



**REPORT OF THE 17<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

*8 February 2022, Virtual conference format*

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## Summary of TC17 Decisions

AGENDA ITEM		DECISION
<b>Agenda item 3</b>	Adoption of the Agenda and Work Programme	The Meeting adopted the Agenda and the Work Programme with one addition to any other business.
<b>Agenda item 4</b>	Admission of Observers	The Committee agreed to admit the observers present and welcomed them to the meeting.
<b>Agenda item 5</b>	Delivery of TC Work Plan 2019-2021 in view of the MOP8 postponement to 2022	The TC agreed on the tasks to be finalised or advanced in 2022 (see Appendix I to this report).
<b>Agenda item 6</b>	TC Work Plan 2023-2025 and TC Report to MOP8	The AEWA Secretariat will revise the TC Work Plan 2023-2025 and the TC Report to MOP8 and finalise the documents for StC review based on feedback received by the TC.
<b>Agenda item 7</b>	Date and Venue of the next Technical Committee Meeting	The next meeting of the Technical Committee will take place in March 2023.

### Agenda item 1. Opening

1. The Chair of the Technical Committee (TC), Ms Ruth Cromie, opened the meeting, welcoming all those present, reminding everyone that the previous meeting in January 2021 had been the largest ever with around 60 participants. Ms Cromie thought it was good to again have so many Parties present as observers as well as various other UNEP bodies and other MEAs attending the meeting. She especially welcomed Ms Iben Hove Sorensen, who was replacing Mr Mikko Alhainen as the CIC representative and Mr Matt Parsons, who was also new to the Committee, replacing Mr Danny Heptinstall as the UK's permanent observer.

2. Ms Cromie continued by pointing out that this was an unusual meeting because of the postponement of MOP8 to September 2022. This, however, gave the TC some more time to complete outstanding tasks. Referring to document AEWA/TC 17.5 *Report of the Technical Committee to MOP8*, Ms Cromie said that a substantial number of tasks had already been completed. She furthermore thanked the TC members for agreeing to stay on the TC for an extra year, while looking forward to MOP8.

3. Moving on, Ms Cromie explained that the purpose of the meeting was to focus on the delivery of outstanding tasks from the TC workplan in advance of MOP8 and what key inputs were needed.

4. Ms Cromie went on to mention the tragic loss of some dear friends and colleagues. Mr Zoltan Czirak, Mr Nick Williams and Mr Evgeny Syroechkovskiy Jr., who were all passionate and committed conservationists had sadly passed away since the last TC meeting. This also reminded Ms Cromie of the importance of mentorship for the next generation of conservationists.

## **Agenda item 2. Welcome Addresses**

5. Ms Cromie welcomed Mr Jacques Trouvilliez, AEWA Executive Secretary, to the meeting and asked him whether he would like to say a few words.

6. Mr Trouvilliez thanked Ms Cromie and thought it was a pleasure to join the meeting and to see so many participants even if only virtually.

7. He went on to thank all members of the TC for their hard work and continued dedication to the Agreement. Mr Trouvilliez emphasised that the TC was at the core of the Agreement whose implementation is based on the best science available and has achieved so much despite the difficulties everyone had been facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, he thanked those countries that had provided funding which had allowed the Secretariat to commission the assignments in support of some of the key tasks found in the Committee's very ambitious work plan.

8. Finally, Mr Trouvilliez wished everyone a fruitful meeting.

## **Agenda item 3. Adoption of the Agenda and Work Programme**

9. Ms Cromie proposed to adopt the agenda and work programme and added that she was aware of one point to be presented under any other business which was the procedure for nominations for TC members for the next triennium.

10. Mr Sergey Dereliev, Head of the Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit at the AEWA Secretariat, briefly ran through the workflow and purpose of the meeting. He echoed what Ms Cromie had already explained and added that the decisions taken today were all determined by the timelines and deadlines ahead of MOP8. In summary, the TC did not have more than four months until the final deadline. He urged everyone to bear that in mind and to be realistic while going through the list of tasks.

11. Mr Dereliev also pointed out the crucial deadline related to the submission of proposals for amendments to the legal text. The proposals needed to be submitted 150 days before the MOP, which was the end of April. TC proposals for amendments were submitted last year by the UK, who had agreed to submit a revision. A revision was needed due to the new IUCN Red List release, which had an impact on the AEWA Table 1. The revised proposals needed to be provided to the UK by mid-March for their processing and submission.

**Decision:** The Meeting adopted the Agenda (document AEWA/TC 17.2) and the Work Programme (document AEWA/TC 17.3).

## **Agenda item 4. Admission of Observers**

12. Introducing this agenda item, Ms Cromie said that she was glad to welcome four of the AEWA NGO partner organisations, all permanent observers to the Technical Committee: the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), BirdLife International, the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE) and Migratory Birds of the Western Palearctic (OMPO).

13. Ms Cromie continued by welcoming the members of the StC: Mr Simon Mackown (StC Chair) and Mr Nick Warmelink (Depositary). In addition, many representatives of Parties were present at the meeting, including the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, the European Commission, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Mauritania, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

14. Further observers included representatives from various other UNEP bodies, other MEAs and Flyway Initiatives.

**Decision:** The Committee agreed to admit the observers present and welcomed them to the meeting.

#### **Agenda item 5. Delivery of TC Work Plan 2019-2021 in view of the MOP8 postponement to 2022**

15. The TC reviewed the status of its undelivered and partially delivered tasks of the TC Work Plan 2019-2021 as per the TC Report to MOP8 and discussed the possibility of delivering some of them in advance of the new MOP8 dates in 2022, as well as for which carry-over tasks to TC Work Plan 2023-2025 work may be launched in 2022 (documents AEWA/TC 17.4 and 17.5).

16. Following a comprehensive review, the TC agreed on the tasks to be finalised or advanced in 2022, subject to available capacity and resources, as presented in Appendix I to this report.

**Decision:** The TC agreed on the tasks to be finalised or advanced in 2022 (see Appendix I to this report).

#### **Agenda item 6. TC Work Plan 2023-2025 and TC Report to MOP8**

17. Mr Dereliev said that the Work Plan 2023-2025 depended on what would be concluded and delivered in 2022. Both the Work Plan and the TC Report to MOP8 would have to be updated.

18. Mr Dereliev suggested that the AEWA Secretariat would revise the two documents because it had the best overview on the status of tasks. The revisions would be presented to the TC in the course of June via the TC workspace. The TC would have to review the revisions and the documents would be finalised for StC review based on the feedback received by the AEWA Secretariat.

19. All TC members agreed to the suggestion.

**Decision:** The AEWA Secretariat will revise the TC Work Plan 2023-2025 and the TC Report to MOP8 and finalise the documents for StC review based on feedback received by the TC.

#### **Agenda item 7. Date and Venue of the next Technical Committee Meeting**

20. Mr Dereliev explained that the first TC meeting of a triennium should take place about 3-5 months after the MOP, i. e. the next one would be in January/February 2023. The second

meeting of a triennium should take place about 9-10 months before the next MOP. Both meetings would take place in Bonn, Germany should another host not be found.

21. Mr Dereliev thought that it might also be useful to have at least one additional virtual meeting between the two in-person meetings.

22. Since there were several interventions regarding field work at the beginning of the year and it would therefore be inconvenient to schedule the TC for January/February, it was agreed to hold the next TC meeting in March 2023.

**Decision:** The next meeting of the Technical Committee will take place in March 2023.

#### **Agenda item 8. Any Other Business**

23. Mr Dereliev reminded everyone about the procedure for TC nominations.

24. Since several TC members would have completed two terms of service a nomination procedure for those vacant positions had been launched in 2021 in advance of the former MOP8 dates. Some nominations had already been received, but unfortunately not many. It could be difficult to choose from only a small number of candidates.

25. The next steps for the AEWA Secretariat would be to first approach those members of the TC, who have so far served only one term, asking them to reconfirm if they would be able and interested in serving on the TC for a second term. Once the reconfirmations were received, the nomination process for all vacant positions would be relaunched.

26. The process was expected to be completed by the end of February to have enough time to consider the nominees. While the call for nominations would be sent to all Parties and partner organisations, Mr Dereliev also called upon the outgoing members of the Committee to consider replacements for their positions and to nominate candidates accordingly.

27. In the meantime two additional points under AOB had been submitted. One from Ms Nicola Crockford, representative of BirdLife International, and one from Mr Emmanuel Kasimbazi, Environmental Law Expert.

28. Ms Crockford said that many had been involved over the years in the concept for developing a World Coastal Forum. She informed everyone that China had decided to facilitate the establishment of the Forum.

29. China had hosted a meeting in January where a document had been approved that had been worked on by a group of 20 shapers of different relevant organisations. Ms Crockford said that she would share a link to the document and that the first meeting of the formal World Coastal

Forum establishment group would take place later in February 2022. Should anyone wish to be involved they should get in touch with Ms Crockford directly.

30. Ms Cromie thanked Ms Crockford for her contribution and gave the floor to Mr Kasimbazi.

31. Mr Kasimbazi raised the issue of capacity building for AEWA's National Focal Points since there seemed to be a high turnover. He wondered whether for example a manual could be developed.

32. Ms Evelyn Moloko, Head of the African Initiative, thought this was a pertinent issue, particularly for the African region. She explained that a CMS Family manual for National Focal Points that provides information and guidance was available online and was provided to all new Focal Points. That said, the AEWA Secretariat always tried to provide additional support within its means if needed.

### **Agenda item 9. Closure**

33. Ms Cromie thought that it had been a turbulent triennium. Not only due to the pandemic, but also due to resources coming in late.

34. She thanked Mr Dereliev for talking the meeting participants through the Work Plan and believed that the TC now had a good idea of which tasks could be completed. She urged the TC members to be available for providing comments on documents that would be posted on the workspace for feedback in the coming weeks.

35. Ms Cromie thanked all TC members, experts and organisations present. Without their dedication and expertise none of the work could happen. Finally, she thanked the AEWA Secretariat for ensuring a high quality of service as always despite being understaffed.

36. Mr Dereliev thanked everyone for the smooth meeting and emphasised that there was still quite some work ahead. He thanked all TC members for agreeing to serve on the Committee for an extra year in this intersessional period, especially the outgoing members Mr Pierre Defos du Rau, Mr Philippe Karpe, Ms Olesya Petrovych, Ms Lizanne Roxburgh, Mr Imad Cherkaoui and last but not least the TC's Chair Ms Ruth Cromie.

37. With that the meeting was closed.

## Appendix I - AEWA Technical Committee Workplan 2019-2022 tasks to be finalised or advanced in 2022

### Task urgency ranking (colour coding):

	Highly time sensitive, MOP8 delivery or other
	Time sensitive, MOP8 delivery or other
	No MOP8 delivery
	Merged task

### Name abbreviations:

DAS – David Alan Stroud

IC – Imad Cherkaoui

IM – Ian Mitchell

JM – Jesper Madsen

MP – Matt Parsons

RC – Ruth Cromie

SD – Sergey Dereliev

SN – Szabolcs Nagy

**Theme: Field of application (Working Group 1)**

Task	Remaining actions in 2022	Lead	MOP8 delivery expected	Deadline for final product
1.1. Taxonomy & nomenclature	Review possible cases of sub-species taxonomy change need of Bar-tailed Godwit and Bean Goose; if agreed, bring to BirdLife's taxonomic WG for review	SN/SD	No	Mid-2022
1.3. Population definitions	Compile proformas for 9 species to review possible changes to population delineations (Red-necked Phalarope, Great Snipe, Spur-winged lapwing, European Shag, European Oystercatcher, Bean Goose, Maccoa Duck, Black Stork, Caspian Tern). TC to review and decide of possible changes.	SN	Yes	17 March
1.4. Review of Table 1 in Annex 3 to the Agreement	Agree on a revised proposal for amendments to Table 1 based on the outcomes of task 1.3 above and the latest IUCN Red List changes of Dec 2021. To be done in parallel with task 1.3.	SN/SD	Yes	17 March

**Theme: Species Conservation (Working Group 2)**

Task	Remaining actions in 2022	Lead	MOP8 delivery expected	Deadline for final product
2.2. Conservation and management guidance for AEWA populations	Review and approve final drafts (to be available soon) of the conservation/management guidance notes for five pilot species (Black Crowned Crane, Atlantic Puffin, African Skimmer, Garganey, Comb Duck) which are to be submitted to MOP8	- SD for DR8.4	Yes	Mid-June

	as information documents. Amend Draft Resolution 8.4.			
2.3. ISSAP Conservation Briefs	Review the next drafts (to be available soon) and approve the final version of the ISSAP Conservation Briefs for the five species (Great Snipe, Ferruginous Duck, Lesser Flamingo, Maccoa Duck, Madagascar Pond-heron) which are to be submitted to MOP8 as information documents. Amend Draft Resolution 8.4.	- SD for DR8.4	Yes	Mid-June
2.4. Sustainable harvests and the socio-economic importance of waterbirds	<p>Convene meetings of the ad hoc WG to advance the four tasks assigned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ToR for a Review on Sustainable Harvest and the Socio-economic Importance of Waterbirds;</li> <li>- ToR for Guidance on Methods and Tools for Waterbird Harvest Data Collection;</li> <li>- ToR for Rapid Assessment of Sustainability of Harvest of AEWA Waterbird Populations;</li> <li>- Reporting templates for harvest data collection and other information related to sustainable harvest (for NatReports).</li> </ul> <p>First meeting scheduled for 11 March.</p>	JM/SD	No	-
2.5. Priorities for seabird conservation	Convene the ad hoc WG and its inaugural meeting this calendar year (ideally by June). TC members to indicate their interest in involvement and also recommend external experts to be invited.	IM/MP/SD	No	-

**Theme: Habitat conservation (Working Group 3)**

Task	Remaining actions in 2022	Lead	MOP8 delivery expected	Deadline for final product
3.1. Site inventory framework	Review and comment on the submitted national site inventories (particularly the regional representatives on the TC). Site inventories will be uploaded on the TC Workspace <a href="#">here</a> by the Secretariat in batches as they are received. Ideally, as many as possible to be finalised by MOP8 (as per the Strategic Plan timeline)	-	(Yes)	Tbc for each batch, see the Workspace
3.3. Status of principal waterbird habitats	Review and comment on the advanced draft of the costed project brief available on the TC workspace <a href="#">here</a> . Approve the final version when available.	-	No	As soon as possible, not later than end of February
3.4 Sea-level rise impact	After July start a discussion on the topic on the TC Workspaces	DAS	No	-
3.5. Habitat conservation action plan	See task 3.3 above (merged)	-	-	-

**Theme: Management of human activities (Working Group 4)**

Task	Remaining actions in 2022	Lead	MOP8 delivery expected	Deadline for final product
4.1. Processes contributing to tackling of the four causes of unnecessary additional mortality and other threats	Review and comment on the drafts of the document. First draft to be provided within a few weeks. Approve final version. Will require a new Draft Resolution (DR).	- ? for DR drafting	Yes	Mid-June

4.7. Poisoning by lead shot	AEWA TC chair to continue as lead expert in the ECHA dossier process on phase out of lead in ammunition and fishing weights.	RC	No	-
4.8. Illegal killing	Imad Cherkaoui to represent the TC in the forthcoming events of MIKT (Med IKB TF), next meeting on 7-9 June in Valencia, Spain.	IC	No	-
4.9. Harvest data collation	See task 2.4 above (merged)	-	-	-
4.10. Sustainability of harvest	See task 2.4 above (merged)	-	-	-
4.11. Sustainable ecotourism	Review and comment on the advanced draft of the document posted on the TC Workspace <a href="#">here</a> by <b>mid-February</b> . Approve final version. Will require a new Draft Resolution (DR).	- ? for DR drafting	Yes	Mid-June

### Theme: Education and information (Working Group 6)

Task	Remaining actions in 2022	Lead	MOP8 delivery expected	Deadline for final product
6.1. Communication Strategy implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- TC members to support MOP8 communication efforts (as needed via the TC workspace);</li> <li>- TC members to provide input and advice on the World Migratory Bird Day 2022 campaign theme of Light Pollution (waterbird / seabird angle);</li> <li>- TC members to continue working on any outstanding TC work plan tasks which have been identified as having a CEPA relevance.</li> </ul>	All	No	MOP8 (September)  WMBD 14 May + 8 October

### Theme: Implementation (Working Group 7)

Task	Remaining actions in 2022	Lead	MOP8 delivery expected	Deadline for final product
7.3. Review and reformatting of existing Conservation Guidelines	Do some thinking and possibly start a discussion on the TC Workspace after July	DAS	No	-
7.8. Revision and update of Conservation Guidelines	Review and comment on the draft complementary guidelines on climate change adaptation planning developed under the IKI Climate Resilient Flyway project of Wetlands International. Draft to be available after mid-March. Approve final version. Amend Draft Resolution 8.8.	- SD for DR8.8	Yes	Mid-June
7.9. Information supplementary to Conservation Guidelines	TC members and observers to consider routinely submitting supplementary information for review by the Committee following the agreed procedure.	All	No	-

### Theme: Strategic, reporting, emerging and other issues (Working Group 8)

Task	Remaining actions in 2022	Lead	MOP8 delivery expected	Deadline for final product
8.1. National Reports	See task 2.4 above – templates for harvest reporting to be developed for the MOP9 NR format	-	-	-
8.3. Monitoring of implementation of the Strategic Plan and the PoAA (2019-2027)	Review and comment on the proposed indicators for monitoring implementation of the PoAA (to be available soon)	-	Yes	Tbc (asap)
8.5. AEWA's contribution to relevant global frameworks	If CBD COP15 took place before MOP8, the document AEWA/MOP 8.37 on AEWA's relevance for the delivery of the post-2020 GBF to	DAS	Yes	Tbc

	be reviewed and revised as necessary. TC to review and approve. Amend Draft Resolution 8.9.			
8.6. Emerging diseases	AEWA TC chair to remain involved in the Scientific Task Force on HP Avian Influenza.	RC	No	-
8.7. Implementation	Provide advice, as required	All	tbc	tbc

## Appendix II - List of Participants

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