



*Secretariat provided by the
United Nations Environment
Programme (UNEP)*

Agenda item:13
Doc: AEWA/TC 3.7
22 May 2002
Original: English

THIRD MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE
CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS (AEWA)
TANZANIA, 27-28 MAY 2002

REPORT ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE AEWA INTERNATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES PLAN 2000-2004

INTRODUCTION

Since the last meeting of the Technical Committee (France, 5-7 November 2001) little progress has been made to start new projects of the AEWA International Implementation Priorities Plan 2000-2004. However, taking into account that a great number of projects have been contracted out already which are being implemented, there is a need to review the current International Implementation Priorities Plan and to draft a new Plan covering the period 2003-2007. Recently this work has been contracted out to Wetlands International.

Meanwhile focal points of all the AEWA Range States have been requested to submit their project proposals for inclusion in the new International Implementation Priorities Plan. Also the members of the Technical Committee are requested to submit any project proposal of international importance for the implementation of the Agreement to the Secretariat.

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

**REPORT ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE AEW INTERNATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES PLAN
 2000-2004 (version 11/04/02)**

nr	Name of the project	Funded by:	Executed by:	Remarks:
PROJECTS ONGOING/ IMPLEMENTED				
1.	Guideline on National Legislation for Migratory Waterbirds	Netherlands and AEW	IUCN-ELC	Draft guideline ready before MOP2
3.	Development of new international single species action plans for the Great Snipe	AEW	BirdLife International	Draft Action Plan ready for MOP2
4.	Guideline on Avoidance of Introductions of Non-native Migratory Waterbird Species	UK and AEW	still to be determined	
11.	Review of the use of non-toxic shot for waterbird hunting	JNCC, FACE, Switzerland and AEW		Draft Resolution on phasing out lead shot ready for MOP2
14.	Review of the use of agrochemicals in Africa, and their impacts on migratory waterbirds	France, Switzerland, FAO and AEW	CERES/ FAO	
18.	Publication of an Atlas of Wader Populations	Belgium, The Netherlands and the EU	Wetlands International	Project is hampered due to legal closure of Wetlands International
22.	Report on Status and Trends of Populations for MOP2	AEW	Wetlands International	Report and update of Action Plan ready for MOP2
23.	Actions for the conservation of colonial waterbirds	France and AEW	Tour-du-Valat	Guideline ready in 2003
24.	Study on potential impacts of marine fisheries of migratory waterbirds	Netherlands and UK	still to be determined	Report ready by end of 2003
25.	Rehabilitation of important sites for migratory waterbirds, which have been degraded by invasive aquatic weeds	UK and AEW	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 AEW	IUCN (regional offices in Africa)	Report of the desk study ready by the end of 2003
32.	Development on the Agreement's Website	Germany	UNEP-WCMC	Ongoing project, main developments are ready.

PROJECTS THAT WILL BE INCLUDED IN AEWATC3.7 PROJECT FOR WHICH STILL 50 % MATCHING FUNDS ARE NEEDED				
nr	Name of the project	Funded by:	Executed by:	Remarks:
5.	Identify all sites of international importance for AEWATC3.7 species	50 % GEF ¹		
6.	Identify priority areas for further survey work	“ “		
7.	Identify priority areas for better protection	“ “		
8.	Habitat Priorities for Waterbird, particularly in Africa and SW Asia	“ “		
9.	Restoration/ rehabilitation techniques for waterbird habitats particularly in Africa	“ “		
16.	Survey work in poorly-known areas	“ “		
17.	International Waterbird Census-special gap-filling survey	“ “		
26.	Analysis of training needs for migratory waterbird conservation	“ “		Partly done during the PDF-fase
27.	Regional training programmes in Africa for implementation of the Agreement	“ “		
29.	Publication of Waterbird Monitoring Protocols	“ “		
33.	regional workshops for the promotion of the Agreement	“ “		
PROJECT FOR WHICH NO FUNDS HAVE BEEN SECURED				
2.	Implement existing international single species action plan ²			
3.	Development of new international species action plans ³			
10.	Evaluation of waterbird harvests in the Agreement Area			
12.	Evaluation of the socio-economic impacts of waterbird hunting			
13.	Evaluation of waterbirds as agricultural pests in Africa			
15.	Guidelines on minimizing/ mitigating the impacts of infrastructural(and disturbance-related developments affecting waterbirds			
19.	Pilot study/ review of potential from waterbird ringing recovery analysis for the Agreement Area.			

¹ Assuming that the full-size AEWATC3.7 GEF project will be approved probably 50 % of the necessary funds will be covered by GEF.

² For the implementation of the Dark-bellied Brent Goose Management Plan a voluntary contribution has been received from the Netherlands in 2001 to organize the first meeting of the working group.

³ There will be always a need for additional funds to development new species action plans for certain AEWATC3.7 species.

20.	Co-ordination of waterbird ringing schemes, particularly in Africa			
21.	Guideline on the use of satellite tracking for migratory waterbirds			
30.	Establish a Clearing House for training materials for the Agreement			
31.	Develop and implement a Communication Strategy for the Agreement			

ACTIVITIES ONGOING OR ALREADY IMPLEMENTED

- 1 Guideline on *National Legislation for Migratory Waterbird Conservation*
Throughout the Agreement Area, there is a great diversity of national legislation for the conservation of migratory waterbirds. Species can migrate across country borders and their status in relation to taking, trade, disturbance and habitat conservation may change within meters. Whilst the development of international legislation, such as this Agreement and the EU Birds Directive, certainly helps to set minimum standards for national legislation, many countries will wish to improve their legislation further to meet specific needs. It is therefore recommended that a new Conservation Guideline be developed to assist countries in reviewing and amending their national legislation covering migratory waterbird conservation. In addition, case studies of innovative legislation from around the Agreement Area should be listed, as well as contact points for further information and expertise. Given their experience in this subject, close coordination should be ensured with the IUCN Environmental Law Centre.

Indicative budget: US\$ 25,000
Duration: 9 months
Activities: desk study, review, consultation, Conservation Guideline

Funded by: The Netherlands

- 3 Develop new international single species action plans
New international single species action plans need to be developed for the populations listed in category 1 of Column A of Table 1 to the Agreement Action Plan as a priority, and for those species listed with an asterisk in Column A of Table 1. Production and format of the action plans should follow the recommendations given in the relevant Conservation Guideline. As soon as the new action plans are prepared for each species, implementation should begin. In view of the large number of action plans to be prepared, it is strongly recommended that the most urgent attention should be given to globally threatened species. Furthermore it is recommended that individual range states agree to take the lead on development of individual action plans (as an in-kind contribution to the Agreement), in close cooperation with the other range states for each species (coordination of plan development including workshops, drafting, consultation and publication of each plan). Plans should be submitted to the Technical Committee in draft form before final approval, to ensure harmonisation and quality control.

Indicative budget: US\$ 40,000 per species for action plan preparation
Duration: 12 months per plan
Activities: Coordination, workshop, planning, publication

Development of an Action Plan for the Great Snipe funded by AEWA

- 4 Guideline on *Avoidance of Introductions of Non-native Migratory Waterbird Species*
Following completion of the review of the status of introduced migratory waterbird species in the Agreement Area (being prepared by the UK), a new Conservation Guideline should be produced to assist Contracting Parties in managing this issue. The Guideline should be specific

to migratory waterbirds, but should take account of the substantial body of work on this subject being undertaken under other international conventions and for other taxa. Subjects to be covered should include policy on introduction of species (including legislation accidental escape of captive birds of non-native species, management / control measures for existing populations of wild non-native migratory waterbird species. In addition to the Conservation Guideline, a brochure should be prepared about the Agreement and the issue of non-native species, for wide circulation to owners of captive waterbird collections.

Indicative budget: US\$ 25,000
Duration: 12 months
Activities: Desk study, review, consultation, Conservation Guideline,

Funded by: UK

11 Review of the use of non-toxic shot for waterbird hunting

The IWRB (now Wetlands International) workshop on *Lead Poisoning in Waterfowl (Brussels, 1991)*, was a landmark event for actions which have subsequently taken place to reduce the impact of lead poisoning in waterbirds. However, much research and technical development has occurred since 1991 particularly in relation to the arms and ammunition that can effectively be used to replace lead shot. Given the strong commitment that Parties to the Agreement must make to phasing out the use of lead shot in wetlands, it is proposed to organise a follow-up international workshop to share the most up-to-date information on this subject. This will provide important guidance for decision-makers and hunters' organisations on resolution of this problem. A second component of this activity will be continuation of the triennial update review/reports undertaken by Wetlands International. These will be published in 2000 and 2003.

Indicative budget: US\$ 50,000 (workshop); US\$30,000 for each review report
Duration: 18 months (workshop); review reports in 2000, 2003
Activities: Workshop, proceedings, 2 triennial review reports

Funded by: JNCC, FACE, Switzerland and AEW.

14 Review of the use of agrochemicals in Africa, and their impacts on migratory waterbirds

A wide range of agrochemicals is being 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 AEW Technical Committee and Secretariat, and may include recommendations for further work under the AEW. A joint approach with the FAO or other organisations may be appropriate for this project.

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

Funded by: France, Switzerland, FAO and AEW

18 Publication of an Atlas of Wader Populations

A knowledge of the migration patterns of each species covered by the Agreement and the networks of sites visited is critical to establishing effective conservation programmes for migratory waterbirds. This project will follow the model of the very successful *Atlas of Anatidae Populations*, prepared by Wetlands International, to develop a similar overview for the wader species in the Agreement Area. The work will be led by the Wader Study Group and will result in an important review publication. The results will include recommendations for new international site designations, research and surveys. Due to the scale of the project, it will be addressed in a number of phases.

Indicative budget: US\$ 200,000
Duration: 3 years
Activities: Coordination, review, data analysis, publication.

Funded by: Belgium, The Netherlands and the EU.

22 Report on the Status and Trends of Populations for MOP2

The Action Plan to the Agreement calls for a report on the status and trends of populations covered by the Agreement to be prepared at intervals of not more than three years. Such information provides the basic material for operation, updating and evaluation of the Agreement. The report should highlight changes in the population status, range or long-term trend of each species, with recommendations on any changes to Table 1 of the Agreement's Action Plan. The review should also assess whether any changes should be made to the species included in Appendix II to the Agreement, on the basis of a negative or positive change in their conservation status. This project is very closely linked to the regular updating and publication of *Waterbird Population Estimates (4th edition)*, which provides the basic data for the AEW report. Therefore, this publication (and an associated Web site facility) is also included here as a priority.

Indicative budget: US\$ 90,000 for Waterbird Population Estimates (\$30K already available);
US\$25,000 for update report to MOP2
Duration: 3 years
Activities: Review, analysis, consultation, publications

Funded by: AEW

24 Study of the potential impacts of marine fisheries on migratory waterbirds

There has been significant concern about the potential impacts of industrial sea fishing on bird populations. While some research has been done on seabird species, there is no overview of the potential impacts on many of the Agreement's migratory waterbirds, a number of which feed on marine fish. It is therefore proposed to undertake a desk study to review the potential impacts of industrial sea fishing on migratory waterbirds. By reviewing information on diet, distribution, movements and ecological requirements of each species, and comparing this with marine fishery intensity, candidate species and areas will be identified for more detailed study or monitoring. The study will result in a technical report with recommendations.

Indicative budget: US\$ 40,000
Duration: 1 year
Activities: Review, analysis, consultation, publication

Funded by: The Netherlands and UK.

25 Rehabilitation of important sites for migratory waterbirds, which have been degraded by invasive aquatic weeds.

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 AEW. Partnerships with appropriate organisations 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

Funded by: UK and AEW

28 Exchange of know-how on traditional approaches to wetland and waterbird management in Africa.

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

Funded by: The Netherlands and AEWA

32 Development of the Agreement's Web site

The Internet is fast-becoming the most effective tool for communication and awareness activities at international level. It offers an excellent, cost-effective medium for promotion, coordination and implementation of many aspects of the Agreement. Development of maps- and graphics-based applications will greatly enhance the appeal and effectiveness of the AEWA web site. Linked to the development of the AEWA communications strategy, it is suggested that the Web site should include: pages available in all official languages; access to all official documentation, clearing house facilities, species photographs and maps of sites allowing users to examine migration routes, key sites per species, country programmes, project register, etc. Cost-effectiveness will be achieved by linking the AEWA site with those of collaborating agencies, rather than trying to maintain all this information on the AEWA site.

*Indicative budget: US\$ 40,000 for initial investment
US\$ 10,000 for annual maintenance/development*
Duration: 5 years
Activities: Web site development

Funded by: Germany

ACTIVITIES TO BE INCLUDED IN AEWA GEF PROJECT. MATCHING FUNDS OF AT LEAST 50% OF THE INDICATIVE BUDGETS NEED STILL TO BE SECURED.

5 Identify all sites of international importance for AEWA species

A vital piece of information for the conservation of any migratory species is an understanding of the network of key sites required to sustain their migration. A large body of information already exists concerning key sites for migratory waterbirds (ie. sites which meet the Ramsar criteria of international importance for waterbirds). This information has largely been collected through the International Waterbird Census of Wetlands International, but also through BirdLife International's IBA programme and Endemic Bird Areas programme, wetland inventories (particularly the Directory of Wetlands of the Middle East) and one-off surveys of remote areas. It is proposed to compile from these various existing sources a matrix of Key Sites X Species, which will show all known internationally important sites for each species covered by the Agreement. This matrix will be made available in database form through the World Wide Web as a planning, conservation and awareness tool. As a separate sub-project, a review will be made, based on the data collected, to assess priorities for the publication of further "Atlases" of the sites used by species included in the Agreement – building on the achievements of the existing atlas for the Anatidae, and the planned atlas for the waders.

Indicative budget: US\$ 125,000
Duration: 2 years
Activities: Desk study, review, database, Web Site, recommendations for Atlases

6 Identify priority areas for further survey work

Based on the study undertaken in 5 (above), a gap analysis should be undertaken to identify sites/regions where migratory waterbirds would particularly benefit from further surveys. This would be achieved by asking species-experts and national focal points to comment on maps based on existing knowledge, and to identify areas of potential importance for migratory waterbirds, but for which survey data is not available. This would also include identification of areas important for dispersed species (e.g. waders and Anatidae during their breeding season) or very large, complex or composite sites. The results will be used both to stimulate "expedition" work in remote areas, as well as to identify countries which would most benefit from a national wetland inventory programme.

Indicative budget: US\$ 50,000
Duration: 2 years
Activities: Desk study, consultation, review, publication, survey proposals

7 Identify priority areas for better protection

Based on the study undertaken in 5 (above), the key sites matrix will be examined to ascertain the degree of existing protection of each site under both international and national legislation. At international level, this will be achieved by comparison with existing databases on protected areas (e.g. the Ramsar Sites Database (maintained by Wetlands International), the NATURA

2000/SPA databases of the European Commission, and the Protected Areas Database (maintained by WCMC). At national level, information will also be requested from national focal points for the Agreement. The results will be used to assess whether adequate site protection measures are in place to maintain each species under the Agreement in a favourable conservation status. Specific recommendations will be made for species where the networks of key sites is thought to be inadequately protected. The study will also list those key sites which are shared between two or more countries, and which require special cooperation measures for effective management.

Indicative budget: US\$ 70,000
Duration: 2 years
Activities: Desk study, review, publication, recommendations

8. Habitat Priorities for Waterbirds, particularly in Africa and SW Asia

The BirdLife International project *Habitat Action Plans for Birds in Europe*, has made an important contribution to defining habitat conservation priorities for birds in Europe. This now needs to be made much more specific to waterbird habitats and, particularly, to be extended to Africa and SW Asia, where habitat requirements are much less well known. The project should result in a series of habitat action plans containing prioritised recommendations and costed projects for each key habitat type. Severely threatened habitats, and habitats of importance to globally threatened species should be given priority.

Indicative budget: US\$ 200,000
Duration: 3 years
Activities: Desk study, review, workshops, publication, project proposals

9. Restoration/rehabilitation techniques for waterbird habitats, particularly in Africa

There has been significant loss and degradation of waterbird habitats throughout the Agreement Area. Techniques are relatively well developed for the restoration and rehabilitation of wetlands in temperate regions, but are poorly developed/ known for wetlands in the tropics. It is therefore proposed to draw together the available information to produce two manuals (one for temperate and one for tropical areas), including information on the sources of available expertise. Close coordination will be necessary with existing work under the Ramsar Convention. Because of the paucity of information on restoration of tropical waterbird habitats, a special project will be launched to undertake demonstration restoration measures for a small number of African wetlands. These will also be used as a focus for training activities. Restoration techniques will focus on low-cost, low technology management options.

Indicative budget: US\$ 60,000 per manual
US\$ 80,000 minimum for each demonstration project
Duration: 18 months for the manuals
Activities: Manuals, demonstration projects, training courses

16 Survey work in poorly-known areas

There remain many gaps in knowledge of the importance and utilisation of even some very large wetlands by migratory waterbirds, particularly in Africa and SW Asia. Based on existing knowledge of gaps, and also the systematic gap analysis to be undertaken in activity 6 (above), it is recommended that grants (and expertise, if necessary) be made available for locally organised surveys or expeditions, to assess the importance of lesser-known areas. Such surveys, if conducted by visiting expeditions, should involve a high component of training (and equipping) of local experts, and should result in a summary publication. These activities will be closely linked to those required for the next priority (17).

Indicative budget: *US\$ 15,000 per survey (average)*
Duration: *ongoing*
Activities: *Field survey, training, publication.*

17 International Waterbird Census – special gap-filling survey

The International Waterbird Census, organised by Wetlands International, and conducted in most countries within the Agreement Area, is the primary tool for monitoring the conservation status of the populations covered by the AEW. It is based on annual non-breeding season surveys at a sample of sites, by an extensive network of mainly volunteer counters. As the census is conducted on a sample of sites only, it is necessary every 10 years to calibrate the results with a full census of as many sites as possible. This will enable better population estimates, calibration of population indices and better coverage of poorly known species and sites. The next so-called “gap-filling” census will take place in January 2002/3; it will apply only to the Western Palearctic and SW Asia, since the census networks in Africa are not yet well enough developed to enable the additional effort required for this extra survey work. Extended coverage in some countries may best be achieved through international expeditions as under Activity 16 (above). The project will provide the additional coordination, support, small grants and awareness materials necessary to ensure a successful outcome.

Indicative budget: *US\$ 560,000 (including 6 regional workshops (@ \$20K each),
planning/coordination (\$240K), analysis/report writing (\$200K))
Plus 20-50 surveys @ US\$10-15,000 each.*
Duration: *5 years including planning and report writing*
Activities: *Planning, regional workshops, coordination, field surveys,
publication.*

26 Analysis of training needs for migratory waterbird conservation

The levels of know-how in practical techniques for migratory waterbird conservation vary substantially throughout the Agreement Area. Sharing such expertise through training materials and programmes, is an important aspect of international cooperation for the implementation of the Agreement. Using a questionnaire approach, it is proposed to develop an analysis of training needs by region, and also to compile information on appropriate international training institutions and existing materials. The project should focus on regions outside NW Europe, where training opportunities are already adequate.

Indicative budget: US\$ 30,000 (ca. 50% already available)
Duration: 1 year
Activities: Questionnaire, review, consultation, publication

27 Regional training programmes in Africa for implementation of the Agreement

Training has been identified at numerous fora as one of the key elements for advancing the implementation of the Agreement, particularly in Africa. Access to modern planning, assessment and management techniques, relevant to local situations, will greatly help under-resourced agencies use their resources most effectively. The regional training programmes in West Africa, currently organised by Wetlands International and the Office National de la Chasse (France) provide a useful model from which new programmes can be developed. It is strongly recommended that this type of training programme be extended throughout Africa. Cost-effectiveness will be greatest if courses are based on groups of neighbouring countries, and if local expertise can be used for the majority of the training. Courses should target specific groups of professionals and include the following subjects, as appropriate: a general introduction to the work of the Agreement; waterbird identification, assessment and monitoring; waterbird ecology; habitat management for waterbirds; managing human activities; public awareness.

Indicative budget: US\$ 150,000 per year, per regional programme
Duration: 5 years
Activities: Coordination, training courses, materials, follow-up

29 Publication of Waterbird Monitoring Manuals

Effective monitoring of migratory waterbirds is essential for the functioning of the Agreement, and it is vital that comparable data are collected between sites, regions and years. The production of manuals to help train coordinators and counters will be an important tool for continuous improvement of the monitoring networks. The manuals will be particularly valuable for the relatively new counting networks in Africa and SW Asia, but will also benefit European counters. It will be necessary to publish the manual(s) in a number of languages. Furthermore, it may be necessary to have versions appropriate to the situation in different parts of the Agreement Area. Preliminary proposals are for one manual for the Western Palearctic and SW Asia, and one for Africa.

Indicative budget: US\$ 40,000 per manual in one language
US\$ 20,000 for translation/printing/mailing other languages
Duration: 18 months
Activities: Drafting, consultation, publication, free distribution

33 Regional workshops for the promotion of the Agreement

In order to give the development of the Agreement a strong start throughout the Agreement Area, a number of promotional workshops should be arranged for specific sub-regions. The priority regions identified so far would be (in order): (i) the Central Asian Republics; (ii) the Arab states. These workshops should aim to gather appropriate decision-makers, research biologists, conservation professionals and donors, in order to raise awareness of the Agreement, promote membership, debate regional priorities, stimulate international cooperation and develop project initiatives. Where possible, the workshops should be linked with those of other relevant CMS or partner-Convention / organisation activities, so as to increase synergy and maximise cost-effectiveness.

Indicative budget: *US\$ 50,000 per regional workshop*
Duration: *1 per year*
Activities: *Regional workshop and follow-up*

NO FUNDS SECURED YET TO IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES

- 2 Implement existing international single species action plans⁴
Prior to the entry into force of the Agreement, a number of international single species action plans relevant to Paragraph 2.2.1 of the Agreement's Action Plan had already been developed (by BirdLife International, Wetlands International and the International Crane Foundation). These include action plans for: *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, *Pelecanus crispus*, *Botaurus stellaris*, *Anser erythropus*, *Branta ruficollis*, *Marmaronetta angustirostris*, *Oxyura leucocephala*, *Aythya nyroca*, *Polysticta stellerii*, *Grus leucogeranus*, *Crex crex*, *Fulica cristata* (in prep.), *Numenius tenuirostris*, *Larus audouinii*, and *Sterna dougallii* (in prep.). (NB. Several of these action plans cover the European part of the range of the species only, and a priority is to extend them to cover their full range within the Agreement area (see next item)). Whilst many of the actions identified for these species will have to be undertaken and financed at national or local level, a budget is required for international coordination and promotion, and to provide small grants for national and local initiatives.

Indicative budget: US\$ 50,000 min. /species / year (for coordination / grants)
Duration: Annual, ongoing
Activities: Coordination, small grants, evaluation, reporting

- 3 Develop new international single species action plans⁵
New international single species action plans need to be developed for the populations listed in category 1 of Column A of Table 1 to the Agreement Action Plan as a priority, and for those species listed with an asterisk in Column A of Table 1. Production and format of the action plans should follow the recommendations given in the relevant Conservation Guideline. As soon as the new action plans are prepared for each species, implementation should begin. In view of the large number of action plans to be prepared, it is strongly recommended that the most urgent attention be given to globally threatened species. Furthermore it is recommended that individual range states agree to take the lead on development of individual action plans (as an in-kind contribution to the Agreement), in close cooperation with the other range states for each species (coordination of plan development including workshops, drafting, consultation and publication of each plan). Plans should be submitted to the Technical Committee in draft form before final approval, to ensure harmonisation and quality control.

Indicative budget: US\$ 40,000 per species for action plan preparation
Duration: 12 months per plan
Activities: Coordination, workshop, planning, publication

⁴ For the implementation of the Dark-bellied Brent Goose a voluntary contribution has been received of the Netherlands in 2001 to organize the first meeting of the working group.

⁵ In close cooperation with the Bern Convention three International Species Actions Plans for AEWA species will be drafted in 2001/ 2002. These activities are funded by the Netherlands and by AEWA.

10 Evaluation of waterbird harvests in the Agreement Area

Waterbirds are harvested widely throughout the Agreement Area for sport, trade and subsistence (including by indigenous people). However, little is known of the scale of such taking, particularly in Africa and SW Asia, nor of the impacts that such taking has on waterbird populations. It is therefore proposed to examine the location, scale (by species), methods and impacts of waterbird harvest throughout the Agreement Area, but with a particular focus on poorly known regions. The project will identify areas, methods or species where harvest may be unsustainable and require intervention, and will feed into the development of future monitoring programmes.

Indicative budget: US\$ 200,000 (can be split into 4-5 sub-projects)
Duration: 3 years
Activities: Reviews, research, survey, publications

12 Evaluation of socio-economic impacts of waterbird hunting.

Sport, market and subsistence hunting of waterbirds has the potential to contribute substantially to sustainable rural development throughout the Agreement Area. Yet, very little is known of the socio-economic benefits of such forms of hunting in different regions and its potential contribution to species and habitat conservation. This project will build on activity 10 (above), and will research the socio-economic benefits of different types of waterbird hunting in different parts of the Agreement Area (eg. subsistence hunting in arctic / sub-arctic areas (including by indigenous populations), tourist or market hunting in Africa, sport hunting in Europe). Significant work has been undertaken on this subject in North America, and should provide a useful background to this study. The results of the case studies will be presented to a workshop and published to advise future sustainable rural development initiatives.

Indicative budget: US\$ 150,000
Duration: 2.5 years
Activities: Research, socio-economic surveys, workshop, publication

13 Evaluation of waterbirds as agricultural pests in Africa.

A number of migratory waterbird species covered by the Agreement are known to consume and potentially damage agricultural crops or commercial fish stocks (including those at fish-farms). Although the subject is relatively well studied in Europe, where geese, cormorants and herons are implicated, the situation in Africa is less well known. Here, populations of ducks and waders are reported as pests of rice and other crops. This project will work with FAO to review the extent, species involved and location of this problem. The project will involve review of existing knowledge, and a workshop of experts, culminating in a review publication and recommendations on crop protection measures. The need to develop specific action plans for any of the species concerned will also be considered.

Indicative budget: US\$ 100,000
Duration: 2 years
Activities: Review, workshop, publication.

15 Guideline on minimising/ mitigating the impacts of infrastructural (and disturbance-related) developments affecting waterbirds.

Because many waterbirds occur in dense concentrations on individual sites, their conservation status can easily be threatened or impaired by point infrastructural developments (road or bridge-building, factories, oil terminals, tourist developments) or by the associated disturbance. This project will produce a new Conservation Guideline, recommending the steps to be taken to minimise or mitigate the impacts of such activities.

Indicative budget: US\$ 25,000
Duration: 12 months
Activities: Review, consultation, guideline.

19 Pilot study/review of potential from waterbird ringing recovery analyses for the Agreement Area

Ringing schemes covering migratory waterbirds exist in many of the countries of the Agreement Area, particularly in Europe. Over the last half century, these schemes have amassed hundreds of thousands of recoveries of ringed birds, yielding potential new information on migration and life histories of the species concerned. Although EURING has made progress in coordinating access to some of these data, there remains a great potential to exploit this information for conservation science. Syntheses have only been undertaken for a few species or countries. However, the task and potential is so great, that in order to prioritise actions, a pilot study should first be undertaken to review the availability of data and the most promising avenues for future research. Thus a desk study should be undertaken, with the input of an advisory group, to summarise the availability of ringing recovery information for waterbirds, and to make recommendations for future projects and analyses, and how ringing programmes can best contribute to the development of the AEW in the future.

Indicative budget: US\$ 50,000
Duration: 18 months
Activities: Desk study, review, expert advisory group, publication.

20 Coordination of waterbird ringing schemes, particularly in Africa.

Ringing studies have contributed greatly to our current understanding of waterbird migration and ecology. Whilst in Europe, the EURING has provided international coordination between the various national ringing schemes, no homologue exists for Africa or SW Asia. It is proposed to support the development of an African Ringing Scheme (AFRING), specifically for studies of migratory waterbirds. This will initially be through a coordinated study of intra-African migratory waterbirds. The project will have fixed goals and a five-year timetable.

Indicative budget: US\$ 50,000 per annum
Duration: 5 years
Activities: Coordination, ringing programmes, review, publication.

21 Guideline on the use of satellite tracking for migratory waterbirds

The development of satellite tracking technology for studying animal migrations has advanced substantially in recent years, and has revolutionised our understanding of the migration ecology of some species. The technique has revealed that certain types of information can be gathered with substantially higher quality and cost-effectiveness than from traditional ringing schemes. However, the technique has only been successfully applied to larger species, and there remain important questions regarding animal welfare. The Scientific Council of CMS is coordinating work on this subject as a whole, but it is proposed to produce a Conservation Guideline specifically on the use of satellite tracking for migratory waterbirds. In addition, case studies showing the advantages and drawbacks of the technique should be listed, and an assessment of its value in studying globally threatened species should be made.

Indicative budget: US\$ 25,000
Duration: 1 year
Activities: Review, consultation, guideline

23 Actions for the conservation of colonial waterbirds

A large proportion of the migratory waterbird species covered by the Agreement nest in colonies (particularly of the families: Pelecanidae, Phalacrocoracidae, Ardeidae, Ciconiidae, Threskiornithidae, Phoenicopteridae, Laridae). For different species, coloniality may be an adaptation for avoidance of predators and for efficient exploitation of food resources. One result of this behaviour is that a very significant proportion of the population of a species may be breeding at one or a few localities at one time. This makes the species particularly vulnerable to habitat change, taking (of eggs, young or adults), disturbance or emergency situations at such sites. On the positive side, waterbird colonies provide excellent opportunities for ecotourism, research and monitoring, and can be relatively easily protected. In order to provide guidance to Contracting Parties, it is recommended that two activities be undertaken: i) preparation of a conservation guideline on national actions to be undertaken for colonial waterbirds (establishment of a sites register, protection, monitoring, ecotourism and avoidance of disturbance, restoration and creation of breeding sites etc.); ii) a desk study to explore options, priorities and costings for coordinated international monitoring of colonial waterbirds during the breeding season, since many of these species are not adequately covered by the existing International Waterbird Census, which is based on non-breeding season surveys.

Indicative budget: US\$ 25,000 (Guideline), US\$15,000 (monitoring study)
Duration: 18 months
Activities: Review, analysis, consultation, publications

30 Establish a Clearing House for training materials for the Agreement

A wealth of training materials relevant to the implementation of the Agreement already exists both within the Agreement Area, and also in other parts of the world. The establishment of an internet-based clearing house for such training materials will greatly assist Parties in meeting the obligations of the Agreement. It is suggested that the Agreement Secretariat establishes a contract with an appropriate international organisation to establish and maintain this clearing house.

Indicative budget: US\$ 30,000 to establish clearing house
US\$ 10,000 per annum for maintenance
Duration: 5 years
Activities: Collection of materials, web site development, dissemination

31 Develop and implement a Communications Strategy for the Agreement

A communications strategy for the Agreement should be developed as a priority. This should plan to communicate the objectives and requirements of the Agreement to appropriate target audiences (decision-makers, conservation professionals, those living around or using key sites, donors). The strategy will be most effective if it can facilitate communications activities at national and local level. Particular attention will need to be given to disseminating materials in appropriate local languages, and at the appropriate level. A top priority will be to translate and disseminate the Conservation Guidelines in arabic and russian language versions. The strategy should result in a clear set of costed actions.

Indicative budget: US\$ 10,000 to prepare communications strategy
US\$ 75,000 to implement first tranche of actions
Duration: 5 years
Activities: Preparation of strategy, start of implementation