



FIRST MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

24 - 25 November 2003, Bonn, Germany

REPORT ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE AEWA INTERNATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES PLAN 2003-2007

INTRODUCTION

At its second session the Meeting of the Parties adopted Resolution 2.4 regarding the 'International Implementation Priorities for AEWA 2003-2007 (IIP 2003-2007)'.

Since MOP2 the Secretariat had to spend most of its time to finalising MOP2, closure of the previous financial triennium, starting up new project, recruitment of new Parties and last but not least recruitment of new Staff. Therefore limited time was left to seek additional funds for implementation of IIP 2003-2007.

The following overview shows the progress that has been made so far.

ACTIONS REQUESTED FROM THE STANDING COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee is requested to take note of progress made so far and to support the Secretariat to accrue voluntary contributions for further implementation of IIP 2003-2007.

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nr	Name of the project	Funded by:	Executed by:	Remarks:
IIP 2000-2004				
1.	Guideline on National Legislation for Migratory Waterbird Conservation	Netherlands and AEWA	IUCN-ELC	Adopted by MOP2 and reviewed by TC 4. Guideline needs thorough revision before it could be published.
3	Develop new international single species action plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Snipe • Black-winged Pratincole • Sociable Plover • Dark-bellied Brent Goose 	AEWA, Netherlands	BirdLife International	With exemption of the Dark-bellied Brent Goose all plans were adopted by MOP2 by Resolution 2.13. In due course publication of these plans will take place under the AEWA Technical Series. The D-b Brent Goose Plan was approved by Recommendation 2.1 and needs to be adopted by the Standing Committee in close cooperation with the Technical Committee. It is foreseen that adoption could take place in 2004 at the next StC meeting.
4	Guideline on Avoidance of Introductions of Non-native Migratory Waterbird Species	UK and AEWA	Just Ecology	Guideline has been discussed at MOP2 and was reviewed during TC4. Major revisions are needed for as well the Guideline as the Brochure before these document could be published.
14.	Review of the use of agrochemicals in Africa, and their impacts on migratory waterbirds	France, Switzerland, FAO and AEWA	CERES/ FAO	Project is on scheme and final report expected to be ready by end of 2003.

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24.	Study on potential impacts of marine fisheries of migratory waterbirds	Netherlands and UK	ADU	Interim progress report September 2002, project runs without major problems. Final report ready by end of 2003.
25.	Rehabilitation of important sites for migratory waterbirds, which have been degraded by invasive aquatic weeds	UK and AEWA	IUCN (regional offices in Africa)	Report of the desk study will be ready end of 2003.
28.	Exchange of know-how on traditional approaches of wetland and waterbird management in Africa	The Netherlands and AEWA	IUCN (regional offices in Africa)	Report of the desk study ready by the end of 2003
32.	Development on the Agreement's Website	Germany and AEWA	UNEP-WCMC and AEWA Secretariat	Ongoing project, main developments are ready. AEWA Secretariat will rearrange some of the information in 2003.
IIP 2003-2007				
1	Implement existing international single species action plans			Next Meeting of the Brent Goose Working Group is scheduled to take place end of 2003.
2	DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL SPECIES ACTION PLANS			
a.	Ferruginous Duck (<i>Athya nyroca</i>)	FRANCE, CMS and BirdLife International	BirdLife International Romania	Workshop took place November 2002, starting point for drafting an Action Plan. Proceedings will be published soon.
b.	Bald Ibis (<i>Geronticus ermita</i>)	AEWA ¹ , SEO (BirdLife Partner Spain)	SEO	1 st Workshop is scheduled to take place early January 2004 in Madrid.

¹ Additional funds are needed

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c.	Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta Bernicla hrota</i>)	WWT	AEWA, WWT	AEWA Secretariat participate at the Workshop in October 2003, Belfast. This was the starting point for drafting of an Action Plan for the High Arctic East Canadian population of this species. The Agreements' Secretariat will facilitate the work of WWT whenever needed and necessary. Formal adoption foreseen at MOP3.
3.	Identify all sites of international importance for AEWA species			Will be part of the GEF project
4.	Creating an interactive tool that presents information on important sites for migratory waterbirds			Will be a part of the GEF project
5.	Identify priority areas for further survey work			Will be a part of the GEF project
6.	Identify priority areas for better protection			Will be part of the GEF project
7.	Habitat Priorities for Waterbirds, particularly in Africa and South-west Asia			
8.	Restoration and rehabilitation techniques for waterbird habitats, particularly in Africa			
9.	Evaluation of waterbird harvest in the Agreement Area			

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10.	Review of the use of non-toxic shot for waterbird hunting	Ill Nibbio, CIC and AEWA Secretariat		<p>Workshop was planned (funded partly by the UK) to take place in Italy late 2003. No response received so far from Ill Nibbio.</p> <p>The idea has come up to hold a Workshop on Sustainable Hunting in Western Africa. ONCFS will be the lead organization, however the Workshop will be organized under the AEWa framework. Currently the Workshop is scheduled to take place late 2004 in Senegal.</p> <p>In 2002 a special Newsletter on this matter was published and also some articles were drafted and submitted to the National Hunters organizations in Europe. These articles were also put on the AEWa Website. The Secretariat is currently finalizing a Reader on this issue to be used at future Workshops.</p>
11.	Evaluation of socio-economic impacts of waterbird hunting			
12.	Evaluation of waterbirds as agricultural pests in Africa			
13.	Guidelines on minimizing/ mitigating the impacts of infrastructural (and disturbance-related developments affecting waterbirds)			
14.	Improving survey and monitoring capacity for migratory waterbirds			Will be part of the GEF project.

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15.	Survey poorly known areas	AEWA	BirdLife International (WIWO)	<p>In 2002 as well as in 2003 some small grants have been provided by the AEWa Secretariat to do some survey work in Iran, Yemen, Morocco and Tunisia, particular looking for the Slender-billed Curlew but at the same time training local people in monitoring of birds.</p> <p>The project will be a part of the GEF project.</p>
16.	International Waterbird Census-special gap-filling survey	AEWA	Wetlands International	<p>To stimulate some African countries to collect data for the African Waterbird Census 2003 a small grant was given by the AEWa Secretariat to Wetlands International that is coordinating the AfWC</p> <p>Will be also part of the GEF project</p>
17.	Publication of an Atlas of Wader Populations	Belgium, The Netherlands, France, AEWa and the EU	Wetlands International	<p>The contribution received early 2003 has been transferred to Wetlands International. It seems to be that necessary funds are secured and that the Atlas could be finalised in 2003/ 2004 before the Global Flyway Conference.</p>
18.	Publication of flyway atlases for gulls, terns, herons, ibises, storks and rallidae			
19.	Pilot study/ review of potential from waterbird ringing recovery analyses for the Agreement area	France and AEWa	ADU	<p>Funds have been secured for this project and a project proposal has been received The TC reviewed the project and amendments made were implemented. Letter of Agreement was sent for signature to ADU.</p>

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20.	Ringling recoveries in atlases			
21.	Coordination of waterbird ringing schemes, particularly in Africa	France and AEWA	ADU	Funds have been secured for this project and a project proposal has been received. The TC reviewed this project and amendments were incorporated. Letter of Agreement was sent to ADU for signature.
22.	Guideline on the use of satellite tracking for migratory waterbirds			
23.	Telemetry in migratory waterbirds			
24.	Report on the status and trends of populations for the Meeting of the Parties at its third session			Discussion took place in the TC regarding usefulness of updating the report on status and trend every triennium.
25.	Actions for the conservation of colonial waterbirds	France and AEWA	?	Due to unforeseen health problem of contractor Tour-du-Valat handed the project back to the Secretariat. Wetlands International has been approached with the request if they would be able to execute this project.
26.	Population Trends in migratory waterbirds			
27.	Causes of population changes in migratory waterbirds			
28.	Migratory waterbirds and climatic changes			
29.	Flyway population catalogue (or register)			
30.	Field guide for Central Asia and adjacent countries			Will be part of the GEF project.
31.	Compiling flyway information (in digital format) for use in conjunction with existing waterbird count data and site information			Will be part of the GEF project.
32.	The use of wetlands sites by migratory waterbirds			Will be part of the GEF project.
33.	Migratory waterbirds as indicators			
34.	Development of a density-dependent population model for the Dark-bellied Brent Goose			

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35.	Analysis of the training needs for migratory waterbird conservation			Study has been done in Project Development Facility of the African-Eurasian Flyways project. Further analysis, development of subregional programmes and their implementation will take place in the full GEF AEWa/Ramsar flyways project that will be submitted at the end of 2003
36.	Regional training programmes in Africa for implementation of the Agreement			Will be part of the GEF project.
37.	Publication of waterbird monitoring manuals			Will be part of the GEF project.
38.	Establish a clearing house for training materials for the Agreement			
39.	Develop and implement a communications strategy for the Agreement	UK and AEWa	SPAN Consultants	Funds have been secured and work have been contracted out after the project proposal was reviewed by the TC.
40.	Regional Workshop for promotion of the Agreement	AEWA		A Workshop is tentatively planned for early 2004 to promote the Agreement in the Russian Federation. A first step has been taken to draft a reader on AEWa This needs still to be finalised.
41.	Communicating the importance of a network of critical sites for migratory waterbirds			Will be part of the GEF project.