AEWA/StC29/Doc.12
Agenda items 10a-e
22 July 2026

29th MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
26-27 August 2026, Virtual Meeting Format

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Prepared by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and the Administrative and Fund Management Unit (AFMU)

Introduction

At the 9th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA (MOP9) in November 2025, the core budget for 2026-2028 was adopted through Resolution 9.9.

At MOP9 the Secretariat reported on financial and administrative matters for the period 1 January 2025 - 8 October 2025, including a projection of expenditures for the period 9 October - 31 December 2025.

The current report presents an overview of the Secretariat's organisation and staffing, followed by a summary of income and expenditure for the period from 1 January - 30 June 2026 and a projection of expenditure until the end of 2026. To complement the financial report presented at MOP9, this report also includes the final expenditure figures for 2025 following the closure of the 2025 accounts, as well as a final overview of the voluntary contributions received during 2025.

Action Requested from the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee is requested to take note of the information provided in the report and provide comments and guidance, as appropriate.

1. Organisation and Staffing of the Secretariat (January - June 2026)

1.1 Organisation of the Secretariat

The Secretariat is organised into four units covering four broad areas of work, as presented in Annex I (UNEP/AEWA Secretariat Structure and Staff Composition). Following the appointment of the Chief Programmatic Officer as Acting Executive Secretary, effective 7 January 2026, the Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit (SICU) and the African Initiative Unit (AIU) have been managed by the Species Officer. The Secretariat operates as an integrated team, with individual staff members and units collaborating closely and interacting on a daily basis to address cross-cutting issues. It should also be noted that the AEWA Communication Unit forms part of the joint Information Management, Communication and Awareness-raising (IMCA) Unit, which is co-funded and co-managed by the Executive Secretaries of AEWA and CMS.

It is important to note that the Secretariat's current level of mandate delivery has only been possible through the temporary extension of several part-time positions funded by voluntary contributions, as well as the engagement of additional staff whose positions are fully financed through voluntary contributions.

1.2 Staffing of the Secretariat

As at 30 June 2026, the Secretariat has eleven staff members: six Professional (P) staff and five General Service (G) staff. Following the appointment of the Chief Programmatic Officer as Acting Executive Secretary, the Chief Programmatic Officer position has remained vacant, resulting in savings under the core budget.

The core budget, as adopted at MOP9 in November 2025, funds 8.35 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. Additional funding is required to cover the remaining staff capacity of 1.85 FTE (amounting in total to 10.2 FTE), as well as the difference between the budgeted and actual staff costs.

Table 1 below provides an overview of the Secretariat's current staffing, including the post occupancy status of each post (actual and as approved by MOP9), and the gaps for which funding is required to maintain each position at the actual post occupancy at real cost rates, or where savings are generated. In addition to the additional funding required to increase the occupancy of part-time positions, all positions but one are currently also generally underbudgeted. This is particularly the case for the General Service category, which has been subject to two salary increases, effective from 01 December 2024 and 01 December 2025, respectively. The corresponding retrospective payments were made in January and February 2026.

1.2.1 Staff partly dependent on voluntary contributions

Five of the 12 staff positions approved under Resolution 9.9 are established as part-time positions. Since 1 March 2026, the Administrative Assistant and the Programme Management Assistant (Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit - SICU) have each been working at 80 per cent for the Secretariat, with the remaining 20 per cent of their time allocated to supporting the Aquatic Species Team at the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species. This arrangement, currently envisaged to remain in place until the end of February 2028, enables the Secretariat to keep expenditures within the approved budget for the position of the Administrative Assistant and to reduce the exceeding costs for the Programme Management Assistant (SICU). Thanks to voluntary contributions received from Croatia, the European Commission, the Netherlands and Norway, the Secretariat has been able to maintain all other part-time positions at full-time level since 1 January 2026, with the exception of the Programme Management Assistant (African Initiative), who works at 80 per cent, and the Information Assistant, who has been financed at 50%/ 20% by CMS in the frame of the IMCA team arrangement.

1.2.2 Staff fully dependent on voluntary contributions

The AEWA European Goose Management Platform (EGMP) is managed by the Secretariat through one full-time P-2 Coordinator and one full-time G-5 Programme Management Assistant. The two positions are financially secured until December 2026. The annual meeting of the AEWA European Goose Management International Working Group in June 2026 adopted the annual budget for 2027 with a budget increase of 17,5%.

Table 1. *AEWA Secretariat staffing table.*

No.	Post Title	Approved post occupancy for 2026-2028 (MOP9)	Actual post occupancy as at 30 June 2026	Funding gaps/savings
1	(Acting) Executive Secretary	100%	100%	Generating savings
2	Chief Programmatic Officer	100%	Vacant	Generating savings
3	Information Officer (IMCA Unit)	100%	100%	Fill gap approved vs. actual cost
4	Executive Management Support Officer	100%	100%	Fill gap approved vs. actual cost
5	Coordinator for the African Initiative (AI)	85%	100%	15% post occupancy discrepancy + Fill gap approved vs. actual cost
6	Species Officer	70% (P-2)	100% (P-3)	30% post occupancy discrepancy + complement to P-3 real cost
7	Administrative Assistant	100%	80%	-
8	Programme Management Assistant (SICU)	80%	80%	Fill gap approved vs. actual cost
9	Information Assistant (IMCA Unit)	50%	80%	30% post occupancy discrepancy + Fill gap approved vs. actual cost
10	Programme Management Assistant (AI)	50%	80%	30% post occupancy discrepancy + Fill gap approved vs. actual cost
11	Coordinator for the European Goose Management Platform (EGMP)	-	100%	-
12	Programme Management Assistant (EGMP)	-	100%	-
	Total	**8.35 FTE**	**10.2 FTE**	

2. Core Budget (AWL) - Overview of Income and Expenditure

2.1 Income

The assessed contributions 2026-2028 approved by MOP9 through Resolution 9.9. amount to **3,853,587 EUR**. Paragraph 9 of the same resolution "appeals to the collective and individual political responsibility of the Parties and requests them to pay their annual contributions promptly as far as possible, preferably by the end of January but not later than the end of March of the year in which they relate to ensure the liquidity of the Trust Fund". Paragraph 10, furthermore, "strongly urges Parties who are in arrears to take full ownership of the Agreement and to pay their outstanding contributions as soon as possible and as a matter of urgency to enable the Secretariat to carry out its mandate and mission and to ensure the financial sustainability and implementation of the Agreement". Finally, Paragraph 11 "requests Parties, in particular those that are required to pay the minimum contribution, to pay for the whole triennium in one instalment, if national rules and procedures allow it, and to do so as early as possible, preferably by the end of January but not later than the end of March 2026".

Annex II to this document summarises the status of the collection of annual assessed contributions from Parties as at 30 June 2026. Outstanding assessed contributions are still at EUR 1,029,955, comprising EUR 608,700 for 2025 and previous years and EUR 421,255 for 2026. Advance payments for future years amount to EUR 80,362.

In light of the shorter payment deadline introduced under Resolution 9.9, the Secretariat has intensified its efforts to remind and support Parties with the payments of contributions. The Secretariat has collected 55,3% of the contributions for 2026 by the deadline of 31 March 2026 and **67,6%** as at 30 June 2026[1]. In addition, since 1 January 2026 the Secretariat has collected 15,7% of the total arrears for 2025 and previous years. However, seven[2] of the 85 Parties have not made any payment since their accession, and the Secretariat continues to engage actively with these and other Parties with contributions in arrears to encourage the settlement of their outstanding dues.

2.2 Expenditures (01 January 2025 - 31 December 2025)

Annex III presents the final expenditure for 2025 following the closure of the 2025 accounts. The approved budget for 2025 reflects the budget adopted by the Contracting Parties through Resolution 8.12.

The overall budget closed with a positive balance of 15,666 EUR, although staff costs under both the Professional (P) and General Service (G) budget lines exceeded the approved budget by 112,607 EUR in total. This significant over-expenditure was primarily due to the retroactive salary payments made to General Service staff in January 2026 following the completion of a United Nations comprehensive salary survey conducted in 2024. It also reflected the fact that salary costs had been generally under budgeted in the approved budget.

The staff cost deficit was partially offset by the suspension of non-staff expenditures from mid-October 2025 onwards in response to the liquidity crisis affecting the Trust Fund reserve in the second half of 2025.[3] Consequently, several MOP-related budget lines remained unspent, generating savings that compensated for the staff cost overrun and enabled the overall budget to close with a positive balance.

The Secretariat was able to cope with the suspension of expenditures on the MOP-related budget lines[4] thanks to voluntary contributions received from the governments of Croatia, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and UK towards the organisation of MOP9, and due to the fact that the meeting was held on the United Nations Campus in Bonn, where meeting facilities and support are provided at minimal cost thanks to the host country arrangements for the Secretariat with the Government of Germany.

[1] 34 of the 85 Contracting Parties have paid their dues for 2026 by 30 June 2026.

[2] Update as at 8 July 2026: 7 Parties. Cameroon has paid for 2023-2025 which decreases the number of Parties not having paid since their accession by one.

[3] For background information please read: https://www.unep-aewa.org/news/2025019-aewa-trust-fund-liquidity-crisis

[4] These savings were *inter alia* achieved by suspending the translation of selected MOP9 documents and the meeting report.

2.3 Expenditures (01 January 2026 - 30 June 2026)

Annex IV presents an interim report on the implementation of the 2026 budget as at 30 June 2026. As in the previous year, higher real staff costs, particularly within the General Service category due to the recent increases, are expected to result in over-expenditure under this budget line by the end of the year. At the same time, the Secretariat has generated savings under the Professional staff budget line through voluntary contributions received from Croatia, the European Union, the Netherlands and Norway. At the time of writing, the Secretariat is expecting to be able to cover through additional voluntary funding large parts of the projected staffing costs for 1 July - 31 December 2026. As a result, the overall budget is expected to be closed with a higher positive balance than the currently indicated, providing that staffing costs do not increase further.

2.4 Trust Fund operating reserve and cash balance

In accordance with Resolution 9.9, the operating reserve constitutes the working capital that must be maintained at a level of at least 30 per cent of the average estimated annual expenditure for the 2026-2028 triennium, or EUR 300,000, whichever is higher. Consequently, the operating reserve for the current triennium is EUR 385,359, representing 30% of the average annual expenditure under the full approved triennial budget. As at 30 June 2026, the cash balance of the Trust Fund amounted to **USD 896,796**.

The Secretariat wishes to note that this figure is subject to regular accounting adjustments and, as such, it only reflects the financial position as at the reporting date.

3. Voluntary Contributions (AVL) - Overview of collections 1 January 2025 - 30 June 2026

In addition to the annual assessed contributions paid by Parties to the AEWA core budget (AWL), the Secretariat received voluntary contributions from a range of governments to support specific, earmarked activities. These contributions are administered through the separate AVL Trust Fund.

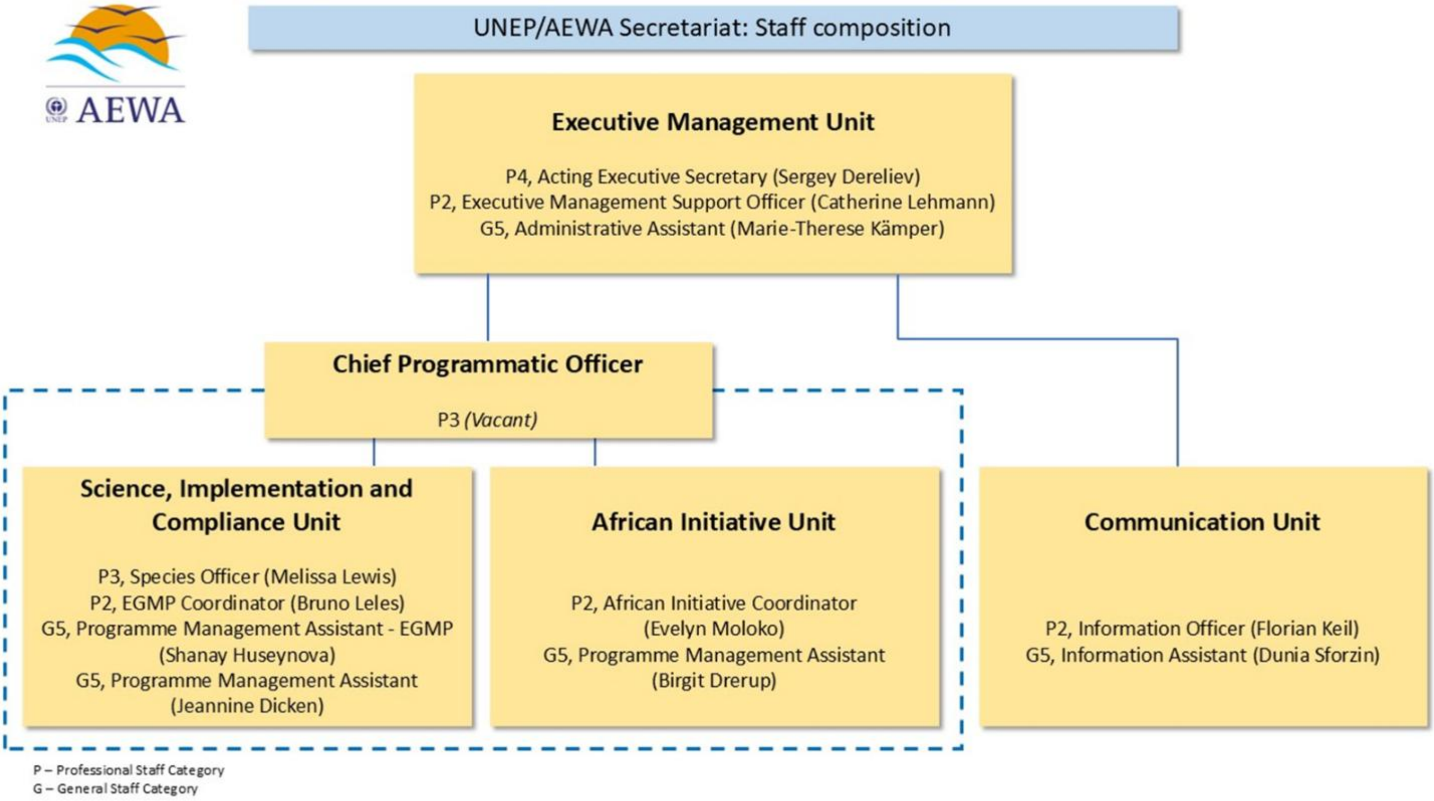
Annexes V and VI provide summaries of the voluntary contributions to the AVL Trust Fund in 2025 and 2026, respectively. The total value of pledged voluntary contributions amounted to **EUR 357,353** in 2025 (Annex V) and **EUR 205,698** for contributions expected to be received in 2026 (Annex VI).

These voluntary contributions have supported the organisation of the MOP9 preparatory meeting for African Parties as well as MOP9, the implementation of MOP9 follow-up activities, and the funding of the Species Officer position. The Secretariat wishes to express its sincere appreciation to all governments that have provided voluntary contributions in support of AEWA’s work.

Finally, in addition to the EU contribution of **USD 535,000** secured in 2024 through a joint effort with CMS and received under the CMS Voluntary Trust Fund (32MVL), the Secretariat secured a further EU contribution of **USD 535,000** in 2025. The 2024 funding supports activities related to Grey Crowned Crane conservation and the training of Designated National Respondents to complete national reports for submission to MOP10. These activities, which are being implemented through 2028, are funded under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) Programme Cooperation Agreement (PCA III) between the European Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The additional funding secured in 2025 will support activities during the period 2026-2030 under PCA IV, with a focus on advancing the establishment of a foundation for a waterbird harvest data collection framework and strengthening international coordination for the implementation of species action plans.

Annex I: UNEP/AEWA Secretariat Structure and Staff Composition as of 7 January 2026



Annex II: General Trust Fund of the Agreement on the Conservation of African - Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AWL)

Status of Contributions from Contracting Parties as at 30 June 2026 (EUR)

Country	Collections in 2026 for prior years	Collections in 2026 for 2026	Advanced payments for 2027 and beyond	Unpaid pledges 2025 and prior	(Unpaid) Contribution 2026
	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
Albania		2.000			
Algeria					3.954
Armenia		2.000			
Belarus		2.000			
Belgium					30.164
Benin				4.000	2.000
Botswana				4.000	2.000
Bulgaria		2.000			
Burkina Faso				7.327	2.000
Burundi*				22.500	2.000
Cameroon	6.500				2.000
Central African Republic				12.002	2.000
Chad *				28.333	2.000
Congo				34.362	2.000
Cote d'Ivoire					2.000
Croatia		3.319			
Cyprus	12.000	2.000	4.000		
Czech Republic		12.417	24.834		
Denmark		23.558			
Djibouti *				34.470	2.000
Egypt					5.125
Equatorial Guinea				20.000	2.000
Estonia		2.000			
Eswatini		2.000			
Ethiopia		2.000	4.000		
Finland		17.650			
France					153.445
Gabon *				26.167	2.000
Gambia				20.000	2.000
Georgia		2.000			
Germany		213.993			
Ghana				14.000	2.000
Greece					13.075
Guinea				20.000	2.000

Country	Collections in 2026 for prior years	Collections in 2026 for 2026	Advanced payments for 2027 and beyond	Unpaid pledges 2025 and prior	(Unpaid) Contribution 2026
Guinea - Bissau				21.800	2.000
Hungary		8.318			
Iceland	4.000	2.000			
Ireland		16.066	32.132		
Israel	22.000				20.537
Italy		67.778			46.618
Jordan				4.000	2.000
Kenya					2.000
Latvia		2.000			
Lebanon				11.052	2.000
Libya *				68.664	3.815
Lithuania		2.816	5.632		
Luxembourg		2.488			
Madagascar				1.967	2.000
Malawi				8.000	2.000
Mali				26.000	2.000
Mauritania				6.170	2.000
Mauritius	2.000			2.000	2.000
Monaco		2.000			
Montenegro	2.000	2.000			
Morocco					2.000
Netherlands		55.507			
Niger *				34.704	2.000
Nigeria				37.620	6.607
North Macedonia				10.000	2.000
Norway		28.362			
Portugal					12.858
Republic of Moldova	6.000	2.000			
Romania		11.445			
Rwanda				6.000	2.000
Saudi Arabia	46.431				47.865
Senegal				30.000	2.000
Serbia					2.000
Slovakia		5.652			
Slovenia		2.882	5.764		
South Africa	12.179	11.268			
Spain		77.194			
Sudan				6.000	2.000
Sweden		35.880			
Switzerland		41.276			

Country	Collections in 2026 for prior years	Collections in 2026 for 2026	Advanced payments for 2027 and beyond	Unpaid pledges 2025 and prior	(Unpaid) Contribution 2026
Syrian Arab Republic				29.885	2.000
Togo				12.000	2.000
Tunisia				31.694	2.000
Turkmenistan*				10.000	2.000
Uganda		2.000	4.000		
Ukraine					3.192
United Kingdom		164.332			
United Republic of Tanzania	55	2.000			
Uzbekistan					2.000
Zimbabwe				3.983	2.000
European Union		32.113			
Total	**113.165**	**866.314**	**80.362**	**608.700**	**421.255**

*No payment since the accession to the Agreement.

Annex III: Implementation of the Approved AEWA Budget 2025 as at 31 Dec 2025 (EUR)

BL	Budget Item	Approved Budget	Redeployment	Expenditure	Balance
	GENERAL MANAGEMENT				
1107	Professional Staff	733.480	-1.778	746.957	-15.255
1305	General Service Staff	219.052	-1.185	318.182	-100.315
1201	Translators	28.063		6.705	21.358
1601	Official Travel AEWA Staff	24.697		-1.069	25.766
3201	Training of Staff	2.206		106	2.100
4101	Miscellaneous office supplies	4.413		-152	4.565
4201	Office equipment	6.619		5.523	1.096
4301	Rent and maintenance costs	-		-	-
4302	IT service provider	33.253		28.596	4.657
4303	Umoja costs	17.658	2.963	20.621	-
5101	Operation/maintenance of computers, photocopiers & others	5.613		4.041	1.572
5201	Document production (external)	-		-	-
5203	Reference material	-		-	-
5301	Telephone, Fax	5.620		2.951	2.669
5302	Postage and miscellaneous	2.758		567	2.191
5303	Bank charges	110		-	110
	IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN INITIATIVE				
2203	Small Grant Fund Projects in African Countries	-		-	-
2204	Implementation of the African action plan	-		-	-
	SERVICING THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES				
1204	Report Writers	-		-	-
1205	Interpreters	30.445		6.570	23.875
1220	Consultancies for MOP (1 review)	-		-	-
1602	Travel of Staff to the MOP	-		-	-
2201	Organisation of MOP	39.474		-	39.474
5201	Document production (external)	-		-	-
	SERVICING THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE				
1204	Report Writers	-		-	-
1205	Interpreters	-		-	-
3302	Meetings of the TC (travel/dsa/organisational costs)	-		-	-
	SERVICING THE STANDING COMMITTEE				
1204	Report Writers	-		-	-
1205	Interpreters	-		-	-
3303	Meeting of the StC (travel/dsa/organisational costs)	-		-	-
	TOTAL	**1.153.461**		**1.139.598**	**13.863**
	13% PSC	149.950		148.148	1.802
	GRAND TOTAL	**1.303.411**		**1.287.745**	**15.666**

Annex IV: Implementation of the Approved AEWA Budget 2026 as at 30 June 2026 (EUR)

	Budget Item	Approved Budget	Actual Expenditure 1 Jan - 30 Jun 26	Estimated expenditure 1 Jul - 31 Dec 26	Estimated Balance
	GENERAL MANAGEMENT				
1107	Professional Staff	796.459	274.092	429.707	92.660
1305	General Service Staff	228.515	150.347	161.983	-83.815
1201	Translators	-	-	-	-
1601	Official Travel AEWA Staff	10.000	2.576	7.424	-
3201	Training of Staff	-	-	-	-
4101	Miscellaneous office supplies	4.418	-	4.418	-
4201	Office equipment	2.000	-	2.000	-
4301	Rent and maintenance costs	-	-	-	-
4302	IT service provider	33.918	26.253	7.665	-
4303	Umoja costs	25.000	23.278	1.722	-
5101	Operation/maintenance of computers, photocopiers & others	5.613	2.052	3.561	-
5201	Document production (external)	-	-	-	-
5203	Reference material	-	-	-	-
5301	Telephone, Fax	5.620	2.068	3.552	-
5302	Postage and miscellaneous	2.758	216	2.542	-
5303	Bank charges	110	24	86	-
	IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN INITIATIVE				
2203	Small Grant Fund Projects in African Countries	-	-	-	-
2204	Implementation of the African action plan	-	-	-	-
	SERVICING THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES				
1204	Report Writers	-	-	-	-
1205	Interpreters	-	-	-	-
1220	Consultancies for MOP (1 review)	-	-	-	-
1602	Travel of Staff to the MOP	-	-	-	-
2201	Organisation of MOP	-	-	-	-
5201	Document production (external)	-	-	-	-
	SERVICING THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE				
1204	Report Writers	-	-	-	-
1205	Interpreters	-	-	-	-
3302	Meetings of the TC (travel/dsa/organisational costs)	-	-	-	-
	SERVICING THE STANDING COMMITTEE				
1204	Report Writers	-	-	-	-
1205	Interpreters	-	-	-	-
3303	Meeting of the StC (travel/dsa/organisational costs)	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL	**1.114.411**	**480.906**	**624.660**	**8.845**
	13% PSC	144.873	62.518	81.205	1.150
	GRAND TOTAL	**1.259.284**	**543.424**	**705.865**	**9.995**

Annex V: General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions in Respect of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AVL) as at 31 December 2025

	Country	Pledges for 2025		Collection in 2024/2025 for 2025		Collection in 2024/2025 In EUR
		Other Currency	EUR	USD	EUR	EUR
1	Switzerland		76.000		76.000	76.000
2	Netherlands		45.000		45.000	45.000
3	UK	137.000 GBP		177.236		160.753
4	Germany		25.600		25.600	25.600
5	Germany		33.900		33.900	33.900
6	Norway		7.000		7.000	7.000
7	Croatia		3.000		3.000	3.000
8	Norway		10.000		10.000	10.000
	Total	**137.000**	**196.600**	**177.236**	**196.600**	**357.353**

1. CSR9 activities
2. MOP9 logistical preparations
3. pre-MOP logistics and MOP9 funded delegates
4. MOP9 interpretation and report writing
5. MOP9 funded delegates
6. Printing of CSR9
7. MOP9 follow up activities
8. MOP9 follow up activities

Annex VI: General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions in Respect of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AVL) as at 30 June 2026

	Country	Pledges for 2026-2028	Collection in 2026 for 2026
		EUR	**EUR**
1	Netherlands	100.000	50.000
2	Germany	25.600	
3	Switzerland	44.000	
4	Luxembourg	202.939	
	TOTAL	**372.539**	**50.000**

1. Species Officer in 2026/2027 (50,000 EUR per year)
2. Under negotiation
3. Development of AEWA Strategic Plan 2029-2037
4. Transformational optimisation and strategic repositioning of AEWA (86.098 EUR in 2026; 87.907 EUR in 2027 and 28.934 EUR in 2028)