

RESOLUTION 3.2

PROCEDURES TO REVIEW BIOGEOGRAPHICAL LIMITS OF WATERBIRD POPULATIONS

Recalling Resolution 2.1, which, inter alia, called upon the Technical Committee to provide clarification on the procedures, used to delimit biogeographical populations of waterbirds,

Welcoming the Committee's conclusions in AEWA/MOP 3.12, in particular the need for a clear audit of information and assumptions used to define biogeographic populations; the value of integrating these assessments with analyses of the results from waterbird ringing; and the desirability of bringing this information together in the form of flyway atlases so as to provide international contextual information for Contracting Parties and those responsible for the conservation and management of waterbirds and their habitats,

Stressing the importance of robust procedures for defining and evaluating the limits of biogeographical populations, given their importance as practical units for the conservation management of migratory waterbirds, and

Recognising the value of genetic research as an aid to the delimitation of biogeographical populations,

Noting that past work to define waterbird populations has largely been undertaken by Wetlands International Waterbird Specialist Groups operating voluntarily, and that further significant work will require resourcing.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Requests* Wetlands International and its Waterbird Specialist Groups, in consultation with the IUCN Species Survival Commission, in their support to the Agreement, resources permitting, to continue to assess the limits of biogeographical populations of migratory waterbirds, to clearly document the assumptions underpinning such assessments, and to forward all the relevant information to the Secretariat which will transmit it for assessment by the Technical Committee;
2. *Considers* that it is desirable that the assumptions underlying the definition of individual biogeographical waterbird populations are reviewed periodically, ideally at intervals of no more than nine years, so that these units of practical conservation management continue to be defined so as best to reflect contemporary knowledge;
3. *Further requests* Wetlands International and its Waterbird Specialist Groups, working with the Technical Committee, to prioritise which waterbird taxa would benefit from an early review of the limits of their populations in the light of recent data and information, resources permitting, and to bring this assessment to MOP4;
4. *Requests* Wetlands International to work with the Secretariat to assess the extent of necessary resources needed to facilitate the future review of waterbird population definitions, and to seek to locate these; and
5. *Calls upon* Contracting Parties and donor organisations to help provide necessary financial means to facilitate this task.