

RESOLUTION 1.7

ESTABLISHMENT OF A SMALL CONSERVATION GRANTS FUND

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds,

Aware that, in many countries, the basic implementation of the Agreement will be severely constrained by the lack of adequate financial resources,

Noting the success of the Ramsar Small Grants Fund for Wetland Conservation and Wise Use in facilitating the development and implementation in developing countries and countries with economies in transition of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance,

Taking into account that Article V, paragraph 3, of the Agreement authorises the Meeting of the Parties to establish a conservation fund from voluntary contributions of Parties or from any other source for the purpose of financing monitoring, research, training and projects relating to the conservation, including protection and management, of migratory waterbirds,

Recalling that Article V, paragraph 4, of the Agreement encourages Parties to provide *inter alia* financial support to other Parties on a multilateral and bilateral basis to assist them in implementing the provisions of this Agreement,

1. *Decides* to establish a Small Conservation Grants Fund (the Fund) to facilitate the implementation of the Agreement, to become operational from the time of the second session of the Meeting of the Parties;
2. *Instructs* the Agreement Secretariat, taking into account the advice of the Technical Committee and learning from the experience of the Ramsar Small Grants Fund for Wetland Conservation and Wise Use, to submit to the second session of the Meeting of the Parties proposals for the operation of the Fund, including administration, eligibility criteria, submission and evaluation of proposals, allocation of funds and fund-raising. Management of the Fund by an appropriate international organization should be taken into consideration;
3. *Further instructs* the Agreement secretariat to establish an interim mechanism to enable Contracting Parties and other donors to make voluntary contributions for the purpose of providing small grants for the implementation of the Agreement between the first and second session of the meeting of the Contracting Parties;
4. *Urges* Contracting Parties and donors to make voluntary contributions to the Agreement secretariat, for the purpose of providing small grants for the implementation of the Agreement between the first and the second session of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties;
5. *Decides* that the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals guidelines for Acceptance of Financial Contributions as annexed hereto apply *mutatis mutandis*;
6. *Instructs* the secretariat with the assistance of the Technical Committee to consult with Parties and potential sponsors concerning sponsorship.

Annex

GUIDELINES FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

1. Background

- 1.1 The Meeting of the Parties to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, at its first meeting, considered the funding of special projects by external voluntary contributions. It invited all Parties, non-Party range States, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other sources to contribute to its trust fund or to special activities.
- 1.2 The secretariat and the Technical Committee will continue to identify key priority areas in accordance with which projects should be developed as appropriate.

2. United Nations framework

- 2.1 Regarding guidelines for voluntary contributions, the United Nations Financial Rules (rules 107.5, 107.6, 107.7) state as follows:

Rule 107.5

In cases other than those approved by the General Assembly, the establishment of any trust fund or the receipt of any voluntary contribution, gift or donation to be administered by the United Nations requires the approval of the Secretary-General, who may delegate this authority to the Under-Secretary General for Administration and Management.

Rule 107.6

No voluntary contribution, gift or donation for a specific purpose may be accepted if the purpose is inconsistent with the policies and aims of the United Nations.

Rule 107.7

Voluntary contributions, gifts of donations which directly or indirectly involve an immediate or ultimate financial liability for the Organization may be accepted only with the approval of the General Assembly.

- 2.2 Although the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA has the competence to approve or reject voluntary contributions and to decide on general guidelines, in doing so it should take account of the above United Nations rules *mutatis mutandis*.

3. Approval of list of donors

- 3.1 Donors which are not governmental institutions of Parties or non-Parties to the Agreement must be approved as such by the Technical Committee before their contributions are accepted by the secretariat. The Technical Committee may authorize its Chair to decide on its behalf, should it not be possible, for practical reasons, to solicit the approval of the Technical Committee in a timely manner, or should the proposed contribution be insubstantial (i.e., less than \$15,000).
- 3.2 Sources that are known to have been involved in interests or activities which conflict with the aims of the Agreement and any organization or individual that has deliberately brought, or might bring, the Agreement into public disrepute, shall be excluded. The same shall apply where there is a risk that the source might try to influence the decisions of any organ of the Agreement where the source, in the opinion of the Technical Committee, has, or has had in the past, an environmentally unfriendly attitude.

4. Acceptance of extraordinary contributions

- 4.1 Voluntary contributions may be accepted only when the purpose is consistent with the policies and aims of the Agreement.
- 4.2 Voluntary contributions shall not have an immediate or ultimate financial liability for the AEWA trust fund without the prior consent of the Meeting of the Parties or the Technical Committee.
- 4.3 All monetary contributions shall be paid in freely convertible currency; exceptions may, however, be made for special projects if the currency in question can be used effectively.
- 4.4 Voluntary contributions in kind may be accepted, provided that they are used to cover activities approved by the Meeting of the Parties or the Technical Committee. These may include *inter alia*, direct or indirect involvement in a joint project, free office accommodation, equipment, or the secondment of staff.