



AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF
AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS



5th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES
14 – 18 May 2012, La Rochelle, France

“Migratory waterbirds and people - sharing wetlands”

RESOLUTION 5.22

**ESTABLISHING A LONG-TERM BASIC STRUCTURAL FUNDING REGIME FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL WATERBIRD CENSUS IN THE AFRICAN-EURASIAN REGION**

Submitted by Switzerland

Noting with concern that in accordance with the conclusions of the 5th Edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report (document AEWA/MOP 5.14) the majority of the AEWA populations have poor quality population trend estimates (82%) and most of the population size estimates are based on expert opinion extrapolating from geographically unrepresentative samples (only 5% are based on census data, while for 2% estimates are not available at all); this applies in particular to West Asia and the Afrotropical region,

Stressing that up-to-date and adequate information on population sizes and trends is essential for establishing responsive conservation policies and measuring progress towards achieving strategic conservation goals,

Reaffirming the importance of the International Waterbird Census (IWC) as a generator of data for the production of the triennial AEWA Conservation Status Report and the global Waterbird Population Estimates and *recognising* that the IWC is one of the longest implemented and largest harmonised biodiversity monitoring schemes globally,

Recalling Resolution 4.2 which recognised the need for increased and strengthened waterbird monitoring and the importance of the IWC and its associated database at Wetlands International as a monitoring scheme and major data depository,

Further recalling Resolutions 3.11 and 4.10 which reaffirmed “*the need to support the maintenance of the International Waterbird Census in Europe and its further development in Africa, the Middle East, East and Central Asia as the basis of assessing the international status and trends of waterbird populations and thus the effective implementation of the Agreement*”,

Further recalling Resolution 3.6, which, *inter alia*, urged “*...the urgent development of an international partnership to provide an essential and long-term funding regime for the International Waterbird Census (IWC)...*” and requested “*...the Agreement Secretariat to work with Wetlands International to develop costed proposals to this end...*”,

Further recalling Resolution 4.7 on the adoption of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009–2017, which has set target 3.1 “*Necessary resources are in place to support, on a long-term basis, the international processes for gathering monitoring data for status assessment*” and has identified the following indicators: “*Timely production of annual IWC summary report and the AEWA CSR and global Waterbird Population Estimates*” and “*50% increase of species/populations whose international status is being assessed with regular monitoring data*”,

Further recalling the Hague Action Statement¹, the outcome of the 2010 symposium to celebrate the 15th Anniversary of AEWA, which called upon a broad spectrum of stakeholders to establish a consortium by the end of 2010 to secure adequate financial resources for international data collection, analysis and dissemination of updated and topical information necessary for waterbird conservation in the AEWA region, in particular through the extended International Waterbird Census,

Recognising that a strengthened IWC would contribute to achieving Target 19 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets approved by CBD COP10 in 2010, which is:

“By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied”,

Further recognising that other MEAs, particularly the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Convention on Migratory Species, as well as the EU Birds Directive, require regular waterbird monitoring data for their operations, such as Ramsar criterion 5 for the designation of wetlands of international importance whose applicability is linked to the Waterbird Population Estimates which is largely derived from IWC data,

Stressing the need to maximise synergies between MEAs as well as other legal instruments, such as the EU Birds Directive, including population monitoring activities,

Thanking Wetlands International and the Agreement Secretariat for compiling document AEWA/MOP 5.42 on Strategic Development of the Waterbird Monitoring in the African-Eurasian Flyways which presents various options for long-term basic structural funding for the IWC,

Thanking Contracting Parties, international organisations and other stakeholders, such as the Government of France and the MAVA foundation, for their financial contribution and technical support to the IWC,

Acknowledging Wetlands International’s commitment to dedicate part of the organisation’s unrestricted resources to the management of IWC data,

Welcoming the establishment of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership, which comprises all main stakeholders involved in the implementation of IWC or users of data generated by the scheme and aims at strengthening the implementation and development of IWC in the African-Eurasian flyways.

The Meeting of the Parties:

- 1. Invites the Technical Committee to work with the Waterbird Monitoring Partnership to make progress towards the monitoring-related targets of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 and to report to MOP6 and, if required, to propose this issue to be revisited at MOP6 with the aim to secure a long-term, sustainable solution for international waterbird monitoring;*
- 2. Urges Contracting Parties to consider making voluntary contributions to support the collection and collation of data for the production of the triennial AEWA Conservation Status Report and the global Waterbird Population Estimates;*
- 3. Invites the non-Contracting Parties, international organisations and other stakeholders to support the collection and collation of data for the production of the triennial AEWA Conservation Status Report and the global Waterbird Population Estimates through voluntary contributions.*

¹<http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/symposium/symposium.htm>