shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal, then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom, and so on, until all amendments have been put to the vote. The President shall determine the order of voting on the amendments under this rule.

Rule 46

Voting, except for elections and the decision on the venue of the next ordinary meeting, shall normally be by show of hands. A roll-call vote shall be taken if one is requested by any Party; it shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the Parties participating in the meeting, beginning with the Party whose name is drawn by lot by the President. However, if at any time a Party requests a secret ballot, that

shall be the method of voting on the issue in question, provided that this request is accepted by a simple majority of the Parties present and voting. The President shall be responsible for the counting of the votes, assisted by tellers appointed by the Meeting, and shall announce the result.

Rule 47

1. The vote of each Party participating in a roll-call vote shall be expressed by "Yes", or "No", or "Abstain" and shall be recorded in the relevant documents of the meeting.
2. When the meeting votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of hands and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call vote.

Rule 48

After the President has announced the beginning of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual proceedings. The President may permit the Parties to explain their votes, either before or after the voting, but may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. The President shall not permit those who put forward proposals or amendments to proposals to explain their vote on their own proposals or amendments, except if they have been amended.

Rule 49

All elections and the decision on the venue of the next ordinary meeting shall be held by secret ballot, unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 50

1. If, when one person or one delegation is to be elected, no candidate obtains a majority of votes cast by the Parties present and voting in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken between the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If, in the second ballot, the votes are equally divided, the President shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.
2. In the case of a tie in the first ballot among three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes, a second ballot shall be held. If a tie then results among more than two candidates, the number shall be reduced to two by lot and the balloting, restricted to them, shall continue in accordance with the procedure set forth in paragraph 1 of this rule.

Rule 51

1. When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, the number of candidates must not exceed the number of such places, those obtaining the largest number of votes and a majority of the votes cast by the Parties present and voting in the first ballot shall be deemed elected.
2. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of persons or delegations to be elected, there shall be additional ballots to fill the remaining places. The voting shall then be restricted to the candidates that obtained the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot and shall not exceed twice the places that remain to be filled. After the third inconclusive ballot, votes may be cast for any eligible person or delegation.
3. If three such unrestricted ballots are inconclusive, the next three ballots shall be restricted to the candidates who obtained the greatest number of votes in the third of the unrestricted ballots and shall not exceed twice the places that remain to be filled. The following three ballots thereafter shall be unrestricted, and so on until all the places have been filled.

LANGUAGES

Rule 52

The official and working languages of the Meeting of the Parties shall be English and French.

Rule 53

1. Statements made in an official language shall be interpreted into the other official language.
2. A representative of a Party may speak in a language other than an official language, if the Party provides for interpretation into one such official language.

DOCUMENTS

Rule 54

1. Official documents of the meetings shall be drawn up in one of the official languages and translated into the other official language.
2. Financial limitations may make it necessary to limit the number of documents provided to each Party and observer. The Secretariat shall encourage Parties and observers to download the documents from the Agreement Web site on the Internet or to receive them on a computer diskette, so as to save costs of photocopying and mailing.
3. Any documents, including proposals, submitted to the Secretariat in any language other than a working language shall be accompanied by a translation into one of the working languages.
4. When in doubt, the Secretariat shall ask the approval of the Meeting Committee for issuing a document as an official document of the meeting.
5. Parties and observers wishing to distribute documents that have not been approved as official documents of the meeting shall make their own arrangements for distribution, after having sought the advice of the Secretariat on how to proceed.

SOUND RECORDINGS OF THE MEETINGS

Rule 55

Sound recordings of the Meeting of the Parties, and whenever possible of its subsidiary bodies, shall be kept by the Secretariat.

ENTERING INTO FORCE AND AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 56

These rules of procedure shall enter into force immediately after their adoption and shall remain in effect for an indefinite period, unless one or more Parties and/or the Technical Committee submit amendments to them. Amendments to these rules shall be adopted by consensus by the Meeting of the Parties.

OVERRIDING AUTHORITY OF THE AGREEMENT

Rule 57

In the event of a conflict between any provision of these rules and any provision of the Agreement, the Agreement shall prevail.

ANNEX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

Document No.	Agenda Item	Title
Meeting Papers		
MOP 1.1 (Rev.1)	5	Provisional Agenda
MOP 1.2 (Rev.1)	5	List of documents
MOP 1.3	5	Provisional Timetable
MOP 1.4 (Rev. 1)	3	Rules of Procedures
MOP 1.5	9a	Report of the Secretariat
MOP 1.6	9b	Report of the Depositary
MOP 1.7	11	Amendments to the Agreement and Annexes
MOP 1.8	12	Conservation Guidelines
MOP 1.9	13a	International Implementation Priorities 2000-2004
MOP 1.10	14a	Establishment of the Agreement Secretariat
MOP 1.11	14b	Establishment of the Technical Committee
MOP 1.12	15a	Budget AEWA 2000-2002
MOP 1.13	15b/c	Guidelines for acceptance of financial contributions
MOP 1.14 (Rev. 1)	16	Format for reports of the Parties
MOP 1.15	18	International Action Plan for the Dark-bellied Brent Goose
MOP 1.16 (Rev. 1)	7	Admission of Observers
MOP 1.17	13b	Register of International Projects
Resolutions		
Res. 1.1.(Rev. 2)	14a	Establishment of the Permanent Secretariat
Res. 1.2 (Rev.2/ Corr.1)	15a	Financial and administrative matters
Res. 1.3 (Rev. 1)	16	Establishment of a triennial National Report format
Res. 1.4 (Rev 1)	13	International Implementation Priorities 2000-2004
Res. 1.5 (Rev. 1)	13b	Establishment of a Register of International Projects
Res. 1.6 (Rev. 2)	15b	Guidelines for the acceptance of contributions in cash and in kind
Res. 1.7 (Rev. 2)	15c	Establishment of a Small Conservation Grants Fund
Res. 1.8 (Rev. 2)	14b	Establishment of the Technical Committee
Res. 1.9 (Rev. 2)	11	Amendments to the Action Plan
Res. 1.10 (Rev. 2)	12	Conservation Guidelines
Res. 1.11 (Rev. 1)	20	Date, Venue and Funding Second Meeting of the Parties
Res. 1.12 (Rev. 1)	21	Tribute to the Organizers
Res. 1.13 (Rev. 1)	6	Accepting Candidate Parties for the right to vote at MOP1
Res. 1.14	21	Phasing out lead shot in wetlands
Information documents		
Inf. 1.1	11	Conservation Status Report
Inf. 1.2	16	National Report of Switzerland
Inf. 1.3	16	National Report of Togo
Inf. 1.4	21	Wader Atlas, pilot project
Inf. 1.5	21	Waterbird Ringing Recoveries, South Africa

Document No.	Agenda Item	Title
Inf. 1.6		Dutch AEWA Stamp and First Day Cover
Inf. 1.7		List of Contracting Parties
Inf. 1.8		Participants Handbook
Inf. 1.9 (Rev. 1)		List of Participants
Inf 1.10	16	National Report of United Kingdom
Inf. 1.11	21	Development of a GEF proposal along the African-Eurasian Flyway
Inf. 1.12	16	National Report of Congo
Inf. 1.13	14a	Letter of Germany regarding co-location of the AEWA Secretariat
Inf. 1.14		Kenya and the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement

ANNEX IV

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS/ LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

PARTIES (*means AEWA ratified but not yet in force)

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Part II:
Opening Statements

Statements made during the opening session

CEREMONY

Introductory remarks by Dr. Pieter Botha, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism of South Africa

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this opening ceremony of the 6th Conference of the Parties to CMS and the 1st Meeting of the Parties to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement in an area that has been described by the early travellers as the fairest cape of them all.

We will have gathered at this venue, during the next 10 days, a large number of delegates representing countries from all over the world. More than 250 delegates from 80 countries will attend the AEWA meeting and almost 250 delegates from 100 countries will attend the CMS meetings. It is indeed a memorable occasion to have so many representatives present. Something which is also very encouraging is the fact that not only do we have present Parties to the Convention and the Agreement but also a large number of observer countries. As a matter of interest no less than 60 non-party countries will be attending the AEWA meeting and 44 the CMS meeting. I would like to believe that those countries will in due course become full members to the family of countries involved in the CMS.

It is the first time that the COP is being hosted by one of the countries party to the CMS and I believe it is very appropriate that this event takes place at the southern most tip of Africa, as the area in which we are having our meetings is the end of the flyway of a large number of migratory birds. Marine mammals also frequent our waters and shores.

I would also like to point out that 1999 represents the 20th anniversary of the Convention. So not only is the venue for the meetings very appropriate, but also the timing of the event, because the Convention entered into force on 3 November 1983, almost to the day 16 years ago.

**NOTES FOR THE OPENING OF THE
6th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES
OF WILD ANIMALS (the Bonn Convention)**

By the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
MOHAMMED VALLI MOOSA

Welcome

The State Secretary for Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries of the Netherlands, Ms Geke Faber; The German Federal Minister of the Environment, Nature conservation and Nuclear Safety, Ms Gila Altmann; The Executive Director of UNEP, Dr Klaus Töpfer; Honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the start of the 6th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Bonn Convention. The meeting today is particularly auspicious as we commemorate the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Bonn Convention.

The Conference of the Parties (COP) takes place every three years and is the decision-making organ of the Convention. We are honoured that you chose to hold the 6th COP of the Bonn Convention and the 1st Meeting of the Parties to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) in our country. South Africa, at one end of the migratory route for a number of birds and marine mammals, and thus plays an important role in their conservation, is an ideal venue to celebrate these two milestones in the history of the Convention.

Animal migration is one of the many wonders of the world. It is a universal and natural phenomenon encompassing a wide variety of species from antelopes, to dolphins, whales and marine turtles, to bats and many bird species. Migratory species usually choose one area in which to breed and another in which to spend the non-breeding season. Most bird migrants to South Africa breed in Europe, Western Asia and northern Africa during the boreal (northern) summer. These include species such as the White Stork and European Swallow. There are some species that breed in South Africa and migrate into tropical Africa during the austral (southern) winter, such as the Redchested Cuckoo. In both cases, the migrant birds enjoy the benefits of living in a perpetual summer, never experiencing extreme cold and always enjoying an abundance of food. To these highly mobile animals, among which birds are the most numerous example, the non-breeding areas are just as important as the breeding grounds. The migration routes form the highways and the stopover points provide essential services during the journey. All these habitats are of equal importance to migrant birds and stretch over great geographical areas.

But there is another reason for Southern Africa to take a keen interest in the work of the Bonn Convention. Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe last month signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCA). The agreement supports the establishment of a TFCA that will bring the parks of Gaza in Mozambique, Kruger National Park in South Africa and Gonarezhou in Zimbabwe together under a joint management creating one of the biggest conservation areas in the world. The agreement established a Ministerial Committee and an International TFCA Technical Committee to oversee the implementation of the agreement. This is the second agreement to be signed this year as Swaziland, Mozambique and South Africa signed the Lubombo Protocol to establish a transfrontier conservation area. The protocols recognize that ecosystems transcend national boundaries and the need for trans-border co-operation in the conservation and management of the shared natural resources for the benefit of the people of the region. They follow the ratification of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park Protocol which makes the adjacent Gemsbok National Park (in Botswana) and Kalahari Gemsbok National Park (in South Africa) a single ecological unit to be known as the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. The Park, which will be formally opened by the Presidents of the two countries in February next year,

formalises the previous arrangements to ensure that no barrier to wildlife movement exists along the international boundary which separates the 9,591 km² Kalahari Gemsbok National Park and the 28,400 km² Gemsbok National Park. These three Transfrontier areas carry this continent's vision of an African Renaissance - where we put our colonial past behind us as we work for common goals such as conservation of our natural heritage.

This is the spirit of the Bonn Convention and your presence here today in our country at the 20th anniversary of the convention gives us renewed energy and hope in striving for its speedy implementation.

Thank you.

**Opening Statement to
the 6th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Bonn
Convention and the 1st Meeting of the Parties to the African-Eurasian
Waterbird Agreement**

**by
Geke Faber, State Secretary for Agriculture, Nature Management
and Fisheries of the Netherlands**

Mr. Valli Moosa, Mr. Töpfer, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a honour for me to address this first Meeting of the Parties to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement. Furthermore, I would like to thank and congratulate the government of South Africa for hosting this important meeting.

Picture this. Before starting their journey south, a flock of Siberian geese must agree on their destination, their route and their in-flight duties. The ensuing debate would probably run well into the winter. Luckily, geese don't have endless rounds of talks. Every year, they follow their instinct to the right place to spend the winter.

This is not how our international community works. We are birds of different feathers, different characters and different preferences. It is both our strength and our weakness. International conferences are necessary before we can agree on anything, and there are a lot of these. Many meetings achieve good results, including those about international nature protection. They are a step in the right direction, but meetings and resolutions *alone* are not enough. The real value of an agreement depends on effective implementation, and this often poses a problem. Only then it is possible to reach the ultimate goal of sustainable development.

Why do I bring this up now? I do so because I think the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement could serve as an example in nature preservation. The Agreement allows for practical implementation of the Bonn Convention, and so far progress has been swift and smooth. I hope we will be able to take another big step forward during this conference. That we will be able to show practical results soon, not just results on paper. That we will succeed in providing *real* protection to waterbirds, protection that they deserve and need so much. I hope we can achieve this. Also because this way our efforts for the protection of waterbirds will have a positive effect in many other fields of nature conservation, where we simply must co-operate internationally. AEWA can be an important step in the development of an integral strategy for sustainable development. That is how I see it.

Now, let me list what I think are the most important items on the agenda of this First Meeting of the Parties. In the first place, there is the very important principle of sustainable use. Waterbirds are a favourite target for hunters, because of their weight, and the fact that they stick together in large numbers. That underlines the need for strict rules protecting migratory waterbirds. In the Netherlands, there is now a ban on hunting for almost all migratory waterbirds. Of course I would like other countries to adopt such strict rules too. But I understand that they have a different history and different problems, and that they may therefore choose different solutions. That is a fact. At the same time, *none* of us want vulnerable species to decline again. That is why close international co-operation is so very important. AEWA is a good example of this. Co-operation is the best way of finding a balance between use and conservation, in Europe and in Africa.

How do we realize this in practice? To start with, I think AEWA could play a key role in collecting and

distributing information about the hunting of waterbirds. AEWA could also provide funds for waterbird protection programmes, and education and training. A good example of co-operation within AEWA is a major project promoting sustainable use which is being carried out by the Netherlands, Mali and other West African countries.

The second important topic concerns AEWA's administration. In other words, the AEWA secretariat. As you know, my country has financed and housed the interim secretariat for the past four years. In the next few days, you will be making a decision about the permanent location of the secretariat. The Netherlands supports the idea of a single location for the secretariats of international agreements, such as UNEP. This is efficient, this encourages mutual policy adjustments and gives the agreements more international clout. These are the reasons why I favour moving the AEWA secretariat to Bonn, where it could be housed in the Agreement Unit of the CMS secretariat. It goes without saying that the rights of each party should be guaranteed and laid down in writing.

The third item on the agenda that I would like to mention specifically is the joint implementation of AEWA. This joint implementation is of the utmost importance. The international priority plan, which you will be discussing here, offers plenty of scope for that. Working together is particularly essential in vulnerable regions like the African Sahel Desert. Close co-operation with international organizations like UNEP and UNDP is crucial there. By joining forces, we can make AEWA a shining example of an efficient, practical Agreement.

AEWA is a model agreement which can have relevance for other fields. I think it is possible. I know it would be welcomed, too. In the first instance I see AEWA as a model for three or four new flyway agreements. If we succeed in that, we will have a world-wide guarantee for the protection of that most international of species: migratory birds. Wouldn't that be wonderful!

But of course co-operation doesn't have to be limited to birds. Through joint efforts, we could do a lot more to protect our forests, which are *essential reservoirs* of biodiversity. The UN's Agenda 21, the action programme for sustainable development, formulated the goals and the necessary concrete measures at the regional and national level. However, important things like a world-wide network of protected forests and an international certification system for sustainable produced wood are *just not happening*. In my opinion, the lack of an international instrument for forest conservation partly explains this failure. And our forests are paying the price.

International instruments for the protection of certain natural species are not an end in themselves. I see them as key components of a larger system. An *integrated* system. A system which would enable us to better protect our environment. I am talking about a world-wide ecological network of nature areas and ecological corridors. Wishful thinking? I don't think so. In the Netherlands, our efforts to realize a National Ecological Network are paying back. Europe, too, is building such a network in the Natura 2000 project. Agreements like AEWA are, in my opinion, a good basis for realising such a network on a global scale. Of course, it won't happen overnight. Vision and dedication are required from *all* partners. As with AEWA, the Netherlands is prepared to pave the way.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this meeting in South Africa marks the end of an era, and the beginning of a new one. In close co-operation with our partners, we have worked hard for twelve years to create AEWA. And our work has paid off. Now we are entering a new period, one of implementation. The Netherlands will continue to give its full co-operation and support. With you, we would like to make this Agreement an example of concrete international co-operation with tangible results in the next century.

Thank you for your attention.

**Greetings for the Opening Ceremony of the First Session of the Meeting of the Parties
to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement and the Sixth Conference of the Parties to
the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals**
by
**Parliamentary State Secretary Gila Altmann, Federal Ministry for the Environment,
Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany**

Minister, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for me to address on behalf of the German Environment Minister Jürgen Trittin representatives from countries and international organizations that are committed to conserving migratory species and in particular migratory water birds.

Today's opening ceremony is to celebrate two events:

The recent entry into force of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Water Birds, adopted in The Hague in 1995 and this year's 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Bonn Convention. The importance of these two agreements can be clearly illustrated using the example of the white stork in Germany.

The white stork is a species covered by AEWA and at the same time an indispensable element of our native bird life and that of our neighbouring countries. White stork population development is not only influenced by conditions in Europe, but to a large extent by conditions along the flyway and conditions in wintering areas in Africa. What is true for many bird species or other migratory species, is also true for a large and striking species such as the white stork: due to the lack of data on ecology and the behaviour of migratory bird species, it is extremely difficult to recommend specific conservation measures. Co-ordinated research activities are thus needed in many cases.

To overcome this lack of knowledge and to collect more data in addition to the data from ringed storks, the German Environment Ministry sponsors a long-term German-Israeli project, geared towards systematically investigating the flyway of central European white storks of the eastern population with the help of satellite tracking and detailed ecological monitoring. Interim results, which were published last year, seem very promising. One of the surprise results of the project is that a completely unknown wintering area has been discovered in the West of Sudan.

Against this background we consider how to co-operate with countries on the Eastern rim of the Mediterranean to protect important resting areas for the white stork and other waterbird species covered by AEWA, such as the white-headed duck, the marbled teal and the red-breasted merganser. The Middle East contains a number of important sites for migratory birds. We have provided expertise to support the elaboration of a conservation area concept for this region and investigate potential GEF funding. You will hear more about this here at the Conference.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am very happy that a few days ago, on 1st November 1999, the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Waterbirds entered into force. The government of the Netherlands and the Secretariat of the Bonn Convention have made considerable efforts to support and promote this important regional agreement. You have made tomorrow's conference possible. My heartfelt thanks to you.

At the meeting we will discuss the further development of the Agreement, in other words, the extension of the action plan, as well as the adoption of important conservation guidelines and priorities for the further work of the Convention.

Another item will be the establishment of a permanent Agreement Secretariat in accordance with article VI, paragraph 7, within the framework of the CMS Secretariat. This means that the interim secretariat, which was so far provided and funded by the government of the Netherlands, would move from The Hague to Bonn. We will warmly welcome the Secretariat. Since the CMS Secretariat, and other Agreement Secretariats, i.e. the EUROBATS Secretariat and the ASCOBANS Secretariat are already in Bonn, the Convention and the Agreements will benefit from a host of synergy effects. On behalf of the German government I can assure you that we will do everything to provide the AEWA Secretariat with optimum start-up and adequate working conditions. We have already submitted an offer to the Government of the Netherlands.

The success of AEWA, the Bonn Convention and other conservation agreements will depend on the parties' or signatories' abilities to fulfil their commitments. For many countries this is a financial and capacity issue. I am happy to see that this issue will be addressed under various agenda items. In this context Germany would like to make an additional annual contribution for projects or events of the Secretariat. This contribution will support the conservation of migratory waterbirds in the agreement area.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would now like to talk about the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. The Convention had its 20th anniversary this year. From 11 to 23 June 1979 representatives of 50 governments accepted the invitation of the German government and came to Bonn to sign the Convention. It was, and still is, the goal of the Convention to provide migratory animal species with the protection necessary in their reproduction, wintering and migration sites.

Against this background the German Minister for the Environment, Jürgen Trittin invited guests to an anniversary ceremony to Bonn. More than 100 foreign embassies followed the invitation. Some of the people present here today attended the ceremony.

Ladies and Gentlemen, after 20 years our conclusion is: The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals has passed the test and has a future.

The Convention contains the instruments necessary to meet the protection and conservation requirements of these animals. The first instrument is the obligation to take strict conservation measures for all species listed in Annex I. Another important instrument is the commitment of the parties to enter into special regional agreements, based on two fundamental principles, namely international co-ordination and international co-operation, if possible among all range states with a view to conservation, and management. This is the spirit of the Bonn Convention and at the same time a precondition for conserving endangered species in their range areas, including the migration areas.

The Convention on Biological Diversity supports the Bonn Convention, it does not replace it. It seems recommendable however, to make GEF funding available for CMS projects, too.

In 1979, 22 states signed the Convention in Bonn. More than 60 parties are expected to participate in this year's Conference of the Parties. This is an encouraging development, but it is not enough. Many regions in the world are not yet adequately represented and some large range states (the US, Canada, Brazil and China) are not yet parties to the Convention. Some countries participate in the work under regional agreements or memoranda of understanding, without being parties to the CMS. Trying to attract further countries is thus a priority on the work list of the Convention. The German government will continue its efforts to promote the Agreement. The report of the German government contains a number of details about this promotion. Let me just stress in this context, that the Environment Minister, Jürgen Trittin when inviting non-parties to the anniversary ceremony on 23rd June 1999 in Bonn, requested non-party governments to consider accession to the Bonn Convention.

We intend to use both conferences here in Cape Town to inform you about the progress made in establishing the so-called, "Global Register of Migratory Animals" data base. This register will contain scientific data on migratory animals, data which may be combined with data from a geographical information system. It looks as if this project may be prolonged by the end of the year 2000. That would make it possible to gather additional fine-tuned data, to adapt data to specific user requirements (for instance for users such as CMS, ASCOBANS and EUROBATS and to test functionalities. The project manager Dr. Riede will be attending both conferences here, and he will be ready to explain the details about the data base.

Ladies and Gentlemen, before I conclude allow me to issue two invitations to you:

First of all I would like to invite all participants of the 6th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Bonn Convention, that is all representatives of contracting parties, non-contracting parties, IGOs and NGOs, and of course the Secretariats, to a reception on 10th November 1999, from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. here at the Hotel.

The second invitation is an invitation to Bonn in three years time. On behalf of the Federal Minister for the Environment, Jürgen Trittin I would like to invite the 2nd session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of African Eurasian Waterbirds and the 7th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals to Bonn. It would give me great pleasure to welcome you to my country in 2002 or 2003.

With these invitations the Federal Minister for the Environment, Jürgen Trittin would like to stress the importance the Federal Republic of Germany attaches to both the Convention and the Agreement.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in Bonn we just had the 5th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change. Both the Climate Framework Convention and the Agreement on African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds show how important international or global co-operation is for the protection the world that we live in. We owe this to our future generations. Let us continue our work in this spirit.

Thank you very much for your attention.

**6th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES**

**1st MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE AFRICAN-EURASIAN WATERBIRD
AGREEMENT**

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANISATIONS**

D E Pritchard

Minister, State Secretaries, colleagues and friends,

It is an honour and a pleasure to greet you at the anniversary Conference of this well matured Convention, to the birth of one of its most significant offspring, the Waterbird Agreement, and to an occasion of hard work and achievement for both of them.

That includes the contribution of the variety of non-governmental organizations on behalf of whom I now speak; and in particular four international conservation NGOs: BirdLife International, IUCN - the World Conservation Union, Wetlands International, and the World Wide Fund For Nature. We are represented here in good numbers, with a range of specialist expertise and perspectives from every part of the globe, including countries which are not yet Parties to the Convention or its various Agreements. We are continuing to use our good offices in those countries, hopefully with support from everyone who can give it, to bring new Parties in. There are still some very significant gaps in coverage - while we recognize that some of these are for reasons of historically deep difficulty, I hope we can all take renewed vigour from our meetings here to push hard for more signatures and ratifications where they are required, in partnership with those among you who have special relationships with the relevant governments.

Despite those gaps, the Convention goes from strength to strength, and the priority we give it in our own programmes has increased too. For example, IUCN at its recent European meeting agreed to give greater attention to CMS implementation issues in future. BirdLife's recent world conference was very pleased to have a keynote address from the CMS Deputy Executive Secretary, and one of its workshops, on migrants, exemplified the heightened profile that CMS matters are now being given at regional and national level among BirdLife Partners. WWF programmes prominently feature many migratory species. You will know of the integral involvement of Wetlands International in the preparation of technical documents for the Waterbird Agreement. This Agreement is a fantastic milestone which opens the way for a new era of commitment from everyone to the needs of our shared heritage of waterbirds in the African and Eurasian regions.

We appreciate the way that your Convention and its Agreements generally afford access to NGO interests. Policies and decisions are stronger where there has been a transparent view of what is being done, and we also bring a wealth of technical input to help the Convention achieve its goals. The proposal at this meeting regarding permanent observer status for various NGOs in the Scientific Council is a welcome alignment with the practice of some other treaties, and if the Standing Committee did the same you would then be as open as any of them. The Technical Committee of the Waterbird Agreement has an option to admit observers, and speaking for my own organization, BirdLife International will be among the first to request an involvement in that way too.

As participants in all the global biodiversity-related Conventions we have seen great advantage in recent moves towards joint working and synergy between them, and we encourage the best possible use of their complementary strengths in relation to habitats, sites and species to equip countries with the best tools for the job. This integration needs to be further improved at national level between the respective focal points

for each Convention, and we urge delegates to do what they can to advance that, once they return home from Cape Town.

Implementation of actions in countries is of course the real measure of what the Convention is achieving. National reports to meetings of Parties are the key indicator that the world community can use in judging this. There is scope for improvement here, in the number of reports completed in time for meetings, and in giving honest qualitative assessments in those reports of how far commitments have been followed through, what the obstacles have been and how to solve them, rather than just presenting descriptions of activity.

You will be able to agree some vital enabling steps here in the coming days. You will have our support, for example, for proposals to add new species to the Convention Appendices, to encourage measures to combat by-catch of fisheries and to draw up a new Agreement on albatrosses. We will ask reasonable questions about why some initiatives have not progressed as much as we hoped, such as those for the Houbara and Great Bustards.

In particular we will need to report back to our many millions of supporters throughout the world on the financial resources which you decide to commit to all this: to the concerted actions for selected Appendix-listed species, to conservation projects under the Agreements, especially getting the Waterbird Agreement off to the start that it needs; to regional meetings that stimulate momentum in developing countries in particular; and to the necessary resourcing of Secretariat functions. Delegates should keep in mind that the actual sums required are extremely small by comparison to government expenditures in other areas. Also, if we think about cost-effectiveness over a sufficiently strategic timescale, we will realize that resourcing the right actions adequately now, will often avoid the need for much greater demands on national exchequers in future. So we earnestly expect the verbal expressions of commitment that you make here to be backed by the right levels of funding.

We are present at a historic moment in international co-operation for the conservation of migratory species. The partnership between governments and non-governmental organizations represented here offers huge opportunities to make progress with some of the most urgent issues we face, and we pledge our energetic and constructive contribution to that. I wish you all a fruitful series of meetings.

Thank you very much.

**Key Note Address of
Dr. Klaus Töpfer at the Joint Opening Ceremony
for the
Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention
on Migratory Species and
the First Meeting of the Parties to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement,
Lord Charles Hotel, Somerset West/Cape Town, 6 November 1999**

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am really privileged and honoured to address this distinguished audience today.

To you - Minister, the Right Honourable Valli Moosa - go our special thanks for your personal involvement in hosting this conference. And through you we extend to your Government and the People of South Africa our thanks for the warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded us since our arrival in this beautiful city and for the excellent arrangements made for our deliberations.

I wish to thank you, Hon. Moosa, for presenting me with the South African State of Environment Report.

It is a tribute to the stature and capabilities of South Africa that it has taken over the responsibility of hosting this important Conference. This initiative complements and supports my endeavours to strengthen the United Nations presence in Africa.

It is my vision to see the importance of the United Nations headquarters in Nairobi grow to the level of other United Nations Headquarters in Geneva and Vienna. I am now in the position to inform you, as I recently informed the Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in Nairobi, that Africa is on the way to achieving this goal. By April next year we will have expanded the meeting facilities at the United Nations Office in Nairobi to accommodate global meetings for up to two thousand five hundred participants.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we have already heard from Mr. Moosa and from you Ms. Faber, we are opening two conferences simultaneously. This is remarkable, because one of them, the meeting of the parties to the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) is being hosted by the Government of the Netherlands but here in South Africa. I wish to thank the Netherlands Government for their efforts and generous support as hosts of the Interim Secretariat of AEWA. These meetings are a living proof of partnership between the industrialised countries of Europe and the countries of Africa.

The Convention on Migratory Species and the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) are closely related to each other. The AEWA is a regional Agreement for certain migratory species, in this case migratory waterbirds, under the Convention. However, both the Convention and this Agreement are independent treaties governed by their respective Parties. Nevertheless, these joint meetings prove that it is possible, as is very often requested at the political level, to benefit from synergies between multilateral environmental agreements.

I learnt from the Executive Secretary, Mr. Müller-Helmbrecht, that great efforts have been necessary on the part of the organizers - the Governments of South Africa and the Netherlands, the Secretariats of the

meeting. However, the savings which are being made in terms of expenditure for this Conference and in terms of time saved by the delegates and the concentration of all organizational matters more than offsets the additional administrative work.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The AEWAs and its parent Convention, the CMS, are symbolic of the need to create partnerships between states which share natural resources. I wish to stress that the CMS and the AEWAs must concern themselves deeply with the human aspects of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, because biodiversity is closely correlated with both cultural and spiritual values. Indeed, it may be noted that of the 6000 languages currently in use today, 2800 are endangered along with the biodiversity associated with the areas where these languages originate.

Migratory species connect not only cultures but also countries with each other. The dependence of migratory species on different ecosystems in different climatic zones in their annual or lifetime migratory cycles requires a common approach for their conservation and sustainable use. There is, therefore, great need for co-ordinated and integrated approaches to address the challenges of globalisation. Accordingly, conservation of species and their habitats/ecosystems must be linked with the issue of eradication of poverty which is a most poisonous commodity in the world.

A long-term research and monitoring programme co-ordinated by the Max-Planck-Society has produced some alarming results. The study shows that in the past 25 years the number of migratory birds between Europe and Africa has decreased on average by 1% per annum. Taking into account that migratory birds have evolved over 200 million years, you will agree that the fact that these species may become extinct within the next 100-200 years is a horrifying prospect.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Migratory species are travellers without passports or visas. They are not interested in or bothered with ideological differences or political borders. The need for transboundary co-operation among States to protect the species and their habitats is of critical importance. In order to demonstrate to you all and to the public what an astonishing phenomenon migration is, I have taken up an idea of the Executive Secretary of CMS. Following his advice, I sent a message to His Excellency, Mr. Thabo Mbeki, the President of the Republic of South Africa in a very unusual way. This message was sent - not by e-mail, not by fax, not by ordinary mail but by eagles! These eagles were caught in North Eastern Germany and Poland in July for scientific purposes in order to track their migration by satellite telemetry. A small capsule has been attached to four of the tracked birds. The message to the President of the Republic of South Africa reads as follows:

“This Eagle connects ecosystems of Europe, Middle East and Africa. Migratory animals are paramount symbols of our common natural heritage”.

The birds actually left their breeding area in the Northern Hemisphere between 16th and 21st September to migrate through Southern Europe, Asia Minor, Egypt, Sudan, following the Rift Valley down to somewhere in Southern Africa, either Zambia or Botswana or Namibia to arrive after 6-8 weeks in South Africa. As you can see on the “movie” map here on the wall, five eagles are being tracked by satellite. The fifth one does not bear the message because it was caught last year and the satellite transmitter on its back is still working. Four of these five eagles are at present at Lake Victoria in Northern Uganda and the fifth one, surprising, as it started out last, is now in the border area between Zambia and Zimbabwe. So there is a chance that in the next few days this bird will enter the territory of South Africa - by the way without a visa. Although the eagles have not yet reached the territory of South Africa, I would appreciate

and not only one ?” The answer to this question is quite simple but frightening. On their migration from the breeding to the wintering grounds the eagles pass through twenty to thirty countries. In all countries of south-eastern Europe and the Near East as well as to some extent of northern and eastern Africa, bird hunting is very common and therefore a major threat to migratory bird species. While passing through the narrow corridors of the Mediterranean basin, they congregate by hundreds or thousands. And in doing so, they are easy targets for all people bearing weapons. In addition, the satellite transmitters are technically unreliable and the wintering areas of the eagles in eastern and southern Africa are fairly large. Therefore, in order to have a good chance to bring the message over to South Africa it was decided to use four instead of only one eagle as messengers.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

These birds and my message, hopefully, will have explained to people who are not professionally involved with conservation of nature and wild animal species that:

- ☞ migratory species connect ecosystems, countries and people over long distances, even over continents;
- ☞ they encounter many risks in all the places that they visit along their migration routes; and
- ☞ therefore, they need co-ordinated concerted and co-operative action for their long term conservation and where applicable, sustainable use.

Both CMS and the Convention on Biological Diversity, highlight in their preambles the “ever-growing value of wild animals from environmental, ecological, genetic, scientific, aesthetic, recreational, cultural, educational, social and economic points of view”. The majority of wild animals subject to subsistence and sport hunting can be found among the waterbird species covered by AEWA. If all hunters had been let loose on Africa’s “Big Five”, by now these species would have been extinct for decades.

To highlight the importance of migratory animal species, I would like to give you two examples. The first is the polar bear which inhabits all of the polar regions of the entire northern hemisphere including Canada, Greenland, Norway, the Russian Federation and the United States.

Polar bears travel throughout the year within individual home ranges of 50,000 to 350,000 km² in size. Pregnant polar bear females enter winter hide-aways to hibernate after putting on as much reserve fat as possible in order to have sufficient resources for that period. While hibernating, a bear’s heart-rate drops from forty to seventy beats per minute to only eight to twelve and its metabolism slows down by half. During the period of hibernation, the polar bear will neither pass urea or solid faecal wastes. While urea poisoning causing death would occur in all other animals within a week, bears have developed a unique physiological process of recycling the urea into usable proteins. Therefore they are now the subject of intensive medicinal research.

The second example I would like to give derives from the bionic, a more and more important scientific research area. The technically complicated analysis of bird flight over many years has revealed a number of aerodynamic secrets of great interest for application in aeroplanes, as for example the so-called “Multi-winglets”. These are peculiar arrangements of the wing tips to minimise induced flow impedance following the natural prototype of birds like storks, vultures and eagles.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I could go on and on, but I would like to return to the key words of “partnership” and “synergy”. And in doing so, I would like to stress the close relationship between industrialised countries and developing countries in implementing the CMS including its subsidiary Agreements. The aim of holding these meetings in Africa is to show the importance of the Convention and the African-Eurasian Agreement for the African continent and its people.

In 1979 the countries which negotiated and thereafter concluded the Bonn Convention passed a declaration which appeals for mutual assistance in terms of financial, technical and educational support. Now, under the African-Eurasian Agreement, this appeal has been incorporated into the legally binding text of the Agreement.

I hope that the initial implementation work already done mainly through the West African programme of Wetlands International funded by the Netherlands, can be extended to the entire geographic area of the

Agreement. If successful, the AEWA will develop further to become one of the major tools in conserving our common natural heritage.

Excellencies,

UNEP is not standing on the sidelines. UNEP and CMS have common aims in their programmes of work. UNEP already supports the implementation of CMS work programmes. It assists CMS in the development of appropriate projects for submission to the Global Environment Facility (GEF). It assists CMS with financial support for the development of other projects. With the anticipated increase in UNEP's activities in the field of scientific capacity-building and project oriented work in the developing world, there will be increased opportunities for synergies in UNEP's and CMS's work programmes.

In this regard, a four-country GEF project for the "conservation of globally significant wetlands and migration corridors required by Siberian cranes and other globally significant migratory waterbirds in Asia" has recently received the GEF approval for funding. UNEP played a key role, with CMS and the International Crane Foundation, in securing approval of this so-called PDF-B phase.

Another project to identify and conserve important wetlands for migratory waterbirds, led by Wetlands International, is under preparation with the assistance of UNEP. I am certain that this project will be a top priority for Africa.

I have, however, noted with concern that, apart from South Africa, no other country in the Southern African region has yet joined the Convention. As the millennium draws to a close, cross-cultural and cross-boundary solidarity are essential to promote biodiversity conservation, its sustainable use and benefit sharing prospects not only across the continent of Africa but beyond. While in Uganda recently, I was informed that Uganda would soon join the CMS and reminded of the need for the Convention to address the issue of poverty.

It is true that migratory species have long been used by local people as a source of food and useful indicators of the changing seasons. In more recent times, many local communities have developed highly successful eco-tourism industries around their large migratory species, incorporating innovative and sophisticated methods for ensuring sustainable use of their resources. Money spent on conservation is a sound investment - good for the environment - good for local people - and, for this audience, perhaps the most important, good for migratory species.

Some examples may illustrate this point.

First, the African Elephant is a migratory species, listed on Appendix II of CMS since 1979. It is one of the African "Big Five" and has become one of the most important attractions for the tourists who come here. In addition, the utilisation of the animals by local communities has made considerable progress in recent years, starting with the "Campfire" programme in Zimbabwe.

Secondly, the sand grouse is a most interesting species for hunters in South Africa, Namibia and Botswana, now suffering from uncoordinated exploitation. I would consider it very important to organize the conservation and utilisation on a sustainable basis for the advantage and benefit of the local people among others.

Thirdly, antelopes are being managed successfully with their products being exported to industrial countries.

Fourthly, whale watching, seal colonies and leather-back turtles (particularly successful in South Africa) are well established attractions for eco-tourism with the potential to be developed further.

The recurrent theme remains that migratory waterbirds and their wetland habitats, and for example, wildebeest, zebras, penguins and a number of other migratory species and their habitats, warrant internationally co-ordinated and concerted conservation, not only for the conservation of the species but also for the benefit of people.

So, I would like to take this opportunity to make a special appeal to all States of Africa who have not yet done so, to join both the Convention and the AEWA. Only if the African countries are Parties to these treaties, and articulate their needs for assistance in the development of their conservation programmes for migratory species, is there a chance for the partnership with the industrialised and developed world to take off in a meaningful way.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At this juncture, I would like to congratulate, Mechthild Meyer, the winner of a recent competition to design a poster organised by the City of Bonn in conjunction with the CMS Secretariat. The imagery of her poster, in my opinion, captures exactly the inter-relation between migratory species and the environment and the responsibility of all countries to protect and nurture our planet. The poster will be used to promote the Convention world-wide and is on display here in the Conference Centre. I am also delighted to welcome Ms Meyer as a guest at the Opening Ceremony today.

CMS is a historic beginning, - historic, certainly, but equally certainly, just a beginning.

There can be no lapses into comfortable complacency. Joining and ratifying the convention is just the first step. What has been achieved will prove a temporary victory unless it leads irreversibly and without interruption to the complete preservation of our biological capital for future generations.

We have made incredible progress in charting the great ocean of knowledge. Now it is our task, the task of the Meeting of the Parties of AEWA and Conference of the Parties of the CMS to convert that knowledge into political action and to transfer the international co-operation which characterises the world of science into the world of politics.

Thank you very much for your attention. I wish you every success in your endeavours.

Statements of AEWA Parties

(reproduced in the form submitted to the Secretariat)

Statements of Observer Governments

(reproduced in the form submitted to the Secretariat)

Statements of Observer Organizations

(reproduced in the form submitted to the Secretariat)