

AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS (AEWA)

AFRICAN REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE 8TH SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO AEWA (PRE-MOP8)

4-7 JULY 2022

VIRTUAL FORMAT VIA ZOOM



MEETING REPORT

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1. OVERVIEW OF THE MEETING

Fifty-three participants from 30 African Contracting Parties (CPs) took part in an online meeting from 4-7 July 2022, in preparation for the 8th Session of the AEWA Meeting of the Parties (Pre-MOP8). The AEWA African Pre-MOP8 meeting was organized by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and aimed to familiarize AEWA African National Focal Points (NFPs) with MOP8 documents and procedures and provide an opportunity to consolidate common positions on key issues of priority for the region. This familiarisation was particularly important as a significant number of NFPs were recently designated after MOP7) and/or had therefore not yet participated in an AEWA MOP. The meeting further aimed to enhance administrative capacity in the African region for implementation of AEWA activities and to increase NFP awareness on their roles and responsibilities towards implementation of the Agreement, including ensuring their effective preparation for MOP8.

This was the first AEWA Pre-MOP to be held online. Although this meeting format inevitably restricted some levels of interaction, active participation and engagement, the meeting nevertheless proved to be very useful for participants, and there was a high level of participants' involvement throughout. The meeting, with simultaneous translation in English and French, included presentations, discussion sessions, group work and interactive quizzes, interspersed with regular breaks. Through the presentations and discussions, information on, as well as understanding of key MOP8 documents and topics were conveyed. Some sessions aimed to build confidence for participation in a MOP and to strengthen skills in negotiation.

Among the key issues addressed during the four-day meeting were the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa (PoAA) for 2019-2027, species action planning, waterbird and site monitoring, communication, ecotourism, climate change resilience and National Reporting. The institutional, financial and administrative management of the Agreement was also considered, including four budget scenarios to be considered by MOP8 for the future financing of the Agreement, as well as the associated draft resolutions. The AEWA African NFPs also deliberated on issues of regional and sub-regional importance and identified focal points for their representation on different prioritized issues.

The meeting was made possible thanks to the generous financial contributions from the Governments of Switzerland (through the Federal Office for the Environment) and Germany (through the Federal Ministry for Environment).

2. MEETING PLATFORM AND PROGRAMME

The meeting was held online through Zoom and lasted for 6 hours per day from 4-6 July 2022 and 4.5 hours on 7 July 2022. The meeting agenda is shown in Annex 1, while the facilitators used a more detailed meeting session plan to guide the timing and delivery of presentations, discussions and exercises.

The meeting simultaneously covered four different time zones as illustrated in Annex 2.

3. MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Participants comprised AEWA NFPs and/or their representatives, collaborators and partners from 30 AEWA African Contracting Parties plus meeting guests / presenters, whilst the meeting sessions were guided by two facilitators and staff of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat. A list of participant list is given in Annex 3.

4. ACCOUNT OF THE MEETING

DAY 1 - MONDAY 4TH JULY

4.1) DAY1 - SESSION 1: WELCOME, OPENING & INTRODUCTIONS

4.1a) Welcome and Opening

The facilitators, Abdoulaye Ndiaye and Tim Dodman, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the members of the opening panel as well as the online meeting housekeeping rules and guidelines. They assumed the role of joint chairing of the online meeting.

Jacques Trouvilliez, Executive Secretary of AEWA, gave the first welcoming speech, noting the importance of the meeting especially for new NFPs to gain experience and for African CPs to discuss and agree on common positions for key issues of importance for the region. He indicated the importance of the PoAA and the need for strengthened capacity at the Secretariat to enable its implementation, noting that human resources at the Secretariat are currently limited. He hoped that all NFPs would be able to participate in person at MOP8 in Budapest.

Humbulani Mafumo, AEWA NFP for South Africa and Vice-Chair of the AEWA Standing Committee, welcomed all participants to the meeting, especially NFPs of Central African Republic and Malawi, as new CPs to the Agreement. She stressed the importance of NFPs to assist each other in order to have a successful MOP8, especially as about half the African NFPs are new since the last MOP. She pointed out there are many important documents to consider, hence the need for a fruitful meeting with rich discussions.

Both speakers warmly thanked the Pre-MOP8 sponsors Germany and Switzerland.

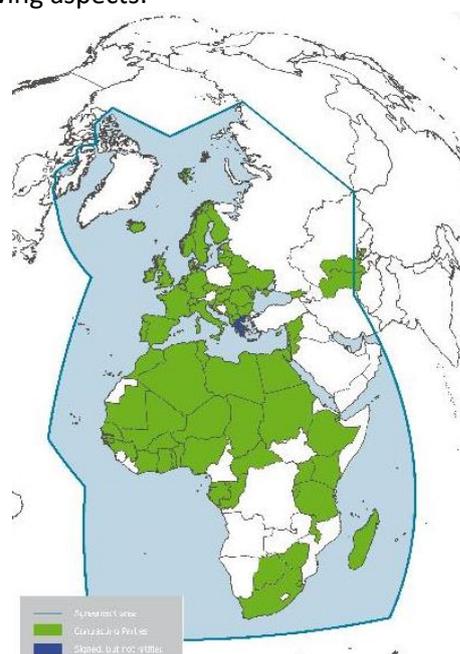
Sabine Herzog, representing the government of Switzerland, indicated that Switzerland is committed to synergies for biodiversity conservation, which is why AEWA is so important as a regional agreement. She mentioned that meetings like the Pre-MOP are vital for preparation. She recalled that there are many lakes in Switzerland important for migratory waterbirds, and birds symbolise hope, joy and peace.

Participants then introduced themselves, highlighting their names, countries and roles. The introductions concluded with an overview on the four-day meeting agenda given by Tim Dodman, with a focus on day 1.

4.1b) Brief Introduction to AEWA

Evelyn Moloko then gave a brief introduction to AEWA, covering the following aspects:

- The origin, background and purpose of AEWA, a legally binding intergovernmental treaty under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with 83 Contracting Parties (shown in green in map – note Cameroon is now also a member, effective from 1 October 2022), which aims to promote concerted and coordinated action for conserving migratory waterbirds and their habitats.
- The migratory waterbird species (255) and populations (555) covered under AEWA.
- The structure and functioning of AEWA, and associated tools and mechanisms and initiatives to promote and support implementation including action plans, guidelines, reporting and reviews and financing mechanisms.
- An introduction to the AEWA African Initiative and some of its key actions and achievements including on species action plan implementation, capacity building and supporting conservation action on the ground.

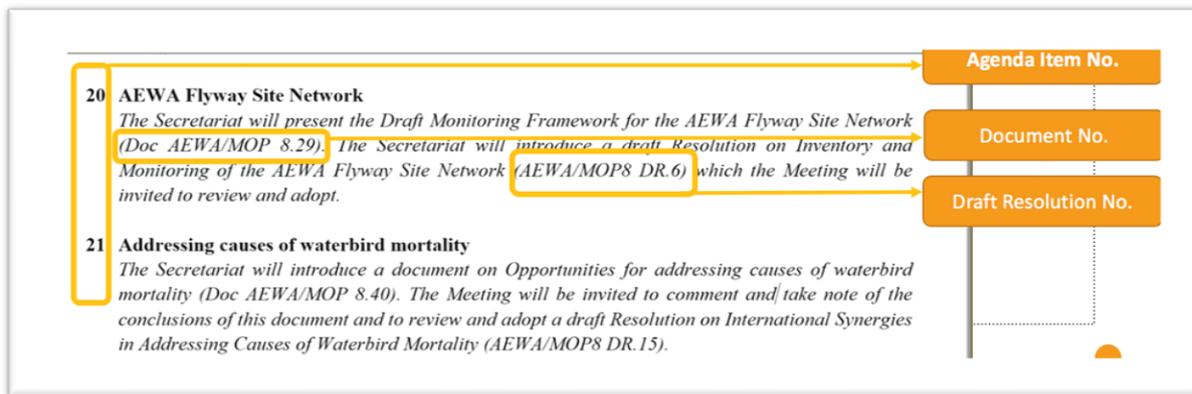


4.2) DAY 1 - SESSION 2: PREPARING FOR, AND PARTICIPATING AT AEWA MOP8

This session included 5 components designed to inform NFPs about the workings of an AEWA MOP in general and about MOP8 specifically.

4.2a) AEWA MOP8 agenda and key issues for Africa

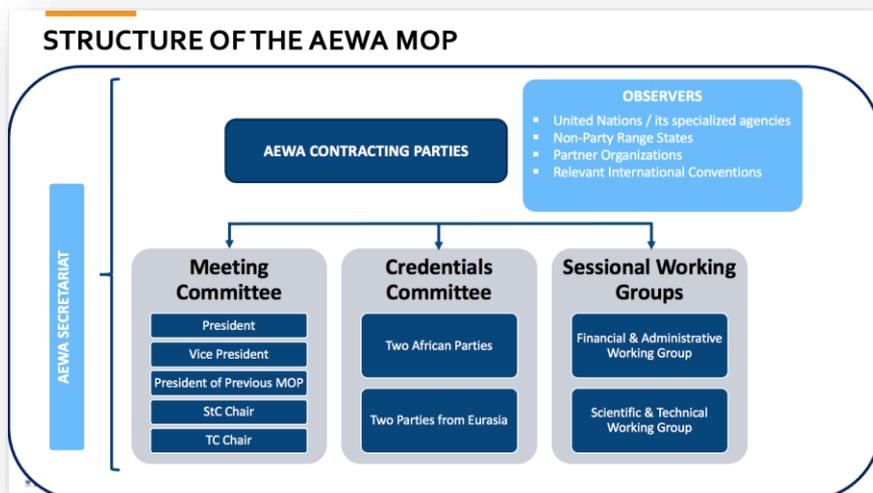
Evelyn Moloko presented an overview of the draft AEWA MOP8 agenda, highlighting key MOP documents and associated draft resolutions of relevance for Africa and to be addressed at the Pre-MOP8 meeting. Guidance was provided on navigating the MOP8 draft agenda, for each agenda item and associated documents and draft resolutions, as shown below.



4.2b) MOP8 Timelines & structure requirements relating to MOP documents / logistics

Evelyn Moloko next presented the structure and timelines of the AEWA MOP. This was particularly relevant at this Pre-MOP, given the high proportion of new NFPs and/or NFPs who had not participated in an AEWA MOP before. Attention was drawn to the different AEWA MOP committees, officers and working groups and the role of the African region in these.

Various statutory MOP deadlines were highlighted and some key dates in the run-up to AEWA MOP8 were emphasized, for example the deadline of 28 July 2022 by when Parties needed to send comments on proposals for amendments to the Secretariat. There were also various timelines that delegates needed to take note of in relation to logistical preparation, e.g., relating to requesting for funding, registration, applying for visas, organizing travel and accommodation and obtaining credentials. NFPs were also reminded of the importance to obtain credentials on time to enable their full participation (including voting). Originals need to be submitted to the Secretariat at the start of meeting. Credentials should be signed by the Head of State, Head of Government or the Minister of Foreign Affairs and must contain all names of the members of the CP’s official delegation and specify the Head of Delegation (HoD).



4.2c) Rules of Procedure (RoP)

Jacques Trouvilliez defined the objectives of the RoP as being to ensure a fair participation and a constructive meeting by organising the way the meeting is conducted. They are adopted at the beginning of each MOP, on the basis of a proposal and can be amended. Key elements emphasized include representation of CPs and credentials, MOP officers, committees and working groups, conduct of business and voting.

4.2d) AEWA Institutional Arrangements and roles: Standing Committee, Technical Committee, Sub-Regional Focal Point Coordinators

Evelyn Moloko gave an overview of AEWA institutional arrangements, the mandates of the principal bodies of the Agreement, as well as the roles and responsibilities of the different positions established under the AEWA bodies and implications for Africa:

- **The AEWA Standing Committee (StC)** provides policy and administrative guidance on behalf of the MOP. For the African region, the StC includes one member and an alternate from each of Eastern and Southern Africa, Western and Central Africa, and the Middle East and Northern Africa.
- **The AEWA Technical Committee (TC)** provides scientific and technical advice/information to the AEWA Parties and the MOP. It is composed of nine regional experts (including one from each of the five African sub-regions), one representative each from three key partner organizations and four thematic experts, while observers can be invited to StC meetings.

The AEWA Sub-regional Focal Point Coordinators (SRFPC), established by Resolution 5.9 is a role to guide implementation of the Agreement in Africa at the sub-regional level. There are five SRFPCs - one for each African sub-region. According to the revised Terms of Reference for the SRFPCs, the role is assigned by default to the AEWA StC members and alternates, while sub-regions without an StC representative or alternate are expected to nominate their SRFPC after the MOP. NFPs were reminded of StC and subsequently SRFPC vacancies to consider for Africa, notably both the member and alternate for the Middle East and Northern Africa, whilst the alternate position for Western and Central Africa remains open for discussion between both sub-regions, to promote sub-regional balance.

Santiago Atomo Ayang (Equatorial Guinea) requested guidance on filling the Central African SRFPC position, which was explained. Samuel Nibitanga (Burundi) questioned about participation of a CP at AEWA MOP if it was in arrears. The AEWA Secretariat explained that a CP in arrears was invited to participate at AEWA MOP, but funding could not be provided by AEWA. Stephen Okiror (Uganda) questioned when notification of funding will be given to sponsored delegates. AEWA Secretariat clarified that one member per delegation will be notified once they had registered online. It would be Kalil Doubouya's (Guinea) first time to participate and he requested some clarifications on participation.

4.2e) Africa coordination at MOP8: Roles / responsibilities

Evelyn Moloko and Abdoulaye Ndiaye provided information on the opportunities to ensure a coordinated participation of the African NFPs during MOP8. Africa usually identifies 'champions' to guide and coordinate the region's participation at the different MOP working groups (thematic and budget), as well as for any thematic issues, as applicable. During the MOP, a meeting room is provided for African coordination meetings, which usually take place daily during the early morning hours before the formal sessions begin. This provides an opportunity to discuss key issues to be addressed on each day and confirm championing roles and any agreed Africa positions. It was also recalled that preparation is very important to ensure efficient participation at the MOP, e.g., reading MOP documents in advance, knowing who can help with any uncertainties, mastering the MOP Rules of Procedure.

4.3) DAY 1 - SESSION 3: AEWA STRATEGIC PLAN, PLAN OF ACTION FOR AFRICA (PoAA) AND NATIONAL REPORTING

4.3a) Interactive quiz on AEWA PoAA and reporting

Tim Dodman introduced and led an interactive online quiz focused on the AEWA PoAA. There were five questions, designed to introduce some key information about the plan and to generate discussion through the quiz's answer session, with participants providing the answers. The current PoAA covers the period "2019-2027", being the answer to question 1.

Significant discussion arose around the open question that asked participants to identify key challenges for PoAA implementation. These included:



- Kumara Gameda (Ethiopia): Financial limitations and funding to meet costs of implementation
- Stephen Okiror (Uganda): Varying legal regime makes uniform application of PoAA complicated; inadequacies in capacity and capabilities
- Elisante Leguma (Tanzania): Lack of technical capacity; coordination and funding; legal aspects
- Thulani Methula (Eswatini): Legislation and governance; there are conflicting priorities, especially in relation to cross-cutting issues
- Assane Ndoye (Senegal): Support and funding; animation and coordination
- Cheikh Diagne (Senegal): Coordination; waterbird monitoring – logistics and organisation
- Rémi Hefoume (Benin): Awareness-raising (widely needed); sustainable management of natural resources (including birds)
- Djibril Ly (Mauritania): Financial and human resources
- Salomon Yamale (CAR): Lack of logistical and human resources; strong need for training.

4.3b) AEWA Strategic Plan (SP) & outcomes / highlights of SP implementation report

Sergey Dereliev presented the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027. Its goal is to “*maintain migratory waterbird species and their populations in a favourable conservation status or to restore them to such a status throughout their flyways*”, and its four strategic objectives and one enabling objective cover the following:

- Strengthening species conservation and recovery and reducing causes of unnecessary mortality,
- Ensuring sustainable use and management of waterbird populations,
- Establishing a coherent and comprehensive flyway network of sites,
- Ensuring sufficient quantity and quality of habitat in the wider environment,
- Strengthening knowledge, capacity, recognition, awareness and resources to implement AEWA.

It was highlighted that, based on the assessment of the progress in the implementation of the AEWA SP, although there is some progress towards achieving the SP objectives/purpose, there is an overall deterioration in the status of migratory waterbirds. Key issues identified as requiring particular attention to advance future implementation of the SP include:

- Target 1.1 – addressing legal measures in domestic legislation – para 2.1 AEWA Action Plan AP))
- Target 1.2 – strengthening implementation of species action plans
- Target 2.2 – addressing legal measures for use/hunting in domestic legislation – para 4.1 AEWA AP
- Target 3.1 – completing national inventories of the flyway site network
- Target 3.3 – promoting site designation and management
- Target 4.1 – securing funding for joint AEWA-CMS-Raptors MoU project on habitat conservation in the wider landscape
- Target 5.6 – mobilising resources nationally and internationally for SP implementation

It was recalled that in order to improve the SP implementation assessment for MOP9 (2025), all CPs submit comprehensive national reports.

Assane Ndoye (Senegal) recommended consideration for regional level breakdown in the assessment of the SP implementation progress. The AEWA Secretariat will consider this for the next assessment (for MOP9). Elisante Leguma (Tanzania) considered that having a mid-term review could be helpful, whilst highlighting that these resources have never been adequate to implement the SP and we need to review our strategies for resource mobilisation. Sergey indicated that the AEWA Technical Committee is responsible for looking at this.

Cheikh Diagne (Senegal) recommended to consider a strategic approach to address Avian Influenza impacts on species that are most vulnerable to this disease. The Secretariat recalled that AEWA works on this with other international organisations through an Avian Influenza task force.

Salomon Yamale (CAR) considered that the legislative issues are a key aspect for CAR, where there is also low capacity to mobilise resources for implementation. The AEWA Secretariat emphasizes its availability to provide advice while indicating that such support will be further enhanced if a Compliance Officer is appointed within the Secretariat – as proposed in budget scenario 4 submitted to MOP8.

4.3c) AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027

Evelyn Moloko presented the PoAA. The presentation highlighted fundamental issues about the background, structure and content of the plan, which provides operational guidelines for implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan in Africa. Recalling that it was developed through a highly consultative process and adopted by AEWA MOP7 (2018), a key obligation for African CPs is to develop national PoAA implementation plans including resource mobilization plans, which take into account national issues/priorities.

Attention was drawn to the results of the analysis of National Reports on the implementation of the PoAA over the period of 2019-2020, which were based on the outcomes from 20 out of the 38 CPs who submitted their PoAA National Reports. The results indicate some progress in PoAA implementation - with some of the outcomes highlighted below:



A key issue highlighted in submitted reports was a lack of resources for implementation at the national level. Key conclusions presented were:

- General focus required to support Parties to achieve actions falls under Objectives 1 & 2
- Targeted work required to support Parties with specific actions across all objectives which showed particularly low achievement rates – e.g.,
 - Facilitating national processes relating to the enforcement of relevant domestic legislation
 - Building capacity for Parties to review compliance of domestic legislation with relevant AEWA provisions
 - Building capacity for and/or facilitating the development of national AEWA PoAA implementation plans
- Strengthened and sustained resources base and technical capacity for national implementation.

Humbulani Mafumo (South Africa) questioned how we should better align the SP and PoAA with Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Mukondi Matshusa (South Africa) recommended measures to assist each other, e.g., from lessons learned, and to share expertise. Abdoulaye Ndiaye indicated that we should always be ready to strengthen links between conventions (MEAs).

4.4) DAY 1 - SESSION 4: CONSERVATION STATUS REPORT(CSR) AND SUB-REGIONAL DISCUSSIONS

4.4a) Overview of AEWA CSR

Sergey Dereliev introduced the AEWA CSR in general, as one of the mandatory reviews which assesses the size and trends of all AEWA's current 560 waterbird populations, with a new edition produced for each MOP. He then presented some of the key outcomes of the 8th edition of the AEWA CSR submitted to MOP8 including the following new conclusions:

- AEWA provides a framework for the conservation and sustainable use of almost half a billion waterbirds across one-third of the world.
- Knowledge on the status of waterbird populations has (marginally) improved, but important gaps remain.
- The number of decreasing populations is 40% higher than the number of increasing populations.
- The proportion of AEWA 'priority' populations with stable or increasing trends remains unchanged.
- The proportion of populations with unfavourable conservation status in 2018 that show a stable or increasing trend has slightly increased.
- 3 of 6 purpose level indicators of the SP show negative change compared to the 2018 baseline.
- Although many AEWA populations are important quarry species, the information needed for their sustainable use and management is largely inadequate.

Attention was also drawn to some key CSR8 highlights of interest for the African region, which should guide future conservation efforts, e.g.:

- The proportion of populations that belong to a species of global conservation concern is highest in Eastern and Southern Africa.
- The highest proportion of populations in (rapid) short-term decline can be found in the Sub-Saharan African, Eastern and Southern African and Central and Southern Asian flyways.
- The highest proportion of populations in long-term decline can be found in the Sub-Saharan African, Eastern and Southern African, Central and Southern Asian and West Asian/Eastern African flyways.
- More systematic surveys and reporting are needed in Africa and West Asia.

The general message portrays that overall improvements in conservation action are needed across Africa.

4.4b) Using AEWA Table 1 and Amendments to Table 1

Sergey then introduced AEWA Table 1 (Annex 3 of the AEWA Action Plan), which outlines the status of all AEWA waterbird populations, categorising these against a set of criteria, based on global Red List status, population size and trend (Columns A, B and C). This defines the legal measures for waterbird conservation that need to be transposed into domestic legislation and enforced. This was followed by a practical session to illustrate through demonstrations and an exercise how to use Table 1 for specific tasks, including those relating to the translation of Table 1 amendments into national legislation.

4.4c) Sub-regional Discussions

Participants next broke into three sub-regional groups (Eastern & Southern Africa, Western & Central Africa and Northern Africa), to consider Africa group coordination at MOP8, discuss positions / vacancies linked to the AEWA StC and SRCPC roles and set regional priorities. Following the regional group sessions, Humbulani Mafumo (South Africa) proposed that Eswatini play an Africa coordination role at MOP8, which Eswatini (Thulani Methula) accepted. It was also mentioned that a contact group was being set up to facilitate communication among Eastern & Southern African AEWA NFPs. The Northern African region indicated that Nadjiba Bendjedda (Algeria) will contact all countries of the Northern Africa and Middle East region to discuss representation in the AEWA StC for the next triennium. For Western & Central Africa, it was noted that a place needs to be given to Central Africa as alternate StC representative, but a decision could not yet be taken given that Nigeria (current alternate representative) was absent from (part of) the Pre-MOP meeting.

DAY 2: TUESDAY 5TH JULY

During a brief introduction, Lucy Muita (Kenya) and Kouassi Kouamé (Côte d'Ivoire) gave a brief summary of Day 1, highlighting good discussions around the PoAA and learning about AEWA Table 1.

4.5) DAY 2 - SESSION 5: IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL SINGLE/MULTI SPECIES ACTION PLANS

4.5a) Case study from Egypt: translation of MOP amendments into national legislation

In follow-up to the Day 1 session relating to AEWA Table 1 and related amendments, Ayman Ahmed (Egypt) showed the process through which Egypt is using Table 1 to update its national legislation. He indicated that under Egypt's Environmental Law it is prohibited to hunt birds (or harvest eggs) without permission from the Egyptian Wildlife Authority (EWA), which develops annual decrees for hunting. He highlighted that it is currently prohibited to hunt 21 bird species. In 2020, a legal review in relation to the legal framework to implement AEWA and Ramsar was initiated. The legal framework revision and update focuses on new or updated Protected Areas, biodiversity and environmental laws. The amendment of the annual decree promotes compliance with results of monitoring, improving management and compliance and consistency with AEWA, including Table 1, which is reviewed annually.

In answer to Nothando Moyo (Zimbabwe), Ayman indicated that Egypt does not have a standalone legal framework for protection of waterbirds, but there is one for biodiversity. In reply to Cheikh Diagne (Senegal), Ayman conferred that Egypt needed to work together with all hunters for monitoring of compliance with the hunting legislation. Responsible hunters were helping them.

4.5b) International Single Species Action Plans (ISSAPs) and International Multi-Species Action Plans (IMSAPs)

Sergey Dereliev provided an overview of AEWA ISSAPs and IMSAPs, particularly the status of development and implementation of these plans, especially those most relevant for Africa. To date, MOP has approved 26 ISSAPs, 17 of which are relevant for Africa, as well as one IMSAP which is also relevant for Africa. A number of plans, though not all, benefit from coordination under AEWA through International working groups (IWGs), which may or may not function adequately. It was also highlighted that the status of coordination of ISSAPs in Africa is mixed, with 6 plans not having any coordination measures in place (see below), while there is limited



capacity at the Secretariat to support coordination of ISSAPs/IMSAPs.

ISSAPs	ISSAPs & IMSAP
Great Snipe	Madagascar Pond Heron
White-headed Duck	Slaty Egret
Ferruginous Duck	Sociable Lapwing
Lesser Flamingo	Shoebill
Eurasian Spoonbill	Grey Crowned-crane
Black-tailed Godwit	Eurasian Curlew
Maccoa Duck	Northern Bald Ibis
White-winged Flufftail	Benguela Coastal Seabirds (9 spp)
Black-winged Pratincole	

Red shade – no coordination
 Green shade – coordination in place
 Blue font – intra-African species

Orange shade – coordination not functioning

4.5c) ISSAP coordination case study: Madagascar Pond-heron

Rivo Rabarisoa (Asity Madagascar, national BirdLife Partner) gave an overview of the Madagascar Pond-heron ISSAP and status of implementation of the species National Action Plan in Madagascar. The ISSAP was elaborated and validated in 2008, aiming to improve the conservation status and knowledge base in the heron for the ten years (2008-2018) following the plan’s initial approval by AEWA MOP4 and CMS COP9, with its validity subsequently extended for another 10 years (2018-2028) by AEWA MOP7. The ISSAP has nine specific objectives, while a range of approaches were applied for implementation at the national level, including putting in place a national network in Madagascar for communication. The extent of implementation of the plan in Madagascar by 2018 was about 53%. Factors limiting implementation at national level include limited communication and integration of local government, a lack of motivation of site managers, low revenue of local communities, limited technical, material and financial capacity and inaccessibility to sites. The next steps include revitalizing coordination of the international network focused on all range states and strengthening communication, as well as following up with actions already initiated in the species’ breeding range.



4.5e) Working Groups on ISSAPs & conservation: ISSAPs with conservation briefs or species with management guidance and MOP-related tasks/ outcomes

Four working group sessions were held to promote discussions, experience sharing and proposals for future action relating to two AEWA species for which conservation briefs to supplement existing ISSAPs were submitted to MOP8 (African Skimmer and Maccoa Duck) and two AEWA species for which management guidance to guide their sustainable use have been submitted to MOP8 for consideration (Black Crowned-crane and Ferruginous Duck). The outcomes are summarised below:

Maccoa Duck

South Africa: The threats in East Africa (artisanal fishing and drowning in nets) do not apply to the same scale in South Africa. The species is monitored via the 2nd phase of the Southern African Bird Atlas Project (SABAP2) and Coordinated Waterbird Counts. There are declines reported, though not at levels of concern at this stage compared to other species. A few years ago, South Africa's Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment tried to elevate the focus on this species through engagements with national stakeholders and neighbouring countries. However, concerns were raised about insufficient resources. We should learn from other successful plans and look at whether updates are needed.

Eswatini: This species is rare and hasn't been seen over the past 2-3 years. Habitat destruction in the highveld is a concern for this species.

Ethiopia: Key threats include agrochemicals and threats to habitat (concerns regarding agriculture extending to the edge of lakes and ponds). The ISSAP isn't being implemented in Ethiopia, although the wildlife authority is responsible for conservation and a few NGOs are focused on birds.

Kenya: There have been consistent assessments of wetlands as far back as 1992/1993. Maccoa Duck is rare, but there isn't sufficient data to say whether it is declining. The key threat is land use change in key freshwater wetlands – especially due to agricultural expansion.

Secretariat: While information regarding monitoring of sites and threats is useful, nothing has been said regarding interventions to address these threats. Without conservation interventions, the East African population could become extinct, and the Southern African population could decline. We may well find that the species is soon Critically Endangered, making its recovery difficult. Range States need to consider how they go about their prioritisation and allocation of resources and capacity. This ISSAP has been in place since 2008 yet has not been implemented. This species reacts very quickly and acutely to habitat change. There needs to be a step up of action at national level, at least for site protection and management. Regarding international coordination, the ISSAP itself might be in need of updates. There are relatively few Range States, so it would be a small International Working Group for the species. The Secretariat has tried to find a coordinator without success and is in need of advice from Range States in this regard.

African Skimmer

Zimbabwe: The population is decreasing; there are issues related to climate change and land use. They breed on sandbanks in the Zambezi, where they are fragile, e.g., to changes in outflow of water from Kariba Dam and climate change. We need to monitor, obtain more consistent data, conduct local level research and address ecosystem degradation. Awareness campaigns and community engagement are also important.

Malawi: A key species, especially at Elephant Marsh Ramsar Site; threatened status. Threats include habitat destruction and cultivation in wetlands. Cyclone Anna affected breeding sites; some sandbanks disappeared.

Rwanda: Research activities can be included in a management plan. Sharing information is essential to assess population status.

Côte d'Ivoire: It is very rare; awareness actions and monitoring are needed, especially where it might breed.

Africa level: Form working groups at regional/international level to facilitate exchange and spearhead discussion.

Black Crowned Crane

There are conservation efforts for this species at the sub-regional level, with policies and tailored programmes. A species conservation action plan was produced by Wetlands International in 2003.

Senegal: Research is underway in the Lower Senegal Delta at Djoudj and Diawling (Mauritania). In Casamance, including the Kalounaye community marine area, specific monitoring exists with an environmental education programme. The cultural aspect is used to protect the species, as it has totemic status in certain areas. From a legislative point of view, the species is fully protected in Senegal.

Central African Republic: A monitoring programme exists in the Northern Complex Protected Area, but with some limitations, and no full inventory has been carried out.

Guinea: The species is fully protected, but the low level of investigation does not permit good knowledge. Pressures / threats include agribusiness, soil acidification and poaching.

Recommendations: Elaborate an action plan, exchange monitoring strategies, harmonise policies.

Ferruginous Duck

The Ferruginous Duck is strictly protected by law in Algeria, Egypt and Morocco. Main threats are degradation of natural habitats (for wintering and breeding), poaching/illegal harvesting. Actions needed include:

- Classify key habitats (wintering/breeding) as protected areas under national law in order to reinforce the protection and conservation status of the species
- Establish a coordination group between countries sharing the species' flyway
- Establish a species action plan for the species.

In Egypt a national programme specific to birds has just been set up, with objectives to set up an action plan for the protection, management and monitoring of birds. In addition to the budget allocated by the state to this programme, we need to look for other sources of funding, especially for highly threatened species.

4.6) DAY 2 - SESSION 6: BUDGET

Jacques Trouvilliez presented an overview of how AEWA is financed and the budget scenarios for the period of 2023-2025 to be presented to MOP8. AEWA is financed by mandatory and voluntary contributions, each of which is allocated a dedicated trust fund. Regarding the mandatory contributions for which four budget scenarios are presented to MOP8 for consideration, the main cost categories are:

- General management (staff costs, travel, equipment)
- Implementation of the African Initiative (mainly salary costs)
- Servicing the MOP, Technical Committee and Standing Committee
- Programme support costs (13% UNEP Overhead costs)

While the inflation rate captured under budget scenarios 2-4 presented to MOP8 constitutes another cost category, a new expenditure category relates to the implementation of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, UMOJA (estimated at \$2,000/staff/year).

The composition and resulting implications of the four budget scenarios were presented. Emphasis was placed on the different staff cost components within each budget scenario and the resulting implications on the capacity of the Secretariat to deliver the expected mandates of the MOP and Agreement as a whole, with some mandatory tasks expected to be compromised under scenarios 1-3 due to limited staff availability. The four budget scenarios presented are summarised below:

Aspects	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3	Scenario 4
Principle	Zero nominal growth (0% increase)	Zero real growth; (inflation of +2%/year – Scenario 1 + 6.1% increase)	Consolidates current staff composition (Scenario 2 + 19.9% increase)	Consolidates current Secretariat team and strengthens compliance mandates (Scenario 2 + 24.4% increase)
Constraints	Need to capture new administrative costs (UMOJA ERP) and annual increments in salary costs			Need to take into account current understaffed situation of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat
Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operational costs to minimum, - no budget for StC & TC meetings, - no savings to increase part-time positions to 80 or 100% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some additional budget for operational costs, - some increase for existing General (G) staff posts to permit current occupancy (e.g., 50% to 80% for AI & information assistants, and 80 to 100% for SICU assistant as of 2025) 	Operational budget, applies the UN rules by upgrading of under-graded Professional (P) posts, secures the AI by consolidating the AI Coordinator post from 50% to the current operational level of 100%	3 new positions created to strengthen the AEWA Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit (SICU) – i.e., a Species Officer, Associate TC Support Officer & Compliance Officer
Conclusion	Some mandatory tasks cannot be carried out	Slight improvement due to no need for fundraising to maintain G staff posts at current occupancy	Fair recognition of P-staff positions, no need to fundraise for the AI Coordinator position	Human resources of Secretariat adequate for mandates given by Parties
Budget 2023-25	3,203,160 €	3,399,665 €	4,078,453 €	5,075,935 €

It was highlighted that though the four budget scenarios appear like individual menus, it is possible for CPs to choose à la carte, i.e., to select a combination/cocktail of elements from different scenarios for consideration/approval. It was recalled that mandatory contributions are calculated using the UN scale of contributions to ensure fair and equitable distribution of budget among member states. However, there is currently a minimum contribution of 2,000 € and a maximum threshold of 20% of the AEWA budget.

Further, the implications on the annual contributions of individual CPs was considered, whereby, in **Scenario 1** there is no increase except for Algeria and Nigeria (in accordance with paragraph 7 of [Resolution 7.12](#)). In **Scenario 2**, 20 parties will have increasing contributions; in **Scenario 3**, 29 parties will have increasing contributions, and in **Scenario 4**, 33 parties will have increasing contributions. It was further emphasized that overall, five Parties contribute 59% of the budget in scenario 1 (Germany, UK, France, Italy and Spain), meanwhile 33 African Parties are at the minimum contribution of 2000 Euros and only 5 African Parties are above the minimum contribution (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Nigeria, South Africa).

It was recalled that a number of CPs are in arrears, thereby reducing the possibility of a healthy trust fund. 21 out of 82 CPs have more than 3 years of arrears, of which 18 are from Africa – 6 of which have never paid since their accession.

A draft Programme of Work (PoW) 2023-2025 for the Secretariat, developed based on a mandate from the 19th meeting of the StC (September 2022), was also presented. It provides an overview of the Secretariat's mandates that could be implemented in light of the different budget scenarios, thus showing how the selected/approved triennial budget affects the capacity of the AEWA Secretariat to fulfil its mandates.

Humbulani Mafumo (South Africa) stressed the importance of this agenda item at the MOP, highlighting that the POW is impacted by each scenario. Although South Africa pays more than most other African CPs, we realise that there are many POW activities to consider. We need to secure funds for the actions and consider funding opportunities at the national level. We also should choose a budget champion for Africa who can lead the region through budget negotiations at the MOP, including for maintaining the minimum contribution.

Stephen Okiror (Uganda) considered that Scenario 1 would make it very difficult to conduct business, so this should be avoided. Although economies around the world are generally weak, costs associated with Agreements need to be met, so we must adjust our approach if we want to move forward. Scenarios 3 and 4 both give high consideration to the African Initiative and allow us to execute its mandate. Thulani Methula (Eswatini) concurred that it would be useful to narrow down the scenarios for the African group and also discuss what member states can afford.

Cheikh Diagne (Senegal) highlighted the need to inform authorities about these scenarios. Assane Ndoye (Senegal) indicated the need to improve the situation for sustainable financing and scenario 1 is not possible in this regard. It is important to retain the means to support AEWA committee members to meetings. Senegal’s overall priorities are invariably in other sectors. However, a payment of 2,000 € is not much, but countries may need Secretariat support to facilitate making the payment of their annual dues. Jacques welcomed this intervention and further injected that there are often procedural difficulties between ministries for making such payments, rather than issues with the amounts due.

Melissa Lewis (South Africa) stressed the importance of not considering AEWA in isolation, as AEWA delivers through other frameworks with which there is a close inter relation, for instance contributing to SDGs. Mukondi Matshusa (South Africa) concurred with this, making special reference to the Global Biodiversity Fund.

Kumara Gameda (Ethiopia) was concerned by the arrears; we need to reach a consensus and support the Secretariat in meeting its mandates by addressing these arrears.

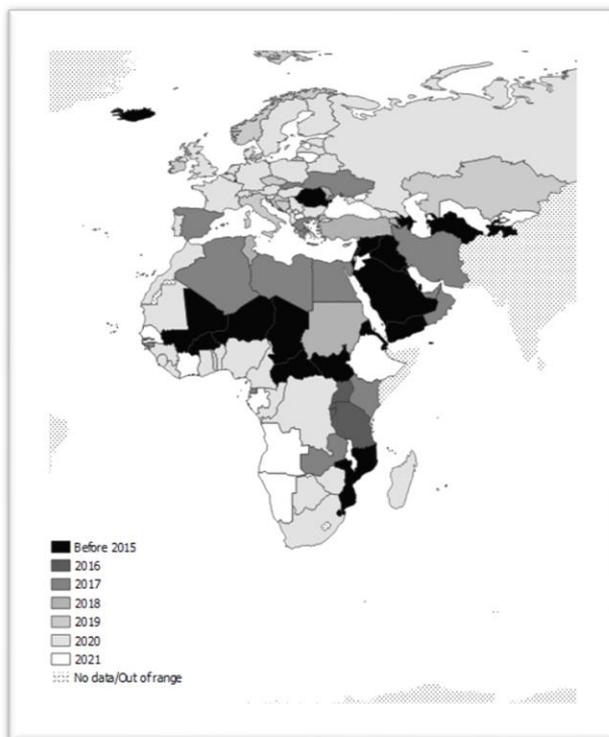
4.7) DAY 2 - SESSION 7: WATERBIRD MONITORING

4.7a) Overview of Waterbird Monitoring

Sergey Dereliev described the main purposes of waterbird monitoring as to identify the conservation status of species/populations, define conservation priorities and measure the impact of conservation work. He explained processes and systems that cater for waterbird monitoring under AEWA, outlining developments at the organizational, technical, financial and technical levels and those which contribute to capacity enhancement and support for waterbird monitoring. He then outlined the impacts of these developments and the requirements for further improvements in the African region, which include:

- Improving the regularity of waterbird counts in Africa (especially in the Sahel and East Africa)
- Establishing adequate breeding bird monitoring schemes and assessment processes in Africa

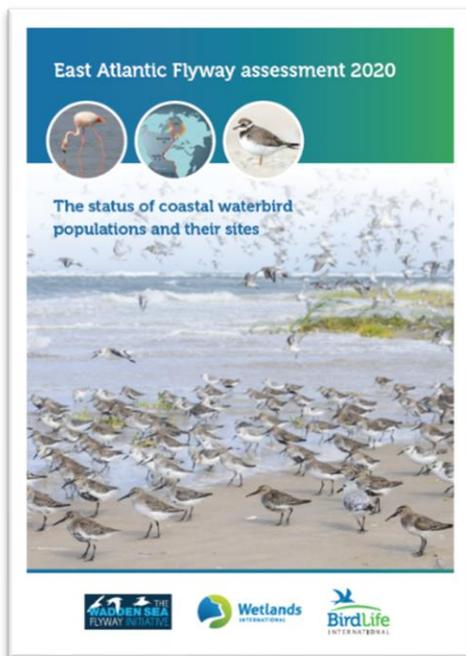
In general, this is because some countries do not manage to carry out waterbird monitoring regularly and/or submit data to Wetlands International late. The map shows data availability in May 2021. The situation is more positive along the Atlantic coastline of Africa, where a flyway-wide effort has supported coordinated monitoring. It was recalled that Wetlands International coordinates the International Waterbird Census (IWC) and develops Waterbird Population



Estimates (WPE), which are now available on an online portal in a searchable database.

Cheikh Diagne (Senegal) indicated the importance of the IWC in determining the status of waterbirds at key sites. He also questioned the interest of NGOs in supporting waterbird monitoring in countries that were behind in the IWC, like in Central Africa. Salomon Yamale (CAR) pointed out the importance of data for sustainable management, whilst Nadjiba Bendjedda (Algeria) noted the role of waterbirds as ecological indicators. Assane Ndoye (Senegal) considered monitoring vital for determining threats.

4.7b) Monitoring at the regional level, along the East Atlantic Flyway



Khady Gueye Fall (Wetlands International, Senegal) presented results on waterbird monitoring along the East Atlantic Flyway in Africa. A regional flyway programme supported by the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI), Wetlands International and BirdLife International saw most countries engaged in the IWC through their National Coordinators. The programme included capacity building and support for monitoring / data collection focused on the annual January count, both at national level and through regional workshops. Some field equipment and field guides were also provided.

At some complex sites, count units were consolidated / identified. Important advances have also been made in collecting information about the sites, which could be used to identify and assess site use, threats and management. In addition to the annual counts, 'total' counts that aimed to cover as many sites as possible along the flyway took place in 2014, 2017 and 2020, also engaging European countries of the flyway, resulting in flyway assessment reports. This coordinated flyway-wide approach to monitoring supported by capacity building has significantly increased extensive engagement in monitoring.

4.7c) Waterbird monitoring priorities and synergies

Sergey Dereliev next briefly presented the key outcomes/messages on two reports submitted to MOP8: the first report related to assessments of waterbird monitoring priorities under AEWA (Document No. 8.27) and the second on potential synergies with other monitoring frameworks (Document No. 8.28). These aim to contribute towards achieving Target 1.4 of the AEWA SP, on improving the status of waterbird population assessments. From the report on monitoring priorities, Prioritisation for monitoring the 65% of AEWA populations whose status is currently not sufficiently monitored takes into account whether:

- a population is included in an AEWA action or management plan (Priority 1)
- it is a Globally Threatened or Near Threatened Species (Priority 2)
- the number of countries where improvement of its monitoring is needed (Priority 3), and
- it could be monitored using a cost-effective multi-species method (Priorities 4 and 5) or not (Priority 6).

Key conditions and approach to addressing priorities are the need for the IWC (essentially January counts) to be complemented by other species-specific monitoring methods; and organizing monitoring activities along the three major flyways following a recurring 6-year cycle (a more practical approach). It also concludes the importance to incorporate thorough assessments of environmental drivers that can impact waterbird population trends and recommends including these in future editions of the AEWA CSR. Finally, under the second document relating to monitoring synergies it was concluded that building monitoring synergies with other frameworks is also important, whilst recommendations were made for strengthening existing synergies or developing new ones, based on an assessment of different relevant legal frameworks and processes.

Mukondi Matshusa (Zimbabwe) noted that countries need to secure adequate resources for monitoring, which is needed for evidence-based decision making, while highlighting the need to provide the science to guide policy.

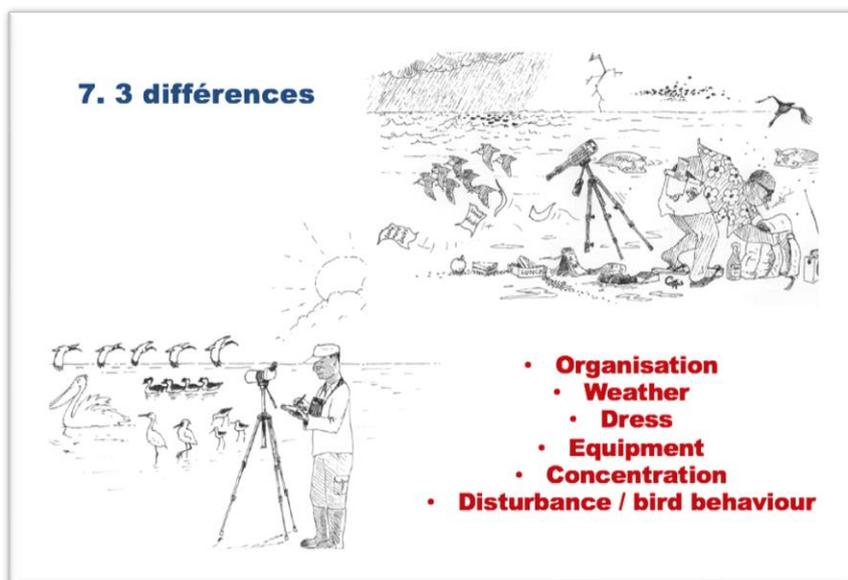
4.7d) Inventory and monitoring of the AEWA Flyway Site Network

Sergey Dereliev indicated that Target 3.1 of the AEWA SP was to review and confirm the list of known sites of international and national importance. However, in relation to the framework and process developed by the AEWA StC to delivery this mandate, to date only 9 African CPs have submitted site inventories. It was recalled that gap filling surveys and reporting of updated inventories are needed by MOP10 (2027) as a next step toward delivery of Target 3.1. In addition, target 3.2 of the SP requires the development of a framework for monitoring the AEWA flyway site network. The draft Site Monitoring Framework document submitted to MOP8 (Document 8.29) proposes options for developing indicators for assessing the state, pressure and response of/for identified flyway network sites of national and international importance and options for the potential application of remote sensing data in supporting these assessments, while ensuring that the monitoring framework remains relatively simple, building on existing processes. It also makes recommendations for how such a site monitoring and reporting system could be rolled out at national and Agreement-wide level.

MOP8 Draft Resolution 8.6 which accompanies the above-mentioned document, urges CPs to complete or revise their site inventories, approves the use of the proposed site monitoring and reporting framework and request the Technical Committee to further develop the proposed monitoring protocol (Doc. 8.29) including guidance for CPs on reporting on the status of, threats to, and the effectiveness of conservation measures at their flyway network sites.

4.7e) Interactive quiz on waterbirds and monitoring

To tie up the session on monitoring, **Tim Dodman** led an interactive quiz on waterbird identification and monitoring, taking participants through 12 questions, while generating engagement through the answer session. The most discussed slides focused on differences between two bird counters:



4.7f) Monitoring discussion (held on Day 3, 6th July 2022)

In addition to the discussions based on the monitoring sessions scheduled for day 2 of the Pre-MOP8 meeting, further discussions on monitoring took place on day 3 of the meeting, with a focus on the implications of potential decisions to be taken by MOP8, as briefly captured here: The AEWA site monitoring framework presents a unique opportunity for Africa to strengthen its approach to site monitoring. If the Agreement agrees with this resolution, the Technical Committee can then further develop monitoring tools as recommended in the monitoring framework document.

Stephen Okiror (Uganda) questioned if efforts had been made to determine reasons for the low response rate from Parties in providing site inventories, as this could help in devising solutions to submit responses on time. Melissa Lewis (South Africa) was concerned that outdated population data was on forms. Assane Ndoeye (Senegal) was

concerned by gaps in data submission and wondered how data obtained outside the IWC should be included, e.g., December counts from Djoudj and May counts of thousands of breeding Royal Terns in the Saloum Delta. Salomon Yamale (CAR) highlighted the difficulties of monitoring in CAR and hoped that AEWA could mobilise support. Vimul Nundloul (Mauritius) indicated that Mauritius does not have many waterbird species but has a high number of seabirds on remote islets, which are difficult to monitor, so data easily becomes outdated.

4.8) DAY 2 - SESSION 8: COMMUNICATION

4.8a) Joint CMS-AEWA Information Management, Communications and Awareness-raising (IMCA) Unit

Aydin Bahramlouian presented an overview of IMCA, which began as a pilot project in 2014, which was eventually approved by Resolution 6.22 of AEWA MOP6 (2015). The unit coordinator is under direct supervision of the Executive Secretaries of CMS and AEWA. IMCA covers information management as well as Communications, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) issues, including in the following areas of work:

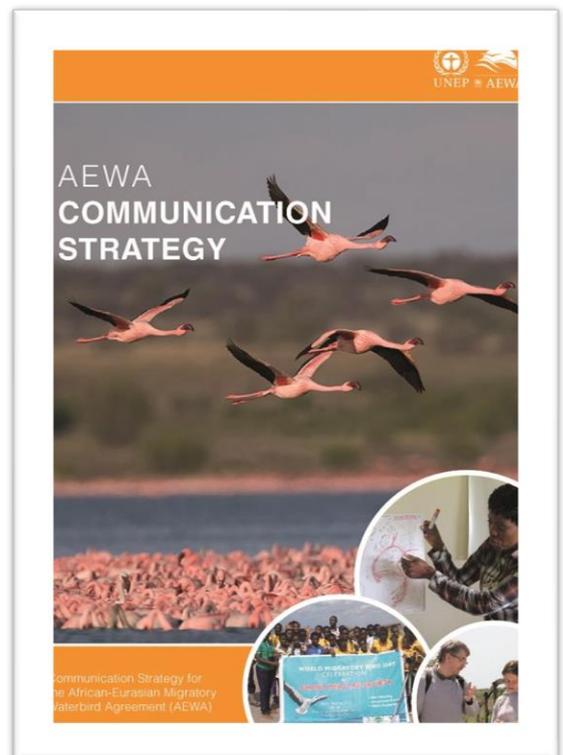
- News and Media Service: e.g., Press & media work, including media relations, press and conferences,
- Meetings, Special Events & Campaigns: including coverage of COPs & MOPs, World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) and other campaigns,
- Digital Design & Publications: e.g., management of print and digital design production,
- Communications Content: including web articles, statements, presentations and publications,
- Social Media: e.g., covering daily management of CMS and AEWA social media channels, the WMBD campaign and social media plans for events and meetings,
- Audio-visual Production: e.g., development of products such as trailers, films, video statements,
- CEPA: e.g., CEPA-related activities and creation of a CEPA Programme.

4.8b) AEWA Communication

Florian Keil then stressed the key role that communication plays in the implementation of AEWA. CEPA is vital in reaching out to stakeholders and conservation actors, making activities known, raising awareness, generating interest and supporting fundraising efforts, among others. To make this possible, AEWA CPs are expected to develop and maintain programmes to raise awareness, as well as exchange information from activities conducted, as mandated by Article III of AEWA. The AEWA Action Plan also calls on Parties to cooperate with each other and with the Secretariat to develop training programmes and exchange resource materials and improve public awareness through campaigns. Furthermore, the *AEWA Communication Strategy* adopted by MOP6 provides further clarification and guidance to AEWA's communication mandates.

Overall, communication helps AEWA reach its objectives, increase public awareness for migratory waterbird conservation and reinforces AEWA's reputation in international cooperation and conservation action for migratory waterbirds. It is a collective effort needing input from all stakeholders. To support and coordinate AEWA's CEPA work, AEWA Resolution 5.5 calls on CPs to designate CEPA Focal Points (FPs). Out of the 45 AEWA CEPA FPs currently designated, 27 are from Africa. Their roles are to:

- Ensure a high public profile for AEWA and act as spokesperson for AEWA and waterbirds
- Main point of contact on CEPA matters (for Secretariat and other Contracting Parties)
- Support AEWA Communication and Outreach Activities
- Share and exchange best practice CEPA activities (with other Parties and Secretariat)
- Actively contribute to the implementation of the communication strategy on national level.



It was recalled that WMBD is a joint annual CMS-AEWA awareness-raising campaign, conducted in partnership with Environment for the Americas (EFTA) since 2017, which focuses on migratory birds, and takes place every May and October with a different theme each year. It represents a great opportunity for awareness-raising: www.migratorybirdday.org.

4.8c) Kenya's experience in AEWA communication framework - implementing CEPA & WMBD

Lucy Mutia (Kenya) and **Paul Gacheru** (Nature Kenya & CEPA FP for Kenya) provided an informative insight on communication efforts from Kenya. Key threats facing migratory birds in Kenya are energy infrastructure development, habitat loss and wildlife poisoning. Kenya carries out regular waterbird monitoring, using results to inform national policy processes, for site conservation prioritisation as well as to support reporting mandates to national, regional and global processes (including MEAs). Kenya organises regular campaigns, especially to mark WMBD. In 2022 Kenya produced a migratory birds of Kenya calendar. Key steps and issue that motivate moving forward with waterbird monitoring include:

- Adoption of technology and social media
- Recognising citizen contributions
- Availing/providing basic equipment
- Providing a platform for communication
- Integrating/mainstreaming biodiversity to relevant sectors (energy, agriculture etc.)
- Institutional Resource mobilization

Assane Ndoye (Senegal) noted that WMBD is celebrated in Senegal usually through engagement of multiple partners and with students. Fundraising is however needed to support these activities. Kumara Gameda (Ethiopia) indicated that in Ethiopia it is celebrated twice per year involving school and media and sometimes celebrities and artists, but also done with NGOs, e.g., the Ethiopian Wildlife Natural History Society (EWNHS).

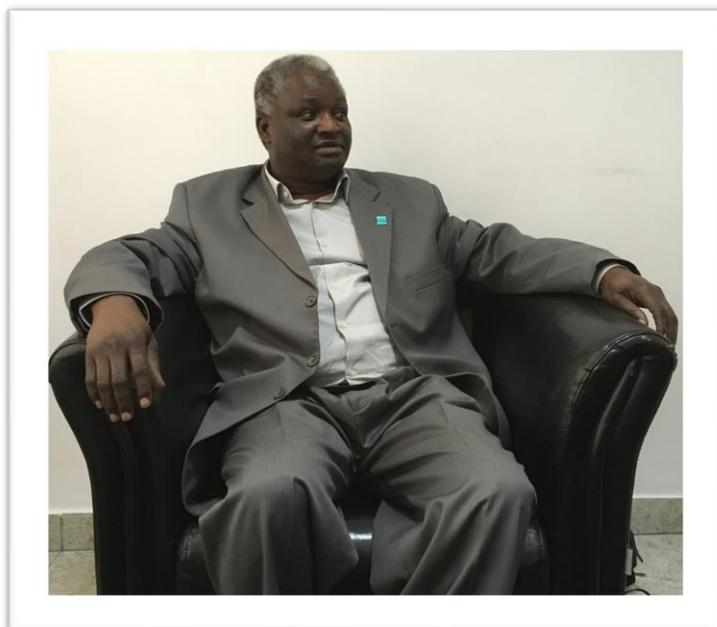
4.8d) Online exercise and guidance in using the AEWA website

Aydin Bahramlouian introduced the AEWA website, which serves as the central repository of AEWA's documents, species and population lists, meetings, guidelines, publications, news and other resources. He then led an online interactive exercise in using the website, through a series of challenges to find out information from the website.

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY 6TH JULY

The meeting began this day in commemoration of Paul Ouedraogo, who had sadly passed away the previous day. Paul was well known to many in AEWA, especially through his long and very active role as Ramsar's Senior Advisor for Africa. In 2019, Paul played an important role in AEWA's Training of Trainers course on flyway conservation for francophone Africa, held in Benin. Paul had a huge influence on wetlands conservation and will be sorely missed.

Delphine Dali (Kenya) and Kouassi Kouamé (Côte d'Ivoire) provided a recap of the previous day, highlighting the different budget scenarios, monitoring and communication.



4.9) DAY 3 - SESSION 9: ECOTOURISM, WATERBIRD MORTALITY AND NEGOTIATION

4.9a) Ecotourism & recreation: priorities and recommendations for AEWA engagement

Evelyn Moloko gave a brief overview of the role and relevance of ecotourism under AEWA, the Agreement's mandates for this and existing and up-coming guidance and strategic direction for promoting sustainable ecotourism under AEWA. AEWA's definition of ecotourism as *nature tourism that contributes to nature conservation* was recalled. There was an interactive discussion about who are the key ecotourism stakeholders, which include local communities, site managers, tourism agencies and government institutions as well as tourists themselves and international partners.

AEWA's mandates on ecotourism stem first from Paragraph 4.2.1 of the Action Plan, which encourages cooperative ecotourism programmes between concerned stakeholders for wetlands hosting AEWA populations, and requests evaluating and communicating of the costs, benefits, and other consequences of ecotourism in wetlands with AEWA populations. AEWA's Strategic Plan further promotes waterbird-related ecotourism (Target 2.5) and encourages consideration for integrating migratory waterbird ecosystem services into policy and decision making. Meanwhile AEWA conservation guidelines No. 7 provides direction on the development of ecotourism at wetlands. Further guidance on ecotourism will be provided through Document 8.41 submitted to MOP8, which identifies strategic partnerships to work with under AEWA and identifies three pilot initiatives to for potential engagement with, while showcasing a wide range of case studies to learn from and emulate. Recommendations to MOP8 include to:

- Increase efforts to capture and share lessons learned on waterbird-related ecotourism
- Further advance research on lessons learned to support informed policy and guidance
- Ensure that ecotourism operations conform with AEWA guidelines, among others
- Update AEWA Guideline No. 7 on ecotourism to reflect local community benefit
- Discuss scope for collaboration with proposed strategic partners
- Develop proposals for proposed pilot initiatives.

4.9b) Ecotourism & recreation Case study: BirdLife South Africa's Avitourism Project



Melissa Lewis (South Africa) presented this project, noting that avitourism brought in an estimated 0.13 billion € in 2010 to South Africa (equivalent to 0.25 billion € in 2022). Birding and avitourism are growing markets, both domestically and internationally. BirdLife South Africa launched the Community Bird Guide project some 20 years ago, which has trained over 200 people, and catalyses avitourism in South Africa through GoBirding, which involves over 400 birding sites, 70 accommodations and 50 local guides. The Wakkerstroom Tourism and Education Centre plays an important role. The Ntskieni Nature Reserve Community project has focused on the White-winged Flufftail, a Critically Endangered (CR) species covered under AEWA, and promotes biodiversity conservation at this Ramsar Site, including through local job creation. Envisaged avitourism projects include renovating a community owned lodge, employing bird guides and trialling a 'flufftail friendly hide'.

Dickson Chitupa (Zimbabwe) asked about specialist professional guides, gender issues and costs to local communities. Melissa answered that training is done by accredited bird guides and trainees receive certification; male guides are indeed more numerous; BirdLife South Africa covers training costs. Cheikh Diagne (Senegal) highlighted that training is very important, as some Eco guards in Senegal are not well trained in guiding visitors. In reply to Assane Ndoye (Senegal) Melissa confirmed that the role of local communities was still being worked out; some sites are under community ownership. Humbulani Mafumo (South Africa) noted that there is a national biodiversity strategy in South Africa, though which communities can also benefit.

4.9c) Opportunities for addressing causes of waterbird mortality

Sergey Dereliev recalled that Target 1.6 of the AEWA Strategic Plan requires that AEWA priorities relating to four causes of unnecessary additional mortality (energy infrastructure - especially powerlines, wind turbines, illegal taking & killing, fisheries bycatch, and invasive alien species) and other key threats to migratory waterbirds and their habitats be integrated in key multilateral processes.

Document 8.40 on waterbird mortality submitted to AEWA MOP8 identifies, among other actions, such strategic opportunities for positively influencing identified relevant regional and global multilateral processes, including through meetings of technical bodies or working groups.

4.9d) Negotiation principles and skills

Abdoulaye Ndiaye presented the subject of negotiation, which is defined as ‘discussion aimed at reaching an agreement’. He highlighted the importance to prepare for negotiations by identifying national or regional needs and developing a clear position. It requires advance planning and consultations and a good sense of the interests of other delegations. Of equal importance is the need to prepare as much as possible, look for win-win situations, treat others courteously and focus on substantive objectives. It is crucial to be convincing, thus the need to participate in informal group consultations, carefully prepare short and concise interventions and be familiar with outcomes of previous negotiations which impact future outcomes. A true victory in negotiation is one where all parties regard the outcome as fair and equitable with all interests having been addressed in some way. Kumara Germeda (Ethiopia) considered that negotiation is not an easy task and requires repeated dialogue.

4.10) DAY 3 - SESSION 10: AEWA GUIDELINES AND KNOWLEDGE GAPS

4.10a) AEWA guidelines and guidance

Evelyn Moloko explained that in accordance with paragraph 4 of AEWA’s Article IV and enumerated in Paragraph 7.3 of the AEWA Action Plan, some 15 guidelines have been developed to assist Parties to implement various aspects of the Plan. Some four new/revised guidelines will be submitted to AEWA MOP8, touching on various aspects of ISSAPs/IMSAPs, National Species Action Plans, and climate change adaptation. In addition, four new conservation guidance documents submitted to MOP8 cover issues on managing waterbird disturbance, initial guidance on ecosystem services in relation to migratory waterbirds, accidental shooting of look-alike species and species conservation guidance for the Black Crowned-crane, African Skimmer, Atlantic Puffin, African Comb Duck and Garganey.

Amyot Kofoky (Madagascar) and Kouassi Kouamé (Côte d’Ivoire) highlighted the need to use and implement the guidelines. One issue identified is that most guidelines are not available in French; AEWA needs to consider generating resources for targeted translation of these guidelines. Jean Luc Rukwaya (Rwanda) questioned the process of developing the guidelines, including the identification of case studies, and further suggested that training was needed to successfully implement them. The AEWA Secretariat clarified that the guidelines are developed by the AEWA Technical Committee or outsourced to experts with input from the TC and others invited experts. The guidelines mostly are content based, providing direction, whilst the latest guidelines on climate change are more hands on, providing an opportunity to deliver training. CPs have an opportunity at the MOP to indicate what they need in terms of guidelines. Nadjiba Bendjedda (Algeria) considered that the guidelines were guidance tools that could help in implementing the PoAA.

4.10b) Avoiding Accidental shooting of look-alike species

Sergey Dereliev introduced the subject matter on look-alike species (Document 8.41 submitted to MOP8), which gives guidance, through among others, a stepwise approach to assessing risk of accidental shooting of look-alike species. Through a presentation and exercise, participants were taken through the stepwise a process to address this issue. Step 1 requires identifying whether the range of a legally hunted species overlaps with the range of a Colum A listed look-alike species or population – which can be accessed using the look-alike functionality of the

second version of the Critical Site Network Tool (CSN 2.0) <https://criticalsites.wetlands.org/en>. This helps to identify any broad spatial overlap between huntable and Column A populations. If a broad spatial overlap is identified, Step 2 requires identifying whether there is temporal overlap in the occurrence of both populations. Where broad spatial and temporal overlap exists, it becomes necessary to identify the fine scale of spatial overlap within the country as a 3rd Step (e.g., at the level of administrative units or individual sites). In the absence of sufficient information to identify spatial/temporal overlap, the precautionary principle should be applied (Article II.2 of the Agreement) and gap-filling surveys / monitoring should be undertaken. Actions recommended to reduce the risk of accidental shooting of protected look-alike species include:

- Ensuring adequate hunting legislation and governance
- Using differential timing of hunting seasons in relation to presence of protected look-alike species
- Avoiding hunting in conditions of poor visibility
- Ensuring that hunting communities have adequate identification skills
- Ensuring the enforcement of hunting legislation
- Raising awareness of measures that can reduce risk

4.11) DAY 3 - SESSION 11: CLIMATE CHANGE, NATIONAL REPORTING AND THE AEWA IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW PROCESS (IRP)

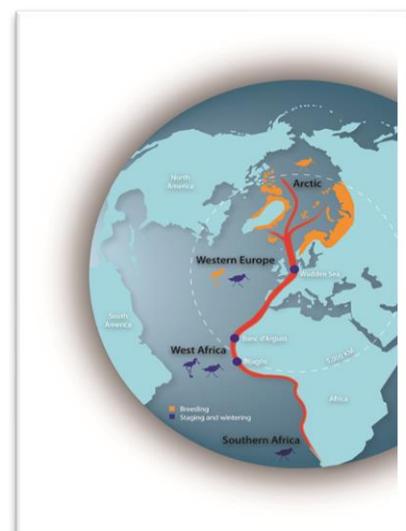
4.11a) AEWA guidance on climate change adaptation

Sergey Dereliev recalled existing AEWA guidelines on climate change and introduced the new complementary guidelines on climate change adaptation measures for waterbirds (MOP8 Document 8.42), which are a product of a Climate Resilient Flyways (CFR) project led by Wetlands International, and which have been used as a basis for a training workshop in December 2021 targeting some 40 participants from 14 anglophone African Parties. They provide hands-on practical guidance on using new information sources on climate change impacts provided through the CSN Tool 2.0, to support on-the-ground implementation of AEWA’s mandates on climate change adaptation. The guidelines provide practical directives on using the CSN Tool 2.0 to identify species and sites most at risk from climate change, on designing tailored climate change adaptation measures and finally on integrating needs of waterbirds into national climate change adaptation policies. Three delegates who participated in the December 2021 training workshop provided feedback:

- Lucy Muita (Kenya): The training was useful, and we could identify challenges and solutions to address them, including designing ways to mitigate challenges.
- Togarasei (Zimbabwe): There were synergies in terms of climate change adaptation identified through the training. Climate change is a cross-cutting issue.
- Stephen Okiror (Uganda): Monitoring of sites and populations is important to inform climate change priorities.

4.11b) Climate Resilience for Critical Sites for Migratory Birds and People along the East Atlantic Flyway

Hacen El-Hacen (Mauritania) presented this new initiative for climate resilient flyways for migratory birds and people along the East Atlantic Flyway (EAF), noting that climate change exasperates existing environmental pressures through increased sea level and surface temperatures and ill-advised climate adaptation interventions. As with other flyways, it is essential to consider the EAF as one conservation management unit. The project goal is to ensure that landscapes along the EAF support good living conditions for people and nature in the face of climate change. Critical sites support a high proportion of the flyway populations of migratory waterbirds. The project aims for increased understanding on the impact of climate change on biodiversity conservation along the flyway; to integrate nature-based solutions into local management plans; to strengthen communication across disciplines leading to improved legislations to conserve ecosystems; and to provide national and regional



support for flyway conservation through active local networks. Resilient ecosystems provide enhanced services to local communities.

In reply to Assane Ndoye (Senegal), Hacen indicated that some marine species (seabirds) would be included within the project, especially those living in the coastal zone. Vimul Nundlall (Mauritius) has experienced difficulties in assessing species vulnerability to climate change. Hacen stressed the need for expertise in researching this and the need to be closely engaged in the process.

4.11c) AEWA National reporting: introduction, importance, trends in submission

Sergey Dereliev provided an overview of national reporting obligations under AEWA – for which each Party should submit a report on AEWA implementation to each MOP (every three years) as well as national reports on progress towards implementation of the AEWA PoAA. Parties are also expected to submit national reports on the status of waterbird populations every second MOP (every six years). He highlighted the fundamental importance of National reporting for assessing implementation of the Agreement and attaining its objectives, as well as for guiding further implementation at the national level. He drew attention to trends in National Report submission by African CPs over time: the National Report submission rate for African CPs to MOP8 is 55%, but slightly less for PoAA reporting (53%) and even less for National Reports on the status of waterbird populations (37%), thus calling for improved submission rate for national reporting in Africa. It was also indicated that the general quality of reports also needs to be improved. There is wide scope for using national reports as a mechanism for planning monitoring implementation at the national level. Overall, Parties need to allocate capacity for national reporting (including establishing reporting teams), allocate sufficient time for reporting, collate necessary information and engage in targeted planning. In response to request from Parties, the Secretariat will organise training for designated national respondents of African Parties in advance of MOP9.

Humbulani Mafumo (South Africa) and Nadjiba Bendjedda (Algeria) considered that Parties will improve through training, noting that a lot of information is required in the reporting process. Togorasei Fakarayi (Zimbabwe) agreed that there's a lot of information to be consolidated and the report is long. Lucy Muita (Kenya) thought that much of the information asked for was repetitive and reiterated that capacity-building would be useful. Melissa Lewis (South Africa) added that PoAA reporting format also took time to compile. Nadjiba Bedjedda (Algeria) suggested a Word format would be easier to compile. Sergey asked Parties to highlight repetitive areas to the Secretariat, while noting that information from previously compiled national reports is usually made available and just requires updating where applicable.

4.11d) AEWA Implementation Review Process (IRP)

Evelyn Moloko indicated that the IRP aimed to assist in the implementation of AEWA by addressing issues arising from activities with actual or potential adverse consequences for migratory waterbirds and/or their habitats as a result of human impact. The AEWA Standing Committee (assisted by the AEWA Secretariat) is mandated to carry out IRP tasks. These usually involve a field mission to assess impact on the ground, which informs the recommendations from the StC to the CP on measures to address the issues. An interactive exercise on a hypothetical IRP example was then used to illustrate the roles of various stakeholders in the IRP process (the AEWA NFP, local communities, governmental and non-governmental organisations, individuals, etc.), as well as the possible steps/scenarios leading up to the reporting/registration/conduct of an IRP case file.

4.12) DAY 3 - SESSION 12: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) AND QUIZ ON AEWA ISSUES

4.12a) Opportunities for AEWA's contribution to the global biodiversity framework

Evelyn Moloko highlighted the importance of working with other biodiversity frameworks to promote collaboration on matters of common interest and touching on different fields of conservation, as mandated by Article IX of AEWA, among others. She included that 75% of African Parties reporting on the PoAA confirmed involvement in national planning activities related to other international frameworks and processes, while only 35% reported the existence of mechanisms to coordinate collaboration with NFPs of other MEAs. Document 8.35 submitted to MOP8 assessed AEWA's contribution to the Aichi Targets (2011-2020) as requested by Resolution 7.2.

The assessment concludes that despite the overall limited progress to achieve Aichi targets and AEWA's Strategic Plan 2009-2018, there are various successful initiatives by AEWA Parties and other stakeholders that contributed to achieving various Aichi Targets, and it provides a rich array of case studies across the AEWA region to showcase this. AEWA now needs to identify and strengthen its relevance for delivery of the SDGs, whereby Document 8.37 highlights 9 SDGs to which full implementation of AEWA can contribute, along with case studies, particularly from Africa. Document 8.36 submitted to MOP8 further highlights opportunities for AEWA to support the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, identifying potential themes within the first formal draft of the framework with potential direct linkages to mandates of the AEWA Strategic Plan. Meanwhile, the role of AEWA CPs is to mainstream AEWA priorities into national/regional/international planning processes, while using Document No. 36 of MOP8 for communication to stakeholders on this issue.

4.12b) Mainstreaming AEWA priorities into national planning processes

Humbulani Mafumo (South Africa) noted the need to align the timing of the AEWA SP and PoAA with other processes, especially under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Kouassi Kouamé (Côte d'Ivoire) had exchanged information with others, including CMS and Ramsar. Nadjiba Bedjedda (Algeria) confirmed that she is able to communicate and work with other NFPS who are within the same Ministry including for national reporting, projects and meeting preparations; meanwhile, in addition to the existing Ramsar National Committee, the Ministry of External Relations is putting in place a committee of various MEA NFPS from different Ministries to facilitate their working together. Assane Ndoye (Senegal) noted that the National Parks Department of acts as the focal point for many MEAs, which facilitates communication. It is more difficult with MEAs whose focal points are in other departments, however for such cases, issues are addressed by approaching the Ministry directly or during Ministerial meetings in which the different departments are represented. In Senegal there is also a committee comprising voluntary scientific experts who respond to scientific questions, meanwhile Universities are also involved by either conducting studies directly, providing students to the departments or as members of some of the committees. Senegal also takes into account the legal frameworks, while integrating their resulting international recommendations into the national legal texts.

4.12c) Quiz on AEWA

Tim Dodman led the meeting through an interactive quiz capturing many elements covered during the meeting. There was a lively answer session, with many participants providing the answers. A very useful discussion was generated relating to organising travel for MOP8. The last question (see image) was also a practical preparation for MOP8 in Hungary!



DAY 4: THURSDAY 7TH JULY

Lucy Muita (Kenya) and Kouassi Kouamé (Côte d'Ivoire) provided a recap of the previous day.

4.13) DAY 4- SESSION 13: OVERVIEW OF KEY ISSUES AND ACTIONS

4.13a) Decide on key issues for coordinated African preparation before and during MOP8

This plenary session saw active contributions to steer the prioritisation of MOP8 issues:

- Cheikh Diagne (Senegal): Illegal hunting of waterbirds and the need for monitoring; pressures on natural resources; disturbance of habitats infrastructural developments and fisheries are all key issues. We need to integrate these into the programme and improve conservation actions.
- Jacques Trouvilliez: Wetland management is vital.
- Assane Ndoye (Senegal) highlighted the need for capacity building and harmonisation to facilitate data collection and management, as well as the need for overall coordination and animation at the regional

level in Africa by better organizing work at the sub-regional level information sharing are necessary. He pointed out the issues raised regarding the limited AEWA budget and resources for implementation on the ground and called for securing partnerships at various levels, e.g., under projects such as the RESSOURCE Project.

- Melissa Lewis (South Africa): It is crucial for people to take the lead, and Africa needs to pay greater attention at the MOP to the technical texts and proper consideration to all substantive conservation focused resolutions, ideally with one Africa voice.
- Abdoulaye Abdramane (Chad) indicated the need to harmonize their legal texts to ensure that the status of nationally protected species of birds conforms with the AEWA protection status to ensure the same level of protection across the Agreement area. He also highlighted the need to reduce the pressure on sites in Chad.
- Thulani (Eswatini) recalled the importance of the budget decisions and emphasized the need to ensure that the AEWA African Initiative (AI) is covered in whatever options are concluded at MOP8, e.g., preferably budget scenario 4 – but should budget scenario 2 be pushed for at MOP, consider what can be advised to ensure adequate consideration for the AI.

4.13b) Plenary discussion on the Budget

Given the importance of the AEWA budget, delegates requested an extra plenary session focused on the budget. **Jacques Trouvilliez** gave an overview and clarified some issues and questions which had been raised during the budget session on Day 2. For example, the fact that for all budget scenarios (1-4), the annual contribution remains at 2,000 € for all Parties with the minimum contribution; the situation and reasons of arrears vary between countries - in some there is a lack of willingness to pay, in others there are logistical/procedural/system-based difficulties in paying (e.g., centralisation of MEA payments through Ministry of Finance, bans on international payments in some countries, etc. He reconfirmed the Secretariat's availability to facilitate the payment process at national level, e.g., with additional letters to different responsible authorities. He further clarified that figures in the draft POW 2023-2025 are estimates of the percentage of staff time allocated to the respective Secretariat mandates/tasks, and these are similar across budget scenarios 1 and 2, while they change across budget scenarios 3 and 4 according to circumstances for staff involvement and/or availability of additional staff. For instance, a major outbreak of Avian Influenza would require the Secretariat to spend time and resources in mitigating its impacts. There were a range of questions and clarifications and some clear recommendations:

- Melissa Lewis (South Africa) highlighted the importance of core support for Africa in the AEWA budget, notably for the African Initiative.
- Thulani Methula (Eswatini) raised concern for any calls/moves to limit funding for the African Initiative, which would be of great concern to Africa. Scenario 1 is certainly not feasible, and we would risk losing focus on substantive issues. We should at least aim for Scenario 3. We have to be prepared to fully justify our recommendation.
- Assane Ndoye (Senegal), while agreeing with Eswatini, further emphasized that the challenges for implementation are significant, and we need to secure a budget scenario that is enabling.

4.14) DAY 4 - SESSION 14: REGIONAL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

4.14a) Regional group discussions

Delegates were split into online groups for 45 minutes and reported back as follows:

Eastern & Southern Africa: A strong regional position is needed on the budget, along with counter arguments. It will be good to have several people from each Africa sub-region working on the budget issues; South Africa and Uganda will take the lead on budget issues for this sub-region. It was suggested to set up separate meetings prior to MOP8 for further discussions for a common position on the actual substance of the budget. It was also suggested to have champions for individual/clusters of technical topics/resolutions to be defended at MOP8, and Eswatini will continue to coordinate this within the sub-region, to identify leads/champions for individual/clusters of resolutions.

Western & Central Africa: Scenario 3 was identified as the preferred budget scenario. The need to reinforce capacity for conservation through providing technical and material support and training was also emphasized. At technical level, there is need to provide support for species identification and monitoring in order to inform legislative updates. At the Standing Committee level, the Central African sub-region needs representation in the role of alternate StC representative for the joint Western and Central African StC region; this role was accorded to CAR.

Northern Africa: The sub-region further supported budget Scenario 3 as the preferred scenario, while individual Parties will need to further discuss internally within their government. Algeria will assist other appointed Africa budget champion NFPs for financial issues. Egypt will meanwhile assist with the technical Working Group issues, emphasising the need to have a general regional champion for technical issues, while ensuring to continue further communication and coordination on the various issues, immediately after Pre-MOP8 and in the lead up to MOP8. During the week following the African Pre-MOP8, feedback will be awaited from others NFPs in the Northern Africa /Middle East StC group concerning representation in the StC for the next triennium. At the Africa level, we support Eswatini to play the role of Africa regional coordination.

Abdoulaye Ndiaye concluded that budget Scenario 3 was widely preferred by the African region, with Southern & Eastern Africa still to confirm.

4.14b) Planning for the Africa daily meetings during MOP8

Abdoulaye Ndiaye and **Evelyn Moloko** provided clarifications on and insight to the importance of the African regional meetings during the MOP. **Patience Gandiwa** (Zimbabwe) thought that the daily coordination meetings enable African NFPs to reflect on the agenda each day, to settle issues and build confidence. It's an important resource. Evelyn recommended setting up a MOP Africa WhatsApp group for communication.

4.15) DAY 4 - SESSION 15: CLOSING SESSION

4.15a) Closing address

Jacques Trouvilliez thanked everyone for their participation and strong level of engagement throughout the meeting and joked about including a mathematical exercise on the budget session for the next African Pre-MOP! He confirmed that all the exercises had been very useful, and everyone has contributed so much towards the overall success of the meeting. He emphasised the importance of the meeting conclusions for the CPs, which are also vital to enable the Secretariat to further help the CPs.

4.15b) Planning for MOP8 - Q&A on logistical and technical preparations

This was a final opportunity to raise questions about MOP8 logistics and related issues.

- **Stephen Okiror** (Uganda): We need to know about visas and travel insurance, also the amount being paid to sponsored delegates, in case it's necessary to request their governments for a top-up. Evelyn clarified that AEWA uses the UN Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) standards, which are available online (e.g., through <https://icsc.un.org/Home/DailySubsistence>). It was clarified that while it was the responsibility of each MOP participant to arrange/apply for their visas individually, the Secretariat will support/facilitate any visa application issues in close collaboration with the MOP host government. On the other hand, travel insurance must be organized by the delegates themselves, for which the Secretariat cannot offer support. Such costs (visas and travel insurance) are catered for under the incidental cost component of the DSA that will be provided to sponsored delegates.
- **Nuha Jammeh** (The Gambia): Some clarification on annual contributions will be appreciated.
- **Humbulani Mafumo** noted that it was still difficult to register for the meeting through the AEWA website.
- **Assane Ndoye** (Senegal) asked about eligibility for sponsorship in light of arrears in annual dues to AEWA. The Secretariat confirmed that Parties with a UN scale of assessment above the threshold of 0.2 as well as

those with over three years in arrears in their contributions to AEWA could not be sponsored to the MOP as per Resolution 7.12.

- Kumara Gemeda (Ethiopia) asked about COVID19 requirements in Hungary. The Secretariat indicated that some basic information had already been provided in the MOP8 invitation and on the AEWA MOP8 webpage (<https://www.unep-aewa.org/en/meeting/8th-session-meeting-parties-mop8-aewa>) including information on COVID vaccination, but further updates will be provided.
- Jean Luc Rukwaya (Rwanda) sought clarification on protocols for talking to the media in Budapest and/or about the MOP. Florian Keil replied that there are some basic rules about using the AEWA logo, but in principle the Secretariat encourages NFPs to communicate at any level before, during and after the MOP, and ideally let the Secretariat know.

4.15c) Conclusions

Thulani Methula (Eswatini) presented the following meeting conclusions, which were adopted:

MOP8 PLANNING

- Secretariat to confirm sponsorship of pre-registered MOP8 participants. All participants to pre-register before deadline of 15 July 2022.
- Eswatini will play the role of Africa regional coordination at AEWA MOP8.

PLAN OF ACTION FOR AFRICA & STRATEGIC PLAN

- CPs note the value of the PoAA and the challenges to its implementation.
- In future SP implementation assessments, regional breakdowns on Africa and Europe will be considered.
- Financial resources limit the Strategic Plan implementation.
- Parties can request advice on avian influenza (provided through HPAI Task Force).
- African Parties would benefit from advice and support on legislative matters; a Compliance Officer post would enable this.
- CPs to align PoAA actions with post-2020 global biodiversity targets at national planning level, highlighting AEWA's contribution to these frameworks.
- CPs should review status of AEWA populations in their country linked to species protection status, and review/adjust legislation after each MOP, including for hunting.

BUDGET

- Africa needs to agree a regional budget scenario position (or cocktail of scenarios) to defend strongly at MOP8.
- Africa will appoint champion(s) for the budget to lead negotiations as a block (for the agreed scenario and for maintaining the minimum contribution of 2,000 Euros).
- Scenario 1 is not feasible for Africa, as it results in no further development and no support for implementation.
- Both Scenarios 3 and 4 enable support and growth of the Africa Initiative, which is positive for Africa.
- Additional fundraising efforts are needed at different levels, including at national level.
- CPs should collaborate to lobby for and identify approaches for resource mobilisation under other processes.
- There are administrative/procedural issues impeding the payment of annual contributions; the Secretariat can provide additional support letters; Arrears can be paid in instalments.

TECHNICAL ISSUES & COMMUNICATION

- African Parties highlight the need for support in coordination of ISSAPs, including in mobilising and maintaining International Species Working Groups.
- Monitoring informs policy and decision-making and is essential for planning and implementation of the Agreement.
- Communication is important to engage youth (especially through WMBD) and citizen science, and to promote advocacy. NFPs to provide feedback on the new AEWA website layout/structure.

OUR FRIEND PAUL OUEDRAOGO

- The meeting joins in mourning the passing of Paul Ouedraogo, who actively supported AEWA.

4.15d) Meeting Evaluation

An evaluation form was circulated straight after the meeting. Meanwhile, there was time to capture a few feedback messages, including the following:

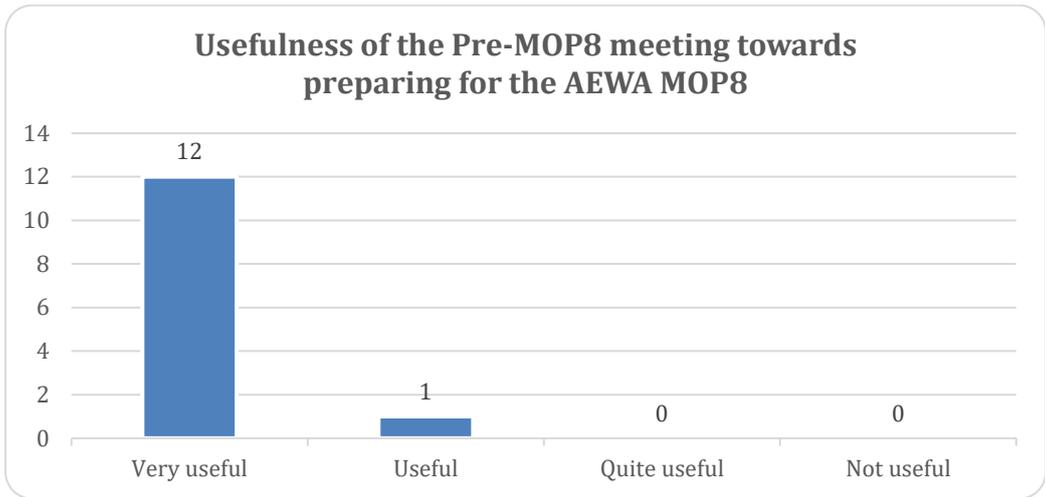
- Rémi Hefoume (Benin): I am very happy to have participated in the meeting; thanks to Tim, Abdoulaye and Evelyn.
- Nadjiba Bendjedda (Algeria): The meeting was very intensive, with a high level of communication and interaction. It has helped to familiarise us with the issues after a long absence of meetings. Thanks to the Secretariat, Abdoulaye and Tim, also to all the NFPs for their contributions. Finally, we have gained a lot from Paul Ouedraogo's experience.
- Piwèlon Bakari (Togo): Thanks for this meeting and the hard work by all. Thanks to Tim, Abdoulaye, Evelyn and others.
- Stephen Okiror (Uganda): The Secretariat has been very wonderful and has raised higher our hope and courage for participation at the coming MOP. Thanks to all participants for their vibrant input, also to the translators.
- Salomon Yamale (CAR): The challenges are large, and I have truly appreciated the debates. Thanks to all NFPs, and I join others in expressing sadness at the passing of Paul Ouedraogo.
- Elisante Leguma (Tanzania): Thanks to the AEWA Secretariat, and to Evelyn for support.
- Kalil Doumbouya (Guinea): We count on you all, and thanks for everything / all the support.
- Omer Abuelbshar Ahmed (Sudan): Thank you for a fruitful and successful meeting. Sudan is a very suitable place for waterbirds, and we need to know the steps towards furthering implementation. Sudan also pledged to submit its national reports in the future. Evelyn indicated that the Secretariat was there to help.
- Evelyn Moloko thanked all for the wonderful participation, as well as the facilitators (Tim and Abdoulaye), and Birgit Drerup for her many sleepless nights in preparing for the meeting. She also extended thanks to all other colleagues at the AEWA and CMS Secretariats, including the interns for the excellent support provided to make the meeting a success. Finally, she announced that Cameroon had deposited its instrument of accession to the AEWA Depositary on this date (7 July 2022) with the Agreement entering into force for the country as of 1 October 2022.

4.15e) Vote of thanks

Djibril Ly (Mauritania) gave a final word of thanks on behalf of the African NFPs, in which he encouraged all champions of nature conservation and especially the AEWA network. He extended special thanks to the interpreters for a great job and to the governments of Switzerland and Germany for financial support of the meeting. He recalled the many challenges ahead and acknowledged that the meeting helped to identify them and enhanced participants' experience in addressing them. He recalled that migratory birds know no boundaries and it is our duty to contribute our efforts to conserve them, including through state contributions and through AEWA, and finally extended many thanks to everyone!

5. MEETING EVALUATION

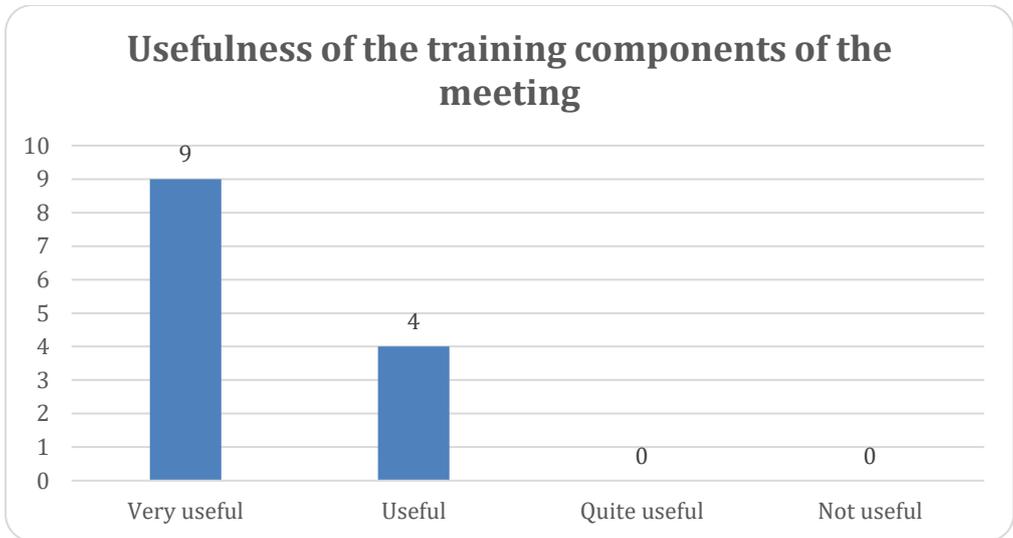
Thirteen participants completed the post-meeting evaluation questionnaire distributed at the end of the meeting. The assessment of the responses from these 13 respondents revealed a very positive evaluation of the Pre-MOP8 meeting. All respondents found the meeting very useful or useful in preparing them for the AEWA MOP8 (as shown in the chart below). Furthermore, the majority of respondents (77%) felt confident about their preparedness to participate at the AEWA MOP8, thanks to the Pre-MOP8 meeting, meanwhile a couple (two) felt only a little prepared and one person felt not really prepared. It is worth noting that the latter two assessments of preparedness were concurrent persons new to the AEWA processes (e.g., recently designated NFPs), with no past experience at AEWA MOPs, hence the potential hesitance relating to their preparedness.



All respondents appreciated the quality of the discussions relating to the AEWA MOP8 documents as well as the approach of the virtual meeting, including the presentation of information and interactive and inclusive nature of the meeting through exercises, group work and quizzes.

The three topics/themes treated at the Pre-MOP8 which respondents found most useful in preparing them for the AEWA MOP8 included the coordination of the African region at the MOP (including sub-regional discussions), overview of the AEWA Strategic Plan and PoAA and the budget discussions (including budget scenarios and scale of contribution). Other topics considered useful were waterbird monitoring, overall introduction to AEWA, preparing and participating in the AEWA MOP (agenda, structure, timelines and rules of procedure) and negotiations.

All respondents found the training components of the meeting to be very useful (9 persons) or useful (4 persons) – (see the chart below), thereby emphasizing the importance of the Pre-MOP for enhancing capacity of NFPs. Three most prominent areas of AEWA implementation which respondents highlighted as being most important for future training at AEWA Pre-MOPs or other meetings included: waterbird survey and monitoring; implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and PoAA, and National Reporting. Many other areas of interest for future training were highlighted including species conservation, coordination and implementation of action plans, use of AEWA guidelines, use of the CSN Tool, resource mobilization, project development techniques, negotiations, compliance and enforcement and domestication of treaties and conventions, among others.



62% of respondents rated the quality of support from the AEWA Secretariat in preparation for the meeting as excellent while the rest rated this as very good (23%) or good (15%). Similarly, 54% of respondents found effectiveness of the Pre-MOP facilitators to be excellent, while the rest considered them very good (38%) or good (8%). Most respondents also appreciated the quality of the remote simultaneous interpretation provided for the meeting, ranking it as excellent (38%), very good (23%) or good (23%), while one person considered it to be fair.

While the majority of respondents thought the virtual meeting format via the Zoom platform was suitable, all respondents indicated a preference for an in-person format for future Pre-MOP meetings, with a comment highlighting the added advantage of networking and having practical field visits during in-person meetings.

The four-day duration of the meeting was considered just right by the majority of respondents (9) while the rest found this too long, including one suggestion to consider three-day meetings in the future.

Suggestions for improving future meetings included:

- Sharing presentations well in advance of the meeting,
- Allocation of more time for group work sessions,
- Presentation of more case studies from the region to further enhance sharing of experience,
- Allocation of more time for sub-regional discussions and sharing of feedback from these,
- Encouraging facilitation of NFPs by regional representatives, with resulting actions for each country/region prior to the meeting.

6. ANNEXES

- Annex 1. Meeting Agenda
- Annex 2. Start and end time of the meeting sessions per country and time zone
- Annex 3. List of participants

ANNEX 1. MEETING AGENDA

Day 1: Monday 4th July							
Morning				Afternoon			
Time ¹	Session 1	Time	Session 2	Time	Session 1	Time	Session 2
90 min	Welcome, opening & Introductions	90 min	Preparing for & participating in AEWA MOP8	90 min	AEWA Strategic Plan, PoAA, national reporting	90 min	Conservation Status Report & sub-regional discussion
Details:							
20 min	Welcome speeches: AEWA Executive Secretary & StC Vice- Chair (PL)	25 min	AEWA MOP8 agenda and key issues for Africa (PL L & D)	30 min	Quiz: Interactive quiz on AEWA Plan of Action for Africa (PoAA) and national reporting - with guidance (PL EX)	15 min	CSR: overview, key messages, linking to AEWA Table 1 amendments and translation to domestic legislation (PL L)
40 min	Participant introductions & expectations (PL)	5 min	Rules of Procedure (PL L)	30 min	AEWA Strategic Plan (SP) & outcomes / highlights of SP implementation report (PL L & D)	25 min	Using the AEWA Table 1: - Introduction to Table 1 (PL L) - Practical exercise in using Table 1 for domestic regulations (PL EX)
15 min	Introduction to the online meeting (PL L)	15 min	MOP8 timelines & structure requirements: documents and logistics (PL L)			10 min	Amendments to AEWA Table 1: Case study on translation of MOP amendments into national legislation (CS PL L)
15 min	Brief introduction to AEWA (PL L)	30 min	AEWA Institutional Arrangements & roles: overview & experience, StC, TC, SRFPCs. Representatives for Africa & vacancies (PL L & D)	30 min	AEWA Plan of Action for Africa (PoAA): - Introduction / overview - Highlights on PoAA National Report assessment (PL L & D)	30 min	Sub-regional discussions (GW Ds): - Coordination at MOP8 - Vacancies for StC, SRFPCs - Key regional priorities
		15 min	Africa coordination at MOP8: Roles / responsibilities (PL D)			10 min	Close of day: recommendations and brief introduction to Day 2 (PL)
15 min	Coffee break	30 min	Lunch	15 min	Coffee break		
Abbreviations: PL: Plenary; IL: Interactive Lecture; L: Lecture; GW: Group Work; EX: Exercise; D: Discussion; CS: Case Study; RP: Role Play; B: Brainstorming							

Day 2: Tuesday 5th July

Morning				Afternoon			
Time	Session 1	Time	Session 2	Time	Session 1	Time	Session 2
90 min	Implementation of International Single/Multi Species Action Plans (ISSAPs/IMSAPs)	90 min	Budget	90 min	Monitoring	90 min	Communication & Implementation Review Process (IRP)

Details:

10 min	Introduction Day 2 (PL)	30 min	Draft Budget Proposal for the 2022-2024 triennium, including UN scale of assessment (PL L & D)	15 min	Waterbird Monitoring: overview, approaches and coordination (PL L)	15 min	Communications & the set up/management of the CMS Family IMCA ² Unit; CEPA materials (PL L & D)
20 min	ISSAPs & IMSAPs: - status & implementation/coordination in Africa - proposals to MOP8 (PL L)	30 min	Programme of Work: - Impact of different options in relation to African Initiative and operation of Secretariat, and of other potential MOP decisions (e.g., ISSAP coordination); - Link to outcomes on assessment of resources & capacity for Agreement delivery at international level (PL L & D)	15 min	Monitoring at the regional level: East Atlantic Flyway (CS PL L)	20 min	Importance of communications in Africa in relation to AEWA; World Migratory Bird Day (CS & D)
10 min	ISSAP coordination case study, including a national plan (e.g., Madagascar Pond-heron) (PL CS)			30 min	Draft monitoring priorities & synergies with other frameworks: benefits and MOP-related decisions (PL L & D)	30 min	AEWA website: Online exercise & guidance in using the AEWA website (PL EX)
20 min	ISSAPs: ISSAP Guidance/ steps for implementation and setting tasks for MOP (PL D)			15 min	Implementation Review Process (IRP): Introduction & IRP exercise based on Case Study (PL L & EX)		
30 min	ISSAPs & conservation: example of ISSAPs with conservation briefs (BC Crane, Maccoa Duck, African Skimmer) & MOP-related tasks/ outcomes (GW)	30 min	Interactive budget debate and considering positions, including MOP-related action points (PL D)	30 min	Quiz: interactive quiz on waterbirds and monitoring (PL EX)	10 min	Close of day: recommendations and brief introduction to Day 3 (PL)
15 min	Coffee break	30 min	Lunch	15 min	Coffee break		

Day 3: Wednesday 6th July

Morning				Afternoon			
Time	Session 1	Time	Session 2	Time	Session 1	Time	Session 2
90 min	Ecotourism, mortality & negotiation	90 min	AEWA Guidelines & knowledge gaps	90 min	Climate change & National reporting	90 min	SDGs & AEWA Quiz

Details:

10 min	Introduction Day 3 (PL)	20 min	AEWA Guidelines: overview (PL L)	30 min	Climate adaptation measures for waterbirds: guidelines & training (PL IL)	15 min	AEWA's contribution to the global biodiversity framework & SDGs (PL L)
10 min	Ecotourism & recreation: priorities and recommendations for AEWA engagement (PL L)	30 min	Knowledge gaps & needs for AEWA implementation: Priority Needs in 2021 - input from Africa (PL D)	15 min	Climate change regional initiative: East Atlantic Flyway IKI project (PL CS L)	15 min	Mainstreaming AEWA priorities into national planning processes (PL D)
20 min	Ecotourism & recreation: Case study followed by discussion on priorities & recommendations (PL CS & D)	10 min	Accidental shooting of look-alike species: implications, application & national legislation (PL L)	30 min	National reporting: introduction, importance, trends in submission (PL L)	45 min	Quiz: interactive quiz on a range of AEWA issues (PL EX)
15 min	Opportunities for addressing causes of waterbird mortality (PL L)			15 min	Results from feedback and Q&A: Key issues hindering national reporting (PL D)	15 min	Close of day: recommendations and detailed introduction to Day 4, which involves group work (PL & D)
35 min	Negotiation principles & skills (PL IL)	30 min	Using the CSN Tool for AEWA implementation, with example of look-alike species (PL EX)				
15 min	Coffee break	30 min	Lunch	15 min	Coffee break		

Day 4: Thursday 7th July

Morning				Afternoon			
Time	Session 1	Time	Session 2	Time	Session 1	Time	Session 2
90 min	Overview of key issues & actions	90 min	Regional group discussions	90 min	Closing session		Optional Support / closing by the Secretariat

Details:

10 min	Introduction Day 4 (PL)	45 min	Regional discussions & nominations in Africa groups: North / Western & Central / Eastern & Southern (GW)	20 min	Meeting conclusions (PL)		Optional support session, e.g., Q&A session for new NFPs
15 min	Decide on key issues for coordinated Africa preparation before and during MOP8; assign leads for championing each issue (PL D)			20 min	Looking ahead to MOP8: Working together / focus groups (PL)		
45 min	Budget (PL D) Discuss the budget scenarios in depth, related to the Programme of Work	30 min	Group report back from regional groups (PL)	15 min	Planning for MOP8: logistical & technical preparations, deadlines (PL)		Optional session for Secretariat & facilitators: next steps, reporting
20 min	Budget (PL D) Discuss contributions and arrears	15 min	Planning for the Africa daily meetings during MOP8 (PLD)	15 min	Evaluation (PL)		
				20 min	Closing addresses (PL)		
15 min	Coffee break	30 min	Lunch	15 min	Coffee break		

ANNEX 2. START AND END TIME OF THE MEETING SESSIONS PER COUNTRY AND TIME ZONE

Start time morning session	08:00	09:00	10:00	11:00
Start time afternoon session	11:45	12:45	13:45	14:45
End time	15:00	16:00	17:00	18:00
Group / Time zone	A (GMT)	B (GMT +1)	C (GMT +2)	D (GMT +3)
Countries	Burkina Faso Côte d'Ivoire The Gambia Ghana Guinea Guinea-Bissau Mali Mauritania Morocco Senegal Togo	Algeria Benin Central African Republic Chad Congo Equatorial Guinea Gabon Niger Nigeria Tunisia UK	Botswana Burundi Egypt Eswatini Germany Libya Malawi Rwanda South Africa Zimbabwe	Djibouti Ethiopia Kenya Madagascar Mauritius Sudan Tanzania Uganda

ANNEX 3. MEETING PARTICIPANTS

NO.	COUNTRY	NAME OF PARTICIPANT
COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES / INVITED EXPERTS / OBSERVERS		
1	ALGERIA	Ms. Nadjiba Bendjedda
2	BENIN	Mr. Rémi Hefoume
3	BOTSWANA	Ms. Malebogo Somolekae
4	BOTSWANA	Mr. Motshereganyi Virat Kootsositse
5	BURKINA FASO	Ms. Germaine Ouedraogo-Bouda
6	BURUNDI	Mr. Samuel Nibitanga
7	CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	Mr. Salomon Yamale
8	CHAD	Mr. Adboulaye Abakar Abdramane
9	CÔTE D'IVOIRE	Ms. Salimata Kone
10	CÔTE D'IVOIRE	Mr. Kouassi Firmin Kouamé
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19	KENYA	Mr. Solomon Kyalo
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23	MALAWI	Mr. William Oscar Mgoola
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32	SENEGAL	Ms. Khady Gueye
33	SENEGAL	Mr. Assane Ndoeye
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37	SOUTH AFRICA	Ms. Mukondi Matshusa
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47	TANZANIA	Mr. Ally Nkwame
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