

**21<sup>st</sup> MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**  
*28-30 April 2026, Virtual Meeting Format*

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**WORK PLAN FOR THE AEWA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE 2026-2028<sup>1</sup>**

**Introduction**

1. This section provides explanatory notes concerning the two attached sections of the documents (Appendix I, Parts 1 and 2).
2. Part 1 provides a summary list of proposed top priority scientific and technical tasks for the 2026-2028 triennium. This is drawn from Part 2, which provides a summary of the full list of proposed scientific and technical tasks for the work of the Technical Committee in 2026-2028.
3. Themes relate largely to the structure of the AEWA Action Plan as follows:
  - a) **Field of application**
    - issues of the taxonomic, geographic, legal and operational scope of the Agreement
  - b) **Species conservation**
    - including issues of legal regulation of taking; international species action and management plans and their implementation; emergency measures; re-establishments; and introductions
  - c) **Habitat conservation**
    - including issues of habitat and site inventories; conservation of areas; habitat conservation, rehabilitation and restoration; and climate change adaptation and mitigation
  - d) **Management of human activities**
    - including hunting (including lead issues); disturbance; species-conflicts and management of other human activities (e.g. impacts of energy generation and transmission, development, etc.)
  - e) **Research and monitoring**
    - including planning and funding of surveys and monitoring
  - f) **Education and information**
    - including all Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) issues
  - g) **Implementation**
    - including Conservation Guidelines; Action Plan para 7.4 international reviews; and other implementation issues
  - h) **Strategic, reporting, emerging and other issues**
    - including strategic, reporting and other planning issues; emerging issues and horizon scanning
4. The 29 top priority tasks listed in Part 1 below have been identified from the full range of proposed scientific and technical tasks listed in Part 2. These include all 26 ‘Essential’ tasks and three additional ‘High’ priority tasks.

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<sup>1</sup> As adopted by the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties through Resolution 9.8.

5. The provisional figure for the total estimated funds needed for full implementation of the recommended 2026-2028 top priority tasks over the triennium is at least € 2,375,000, whilst the total cost of the implementation of the full Work Plan is at least € 2,890,000.
6. Part 2 provides further details of all proposed scientific and technical implementation support tasks for the Technical Committee during 2026-2028. It provides a summary description of each task with its anticipated outcomes and outputs and provisional estimated costs.
7. As indicated in Part 2, a number of the tasks listed are either ongoing or have been carried forward from the work plans adopted by previous MOPs, but for which capacity or funding has been insufficient in the previous triennia to undertake or complete them and are still regarded as priorities.
8. Provisional estimated costs in Part 2 are based on each task requiring the engagement of an expert (or experts) to undertake the work required. These provisional estimated costs have been prepared by the Technical Committee and the Secretariat to provide Contracting Parties with an initial assessment of delivery needs. More precise costings and the scope and ways and means for the delivery of each of the tasks will be developed at the beginning of the 2026-2028 triennium and reported to the Standing Committee at that time.

It is recognised that the funding estimated as being needed to enable further scientific and technical implementation support for the Agreement will need to be found from sources other than the Agreement's core budget.

9. Please note that some significant tasks and costings given relate to the work involved in developing Terms of Reference for the respective project (including the assessment of full costs), not the cost of delivery of the project for which funding will need to be sought.

## Appendix I - Part 1

### Recommended Top Priority Scientific and Technical Tasks for the 2026-2028 Triennium

Recommended Top Priority Tasks 2026-2028 (summary of task only)	Indicative cost
<b>1. Field of application</b>	
<b>1.1. Taxonomy &amp; nomenclature.</b> Maintain overview of taxonomic and nomenclatural issues and advise on the need to update Annex 2 to the Agreement as necessary.	-
<b>1.2. Population definition.</b> Early in the triennium, consider evidence supporting the delineation of current population boundaries for identified species as well as potential others, as necessary.	-
<b>1.3. Review of Table 1 in Annex 3 to the Agreement.</b> Prepare proposals for revision of Table 1 in Annex 3 for submission to MOP10.	-
<b>1.4. Review of intended proposals for amendments to the Agreement.</b> Review the submission by Contracting Parties of intended proposals for amendments to the Agreement and its annexes and provide its advice on the text of the proposed amendments and the reasons for it to the submitting Contracting Party for its consideration not later than 180 days before the opening of the session of the Meeting of the Parties.	-
<b>1.5. Review and optimisation of the AEWA Action Plan.</b> Consult the Secretariat on reviewing the Action Plan in Annex 3 to the Agreement, in advance of the launch of the development of the Strategic Plan 2029-2037.	-
<b>1.6. Consolidation of MOP resolutions.</b> Support the Secretariat to consolidate all previously adopted MOP resolutions.	-
<b>1.7. Guidance of Favourable Reference Values.</b> Develop more detailed guidance on the interpretation and establishment of Favourable Reference Values building on existing definitions and ongoing work under other relevant international frameworks.	€30,000
<b>1.8. Guidance on maintaining Favourable Reference Population (FRP).</b> Develop guidance on interpreting compliance with the obligation to maintain FRP, particularly with respect to the acceptable probability of population size falling below the FRP, building on existing definitions and ongoing work under other relevant international and regional frameworks.	€10,000
<b>1.9. Guidance on the application of definitions of AEWA Table 1 categories.</b> Review the criteria and develop guidance on their application for AEWA Table 1 categories which include approximate population sizes as a numerical justification for placement in the respective category.	-
<b>2. Species Conservation</b>	
<b>2.1. Priority list for species action and management planning.</b> Reassess and revise, as appropriate, the criteria for prioritising populations for the development of International Species Action Plans and review and update, as necessary, the list of priority species/populations for new Single Species Action and Management Plans and for retirement, revision, update or extension of existing plans; in light of anticipated limited resources, make a recommendation on the prioritisation of the evaluation and potentially the update or revision of expiring plans.	-

<p align="center"><b>Recommended Top Priority Tasks 2026-2028</b> (summary of task only)</p>	<p align="center"><b>Indicative cost</b></p>
<p><b>2.2. Evaluation Report Template for International Species Action and Management Plans.</b> Review and consider simplifying the Evaluation Report Template for International Species Action and Management Plans with a view to streamlining the evaluation process, drawing from the lessons learned from evaluations undertaken in the triennium 2023-2025.</p>	<p align="center">-</p>
<p><b>2.4. Guidance on adaptive harvest management.</b> Prepare simple guidance drawing on existing knowledge, experience and processes.</p>	<p align="center">€30,000</p>
<p><b>3. Habitat Conservation</b></p>	
<p><b>3.1. Site inventory framework.</b> The TC will be involved in reviewing submissions of site inventories by Contracting Parties.</p>	<p align="center">-</p>
<p><b>3.2. Site monitoring framework.</b> Develop the monitoring protocol set out in the Site Monitoring Framework adopted by MOP8 and, where appropriate, guidance for Contracting Parties on reporting on the status of, threats to, and the effectiveness of conservation measures at their flyway network sites.</p>	<p align="center">€200,000</p>
<p><b>3.3. Status of principal waterbird habitats.</b> Conduct Agreement-level assessment of the status of principal waterbird habitats in the wider environment. <u>(A joint project with CMS and Raptors MoU covering all relevant bird taxa and respective habitats in the African Eurasian flyways)</u></p>	<p align="center">€1,300,000</p>
<p><b>3.4. Habitat conservation action plan.</b> On the basis of the assessment under the previous task, develop an action plan, identifying priorities, opportunities and a set of recommended actions.</p>	<p align="center">Included in task 3.3 above</p>
<p><b>4. Management of human activities</b></p>	
<p> </p>	
<p><b>4.5. Harvest data estimates from non-Party Range States</b> Establish informed estimates of harvest of AEWA-listed waterbird species from non-Party Range States.</p>	<p align="center">€150,000</p>
<p><b>4.6. Sustainability of harvest.</b> Undertake a rapid assessment of sustainability of harvest of declining quarry populations.</p>	<p align="center">€200,000</p>
<p><b>5. Research and monitoring</b></p>	
<p><b>5.2. Integrating science-policy interface into AEWA.</b> Working with the Standing Committee, continue reviewing AEWA's existing workflow in the light of science-policy interface models under other Multilateral Environmental Agreements to develop and submit to MOP10 a proposal for improving the science-policy interface within AEWA's processes.</p>	<p align="center">€25,000</p>
<p><b>6. Education and Information</b></p>	
<p><b>6.2. Compilation of an AEWA CEPA implementation plan.</b> Working with the Standing Committee, produce a CEPA work plan alongside the draft Strategic Plan (2029-2037); the CEPA work plan should be a key part of putting the Strategic Plan into action and helping to achieve its goals.</p>	<p align="center">€30,000</p>
<p><b>7. Implementation</b></p>	
<p><b>7.1. Conservation Status Review 10.</b> Guide the process of preparation of Conservation Status Review 10 for submission to MOP10.</p>	<p align="center">€150,000</p>

<p align="center"><b>Recommended Top Priority Tasks 2026-2028</b> (summary of task only)</p>	<p align="center"><b>Indicative cost</b></p>
<p><b>7.2. Other international reviews.</b> Guide the process of preparation of other prioritised international reviews as per paragraph 7.4 of the AEWA Action Plan (Annex 3 to the Agreement).</p>	<p align="center">€200,000</p>
<p><b>7.4. Guidance in support of Strategic Plan implementation.</b> Work with the Standing Committee to compile, in conjunction with the development of the draft Strategic Plan 2029-2037, guidance on relevant overarching and cross-cutting issues to be identified with respect to the Strategic Plan implementation.</p>	<p align="center">€20,000</p>
<p><b>8. Strategic, reporting, emerging and other issues</b></p>	
<p><b>8.1 Development of the Strategic Plan 2029-2037.</b> Work with the Standing Committee to develop, building on the current Strategic Plan, a draft Strategic Plan for the period 2029-2037 for consideration and adoption by MOP10.</p>	<p align="center">-</p>
<p><b>8.2. National reports.</b> Revise, amend and enhance the national report format for 2025-2027 and make the necessary adjustments following MOP9; compile a guidance for national respondents in advance of the launch of the national report module on population status 2019-2024; Prepare the draft national report format for MOP11 (2028-2030) to be submitted for consideration by MOP10, which format shall be aligned with the draft Strategic Plan 2029-2037, as well as any other modules for submission to MOP11.</p>	<p align="center">-</p>
<p><b>8.3. Monitoring of implementation of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027.</b> Improve the assessment of the Strategic Plan (plan for the assessment of postponed target-level indicators and other target-levels indicators where need of additional or improved data has been identified, as well as purpose-level indicator P4).</p>	<p align="center">-</p>
<p><b>8.5. AEWA's contribution to relevant global frameworks.</b> Prepare an assessment of AEWA's contribution to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework for MOP10 based on document AEWA/MOP8.36 as finalised by the Standing Committee in 2023. Compile concise triennial summaries of AEWA's contributions to the relevant global frameworks, particularly with the view of promoting the relevance of AEWA amongst development and aid agencies.</p>	<p align="center">€30,000</p>
<p><b>8.8 Implementation Review Process (IRP) modus operandi and an AEWA compliance framework.</b> Provide input to the Standing Committee on the development of a comprehensive modus operandi for the IRP and a proposal for a broader framework that will support Parties in complying with AEWA, to be submitted for consideration and adoption at MOP10.</p>	<p align="center">-</p>
<p><b>8.9 Modified/alternative/supplementary funding mechanism to SGF.</b> Consult the Standing Committee on the development of a modified or alternative/supplementary mechanism to the Small Grant Fund for funding AEWA relevant projects for eligible Parties.</p>	<p align="center">-</p>
<p><b>Total estimated budget for recommended top priority tasks</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>€2,375,000</b></p>

## Appendix I – Part 2

### Summary of Scientific and Technical Tasks for the AEWA Technical Committee: 2026-2028

- A. The scientific and technical tasks for the Technical Committee are organised under eight broad themes, as follows:
- Field of application
  - Species conservation
  - Habitat conservation
  - Management of human activities
  - Research and monitoring
  - Education and information
  - Implementation
  - Strategic, reporting, emerging or other issues
- B. Prioritisation of tasks is as follows:
- Essential** (highest priority) – other MOP or Strategic Plan processes depend on the task being undertaken *e.g.* reporting to MOP10
- High** – important to progress before MOP10, i.e. to start work within the next two years
- Other** – important but initiation could take place on a longer timescale
- Rolling** – important and ongoing or soon-to-be-launched long-term activity
- C. The categorisation of types of tasks is coded in the tables below as follows:
1. New or revised guidance for Contracting Parties
  2. Technical support and advice – ongoing and *ad hoc*
  3. Advice on new and emerging issues
  4. Input to scientific or technical products/initiatives undertaken by other relevant organisations
  5. Review of knowledge as a basis for developing guidance for Parties and others
- D. Note that costs are significantly approximate and not derived from detailed costing of the specific tasks. Costs are for broad planning purposes only at this stage and will be further refined.

Theme 1: Field of application					
Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Collaboration with other organisations	Supports Strategic Plan Objective/Target:	Provisional estimated cost (€) – see note above
<p><b>1.1. Taxonomy &amp; nomenclature</b> Maintain overview of taxonomic and nomenclatural issues and advise on the need to update Annex 2 to the Agreement as necessary (<i>Resolution 6.1</i>)</p>	Essential Rolling task	2	BirdLife International, CMS Scientific Council	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 5	–
<p><b>1.2. Population definitions</b> Early in the triennium, consider evidence supporting the delineation of current population boundaries for the following species as well as potential others, as necessary. TC21 to make any recommendations to the 28<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee meeting for interim approval such that any changes can be included within work to develop proposals for MOP10 (<i>CSR10 and proposed amendments to Table 1 of AEWAs Annex 3</i>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser anser</i>) (potential splitting of the C Europe to N Africa (nbr) population because it represents a mixture of two ssp (<i>anser</i> and <i>rubrirostris</i>);</li> <li>- Red Phalarope (<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>), Canada to Svalbard (br) population;</li> <li>- Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus heuglini</i>), NE Europe &amp; W Siberia (br) population</li> </ul> <p>Work with Specialist Groups to review waterbird population definitions more widely using contemporary data and information, including those derived from ringing atlases and tracking studies. (<i>AEWA Article VII.3 (a)</i>).</p>	Essential Rolling task	2	Wetlands International and the relevant IUCN SSC Specialist Groups  Linked to tasks 1.3 and 7.1	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 5	-
<p><b>1.3. Review of Table 1 in Annex 3 to the Agreement</b> Prepare a proposal for amendments to Table 1 of AEWAs Annex 3 for submission to MOP10 (<i>AEWA Article VII.3 (b)</i>).</p>	Essential Rolling task	2	Linked to tasks 1.2, 1.9 and 7.1	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 1	-
<p><b>1.4. Review of intended proposals for amendments to the Agreement</b> Review the submission by Contracting Parties of intended proposals for amendments to the Agreement and its annexes and provide its advice on the text of the proposed amendments and the reasons for such amendments to the submitting Contracting Party for its consideration not later than 180 days before the opening of the session of the Meeting of the Parties (<i>Resolution 8.1</i>).</p>	Essential Rolling task	2	-	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> All objectives	-

<p><b>1.5. Review and optimisation of the AEWA Action Plan</b> Consult the Secretariat on reviewing the Action Plan in Annex 3 to the Agreement, in advance of the launch of the development of the Strategic Plan 2029-2037, and compiling suggestions for possible optimisations to the Action Plan with a view to strengthening its coherence and providing for a more streamlined implementation, including reviewing the AEWA provisions on sustainable use with the objective of establishing consistency in the use of terminology and potentially additional definitions of terms to ensure coherence of the legal text while taking into account terminology and definitions used under other relevant frameworks, including the European Union's Birds Directive (<i>Resolution 9.1</i>).</p>	Essential	2	Linked to task 8.1	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> All Objectives	-
<p><b>1.6. Consolidation of MOP resolutions</b> Support the Secretariat in consolidating all previously adopted MOP resolutions by subject area, including suggestions for repealing timebound decisions that extend beyond their respective deadlines and other decisions, as necessary and justified, to provide a streamlined basis for the Strategic Plan development process (<i>Resolution 9.2</i>)</p>	Essential	2	Linked to task 8.1	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> All Objectives	-
<p><b>1.7. Guidance on Favourable Reference Values</b> Develop more detailed guidance on the interpretation and establishment of Favourable Reference Values building on existing definitions and ongoing work under other relevant international frameworks (<i>Resolution 8.4</i>)</p>	High	2	European Commission, CMS Scientific Council  Linked to task 1.8	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Targets 1.2 & 2.4	[€30,000]
<p><b>1.8. Guidance on maintaining Favourable Reference Population (FRP)</b> Develop guidance on interpreting compliance with the obligation to maintain FRP, particularly with respect to the acceptable probability of population size falling below the FRP, building on existing definitions and ongoing work under other relevant international and regional frameworks (<i>Resolution 9.3</i>)</p>	Essential	2	European Goose Management Platform, European Commission  Linked to task 1.7	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Targets 1.2 & 2.4	[€10,000]
<p><b>1.9. Guidance on the application of definitions of AEWA Table 1 categories</b> Review the criteria and develop guidance on their application for AEWA Table 1 categories which include approximate population sizes as a numerical justification for placement in the respective category (<i>Resolution 9.1</i>)</p>	Essential	2	Linked to task 1.3	-	-

<b>1.10. Criteria for listing of re-established populations</b> Develop criteria for consideration of listing on AEWA Table 1 of populations that have been re-established and have not previously been listed on Table 1 ( <i>Resolution 9.1</i> )	Other	2	-	-	-
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<b>Theme 2: Species conservation</b>					
<b>Task</b>	<b>Priority for delivery</b>	<b>Category of task</b>	<b>Collaboration with other organisations</b>	<b>Supports Strategic Plan Objective/Target:</b>	<b>Provisional estimated cost (€)</b>
<b>2.1. Priority list for species action and management planning</b> Reassess and revise, as appropriate, the criteria for prioritising populations for the development of International Species Action Plans and review and update at its first meeting after each MOP, as necessary, the list of International Species Action and Management Plans required for priority species/populations, involving adaptive harvest management processes where relevant, taking into account the possible need to develop new plans and retire, revise, update or extend existing plans; in light of anticipated limited resources, make a recommendation on the prioritisation of the evaluation and potentially the update or revision of expiring plans ( <i>Resolutions 6.8 and 9.3; Strategic Plan 2019-2027</i> ).	Essential Rolling	2	-	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Targets 1.2 & 2.4	-
<b>2.2. Evaluation Report Template for International Species Action and Management Plans</b> Review and consider simplifying the Evaluation Report Template for International Species Action and Management Plans with a view to streamlining the evaluation process, drawing from the lessons learned from evaluations undertaken in the triennium 2023-2025 ( <i>Resolution 9.3</i> ).	Essential	2	-	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Targets 1.2 & 2.4	-
<b>2.3. Sustainable harvests and the socio-economic importance of waterbirds</b> Increase knowledge and understanding of the extent of traditional and other harvests; their modes of regulation; the conditions under which harvests are sustainable; and the significance of these harvests in the context of food security and human development.  The Technical Committee has already developed and agreed on Terms of reference for outsourcing this task. In the triennium 2026-2028 the Technical Committee will be involved in overseeing the delivery of the task in case resources are made available for outsourcing it.	High	1	CMS, CBD, CMS Flyways Working Group, FAO/FFEM/EU “RESSOURCE” project  Linked to task 3.5.	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objectives 2 & 5	[€100,000]

(Resolutions 6.4; 6.15 and 7.2) (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018)					
<b>2.4. Guidance on adaptive harvest management (AHM)</b> Prepare simple guidance on AHM drawing on existing knowledge, experience and processes and submit to Standing Committee as interim guidance ahead of MOP10 (Resolution 8.8) (carried over from Work Plan 2023-2025).	High	1	European Goose Management Platform and others	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Target 2.4	[€30,000]
<b>2.5. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza</b> Participate in the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and disseminate its guidance to Parties and others via the Secretariat (Resolution 8.15)	High, Rolling	2,4	CMS Scientific Council, FAO, Ramsar STRP, OIE and others	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objectives 1 & 5	No direct costs, possible T&S need for meetings [€2,000]

<b>Theme 3: Habitat conservation</b>					
<b>Task</b>	<b>Priority for delivery</b>	<b>Category of task</b>	<b>Collaboration with other organisations</b>	<b>Supports Strategic Plan Objective/Target:</b>	<b>Provisional estimated cost (€)</b>
<b>3.1. Site inventory framework</b> [Develop a simple framework for use by the Parties to review and confirm the inventory of known nationally and internationally important sites. This framework should include provision of brief guidance on interpreting AEWA Action Plan references to “sites of international or national importance” and “internationally accepted criteria of international importance”. It should also take into account existing site network criteria, including those used to identify EU SPAs, Ramsar Sites, Emerald Network Sites and IBAs]. Task implemented in inter-sessional period 2019-2022. In the triennium 2026-2028 the TC will review submissions of inventories by Contracting Parties (Strategic Plan 2019-2027) (carried over from Work Plan 2019-2021/2022).	Essential	1, 2	Wetlands International, BirdLife International	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Target 3.1	-
<b>3.2. Site monitoring framework</b> Develop the monitoring protocol, including data entry tools, set out in the Site Monitoring Framework adopted by MOP8 and, where appropriate, guidance for Contracting Parties on reporting on the status of, threats to, and the effectiveness of conservation measures at their flyway network sites (Strategic Plan 2019-2027; Resolution 8.6) (carried over from Work Plan 2023-2025).	Essential	1, 2	Wetlands International, BirdLife International  Linked to task 7.2b	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Target 3.2	[€200,000]
<b>3.3. Status of principal waterbird habitats</b>	Essential	5	CMS, Raptors MoU	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Target 4.1	[€1,300,000]

Conduct Agreement-level assessment of the status of principal waterbird habitats in the wider environment, drawing on existing studies wherever possible ( <i>Strategic Plan 2019-2027</i> ) ( <i>carried over from Work Plan 2019-2021/2022</i> ). ( <u>A joint project with CMS and Raptors MoU covering all relevant bird taxa and respective habitats in the African-Eurasian flyways</u> )					
<b>3.4. Habitat conservation action plan</b> On the basis of the assessment under the previous task (3.3), develop an action plan (identifying priorities, opportunities and a set of recommended actions), taking into account regional and sub-regional differences in key habitat types and threats/drivers and identify which international policy mechanisms AEWA should focus its attention on to maximise delivery of the prioritised actions ( <i>Strategic Plan 2019-2027</i> ) ( <i>carried over from Work Plan 2019-2021/2022</i> ). ( <u>A joint project with CMS and Raptors MoU covering all relevant bird taxa and respective habitats in the African-Eurasian flyways</u> )	Essential	2	CMS, Raptors MoU, Ramsar Convention	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Target 4.1	[cost included in the budget for task 3.3 above]
<b>3.5. Socio-economic importance of waterbirds</b> Explore the potential to develop a number of case studies summarising the socio-economic benefits (including food security) accruing to local populations from the sustainable management of wetlands and the sustainable use of the waterbirds that depend on these areas ( <i>Resolution 5.13</i> ) ( <i>carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018</i> ).	Other Rolling task	4	Linked to task 2.3. FAO/FFEM/EU "RESSOURCE" project	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objectives 1, 2, 3 & 4	[€5,000]
<b>3.6. Monitoring of key land-use related threats</b> Explore options for monitoring key land-use related threats, such as wetland loss, drainage, and alterations in agricultural land use, through remote sensing across the Agreement Area in collaboration with the European Union and the Scientific & Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands ( <i>Resolution 9.2</i> )	Other	2	EU, Ramsar Convention STRP	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Target.4.1	-
<b>3.7. Adaptation to sea-level rise</b> Compile case studies, from Parties and experts, of effective adaptation of coastal habitats in response to sea-level rise and liaise with the World Coastal Forum, the Conventions on Wetlands and Migratory Species and other international actors, to explore how best to disseminate such positive stories, and bring such cases studies to MOP10 ( <i>Resolution 9.4</i> ).	High	5	Ramsar Convention, CMS, World Coastal Forum	-	[€15,000]

Theme 4: Management of human activities					
Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Collaboration with other organisations	Supports Strategic Plan Objective/Target:	Provisional estimated cost (€)
<p><b>4.1. Tackling the four causes<sup>2</sup> of unnecessary additional mortality and other threats</b></p> <p>(a) Explore how information could be gathered from Parties and others on lack of/poor implementation of guidance on reducing mortality, such that strategies for better support, including regional and/or sector-based initiatives, may be developed; pilot such an assessment on energy infrastructure and report to MOP9 conclusions on improving guidance implementation.</p> <p>(b) assess national reporting processes under other multilateral and/or international processes (e.g. Ramsar, CMS, CBD, EU) to assess sources of relevant information on waterbird mortality additional to information within AEWA national reports, and make recommendations as to how this information could be routinely summarised.</p> <p>(c) update the list of AEWA and CMS decisions and guidelines relevant to avoiding additional and unnecessary mortality contained in Appendix 1 of Resolution 6.12 as well as including the inventory of relevant multilateral instruments and processes summarised in document AEWA/MOP8.40 and make this synthesis available on AEWA's website in a form that can be regularly updated and broadened including with material and opportunities from fields beyond those motivated by biodiversity conservation. (<i>Resolution 8.15</i>) (<i>carried over from Work Plan 2023-2025</i>).</p>	High	2	Relevant multilateral processes	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Target 1.6	[€15,000]
<p><b>4.2. Reducing energy impacts – Energy Task Force</b></p> <p>Collaborate on implementation of CMS Resolution 11.27 on <i>Renewable energy and migratory species</i>. Task includes participation in the CMS Energy Task Force to provide further guidance and support in relation to the implementation of CMS Resolution 11.27.</p>	Other Rolling	2	CMS Scientific Council and others	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objectives 1 & 5	[€10,000] (T&S for meetings)
<p><b>4.3. Poisoning by lead shot</b></p> <p>Collaborate on implementation of CMS Resolution 11.15 on <i>Preventing poisoning of migratory birds</i>. Task includes participation in the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights (once convened) to provide further guidance and support in relation to the implementation of CMS Resolution 11.15 (<i>Resolution 6.12</i>) (<i>carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018</i>).</p>	High Rolling	2	CMS Scientific Council and others	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objectives 1, 2 & 5	{Costs included in poisoning and agrochemicals task above}

<sup>2</sup> Causes of unnecessary additional mortality and other key threats include: energy infrastructure (especially powerlines, wind turbines); illegal taking & killing; fisheries bycatch; and invasive alien species.

<p><b>4.4. Illegal killing</b> Collaborate on implementation of CMS Resolution 11.16 on the prevention of illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds. Task includes participation in the Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean and technical support for implementation of the Plan of Action to Address Bird Trapping Along the Mediterranean Coasts of Egypt and Libya (<i>Resolution 6.12; Resolution 8.15</i>) (carried over from <i>Work Plan 2016-2018</i>).</p>	High Rolling	2	CMS Scientific Council and others	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objectives 1, 2 & 5	[€8,000] (T&S for attendance at Task Force meetings)
<p><b>4.5. Harvest data estimates from non-Party Range States</b> Establish informed estimates of harvest of AEWA-listed waterbird species from non-Party Range States (<i>Strategic Plan 2019-2027</i>) (carried over from <i>Work Plan 2023-2025</i>).</p>	Essential	2	-	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Target 2.1	[€150,000]
<p><b>4.6. Sustainability of harvest</b> Undertake a rapid assessment of sustainability of harvest of declining quarry populations (<i>Strategic Plan 2019-2027</i>) (carried over from <i>Work Plan 2019-2021/2022</i>).</p>	Essential	2	European Commission	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Target 2.4	[€200,000]
<p><b>4.7. World Coastal Forum</b> Note WCF and assess the significance of its knowledge products for AEWA, as and when applicable.</p>	Other Rolling	5	World Coastal Forum	-	-
<p><b>4.8. Spatial distribution of seabird threats</b> Prepare and make available to Parties an assessment of the spatial distribution of seabird threats among countries in the AEWA Agreement Area, so that Parties may appropriately target relevant conservation effort, by reviewing current knowledge and identifying evidence gaps (<i>Resolution 9.4</i>).</p>	Other	2, 5	BirdLife International, OSPAR, HELCOM, Barcelona Convention, Bucharest Convention, other relevant Regional Seas Conventions, CAFF	-	[€100,000]
<p><b>4.9. Cumulative impact of human-induced sources of seabird mortality</b> Conceptualise a flyway assessment of the cumulative impact of various human-induced sources of seabird mortality, starting with a pilot assessment, and to promote the delivery of this assessment by appropriate research institutions or other stakeholders in order to help prioritisation and direction of conservation efforts (<i>Resolution 9.4</i>).</p>	Other	2	BirdLife International, academic and research institutions (tbc)	-	[€100,000]

<b>Theme 5: Research and monitoring</b>					
<b>Task</b>	<b>Priority for delivery</b>	<b>Category of task</b>	<b>Collaboration with other organisations</b>	<b>Supports Strategic Plan Objective/Target:</b>	<b>Provisional estimated cost (€)</b>
<b>5.1. Horizon scanning</b> Periodically undertake horizon scanning exercises (for knowledge needs and gaps) working with others, as appropriate, and report the findings to the Meeting of Parties ( <i>Strategic Plan 2019-2027; Resolution 8.7</i> )	Other	2	-	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Target 5.1	[€10,000]
<b>5.2. Integrating science-policy interface into AEWA</b> Working with the Standing Committee and building on the work already undertaken in the triennium 2023-2025, with the assistance of the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, and building on the work already undertaken to review AEWA's workflow in the light of science-policy interface models under other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, develop and submit to MOP10 a proposal for improving the science-policy interface within AEWA's processes taking into account the proposed optimisations of the AEWA Action Plan (as per Resolution 9.1) and the draft consolidated resolutions and the draft Strategic Plan 2029-2037 ( <i>Resolution 9.2</i> ).	High	2	-	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Target 5.1	[€25,000]

<b>Theme 6: Education and information</b>					
<b>Task</b>	<b>Priority for delivery</b>	<b>Category of task</b>	<b>Collaboration with other organisations</b>	<b>Supports Strategic Plan Objective/Target:</b>	<b>Provisional estimated cost (€)</b>
<b>6.1. Communication Strategy implementation</b> Provide advice and prioritisation on the ongoing implementation of the Communication Strategy ( <i>Resolution 6.10</i> ) ( <i>carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018</i> ).	Other Rolling	2	-	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> All objectives	-
<b>6.2. Compilation of an AEWA CEPA implementation plan</b> Working with the Standing Committee, produce a CEPA work plan alongside the draft Strategic Plan (2029-2037); the CEPA work plan should be a key part of putting the Strategic Plan into action and helping to achieve its goals ( <i>Resolution 9.6</i> ).	Essential	2	Linked to task 8.1	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> All objectives	[€30,000]

<p><b>6.3. Development of a CEPA Approach</b> Consult the Secretariat on the development of a CEPA Approach in line with Article III, paragraph 2 and Article VIII, paragraphs (c, d, e and j), which will support AEWa implementation and aid Contracting Parties, the Secretariat, non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, and other stakeholders to develop and carry out CEPA activities that encourage people to take action for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats across the African-Eurasian Flyways (<i>Resolution 9.6</i>).</p>	Other	2	-	-	[€30,000]
<p><b>6.4. Collation of successful CEPA case studies</b> Collate evidence on effectiveness, and good-practice case studies of successful CEPA interventions conducted by Contracting Parties and other relevant actors within the African-Eurasian Flyways (<i>Resolution 9.6</i>).</p>	Other	5	-	-	-
<p><b>6.5. Synergies with CEPA programmes of other MEAs and Flyway Initiatives</b> Link and promote synergies with the CEPA programmes of other MEAs and Flyway Initiatives, and with equivalent programmes and initiatives of other governmental and non-governmental bodies at international, (regional, national and local) levels (<i>Resolution 9.6</i>)</p>	Other	2	-	-	-

<b>Theme 7: Implementation</b>					
<b>Task</b>	<b>Priority for delivery</b>	<b>Category of task</b>	<b>Collaboration with other organisations</b>	<b>Supports Strategic Plan Objective/Target:</b>	<b>Provisional estimated cost (€)</b>
<p><b>7.1. Conservation Status Review 10</b> Guide the process of preparation of Conservation Status Review 10 (AEWA Action Plan paragraph 7.4a) while taking into account reporting needs on the AEWa Strategic Plan 2019-2027 (<i>AEWA Annex 3, paragraph 7.4</i>).</p>	Essential	2, 5	Wetlands International and its Specialist Groups  Linked to tasks 1.2 and 1.3	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objectives 1,2 & 5	[€100,000]
<p><b>7.2. Other international reviews</b> Guide the process of preparation of a) review (of gaps) of information from surveys (Action Plan 7.4b) – never compiled so far; b) review of the network of sites, their protection status and management measures taken (Action Plan 7.4c) – never compiled so far; c) updated review of pertinent hunting and trade legislation (Action Plan 7.4d) – last produced for MOP4 in 2008, next one was due for MOP7 in 2018; d) updated review of the preparation and implementation of Single Species Action Plans</p>	Essential	2, 5	Task 7.2b is linked to task 3.2	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> All objectives	[€200,000]

<p>(Action Plan 7.4e) – last produced for MOP6 in 2015, next one was due for MOP8 in 2021; partial review delivered as part of CSR9 in 2025; e) updated review of re-establishment projects (Action Plan 7.4f) – last produced for MOP4 in 2008, next was due for MOP7 in 2018; an extended chapter of the Analysis of National Reports to MOP8 in 2022 on re-establishments was compiled instead of a full review; and f) the status of introduced non-native waterbird species and hybrids thereof (Action Plan 7.4g) – last produced for MOP4 in 2008, next was due for MOP6 in 2015 when a short update was produced; an extended chapter of the Analysis of National Reports to MOP8 in 2022 on non-native species was compiled instead of a full review. (<i>AEWA Annex 3, paragraph 7.4</i>).</p>					
<p><b>7.3. Revision and update of Conservation Guidelines and guides to guidance</b> Implement its rolling programme to revise and update existing conservation guidelines and guides to guidance. Review AEWA Conservation Guidelines (CG) nos. 3 and, 8<sup>3</sup> to ensure they continue to reflect best conservation practice. Update the Guide to Guidance to Reduce the Impact of Fisheries on AEWA Seabird Species (document AEWA/MOP7.30) as new solutions and guidance become available, for submission to MOP10.</p> <p>Undertake any necessary updates or revision and reformat in the context of the CG format agreed by 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee Submit any revised CGs to MOP10 (<i>Resolutions 6.5; 7.6; 7.8 and 9.4</i>)</p>	High	1	Wetlands International, BirdLife International, European Goose Management Platform, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), European Commission, Regional Fisheries Management Organisations	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> All objectives	[€40,000] 2 x [€20,000]
<p><b>7.4. Guidance in support of Strategic Plan implementation</b> Work with the Standing Committee to compile, in conjunction with the development of the draft Strategic Plan 2029-2037, guidance on relevant overarching and cross-cutting issues to be identified with respect to the Strategic Plan implementation, such as the interaction of livelihoods with the conservation of waterbirds and their habitats, while considering the applicability for AEWA of existing guidance and other relevant material already compiled and available under other relevant frameworks (<i>Resolution 9.2</i>).</p>	Essential	1	Linked to task 8.1	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> All objectives	[€20,000]
<p><b>7.5. Information supplementary to Conservation Guidelines</b> Proactively research for relevant information supplementary to Conservation Guidelines and disseminate it to the Contracting Parties following the concept approved by the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee (<i>Resolution 8.8</i>).</p>	Other Rolling	5	-	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> All objectives	-

<sup>3</sup> Guidelines = 3. Preparation of Site Inventories; and 8. Reducing Crop Damage, Damage to Fisheries, Bird Strikes and other Forms of Conflict.

<p><b>7.6. Other international guidance relevant to AEW A</b> Review, contribute to (as appropriate) and disseminate to Parties and others, relevant guidance from other multilateral fora on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spatial planning;</li> <li>- Habitat restoration;</li> <li>- Addressing air- and water-borne nutrient pollution;</li> <li>- Agricultural sustainability;</li> <li>- Mainstreaming biodiversity requirements into other policies;</li> <li>- Provision of suitable information to decision makers.</li> </ul> <p>(Resolution 8.8)</p>	Rolling	2, 5	Other multilateral environment agreements and international actors	-	-
<p><b>7.7. Register of conservation interventions</b> Consider how information in national reports concerning conservation interventions may best be synthesised so as to build over time, a simple searchable register of shared experience which will support actions by Parties and others (Resolutions 8.7).</p>	Other	5	-	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> All objectives	-
<p><b>7.8. Guidance on addressing impacts of offshore wind farms and associated vessel traffic</b> Produce guidance to Parties to assist in addressing impacts of offshore wind farms and associated vessel traffic, to include: (1) review of existing work on cumulative effects assessment of OSPAR's Intersessional Correspondence Groups on Offshore Renewable Energy Development (ICG-ORED) of relevance to the Agreement Area and species; (2) collation of existing work on avoidance, mitigation and compensation measures including the application of the ecosystem-based approach in Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in line with the HELCOM-VASAB guidelines; (3) provision of a summary of gaps in information with respect to the Agreement Area and AEW A priority species and their interactions with offshore wind farms (Resolution 9.4).</p>	Other	1, 5	OSPAR, HELCOM	-	[€100,000]

Theme 8: Strategic, reporting, emerging and other issues					
Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Collaboration with other organisations	Supports Strategic Plan Objective/Target:	Provisional estimated cost (€)
<p><b>8.1 Development of the Strategic Plan 2029-2037</b> Work with the Standing Committee to develop, building on the current Strategic Plan, a draft Strategic Plan for the period 2029-2037 for consideration and adoption by MOP10 (<i>Resolution 9.2</i>).</p>	Essential	2	Linked to tasks 1.5, 1.6, 6.2, 7.4 and 8.2	-	No direct costs, possible T&S need for participating in meetings of the Strategic Plan Working Group
<p><b>8.2. National Reports</b> Revise, amend and enhance the national report format for 2025-2027 and make the necessary adjustments following MOP9, including propose enhancements to the questions on seabirds taking into account the refined priorities in Resolution 9.4 and the recommendations of document AEWA/MOP9.24 Rev.1 (<i>Resolutions 7.1 and 9.4</i>).</p> <p>Compile a guidance for national respondents in advance of the launch of the national report module on population status 2019-2024 (<i>Resolution 9.2</i>).</p> <p>Prepare the draft format of the general national report module for MOP11 (2028-2030) to be submitted for consideration by MOP10, which format shall be aligned with the draft Strategic Plan 2029-2037, as well as any other modules for submission to MOP11 (<i>Resolution 9.2</i>).</p>	Essential	2	Linked to tasks 8.1 and 8.3	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> All objectives	-
<p><b>8.3. Monitoring of implementation of the Strategic Plan (2019-2027)</b> Undertake work to improve the assessment of the Strategic Plan (plan for the assessment of the 22 postponed target-level indicators and the other target-levels indicators where need of additional or improved data has been identified, as well as purpose-level indicator P4) (<i>Resolution 8.3</i>) (<i>carried over from Work Plan 2023-2025</i>).</p>	Essential	2	Linked to task 8.2	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> All objectives	-
<p><b>8.4. Harmonisation of reporting</b> Continue to promote synchronised timing and other synergies with the reporting cycles of CMS, Ramsar, EU Birds Directive (Article 12) and others as opportunities permit, in particular with respect to reporting on the status of species/populations (<i>carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018</i>).</p>	High Rolling	2	CMS Secretariat and Scientific Council; Ramsar Secretariat and STRP; European Commission and others	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objective 5	-

<p><b>8.5. AEWA's contribution to relevant global frameworks</b>  Prepare an assessment of AEWA's contribution to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework for MOP10 based on document AEWA/MOP8.36 as finalised by the Standing Committee in 2023. Compile concise triennial summaries of AEWA's contributions to the relevant global frameworks, i.e. SDGs, Strategic Plan for Migratory Species, etc, that can be used by Parties, StC and TC members, and the Secretariat to highlight at national and international levels the role of AEWA, particularly with the view of promoting the relevance of AEWA amongst development and aid agencies (<i>Strategic Plan 2019-2027</i>).</p>	Essential Rolling	2	-	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Target 5.4	[€30,000]
<p><b>8.6. Emerging diseases</b>  Continue to participate in the CMS Working Group on Migratory Species and Health (<i>carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018</i>).</p>	High Rolling	2	CMS Scientific Council, FAO, Ramsar STRP, World Organisation for Animal Health and others	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Objectives 1 & 5	No direct costs, possible T&S need for meetings [€2,000]
<p><b>8.7. Implementation</b>  On request, assist Parties with implementation of the Agreement including review of possible Implementation Review Process (IRP) cases and possible participation in IRP missions, as well as other advisory services, as needed (<i>Strategic Plan 2019-2027</i>).</p>	High Rolling	2	Contracting Parties	<b>Strategic Plan:</b> Targets 2.2 and 3.5	[€30,000] per IRP case
<p><b>8.8 Implementation Review Process (IRP) modus operandi and an AEWA compliance framework</b>  Provide input to the Standing Committee on the development of a comprehensive <i>modus operandi</i> for the IRP and a proposal for a broader framework that will support Parties in complying with AEWA while taking into account the current capacity limitations of the Secretariat, to be submitted for consideration and adoption at MOP10 (<i>Resolution 9.2</i>).</p>	Essential	2	-	-	-
<p><b>8.9 Modified/alternative/supplementary funding mechanism to SGF</b>  Consult the Standing Committee on the development of a modified or alternative/supplementary mechanism to the Small Grant Fund for funding AEWA relevant projects for eligible Parties, building on the conclusions in document AEWA/MOP9 Inf.7 and employing efficient and effective operational modality for consideration and adoption at MOP10 while taking into account the limitations and restricted capacity of the Secretariat to operate such a funding mechanism (<i>Resolution 9.2</i>).</p>	Essential	2	-	-	-