

MOP 7

Proceedings of
the Seventh Session
of the Meeting
of the Parties

4 - 8 December 2018
Durban, South Africa

UNEP / AEWa Secretariat

PROCEEDINGS OF

**THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE
AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN
MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS**

DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA, 4 - 8 DECEMBER 2018

“Beyond 2020: Shaping flyway conservation for the future”

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UN Campus
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1
53113 Bonn, Germany

Tel.: +49 (0)228 815 2413
Fax: +49 (0)228 815 2450
aewa.secretariat@unep-aewa.org
www.unep-aewa.org

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	5
PART I:	
Report of the Seventh Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP7)	9
ANNEX 1: Resolutions Adopted by MOP7.....	36
7.1 Adoption and Implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and Plan of Action for Africa for the Period of 2019-2027.....	37
7.2 AEWA's Contribution to Delivering the Aichi 2020 Biodiversity Targets and the Relevance of the Sustainable Development Goals.....	44
7.3 Adoption of Amendments to the AEWA Annexes	85
7.4 Adoption and Amendments of Definitions and Interpretation of Terms used in the Context of Table 1 of the AEWA Annex 3.....	108
7.5 Adoption, Revision, Retirement, Extension and Implementation of International Species Action and Management Plans.....	110
7.6 Priorities for the Conservation of Seabirds in the African-Eurasian Flyways	115
7.7 Strengthening Monitoring of Migratory Waterbirds	120
7.8 Revision and Adoption of Conservation Guidance	123
7.9 Climate Resilient Flyways	125
7.10 Institutional Arrangements: Standing Committee.....	129
7.11 Institutional Arrangement: Technical Committee.....	132
7.12 Financial and Administrative Matters	152
7.13 Date, Venue and Funding of the 8 th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA.....	166
7.14 Tribute to the Organisers.....	167
ANNEX 2: Recommendation Adopted by MOP7.....	168
7.1 Implementation Review Process.....	169
ANNEX 3: Rules of Procedure	170
ANNEX 4: List of Participants.....	182
ANNEX 5: List of Pre-Session Documents	201

PART II:

Statements (Reproduced in the Form Submitted to the Secretariat).....	205
Statements Made during the Official Opening Ceremony	206
Statements by the Winner of the AEWA Waterbird Conservation Award 2018 in the Institutional Category.....	213
Statement by the Honorary Patron of AEWA (2018).....	215
Statement Made during the Official Closing Ceremony.....	219

FOREWORD

In accordance with Article VI of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, the Agreement Secretariat shall convene ordinary sessions of the Meeting of the Parties, the decision-making organ of the Agreement. The Seventh Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP7) took place on 4 - 8 December 2018 in Durban, South Africa.

The theme of MOP7 was “*Beyond 2020: Shaping flyway conservation for the future*” and the new editions of the Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa that were decided upon at MOP7 are two important contributions that AEWA can make to the post-2020 objectives for biodiversity policy by setting a new course for flyway conservation and highlighting the absolute necessity of maintaining connectivity between breeding and wintering areas.

The proceedings of MOP7 include, *inter alia*, the report of the session, the Resolutions and Recommendation adopted by the Meeting of the Parties, statements made during the opening and closing ceremonies, as well as statements made by the winner of the AEWA Waterbird Conservation Award in the institutional category and the nominated Honorary Patron.

Dr Jacques Trouvilliez
Executive Secretary
UNEP/AEWA Secretariat
Bonn, Germany

PART I

REPORT OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE
MEETING OF THE PARTIES (MOP7)

7th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

4-8 December 2018, Durban, South Africa

“Beyond 2020: Shaping flyway conservation for the future”

REPORT OF THE 7th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES (MOP7) TO THE AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRD AGREEMENT (AEWA), 4-8 DECEMBER 2018, DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting

1. The **Chair of AEWA MOP6** (Bonn, Germany, 2015) **Dr Fernando Spina**, acted as Chair until the Chair and Vice-Chair of MOP7 had been elected. He drew attention to the tasks and opportunities faced by delegates in the coming days, and thanked the Government of South Africa and the Municipality of Durban for hosting the meeting.
2. The **Chair** handed over to the **Director General of the Department of Environmental Affairs of South Africa, Ms Nosipho Ngcaba**, to facilitate the opening ceremony. Ms Ngcaba acknowledged the Secretariats of CMS and AEWA for their role in organizing the meeting, and welcomed all delegates to South Africa. She recalled that the first AEWA MOP had taken place in Cape Town, and expressed the hope that a clear agenda for action during 2019-2027 would emerge from the present meeting.
3. The **Deputy Chair of the Office of the Mayor of Ethekwini Municipality, Councillor M. Madlala, speaking on behalf of the Mayor, Councillor Z. Gumede**, welcomed all participants to the city of Durban. He described AEWA as a collective campaign to protect species whose welfare was very closely linked to that of our own species, and said that the decline of waterbird numbers in Durban Bay should be a call to action.
4. A video message from the **Acting Head of UN Environment, Ms Joyce Msuya**, was screened. She drew particular attention to the climate resilient flyways project, and hoped the principles of conservation, coexistence and communication would guide proceedings during MOP7.
5. The **Chair** read out a statement from the **Executive Secretary of CMS, Mr Bradnee Chambers**, who was unable to participate in MOP7. Mr Chambers thanked the Government of South Africa for its generosity in hosting the meeting, and drew attention to the findings of the 7th edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report that good governance was the most important predictor of healthy waterbird populations. Waterbirds played a crucial role in sustaining healthy wetland systems and livelihoods.
6. The **Executive Secretary of AEWA, Dr Jacques Trouvilliez**, recalled the deep respect for nature shown by Nelson Mandela, and the challenge of Mahatma Gandhi for each individual to act as agents for positive change in the world. MOP7 represented a crucial stage in the development of the Agreement, which would determine what could be achieved in the following ten years through adoption of the Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027.

7. A video showcasing the wonders of KwaZulu-Natal was screened.

8. A keynote address was given by the **Member of the Executive Council (MEC), Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Sihle Zikalala**. He drew attention to the importance of migratory species as indicators of global climate change and habitat degradation. He further emphasized the commitment to nature conservation in South Africa through broad partnerships. He hoped for fruitful deliberations and strong outcomes for the meeting.

AEWA Waterbird Conservation Award Presentation Ceremony (Agenda item 8)

9. The **Secretariat** (Mr Sergey Dereliev, Head of Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit), introduced the Waterbird Conservation Awards ceremony. This was the fifth occasion on which the AEWA Awards had been presented. A call for nominations had been launched in March 2018, with a deadline in early June 2018. The winners had been selected by the Standing Committee at its 13th meeting in July 2018, as follows:

Institutional category:

The **Nature Conservation Sector of the Egyptian Department of the Environment**, represented by Mr Ayman Ahmed.

Individual category:

Mr **Ohad Hatzofe** – Israel.

10. Each of the recipients received an Award Certificate presented by the Chair of the AEWA Standing Committee and a signed waterbird photograph presented by the AEWA Executive Secretary. The recipients made brief remarks thanking all those who had supported the work for which they were being honoured.

11. Mr Dereliev introduced a special award, that of **Honorary Patron of AEWA**, to **Mr David Stroud** (United Kingdom) who would be retiring in 2019. Mr Stroud had served AEWA in many capacities throughout its existence and was more than deserving of this very rare title. There was only one existing Honorary Patron Mr Gerard Boere, and Mr Dereliev read a statement from Mr Boere congratulating Mr Stroud.

Agenda item 2. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

12. The **Chair** referred the meeting to document AEWA/MOP 7.2 *Rules of Procedure* and opened the floor to comments. There being no requests for the floor, the **MOP** adopted the Rules of Procedure by consensus.

Agenda item 3. Election of Officers

13. The **Chair** recalled that, in accordance with Rule 21 of the Rules of Procedure, a Chair and one or more Vice-Chairs were to be elected. He invited nominations from the floor.

14. **Uganda, speaking on behalf of the Africa group**, nominated the Republic of South Africa as Chair of MOP7.

15. **Norway** nominated Uganda to be Vice-Chair.

16. The **MOP** elected by acclamation South Africa as Chair and Uganda as Vice-Chair of MOP7.17. Taking his place on the podium, **the representative of South Africa, Mr Shonisani Munzhedzi, Deputy Director General for Biodiversity and Conservation, Department of Environmental Affairs**, thanked the meeting for its trust in electing him to Chair the week's proceedings.

Agenda item 4. Adoption of the Agenda and Work Programme

18. The **Chair** introduced Documents AEWA/MOP 7.3 *Provisional Agenda* and AEWA/MOP 7.4 Rev.2 *Provisional Annotated Agenda and Meeting Schedule*. He opened the floor to proposals for revisions or additions. There being no such interventions, the meeting adopted the two Documents as presented.

19. The **Secretariat** (Mr Sergey Dereliev, Head of Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit) presented a brief overview of the meeting schedule and the procedure for handling in-session documents, including the electronic submission of statements, interventions and proposed amendments to Draft Resolutions.

20. The **Chair** invited any Party that planned to raise points under Agenda item 30 *Any Other Business*, to make this known by the morning of Wednesday 5 December, so that other Parties and the Secretariat could complete any preparatory work required in good time.

Agenda item 5. Establishment of Credentials Committee and Sessional Committees

21. The **Chair** recalled that establishment of a Credentials Committee was a requirement of Rule 19 of the Rules of Procedure. He invited nominations from the floor and noted that the work of the Committee would be supported by the Secretariat.

22. **Uganda, speaking on behalf of the Africa group**, nominated Algeria and Ghana to serve on the Credentials Committee.

23. The **United Kingdom** and the **Netherlands** indicated their willingness to serve on the Credentials Committee.

24. **The MOP** approved by consensus the establishment of a Credentials Committee composed of Algeria, Ghana, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, with support from the Secretariat (Ms Catherine Lehmann, Executive Management Support Officer).

25. The **Chair** recalled that it was proposed there should be two Sessional Working Groups: one (WG1) dealing with Scientific and Technical matters; the other (WG2) dealing with Financial and Administrative matters. He invited nominations for the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the two Working Groups.

26. **Estonia, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States**, nominated the United Kingdom, represented by Mr David Stroud, as Chair of WG1 on Scientific and Technical matters.

27. **Uganda**, supported by **Iceland** and **Estonia**, nominated Norway, represented by Mr. Øystein Størkersen, as Chair of WG2 on Financial and Administrative matters.

28. **Uganda** nominated Ethiopia as Vice-Chair of WG1 on Scientific and Technical matters and Kenya as Vice-Chair of WG2 on Financial and Administrative matters.

29. The **MOP** approved by acclamation the nominations for the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the two Working Groups.

Agenda item 6. Admission of Observers

30. The **Chair** introduced Document AEWA/MOP 7.5 Rev.1 *Admission of Observers*. He noted that this listed non-Party Range States, intergovernmental organizations, international NGOs, national NGOs and other observers. He invited interventions from the floor.

31. There being no such interventions, and in accordance with Rules 6 and 7 of the Rules of Procedure, **the MOP** decided by consensus to admit as Observers all those countries and organisations listed in document AEWA/MOP 7.5 Rev.1.

Agenda item 7. Opening Statements

32. The **Chair** noted that written opening statements from Contracting Parties, intergovernmental organisations and non-governmental organisations would appear in the proceedings of the meeting. He invited a representative of the Africa group and a representative of the EU to present brief opening remarks.

33. The representative of **Uganda, speaking on behalf of the Africa group**, made the following statement:

“On behalf of the Africa Contracting Parties to AEWA, I wish to congratulate the people and Government of the Republic of South Africa on hosting AEWA MOP7 in this beautiful city of Durban. I congratulate you MOP7 Chair, upon your election.

Since the MOP is being held in the Africa Region, I wish to welcome the rest of the AEWA Regions to beautiful Africa.

Africa looks at MOP7 with optimism that this MOP will indeed shape flyway conservation for the future. As the world looks at striking a new deal for nature beyond 2020, we should in this meeting strike a new deal for migratory waterbirds that will be part of the global new deal for nature.

The Africa region remains committed to the tenets and objectives of AEWA and to that end calls upon all Parties to work towards maintaining migratory waterbirds in a favourable conservation status. To this end, we call upon all Parties to support approval and financing of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa, which is a blueprint for waterbird conservation in Africa.

As we move towards adopting the new deal for migratory water birds in the form of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, we need to commit reasonable resources to support implementation.

We know that the economic situation globally may not be the best. However, losing migratory waterbirds may actually worsen the economic situation since these are a source of livelihoods and in some cases source of direct economic development.

The 7th edition of the Conservation Status Review indicates a mixed positive and negative performance. What is clear, however, is that we can achieve a net positive conservation outcome if we strive for waterbirds within the framework of AEWA.

The region looks forward to meaningful engagements throughout MOP7, with the aim of making a positive difference in the conservation status of migratory waterbirds.”

34. Estonia, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, made the following statement:

“In this meeting, Estonia, as an acting Presidency of the Council of the European Union on behalf of Austria, has the honour to be speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

We wish to express our gratitude to the Government of South Africa for its generosity and hospitality in hosting this meeting and for the very warm welcome we have all received from the local authorities and the people of Durban.

The slogan of the meeting is “Beyond 2020: shaping flyway conservation for the future”. It reflects beautifully a central objective of the meeting – the approval of the new Strategic Plan for 2019 to 2027.

The EU is committed to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and has strong dedicated legislation – the EU Birds Directive – providing for their conservation and sustainable use in its Member States. However, AEWA is a critically important instrument for us in the EU to strengthen collaboration along the flyways, including with our African partners, for our shared heritage of waterbirds, and we therefore welcome in particular the new Action Plan for Africa.

AEWA MOP7 here in Durban will give an important input to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework through these strategic documents. We look forward to working with all Parties on an ambitious but realistic and achievable follow-up to the current Strategic Plan, taking into account the lessons learnt from the previous period. This decision should provide for making real progress towards achieving the objectives of our Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as strong commitments of Parties and all other relevant stakeholders to spur its implementation. Through such action we will significantly advance the conservation and restoration of biodiversity and the vital life-support services it provides. As 2020 is just around the corner we need to make every effort to achieve our agreed goals. The EU and its Member States are fully committed to this process.

The EU and its Member States welcome the work that has been carried out on the International Single Species Action and Management Plans. These will provide an important framework for the conservation of key migratory waterbird species and the habitats that they depend upon throughout their annual migration cycles.

We look forward to working with other Contracting Parties and different stakeholder groups in order to make significant progress on the conservation of migratory waterbirds.

Finally, we would like to extend our thanks and congratulations to the Secretariat, the Technical Committee and the Standing Committee for all their work in preparing for this MOP. We are looking forward to engaging actively and constructively in the discussions over the coming days to ensure that this 7th Meeting of the Parties is a success that delivers tangible results. The agenda for this MOP provides a real opportunity for a meaningful and successful outcome. It is in our hands to achieve this goal.”

Agenda item 8. AEWA Waterbird Conservation Award Presentation Ceremony

35. This Agenda item was incorporated into the opening ceremony.

Agenda item 9. Reports

a. Standing Committee

36. The **Chair of the Standing Committee, Uganda, represented by Mr Barirega Akankwasah**, presented Document AEWA/MOP 7.6 *Report of the Standing Committee* which had only very recently been uploaded to the MOP7 website.

37. The **Chair** opened the floor for comments or questions.

38. **Norway** was concerned by the late availability of Document AEWA/MOP 7.6 and called for strict adherence in future to the Rules of Procedure concerning the circulation of MOP documents to Parties.

b. Technical Committee

39. The **Chair of the Technical Committee**, Dr Saulius Svazas, presented Document UNEP/AEWA/MOP 7.7 Rev.1 *Report of the Technical Committee* which outlined the Committee's activities in the triennium since MOP6.

40. **Israel**, supported by **Norway**, thanked the Chair and members of the Technical Committee (TC) for their efforts. It was difficult to believe that such a small group could produce such an extensive and high-quality body of work.

41. The **Chair of the TC** stressed that the 20 MOP7 Documents and 8 Draft Resolutions resulting from the TC's work would be evaluated and finalised over the coming days.

42. **South Africa** asked whether there was a linkage between the TC and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

43. The **Secretariat** (Mr Sergey Dereliev, Head of Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit) clarified that AEWA provided input to the IPBES process through the CMS Family in a coordinated manner. The Chair of the CMS Scientific Council had direct input through the work of the Secretariat in Bonn.

c. Depositary

44. The **Netherlands** introduced Document UNEP/AEWA/MOP 7.8 *Report of the Depositary*.

45. The **MOP** took note of the report; there were no questions or comments from the floor.

d. Secretariat

46. The **Executive Secretary** presented document AEWA/MOP 7.9 Corr. 1 *Report of the Secretariat* covering the activities of the Secretariat since MOP6.

47. The **MOP** took note of the report.

48. **South Africa** remarked that much had been achieved, but much still needed to be done due to the constraints of human resources and heavy reliance on voluntary funds. It would be important to know what plans were in place to ensure stability of human and financial resources in future.

49. The **Executive Secretary** expressed pride in his dedicated staff, but warned that a limit was being reached in terms of the Secretariat's capacity. Additional activities had been permitted by increases in voluntary contributions; everything appeared to be growing except the core budget. He would be insisting on the need for an increase in the budget during discussion under item 25 later in the agenda.

50. **Norway** drew attention to the new format of the report from the Secretariat, and suggested that when such changes were made to the format of documents, they should be circulated for comment.

51. The **Executive Secretary** thanked Norway for highlighting the more appealing nature of the report. The Standing Committee had agreed on the need for this, and the report would now be more suited to posting on the website for a more general audience, and also to use for fundraising to attract potential donors. UNEP was increasing its engagement with the private sector, and this report represented a first attempt to facilitate this for AEWA.

e. UNEP

52. **The representative of UNEP** gave a report on the activities of UNEP in relation to AEWA in the preceding triennium.

53. The **MOP** took note of the report; there were no questions or comments from the floor.

Agenda item 10. Report on the Implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009 – 2018

54. The **Secretariat** (Mr Sergey Dereliev, Head of Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit) presented Document AEWA/MOP 7.10 *Final Report on the Implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2018*.

55. **Estonia, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States** made the following statement:

“The EU and its Member States welcome the effort made by the Secretariat to compile the data for the Strategic Plan that is showing that efforts need to be intensified in order to reach the goals laid out in the Action Plan.

The EU and its Member States welcome the progress made during the last nine years, in particular in terms of capacity building and awareness raising. However, we are concerned by the fact that the goal of the 2009-2018 AEWA Strategic Plan has been assessed as highly insufficiently achieved.

Going forward, the EU and its Member States consider that a key focus of the 2019-2027 Strategic Action Plan should be actions that will directly address the drivers of decline of species in unfavourable conservation status.”

56. **South Africa** observed that the report would provide useful guidance for the 2019-2027 Strategic Plan. Implementation of the future Strategic Plan would require increased resources and cooperation to allow successful implementation.

57. The representative of **Ethiopia** asked what specific lessons had been learned in the process of implementing the Strategic Plan. He then compared the level of implementation of AEWA targets with those achieved under the Aichi Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which, at over 50 per cent were considerably higher, and asked for the reason for this discrepancy.

58. **Mr Dereliev** responded that the lessons learned were included in the report. There was an extensive list of recommendations concerning areas where more effort was needed. All lessons learned had been applied in the process of developing the new Strategic Plan.

59. Regarding the discrepancy between the level of implementation of the Aichi Targets and AEWA targets, one explanation was that the Aichi Targets were very broad in scope, whilst AEWA was very much more specific. The quality of national reporting had a major impact on the level of assessment possible, and this needed to be addressed during the period of the next Strategic Plan.

60. **OMPO** acknowledged the Secretariat for presenting an impressive report but regretted that it had not been available in time in French.

61. **Mr Dereliev** also regretted this omission; it was a matter of capacity and resources. These were the realities and the Secretariat was constantly striving to do as much as it could.

62. At the invitation of the Chair, **Mr David Stroud** briefly presented Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP DR2 Rev.1 *AEWA's contribution to delivering the Aichi 2020 Biodiversity Targets and the relevance of the Sustainable Development Goals*.

63. **South Africa** raised the issue of the alignment or incorporation of the SDGs and Aichi Biodiversity Targets into the activities of AEWA. It was unfortunate that the previous Strategic Plan had been adopted prior to the adoption of both the Aichi Targets and the SDGs, and it looked as if the next Strategic Plan would be adopted before the post-2020 global framework for biodiversity had been agreed. There was a danger of reduced relevance in the absence of alignment with such global frameworks.

64. The **Chair** noted the relevance of this issue to Agenda item 15.

65. **Estonia, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States**, made the following statement:

“The EU and its Member States recognize the work done by the Technical and Standing Committees, and welcome the adoption of the Resolution as an important contribution to delivering the Aichi 2020 biodiversity targets.

The EU and its Member States would also like to stress that targets set by the Action Plan should primarily focus on declining waterbird populations.

Two actions of France concerning AEWA's contributions in the triennium 2016-2018 should be added to Annex 2, as follows:

Amendments:

Annex 2: page 29, target 14, column "AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2016-2018": *Inception of the implementation of FAO / FFEM / EU RESSOURCE project in Sahel and Nile Valley wetlands*; and on page 32, target 19, "AEWA's past contribution (1999-2015)" column: CSN Tool, Flyway Training Kit *and ONCFS quadrilingual CR-Rom* published.”

66. **Norway** echoed the statement of colleagues from the EU. It was important to focus on the mandate of AEWA, which could consider matters related to different species in detail. When these related to training and

capacity building, there were a number of international activities that would comprise major inputs to capacity building.

67. **Mr Stroud** responded to the intervention of South Africa by agreeing that it was unfortunate that the timetables of different international processes were rarely perfectly aligned. The Draft Resolution in question was forward looking, particularly in Annexes 2 and 3, which matched AEWA with the SDGs.

Agenda item 11 Report on the Implementation of the African Initiative and the Plan of Action for Africa 2012 – 2018

68. The **Secretariat** (Ms Evelyn Moloko, Coordinator for the African Initiative) presented document AEWA/MOP 7.11 *Report on the Implementation of the AEWA African Initiative and AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2018*.

69. The **Executive Secretary** recalled the signature in 2006 of a Memorandum of Understanding between AEWA and three regional training institutions in Africa to enhance awareness of waterbird conservation. Following the screening of a short video showcasing the corresponding work of these institutions, he invited their representatives, along with a representative of France, as host of the Technical Support Unit for the African Initiative, to the stage.

70. **The representative of France** (Mr François Lamarque) presented telescopes and tripods, as part of a **partnership with the Kite Foundation**, to the representatives of each training institution as follows:

Dr Samuel Christian Tsakem, Deputy Director, Ecole de Faune de Garoua, Cameroon;

Dr Hamadi Dulle, Head of Wildlife Management Department of Mweka College of African Wildlife Management, United Republic of Tanzania;

Mr Solomon Kyalo, AEWA National Focal Point, and Ms Catherine Wambari Wekesa, Manager of Lake Nakuru National Park, on behalf of Kenya Wildlife Service Naivasha Training Institute.

71. **The Executive Secretary** noted that the Secretariat had also signed an agreement with a Belgian company, Sights of Nature, which would be providing two pairs of binoculars to each of the three training institutions; one to the best student in ornithology and the second for training of students.

72. The **Chair** invited comments and questions from the floor concerning Ms Moloko's presentation.

73. **Egypt** appreciated the presentation, but had only been able to find North Africa mentioned in relation to World Migratory Bird Day. It would be helpful to hear reflections on this.

74. **Ms Moloko** indicated that further information was provided under other agenda items, including item 13 on Implementation of the AEWA Communications Strategy.

75. The **Central African Republic** called for active support from the Secretariat to help build the capacities of new Parties in Africa, for example in preparing national plans and actions to implement the Agreement.

76. The **Chair of the TC** noted that the African Initiative was an example of how a small group of experts and a dedicated leader could achieve so much, even with modest funding. This was perhaps a model to be applied in other regions, for example in South West Asia.

77. **Ms Moloko** hoped that implementation would be further enhanced in future; the Secretariat would continue to do its best to secure resources for implementation, but this would depend on Parties at both flyway and national levels.

78. The following written statement was received from **Estonia on behalf of the EU and its Member States**:

“The EU and its Member States welcome the report highlighting activities implemented in the framework of the AEWA African Initiative and the Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2018. We appreciate the critical role that AEWA is playing in supporting the conservation of waterbirds in Africa. The EU and its Member States are pleased to have been able to financially support some of these projects in Africa under the European Commission Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) programme and other initiatives. This report underlines the strategic importance of the next Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027 in achieving the goals of AEWA.”

Agenda item 12. Analysis and Synthesis of National Reports

79. **Ms Kelly Malsch, Head of Species Programme, UNEP-WCMC**, presented Document AEWA/MOP 7.12 *Analysis of the AEWA National Reports for the triennium 2015-2017*.

80. The **Chair** opened the floor to comments and questions.

81. **Estonia, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States** made the following statement:

“The EU and its Member States recognize the work done by the Secretariat in analysing the National Reports on the implementation of AEWA for the period 2015-2017. We welcome this document as an important instrument to enhance work on migratory waterbird populations. Despite the improvements from one triennium to the other during the period 2009-2018, some targets of the last triennium are far from being reached. Therefore, the EU and its Member States would invite Parties to use the main lessons from the National Reports to increase the effectiveness of the next AEWA Strategic Plan.”

82. **Ms Malsch** concurred with the importance of applying lessons learned.

83. **The Secretariat** (Mr Sergey Dereliev, Head of Science, Compliance and Implementation Unit) underlined that only 12 per cent of Parties had reported full legal protection of AEWA Column A populations. Thus there was a high level of non-compliance with treaty provisions. This needed addressing seriously and thought might be needed about increasing capacity to assist Parties with compliance issues.

Agenda item 13. Report on the Implementation of the Communication Strategy

84. The **Secretariat** (Mr Florian Keil, Coordinator of the Joint Communication Team of the UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWA Secretariats) presented Document AEWA/MOP 7.13 *Report on the Implementation of the AEWA Communication Strategy*.

85. The **Chair** opened the floor for comments and questions.

86. **Switzerland** welcomed the efforts made to enhance coordination within the CMS Family and considered that the Joint Communication Team provided a good example of synergies.

Agenda item 14. International Reviews

87. **Mr Szabolcs Nagy, Senior Advisor, Wetlands International**, presented Document AEWA/MOP 7.14 Corr.1 *Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds in the Agreement Area – Seventh Edition* (CSR7).

88. The **MOP** took note of CSR7.

89. The **Chair** opened the floor for comments and questions.

90. **Estonia, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States**, made the following statement:

“The EU and its Member States welcome the collaborative effort of Wetlands International, BirdLife International, Sovon, the Goose Specialist Group, RDF Conservation and the CAFF Bird Group in preparing the 7th edition of the *Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds in the Agreement Area*, which underlines the importance of AEWA for the conservation of migratory waterbirds.

This report clearly shows that good governance is the most important determinant of the trend of waterbird populations. The EU and its Member States reaffirm that achieving AEWA’s targets and ensuring its contribution to the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals require the adoption of proactive strategies that integrate bird conservation into a wide range of other land use policies. We look forward to being informed about proposals for such proactive strategies.

The EU and its Member States also reaffirm the importance and value of continuing to deliver species recovery and action plans to positively influence the trend of waterbird populations in the long term.

Given that marine species, in particular, show considerable declines, more dedication to abolishing the reasons for these declines appears necessary.

We also welcome recognition in the report of the key contribution of the Article 12 report under the Birds Directive to the AEWA Conservation Status Report.”

91. **Israel** warmly welcomed CSR7 but sought clarification on two points: first, the trend of the indicator under Goal 8 and secondly the apparent contradiction between the trends shown by the AEWA waterbird indicator and the IUCN Red List.

92. **Mr Nagy** replied that the original indicator under Goal 8 was “fewer populations to be listed in Column A”. Over the years there had actually been an increase, so the trend had developed in the opposite direction to that desired. With regard to the apparent discrepancy between the tendencies shown by the AEWA and IUCN Red List indicators, the reason was that the Red List indicator only included populations that by definition had a poor conservation status, whereas the AEWA waterbird indicator included all 554 waterbird populations in the region, regardless of their conservation status.

93. **South Africa** underlined that the information presented could provide useful inputs to development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The Convention on Biological Diversity was currently preparing the 5th edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook; this constituted a specific opportunity for AEWA to contribute data.

Agenda item 15. Adoption of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019 – 2027

94. The **Secretariat** (Mr Sergey Dereliev, Head of Science, Implementation and Compliance), introduced Document AEWA/MOP 7.15 *Draft AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027*.

95. **Switzerland** congratulated AEWA on the new Strategic Plan and particularly welcomed the step-wise approach to actions from MOP to MOP, as well as the provision of specific indicators for monitoring effectiveness of implementation. However, Switzerland was concerned that, on one hand the Strategic Plan was very ambitious, whilst on the other hand the necessary resources for implementation were not secured, placing the future of the Agreement at risk. Switzerland called on all Parties to consider a core budget increase in the upcoming discussions.

96. **Estonia, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States**, made the following statement:

“The EU and its Member States recognize the work done by the Standing Committee, the Technical Committee, and working groups, on the AEWA Strategic Plan and Plan of Action for Africa for the period of 2019-2027. We welcome the new Strategic Plan as a framework setting out relevant actions aimed at maintaining migratory waterbird species and their populations or to restoring them to such a status throughout their flyways (or: achieving the goal of the Plan). The new draft Strategic Plan is very comprehensive but, having regard to limitations in progress under the current plan and continuing resource constraints, it is overambitious for the next period. While understanding that it is for Contracting Parties to define their priorities, the EU and its Member States are convinced that it is also of high importance to recognize further prioritization at the plan stage, identifying the most critical actions to be achieved in the next period. It will allow efforts and resources to focus on the most needed actions in a coordinated way along the African-Eurasian flyway.

The EU and its Member States consider that a key focus of the targets set by the Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa should be declining waterbird populations.”

97. The representative of **Uganda, speaking on behalf of the Africa group**, was happy to support the new Strategic Plan in its current form. He called on all Contracting Parties to support the allocation of significant resources for effective implementation.

98. The representative of **South Africa** considered that the draft Strategic Plan 2019-2027 offered a very balanced approach to waterbird conservation, looking at issues of conservation, but also taking into account human wellbeing. She requested that Objective 2 should be strengthened in relation to implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goals 1, 2 and 3. This would make the Plan more relevant to national priorities concerned with human wellbeing. She appealed for discussion of the Strategic Plan to be closely linked with discussion of the budget.

99. The representative of **Norway** remarked that the draft Strategic Plan was very comprehensive, and that it would be challenging to ensure that all parts worked together. There was a need for further prioritization of activities and this would require further resources. He asked the Secretariat if there were plans to update the National Reporting process in the coming triennia.

100. **Mr Dereliev** responded by referring to Document AEWA MOP 7.17 *Draft Format for National Reports on the Implementation of AEWA 2018-2020*. The draft National Reporting format had been revised alongside the new draft Strategic Plan. National reporting processes had evolved over the years and a new revision of the format and content of the online system was nearly complete. The one chapter not yet finished concerned

the status of native and non-native populations. The intention was to maximize efficiency by compiling this chapter so that it aligned with Article 12 reporting under the EU Birds Directive.

Agenda item 16. Adoption of the Plan of Action for Africa 2019 – 2027

101. The **Secretariat** (Ms Evelyn Moloko, African Initiative Coordinator) presented Document AEWA/MOP 7.16 *Draft AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2018 – a Guide to the Implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 in the African Region*.

102. The representative of **Egypt** considered the draft Plan of Action for Africa (PoAA) to be well structured, digestible, comprehensive and detailed. He suggested that it would benefit from simplification, and that this might be achieved by stronger prioritization of activities, perhaps through a different set of priorities in each triennium.

103. **Estonia, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States**, made the following statement:

“The EU and its Member States very much welcome the development of a new Plan of Action for Africa further to the recognition that additional efforts were needed for the implementation of the Agreement in Africa. The prioritization of actions within this plan will help enhance its effectiveness and guide Contracting Parties in any considerations of supporting these actions.”

104. **Ms Moloko** pointed out that prioritization was included in the plan, and that priorities might differ between countries and therefore needed to be assessed at national level. She hoped that each country would do this. She added that each activity appeared in the PoAA in a logical sequence, and that there was a flow and links between the objectives which might be broken if some elements were removed.

105. **South Africa** considered the position of the PoAA to be similar to that of the Strategic Plan. Both were well structured and ambitious, but there was a need to link them to budget discussions and to request those in a position to do so to contribute to the resourcing of implementation.

106. The **Secretariat** (Mr Sergey Dereliev) presented Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP 7 DR1 *Adoption and Implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and Plan of Action for Africa for the period of 2019-2027*.

107. **Israel** noted that MOP8 would provide an opportunity to revisit the Strategic Plan and PoAA to make changes in the light of the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework. A proposed amendment to operative paragraph 15 of Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP7 DR1, would be made in the Working Group on Scientific and Technical Matters.

Agenda item 17. Implementation Review Process

108. The **Secretariat** (Mr Sergey Dereliev, Head of Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit) presented document AEWA/MOP 7.18 Rev.1 *Implementation Review Process – Report to MOP7*.

109. The **MOP** took note of the report; there were no questions or comments from the floor.

Agenda item 18. Proposals for Amendments to the Agreement and/or its Annexes

110. The **Secretariat** (Mr Sergey Dereliev, Head of Science, Implementation and Compliance), presented Document AEWA/MOP 7.19 *Proposals to the 7th Session of the Meeting of Parties for Amendments to Annexes 2 and 3 of AEWA* and the associated draft resolution AEWA/MOP DR3 *Adoption of Amendments to the AEWA Annexes*. He noted that no comments on the proposals included in Document AEWA/MOP 7.19 had been received from Parties by the statutory deadline of 60 days prior to the opening of MOP7.

111. The **European Commission, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States** made the following statement:

“The EU and its Member States support the proposed amendments to the part of Table 1 of Annex 3 related to the criteria to apply when classifying populations of waterbirds, namely removal of the word ‘*significant*’ from the criterion ‘*significant long-term decline*’ and addition of two new criteria for ‘*rapid short-term decline*’.

The EU and its Member States approve the proposed changes to the status of species as proposed in Annex I of the Draft Resolution 7.3. Among the species concerned by a population status change in Table 1 of Annex 3 of AEWA, nine species – the Common Eider, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Pochard, Eurasian Oystercatcher, Northern Lapwing, Bar-tailed Godwit, Black-tailed Godwit, Red Knot, and Spotted Redshank – are huntable under the EU Birds Directive. For these nine species, the proposed changes would require an amendment to the Birds Directive. As it is not possible to amend the Birds Directive within ninety days of the date of the adoption of the amendments by the Meeting of the Parties, the Commission shall enter a reservation in relation to the proposed amendments concerning these nine species.

Despite this reservation, the EU will ask its Member States to respect the objective of not hunting the species concerned. That is in line with the new listing in AEWA.

Furthermore, for the populations of the five species – Common Eider, Eurasian Oystercatcher, Northern Lapwing, Bar-tailed Godwit, and Red Knot – listed in Categories 2*, 3*, or 4 of Column A of Table 1 of AEWA, for which Parties will endeavour to implement the principles of adaptive harvest management consistent with the requirements of Article 7 of the Birds Directive, the EU could lift its reservation with regard to them once an adaptive harvest management mechanism is in place.

It goes without saying that the EU and its Member States would welcome the addition of the Shag to Annex 2, on the basis of the proposal that we have made to the AEWA Secretariat.”

112. **Denmark** made the following statement:

“Under the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, Denmark has, in addition to its membership of the European Union, an independent role as the state responsible for the Faroe Islands.

In this role, acting on behalf of the Faroe Islands and not as an EU Member State, Denmark does not support the proposal by the European Union to amend Annex 2 by adding the European Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*). As a consequence, Denmark does not support the proposed listing of the non-EU (Barents Sea) population of the European Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis aristotelis*) in Column A, category 2 in Table 1 of Annex 3 of the Agreement.

Further, Denmark does not support the proposal by Uganda and the European Union to move all populations of Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) to Column A of Table 1 of Annex 3, and Denmark does not support the moving of all populations of Razorbill (*Alca torda*) to Column A of Table 1 of Annex 3.

Denmark believes that hunting and taking of birds and eggs of the populations of Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*), Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) and Razorbill (*Alca torda*) occurring in the Faroes should remain legal and not be subject to the regulation of Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, as Denmark supports that the Faroes should take the relevant decisions regarding bird management on the Faroes on the basis of local interests and local traditions. The Faroes are monitoring and taking initiatives to secure a sustainable management of the local bird populations.”

113. **Norway** expressed dissatisfaction with the European Commission’s proposal regarding the addition of European Shag to Annex 2 of the Agreement. This was a huntable species in Norway, where the Barents Sea population was not recognized, and its status as a migratory species was uncertain. Norwegian seabirds were closely monitored and there was no indication that this population met the necessary criteria.

114. **Iceland** supported the statements of Denmark and Norway regarding proposed changes to the Annexes related to European Shag, Atlantic Puffin and Razorbill, and also considered the population estimate for Greylag Goose to be too low. All these species were hunted in Iceland, and subject to traditional use in Icelandic legislation. Reservations would have to be made if their status was updated in the Annexes of the Agreement.

Agenda item 19. International Single Species Action and Management Plans (ISSAPs and ISSMPs)

115. The **Secretariat** (Ms Nina Mikander, Associate Programme Officer for Single Species Action Plans) presented Document AEWA/MOP 7.21 *Summary of the Current Status of Species Action and Management Plan Production and Coordination with Recommendations to MOP for Extension, Revision or Retirement* and the associated Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP DR5 *Adoption, Revision, Retirement, Extension and Implementation of International Single Species Action and Management Plans*. She noted that MOP7 was invited to consider the adoption of two new International Single Species Action Plans (ISSAPs) and two new International Single Species Management Plans (ISSMPs), as well as the extension of nine ISSAPs, revision of one ISSAP, and retirement of three ISSAPs.

116. The **Chair** opened the floor for comments.

117. **Estonia, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States**, made the following statement:

“We can agree to retiring the ISSAPs for Light-bellied Brent Goose and Black-winged Pratincole and extension of the ISSAPs for another ten years (2019-2028) for Great Snipe, Ferruginous Duck, Lesser Flamingo, Eurasian Spoonbill, Black-tailed Godwit, Maccoa Duck, White-winged Flufftail, and Madagascar Pond Heron.

The EU and its Member States propose to extend the validity of the ISSAP for the Corncrake, initially for the next three years until MOP8, to enable Parties to review and amend where necessary the existing plan, to consider population trends and to seek a coordinator to drive any further extension and delivery of the ISSAP.

The EU and its Member States propose to extend the validity of the ISSAP for the Lesser White-fronted Goose for the next three years until MOP8, to revise the action plan taking into account new scientific information, e.g. regarding the Swedish population, as well as experiences from implementation of the current plan. The EU and its Member States think that any new mechanism to prepare the plan needs to fully address the

protection of the species under the Birds Directive and an appropriate mechanism to assure this needs to be put in place.

We have also some technical comments. We will submit all our comments in writing.”

118. **Ms Mikander** introduced Document AEWA/MOP 7.22 *Draft Revised Format and Guidelines for AEWA International Single and Multi-species Action Plans*.

119. The **Chair** opened the floor for comments.

120. **Estonia, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States**, recognized the work undertaken by Wetlands International and welcomed the further development of the Format and Guidelines for AEWA Action Plans as a necessary step, but proposed adding a summary of the main threats and pressures. Additional technical comments would be submitted in writing.

121. **Ms Mikander** briefly introduced three ISSAPs tabled for review and adoption through Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP7 DR5. These were contained in:

Document AEWA/MOP 7.23 *Draft International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Velvet Scoter (Melanitta fusca) – Western Siberia and Northern Europe/NW Europe Population*

Document AEWA/MOP 7.24 *Draft Revised CMS/AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the White-headed Duck (Oxyura leucocephala)*

Document AEWA/MOP 7.25 *Draft CMS/AEWA/EU/EAAFP International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Dalmatian Pelican (Pelecanus crispus)*

122. The **Chair** opened the floor for comments.

123. **Norway** accepted the proposals but drew attention to an apparent technical error in the draft ISSAP for Velvet Scoter.

124. **Estonia, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States**, recognized the work done by the compilers and welcomed the adoption of these three ISSAPs.

125. The **Secretariat** (Ms Eva Meyers, Coordinator – European Goose Management Platform) presented two ISSMPs tabled for review and adoption through Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP7 DR5. These were contained in:

Document AEWA/MOP 7.26 *Draft AEWA International Single Species Management Plan for the Barnacle Goose (Branta leucopsis)*

Document AEWA/MOP 7.27 *Draft AEWA International Single Species Management Plan for the Greylag Goose (Anser anser) – Northwest/Southwest European Population*

126. The **Chair** opened the floor for comments.

127. **Estonia, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States**, made the following statement:

“The EU and its Member States recognize the progress in the efforts to coordinate the management of the Greylag Goose population at the flyway level, when relevant, and the measures aimed at preventing damage or managing risks in the context of the European Goose Management Platform. The EU and its Member States agree to support the adoption of the ISMP for the Greylag Goose - NW/SW European population. However, not all Member States agree to the added value and, therefore, the ISSMP will only be implemented by the

Member States that find it useful. The EU would like to request the Secretariat to reflect that situation in the minutes of the MOP.

For the Barnacle Goose, the EU and its Member States appreciate that there have been major improvements in the draft ISSMP. We would like to stress the need for some adaption of the text with a view to the adoption of the Plan.”

128. **Estonia, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States**, tabled a number of proposed amendments to the draft ISSMP for Barnacle Goose and confirmed that these had been submitted in writing to the Secretariat.

129. **Norway** recalled that the draft ISSMPs had undergone several rounds of consultation. It was therefore a little surprising that the EU was proposing changes at this late stage. It would be important to be able to see the EU’s proposals in writing in order to fully assess their implications. Norway also wished to raise the matter of aviation safety and the potential increased risk of bird strikes at small airports in coastal areas where migratory geese occurred.

130. **Ms Meyers** confirmed that the Secretariat had received the proposals from the EU in writing and had incorporated those concerning the ISSMP for Barnacle Goose into an in-session document, AEWA/MOP 7.26 WGP1, which had been uploaded to the MOP7 website.

131. The **Chair** referred further discussion, including deliberations on the relevant Draft Resolution, to the Working Group on Scientific and Technical matters.

Agenda item 20. Seabirds

132. The **Secretariat** (Mr Sergey Dereliev, Head of Science, Implementation and Compliance) introduced Document AEWA/MOP 7.28 *Plastics and Waterbirds: Incidence and Impacts* and the associated Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP DR6 *Priorities for the Conservation of Seabirds in the African-Eurasian Flyways*.

133. The **Chair** opened the floor for comments.

134. **Estonia, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States**, made the following statement:

“The EU and its Member States recognize the work done by the RSPB and the BirdLife International Global Seabirds Programme on the assessment of the potential impacts of plastic to migratory seabirds. We welcome the document AEWA MOP 7.28 as an important step to enhance the planning of responses to waterbird declines, and take its conclusions and recommendations into account in the decision-making process.

The EU and its Member States suggest softening the operative section of the Draft Resolution in a few areas, in order to allow scope for discretion as regard the use of guidance. We propose further refinement and prioritization of actions by the Technical Committee of the list of preliminary priorities, which is recognized already in the Draft Resolution.

The EU and its Member States would like to emphasize that the impact of by-catch can also be addressed by preventive measures. That aspect could be better reflected in the Draft Resolution.

The EU its Member States suggest some minor changes in wording in paragraph 1.3 to avoid ambiguity, and in paragraph 1.4 to adjust the wording of INNS impacts. We also propose to add in the Draft Resolution, preambular text referring to UNEA resolution 3/7 on Marine Litter and Microplastics (2017).

In Document AEWA/MOP 7.30, page 3, paragraph 13 c, d and e, the EU policies should refer to the European Union and not to the European Commission. We will send the exact proposals in writing.”

135. **UNEP** recalled that UNEA-3 placed high priority on pollution. UNEP was currently preparing an Implementation Report on the issue, to which the CMS Secretariat had already contributed, and this would be submitted to UNEA-4 in March 2019. The AEWA document on plastics could form a valuable input to the UNEP Implementation Report.

136. **Wetlands International** noted that Document AEWA/MOP 7.28 concluded that plastic probably had relatively little impact at population level for AEWA populations. This was potentially at odds with the announcement under agenda item 13 that plastic would be the theme of World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) in 2019.

137. **Mr Dereliev** concurred that careful messaging would be needed, but underlined that WMBD was a global initiative covering all bird species everywhere. The report that had been presented had a relatively narrow scope in terms of both taxa and geography.

138. The **Secretariat** (Ms Nina Mikander) introduced document AEWA/MOP 7.29 Rev.1 *Advice on AEWA Priorities for Seabird Conservation*.

139. The **Chair** opened the floor to comments of principle. There being no such interventions, he referred further discussion to the Working Group on Scientific and Technical matters.

Agenda item 21. Waterbird Monitoring

140. **Wetlands International**, represented by Mr Szabolcs Nagy, presented Document AEWA/MOP 7.35 *Draft Revised AEWA Conservation Guidelines on Waterbird Monitoring (AEWA Conservation Guidelines No. 9)*.

141. **Gambia** welcomed the document, and asked about how the environmental conditions of habitats were monitored.

142. **Mr Nagy** replied that standard methods for monitoring of site conditions were still being developed. There were a number of methods used, and the Guidelines provided links to many of these. Countries selected appropriate methods. Harmonization, and adoption of modern methods such as remote sensing, would be useful.

143. The **UK** added that the monitoring of site conditions was covered in Document AEWA/MOP 7.34 which had been presented earlier and which contained links to Ramsar Convention guidance on this topic.

144. The **French Hunting Federation** asked how data from citizen science was included in the assessment of population trends.

145. **Mr Nagy** described the International Waterbird Census as the largest citizen science programme in the world. The Guidelines recognized that outside Europe, observers such as protected area staff and hunting agencies were often in a better position to conduct monitoring.

Agenda item 22. Guidance on Implementation of the Agreement

146. **Ms Melissa Lewis, on behalf of the AEWA Technical Committee**, presented Document AEWA/MOP 7.32 *Draft Guidance on Satisfying the Conditions of Paragraph 2.1.3 of the AEWA Action Plan*.

147. **Estonia, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States**, made the following statement:

“The EU and its Member States recognize the work done by the Technical Committee on the guidance on satisfying the conditions of paragraph 2.1.3 on the AEWA Action Plan. We welcome the adoption of these guidelines as a necessary step towards a clear and understandable framework for the use of paragraph 2.1.3.”

148. **Ms Lewis** presented Document AEWA/MOP 7.33 *Draft Guidance on AEWA’s Provisions on Non-native Species*.

149. **Estonia, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States**, made the following statement:

“The EU and its Member States recognize the work done by the Technical Committee on the guidance on non-native species. The EU and its Member States note that while working on the implementation of the ‘Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species’ the methodology for risk assessments of invasive alien species has been adopted. We propose that the Technical Committee should take into account appropriate methodologies for risk assessments, including those used by the EU.”

150. **Mr David Stroud, on behalf of the AEWA Technical Committee**, presented Document AEWA/MOP 7.34 *Draft Guidance on Taking a Systematic Approach to Responding to Waterbird Declines: A Checklist of Potential Actions*.

151. **Estonia, on behalf of the EU and its Member States**, made the following statement:

“The EU and its Member States also recognize the work done by the Technical Committee on developing a guidance on taking a systematic approach to responding to waterbird declines: a checklist of potential actions. We welcome the adoption of these guidelines as an important step to enhance the planning responses to waterbird declines.

We propose to add references to five different guidance documents available in English; we will submit these concrete changes in writing.”

152. The **Chair** requested that the meeting should review the draft guidance and the associated Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP7 DR8 *Adoption of Guidance in the context of implementation of the AEWA Action Plan*.

Agenda item 23. Climate-resilient flyways

153. **Wetlands International**, represented by Mr Merijn van Leeuwen, presented a summary of the outcomes of the project on Climate Resilient Flyways sponsored by the German International Climate Initiative (IKI) and launched at MOP6.

Agenda item 24. Institutional Arrangements

a. Standing Committee

154. The **Executive Secretary** (Dr Jacques Trouvilliez), presented Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP7 DR10 *Institutional Arrangements: Standing Committee*. The MOP was requested to identify regional representatives and alternates to serve on the Standing Committee during the next triennium and to review and adopt the Draft Resolution.

b. Technical Committee

155. The **Secretariat** (Mr Sergey Dereliev Head of Science, Implementation and Compliance) presented Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP7 DR11 Rev.1 *Institutional Arrangements: Technical Committee*.

156. The **Chair** ruled that in the interests of time he would not open the floor for comments; Parties were aware what needed to be discussed and agreed within regional groupings.

Agenda item 25. Financial and Administrative Matters

a. Report on Finance and Administrative Issues in 2016-2018

157. The **Executive Secretary** presented Document AEWA/MOP 7.36 Rev.1 *Report of the Secretariat on Finance and Administrative Issues in 2016-2018*. The MOP was invited to take note of the report.

158. The **Chair** opened the floor to comments of principle.

159. There being no requests for the floor, the **MOP** noted Document AEWA/MOP 7.36 Rev.1.

b. Draft Scale of Contributions for the Triennium 2019-2021

160. The **Executive Secretary** presented Document AEWA/MOP 7.37 Rev.1 *Draft Scale of Contributions for 2019-2021*. The MOP was requested to consider the method proposed in Document AEWA/MOP 7.37 Rev.1 and to decide, through Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP7 DR12 *Financial and Administrative Matters* on its application for the development of the AEWA scale of contributions 2019-2021. The details would be discussed during the Working Group on Financial and Administrative matters.

c. Draft Budget proposal for 2019-2021

161. The **Executive Secretary** presented Document AEWA/MOP 7.38 *Draft Budget Proposal for 2019-2021*, which set out four budget scenarios as determined by the Standing Committee:

Scenario 1: zero nominal growth = 0 % increase

Scenario 2: zero real growth = Scenario 1 + 4.04 % increase to take account of inflation
Scenario 3: = Scenario 2 + 4.79 % increase in part-time G-staff and operational costs
Scenario 4: = Scenario 3 + 23 % increase in part-time staff and operational costs

162. He briefly outlined the implications of each of these scenarios as detailed in Document AEWA/MOP 7.38, noting that the budget would be discussed in detail during the Working Group on Financial and Administrative matters and adopted through Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP7 DR12 *Financial and Administrative Matters*.

163. The **Executive Secretary** stressed that there had been no budget increase for AEWA since MOP4; there had even been a drop in real terms due to inflation. He also recalled that, during the last decade, a total of € 820,000 had been withdrawn from the Trust Fund. If these trends were to continue, the future viability of the Secretariat would be in question.

164. The **Chair** invited the Working Group on Financial and Administrative matters to take forward discussion of the budget. He suspended the plenary session until 09.00 on the morning of Saturday, 8 December and asked the two Working Groups to convene at 16.30.

Agenda item 26. Reports of Sessional Committees

165. In the absence of the Chair of MOP7, the **Vice-Chair**, Mr Barirega Akankwasah of Uganda took the Chair. He invited the **Chair of the Credentials Committee**, Algeria, to present the Committee's final report.

166. **Algeria** reported that the Credentials Committee, composed of Ghana, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Algeria, had met on 4 and 5 December. Of 58 Contracting Parties registered for MOP7, 55 were represented at the meeting. The Committee had examined credentials submitted by 43 Parties and approved the credentials of 39 Parties, whilst the credentials of four Parties were rejected.

167. The **Chair** thanked the Credentials Committee for its work.

168. **Mr David Stroud (UK), Chair of the Working Group on Scientific and Technical Matters**, reported that the Working Group had engaged in constructive discussion of ten Draft Resolutions and a range of supporting documents. Consensus had been reached on all issues. Thanks were due to all participants and to the Secretariat for its support.

169. The **Chair** thanked the Working Group on Scientific and Technical Matters for its thorough and very efficient work.

170. **Mr Øystein Størksen (Norway), Chair of the Working Group on Financial and Administrative Matters**, thanked all participants and the Secretariat for their valuable contributions and efforts. The Working Group had agreed to a budget with zero real growth, which was essentially Scenario 2 of the four scenarios that had been presented to plenary by the Executive Secretary on Day 2 of the MOP (see paragraph 166 above).

171. The Working Group had agreed to apply the 2015 UN scale of assessment as a basis to calculate the national contributions. A cap on increased contributions of more than 100 per cent meant that no Party should pay more than double its current contribution. However, it had been agreed that two countries, Algeria and Nigeria, would be granted a 50 per cent cap. A modest sum of € 6,000 would be drawn from the Trust Fund to cover this shortfall as referenced in operative paragraph 7 and Appendix 3 of the Draft Resolution contained in AEWA/MOP7 DR12 Rev.2. Mr Størksen drew attention to the fact that the reserve in the Trust Fund had been maintained at a low level during the preceding ten years.

172. Paragraph 14 of the Draft Resolution concerned evaluating the possibility of suspending the voting rights of Parties more than three years in arrears with their contributions.

173. Mr Størkersen made an appeal for voluntary contributions, which would be especially important for the implementation of the Plan of Action for Africa.

174. He ended by acknowledging that most of the Secretariat staff were over-performing in relation to their position titles and salary grades, and that the recommendation from UNEP regarding the upgrading of many staff members should be kept in mind for consideration at MOP8.

175. **The Executive Secretary** referred to the € 6,000 to be withdrawn from the Trust Fund to compensate for the shortfall resulting from the special arrangement for Algeria and Nigeria. He stressed that this was an exception that would not be repeated in future.

176. **The Chair** thanked the Chairs of the two Working Groups for their thoroughness, and for guiding the compromises that had been achieved in the Working Group meetings.

Agenda item 27. Adoption of the Resolutions and Amendments to the Annexes of the Agreement

Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP7 DR1 Rev. 1 *Adoption and Implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa for the Period 2019-2027*

177. **South Africa** presented the following statement:

“Recalling the crucial importance of international collaboration across flyways to ensure the effective conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats, which is provided in the framework of AEWA;

Aware that the theme of the 7th Session of the AEWA Meeting of the Parties is “*Beyond 2020: Shaping flyway conservation for the future*”;

Appreciating the efforts by all AEWA Contracting Parties and partners towards advancing the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2018 and AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2018;

Aware of the disturbing outcomes of the assessment of the level of implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2018; and

Acknowledging the need to further strengthen the implementation of the new AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 as the operational guidelines to shape the implementation of the Agreement over the next decade;

The Government of the Republic of South Africa:

Engages to play a lead role in stimulating and advancing the implementation of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027 (PoAA) adopted by the AEWA MOP7 as a comprehensive guide towards the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 in the African region, through exemplary action on implementing the AEWA PoAA at the national level as well as through promoting strengthened collaboration at regional and flyway levels, and in particular by championing the implementation of the AEWA International Multi-species Action Plan for the Conservation of Benguela Current Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds, and International Single Species Action Plans for the Conservation of the White-winged Flufftail and the Grey Crowned-crane across the applicable flyways, while ensuring to sustain a coherent and comprehensive network of suitable, protected and well managed sites of crucial importance for the survival of these populations of migratory waterbirds across their entire flyways.”

178. **The Chair** thanked South Africa for committing to engage as a champion of the PoAA and proposed incorporating the operative part of the statement into the Draft Resolution.

179. Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP7 DR1 Rev.1 was adopted subject to the inclusion of the statement by **South Africa**.

Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP7 DR2 Rev.2 *AEWA's Contribution to Delivering the Aichi 2020 Biodiversity Targets and the Relevance of the Sustainable Development Goals*

180. This Draft Resolution was adopted without further amendment.

Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP7 DR3 Rev.1 *Adoption of Amendments to the AEWA Annexes*

181. This Draft Resolution was adopted without further amendment.

Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP7 DR4 *Adoption and Amendments of Definitions and Interpretation of Terms used in the Context of Table 1 of the AEWA Annex 3*

182. This Draft Resolution was adopted without further amendment.

Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP7 DR5 Rev.1 *Adoption, Revision, Retirement, Extension and Implementation of International Species Action and Management Plans*

183. **Israel** noted that Paragraph 6 of the Draft Resolution contained a list of Action Plans to be retired, whilst paragraph 7 listed those to be extended. One species, Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni*, did not appear on either list, despite discussion during the Working Group that had resulted in recommending extension of the Action Plan. Israel suggested that this point could be incorporated into Paragraph 9, alongside the Action Plan for Corncrake *Crex crex*, so that the Action Plan for Black-winged Pratincole would also be reviewed during the coming triennium.

184. **The Secretariat** (Mr Sergey Dereliev, Head of Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit) thanked Israel for noticing this omission, and suggested that, in the interests of clarity, it would be preferable to treat the extension of the Action Plan for Black-winged Pratincole as a separate paragraph.

185. **Israel** agreed to this solution and placed its trust in the Secretariat to formulate appropriate text for the new paragraph.

186. This Draft Resolution was adopted with the amendment suggested by **Israel**, as modified by the suggestion of the Secretariat.

Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP7 DR6 Rev.1 *Priorities for the Conservation of Seabirds in the African-Eurasian Flyways*

187. **Israel** suggested a minor textual amendment to Paragraph 1.4 of the Draft Resolution.

188. This Draft Resolution was adopted with the inclusion of the amendment proposed by **Israel**.

Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP7 DR7 Rev.1 *Strengthening Monitoring of Migratory Waterbirds*

189. This Draft Resolution was adopted subject to the inclusion of language improvements to the French text, to be forwarded to the Secretariat by **France**.

Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP7 DR8 Rev.1 *Revision and Adoption of Conservation Guidance*

190. This Draft Resolution was adopted without further amendment.

Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP7 DR9 Rev.2 *Climate Resilient Flyways*

191. This Draft Resolution was adopted subject to the inclusion of a typographical error in the sixth preambular paragraph, as pointed out by **Slovakia**.

Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP7 DR10 Rev.1 *Institutional Arrangements: Standing Committee*

192. The **Chair** noted that the second Alternate member of the Standing Committee for Europe and Central Asia should read Moldova rather than Croatia.

193. The Draft Resolution was adopted subject to the inclusion of the amendment tabled by the Chair.

Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP7 DR11 Rev.2 *Institutional Arrangements: Technical Committee*

194. In response to a question from Estonia, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, the **Secretariat** noted that DR12 Rev.2 Financial and Administrative Matters contained a request to the Standing Committee to assess, in conjunction with the Technical Committee and Secretariat, the implications of moving from a three-year to a four-year MOP cycle. The text of DR12 Rev.2 had not been available at the time DR11 Rev.2 was finalized, but the Secretariat would ensure that the Technical Committee's role in the assessment was reflected in the TC's Work Plan for 2019-2021, as annexed to DR11 Rev.2.

195. **Estonia, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States**, confirmed that this would be a satisfactory way forward.

196. **Belgium** expressed concern about the large number of vacant positions, especially for Alternates, shown in the proposed composition of the TC for 2019-2021.

197. The **Secretariat** explained that Alternates only had an active role when Regional Representatives were unable to participate. In the two cases where no Regional Representative had been nominated, in the accordance with the TC Modus Operandi the Chair of the TC was authorized to identify and appoint suitable experts, in consultation with the regions concerned and with the support of the Secretariat.

198. The **Chair of the Technical Committee**, Dr Saulius Svazas observed that the AEWA budget for the coming triennium (as contained in Draft Resolution DR12 Rev.2) would again be inadequate to cover the operation of TC, whose members would again be obliged to work essentially on a voluntary basis. The Chair invited Parties in a position to do so to consider supporting the work of TC through Additional Voluntary Contributions to the AEWA budget.

199. Draft Resolution DR11 Rev.2 was adopted subject to inclusion of the adjustment to the Technical Committee's Work Plan for consistency with DR12 Rev.2 (as outlined by the Secretariat) and noting the point raised by Belgium.

Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP7 DR12 Rev.2 *Financial and Administrative Matters*

200. This Resolution was adopted subject to the inclusion of two minor amendments: the first tabled by **Israel**, to add "(IN EURO)" to the title of Appendix III; the second, tabled by the **Czech Republic**, to insert the word "Voluntary" in operative paragraph 16 to read "...AEWA Voluntary Trust Fund (AVL)...".

Draft Recommendation AEWA/MOP7 DRec.7.1 *Implementation Review Process*

201. The Draft Recommendation was adopted without amendment.

Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP7 DR14 *Tribute to the Organizers*

202. **Ghana, speaking on behalf of the Africa group**, warmly thanked South Africa for the commitment and resources reflected in the venue, facilities and services accorded to MOP7 delegates. The Africa region wished to thank all those who had contributed to the success of the Meeting, and especially the Governments of Finland, Germany, Sweden and Switzerland for facilitating the participation of delegates from Parties in Africa.

203. This Draft Resolution was adopted, unamended, by acclamation.

Agenda item 28. Date and Venue of the 8th Session of the Meeting of the Parties

204. The **Chair** tabled Draft Resolution AEWA/MOP7 DR13 *Date, Venue and Funding of the 8th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA*, noting that the text could only be finalized once a Host Country had been identified. He opened the floor to any Party that wished to make an offer to host MOP8.

205. **The representative of Hungary** read out a letter from Dr Zsolt Semjén, Deputy Prime Minister of Hungary, as sent to the Executive Secretary in October 2018, which contained an invitation to MOP8 to meet in Budapest in September 2021 and a commitment by Hungary to provide financial support for the organization of the MOP.

206. The invitation of Hungary was warmly accepted by the Meeting, which adopted Resolution **AEWA/MOP7 DR13**, confirming Hungary as the Host Country of MOP8, by acclamation.

Agenda item 29. Adoption of the Report of the Meeting

207. The Draft Report of the plenary sessions of Days 1 and 2 of the Meeting was adopted without amendment.

208. The Meeting noted that, in line with the Rules of Procedure and AEWA's standard practice, the Draft Report of the final plenary session would be reviewed and approved by the Chair, prior to it being circulated to Parties.

Agenda item 30. Any Other Business

209. The representative of **South Africa** recalled that 15 December 2018 had been identified in the processes of the Convention on Biological Diversity as the deadline for receipt of proposals relating to the post-2020 Global Framework for Biodiversity. It would be important for AEWA to act quickly to transmit relevant outcomes of MOP7.

Agenda item 31. Closure of the Meeting

210. **The European Commission, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States** made the following statement:

“We wish to express our sincere thanks to the Government and people of South Africa for their excellent hosting of this meeting and also for providing us with the opportunity to experience at first hand the magnificent nature and culture of your country. We would like to express our warm gratitude to the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Meeting as well as of the Working Groups and to the AEWA Secretariat for all the work they have undertaken in helping make this MOP a success.

This has been an important and timely meeting. While the EU and its Member States remain committed to progress towards achieving the 2020 biodiversity targets, the central theme of this conference on ‘Beyond 2020 – shaping flyway conservation for the future’ has provided all Contracting Parties to AEWA with a real opportunity to shape our future common agenda.

The adoption of the new Strategic Plan for 2019 to 2027 and the Plan of Action for Africa are therefore major milestones in providing a framework for cooperation and future action. These Plans capture the key challenges for successful conservation and sustainable use, ranging from strengthening knowledge and the science base to ensuring a strong legal underpinning and sound governance mechanisms.

The success in their delivery is dependent on the commitment of many people as well as on assuring the necessary resources to promote compliance with implementation of the Agreement. This requires important financial resources. We have had discussions on the budget at this MOP, which underline the need to have clear priorities for action so that we focus limited resources on the most pressing and important conservation

priorities. Together with the AEWA Secretariat, the EU and its Member States will need to examine ways to support delivering key elements of the Plan, including through possible voluntary contributions. In this regard a key EU priority is supporting the development of capacity building, training and action in Africa.

Ultimately the success of conservation is determined by practical action. The work of AEWA on species action plans is a core delivery mechanism. Important progress has been made at this MOP in relation to adopting plans, including for several successful waterbird species that come into conflict with human interests. Such management work is important but we also particularly welcome the recognition at this MOP that the main focus on species action planning has to be on species in decline. The European Union and its Member States are committed to continue strengthening our partnership with AEWA in developing and implementing species action plans, including, where relevant, involving adaptive harvest management approaches for huntable species to ensure that any use of waterbirds is sustainable.

The conservation and wise use of wetlands is central to delivery of the flyway objective of AEWA. The earlier work developed under the ‘Wings over Wetlands’ project and other initiatives to identify important wetlands for migratory waterbirds remain highly relevant. The EU and its Member States have established a network of Special Protection Areas under the EU Birds Directive, although much work is still needed for its effective management. We look forward to action to strengthen the networks of protected wetland areas along the flyways of species and that this is done in ways that also benefit local communities who live in and depend upon these areas.

There is a great deal of work ahead of us all to achieve the objectives of AEWA and advancing the conservation of our shared heritage of waterbirds. The EU and its Member States look forward to meeting this challenge. Finally, as Hungary has offered to host the next Meeting of the Parties, the EU and its Member States very much look forward to welcoming you all to Budapest in 2021.”

211. The **Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands** thanked South Africa for hosting MOP7 and the AEWA Secretariat for engaging in several joint actions with Ramsar, thereby increasing synergies between the two treaties.

212. The representative of **South Africa** (Mr Barney Kgope, Department of Environmental Affairs) made closing remarks on behalf of the National, Provincial and Municipal authorities. It had indeed been a great pleasure to host the AEWA Family and it was difficult to bid farewell. The Hosts were pleased that the meeting had set a clear and robust Strategic Plan and PoAA in response to the ‘Beyond 2020’ theme of MOP7. He reiterated some of the highlights of South Africa’s commitment to the establishment and management of protected areas for biodiversity conservation, which had been presented the previous evening during the gala dinner. South Africa understood the responsibility that came with holding the AEWA Presidency of the MOP and undertook to make a difference during the next triennium ahead of MOP8, noting that implementation of MOP7 decisions would require champions, partnerships and resources. Behind every successful meeting there was a formidable team; he wished to thank all those who had contributed, not least the delegates themselves: “*You have been amazing!*”. The Host Country team hoped that it had been able to meet delegates’ expectations; without mentioning names of individuals, he wished to thank colleagues from the Department of Environmental Affairs of South Africa, the Provincial Department of Environmental Affairs of KwaZulu-Natal, and eTheKwini Municipality. Finally, he wished all participants ‘bon voyage’.

213. **The AEWA Executive Secretary**, Dr Jacques Trouvilliez, made the following statement:

“I would like to start by expressing my deepest thanks to our hosts:

The Department of Environmental Affairs of South Africa;
The Province of KwaZulu-Natal;
The eTheKwini Municipality;

Thank you for the warm welcome here in Durban and your gracious hospitality. You have made us all feel at home during the past week.

During these days together, we have worked hard to deliver on our MOP7 slogan: “Beyond 2020: Shaping flyway conservation for the future”. I am very happy to witness the progress that we have made – but at the same time I know that we are all very conscious of the many challenges that still lie ahead of us.

I wish to congratulate the Parties on the adoption of the new AEWA Strategic Plan for 2019-2027 and the Plan of Action for Africa, which both outline our path for the next decade in waterbird conservation. Although ambitious indeed, these two Plans outline what needs to be done if we are really serious about the fate of the species we have vowed to protect under the Agreement. I am confident that, collectively, with strong partnerships and sufficient resources and by going beyond our conservation bubble, we will be able to deliver on this ambitious roadmap. In fact, we must!

In addition, this Meeting of the Parties has adopted very concrete decisions on the conservation and sustainable use of our waterbirds: new Species Action and Management Plans; conservation priorities for Seabirds; and Guidance on waterbird monitoring – just to name a few.

I am also relieved, that after challenging negotiations on the budget for the next triennium, we have reached an agreement that will allow the Secretariat to continue servicing the Parties for three more years. In this regard, I am very grateful for the additional generous voluntary support provided to the Agreement from several of our Parties and partners – all contributions (both small and large) are welcome and much appreciated. Such additional support is really crucial for the implementation of our Agreement.”

214. The **Executive Secretary** warmly thanked the staff of the Department of Environmental Affairs of South Africa, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the MOP and the Chairs of the two Working Groups and presented tokens of appreciation to those present. He also expressed his sincere thanks to the interpreters, report writers, local staff, the technical and logistical support team, to the entire team of the Olive Convention Centre, and last, but not least to the AEWA Secretariat and colleagues from the CMS Secretariat that had made MOP7 possible. He closed by acknowledging the constructive inputs and positive spirit of all participants, wishing everyone a safe return home.

215. The **Chair** added his own thanks, on behalf of AEWA Parties, to all those that had contributed to the success of the MOP. He encouraged all participants to reflect on a quotation that he had come across during the MOP7 ‘Heritage Trail’ excursion: “*What we think, or what we know, or what we believe is – in the end – of little consequence. The only consequence is what we do.*” With that he declared MOP7 officially closed.

ANNEX 1

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY MOP7

7th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

4-8 December 2018, Durban, South Africa

“Beyond 2020: Shaping flyway conservation for the future”

RESOLUTION 7.1

ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AEWA STRATEGIC PLAN AND PLAN OF ACTION FOR AFRICA FOR THE PERIOD OF 2019-2027

Recalling Resolution 4.7 which adopted the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 to guide the implementation of the Agreement at the national and flyway levels and Resolution 5.9 which adopted the Plan of Action for the implementation of AEWA in Africa 2012-2017 to further serve as an operational guideline for implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan in Africa,

Also recalling Resolution 6.14 which extended the validity of both the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa to 2018 to correspond with the timing of the 7th Meeting of the Parties (MOP7), and instructed the AEWA Standing Committee, working with the Technical Committee and supported by the Secretariat to prepare drafts of both plans covering the period of 2019-2027, for submission to MOP7,

Further recalling Resolution 5.9 which established the AEWA African Sub-Regional Focal Point Coordinators, to be identified among the AEWA National Focal Points in each sub-region, to guide implementation at the sub-regional level, as well as the Terms of Reference for their functioning as approved by the 9th Meeting of the AEWA Standing Committee,

Recognizing the positive contribution of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa in guiding and advancing the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the African-Eurasian flyways,

Expressing sincere appreciation to the Governments of all AEWA Contracting Parties, other relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and partner organizations, which have contributed towards the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa over the period of 2009-2018,

Further expressing sincere appreciation to the Governments of donor countries and donor organizations that have provided financial and other support towards the coordination and implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa,

Acknowledging the work of the consultants, the Working Groups for the development of the Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa, the Secretariat, the AEWA Technical and Standing Committees and the input and support from AEWA Contracting Parties and partner organizations regarding the preparation of the draft AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 and the draft Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027 for presentation to MOP7,

Also acknowledging the need to further strategize the actions, efforts and limited resources of the Agreement to effectively address changing priorities and emerging issues affecting migratory waterbirds and their habitats along the African-Eurasian flyways, as captured in the objectives, targets, actions and activities depicted in the draft AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027,

Further acknowledging the need to continue mobilizing significant financial and other resources for the effective and coordinated conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the African-Eurasian flyways, and particularly the need for dedicated support for advancing the implementation of AEWA in the African region due to the limited financial, human and material resources available for migratory waterbird conservation,

Equally acknowledging the importance of coordination and promoting collaboration for implementation of AEWA at the sub-regional level through the Sub-Regional Focal Point Coordinators, as well as the need to harmonise and align the roles of these Coordinators with those of the African Regional Representatives on the AEWA Standing Committee to ensure more effectiveness in their functioning,

Recalling also that the Technical Support Unit supported by France and the FFEM/FAO/EU RESSOURCE project provide significant assistance to African Parties for the implementation on the ground of the Agreement and particularly the Plan of Action for Africa,

Recalling that the AEWA Small Grants Fund (SGF), established by the AEWA MOP1 through Resolution 1.7, is the only dedicated financing mechanism to provide assistance to eligible developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the implementation on the ground of the Agreement and its Strategic Plan, including the Plan of Action for Africa,

Further recalling that since its launch in 2010 the SGF has operated on an annual basis and a total of 286,230 Euros have been disbursed for 18 projects in 17 AEWA Contracting Parties in Africa over the period of 2010-2015,

Considering the heavy reliance of the SGF on voluntary contributions for its functioning and the significant human and time resources required for the operation of the SGF programme,

Being aware that the 2015 SGF cycle was the last to be operated and that in the last triennium (2016-2018) there have not been new SGF cycles due to the unavailability of both voluntary and core-budget funding to support the programme,

Noting with concern that the SGF operations are currently paused and can only be resumed should substantial and regular financial resources become available to avoid further suspension of its operations,

Mindful of the need to harmonize efforts for migratory waterbird conservation with those of relevant MEAs, particularly regarding the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2015-2030, the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS) 2015-2023 and the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024, amongst others,

Acknowledging that the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework provides an important opportunity for a collaborative planning process that supports the objectives of the Agreement alongside the biodiversity community,

Further acknowledging the importance of strengthening cooperation between the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and AEWA, in order to improve

the science-policy interface on the conservation and sustainable use of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, and to support the implementation of AEWA at all levels,

Concerned with the findings and conclusions of the Final Report on the Implementation of the Strategic Plan 2009-2018 (document AEWA/MOP 7.10), according to which the goal of the Plan has been highly insufficiently achieved and the overall implementation is assessed as average,

Taking due note of the conclusion of the Final Report on the Implementation of the Strategic Plan 2009-2018 that progress in the last decade has not been sufficient in many areas of work, including on fundamental obligations such as the accord to waterbird species of the appropriate legal status in the domestic legislation, and that the implementation performance in the period of the new Strategic Plan 2019-2027 has to be substantially improved and strengthened, by addressing the challenges identified related to the implementation of the previous Strategic Plan,

Noting the outcomes of the 7th edition of the Conservation Status Report, in particular that whilst the overall status of AEWA waterbird populations has improved during the period of the Strategic Plan 2009-2018, an increasing number of mainly marine and farmland species are listed as globally threatened and Near Threatened as well as in significant long-term decline, and *conscious* that species are becoming globally threatened more rapidly than they can be recovered,

Further noting that good governance is the most important determinant of the trend of waterbird populations and that species recovery plans positively influence the trend of waterbird populations in the long-term; *conscious*, however, that achieving AEWA's targets and ensuring its contribution to the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals require the adoption of proactive strategies that integrate bird conservation into a wide range of land and water use policies,

Mindful that the effective monitoring of the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action of Africa and the progress towards achieving their targets and objectives is dependent on the timely and comprehensive reporting by each Contracting Party,

Noting the desirability that decisions taken by the Meeting of Parties that relate to potential changes to the national reporting format set out the reporting requirements for Parties,

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Adopts* the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa for the period of 2019-2027 as presented in documents AEWA/MOP 7.15 and AEWA/MOP 7.16 respectively;
2. *Urges* all AEWA Contracting Parties and invites non-Party Range States, other governments and other stakeholders and financial institutions to allocate adequate and timely financial and other resources for the systematic and punctual implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027,
3. *Further urges* all AEWA Contracting Parties, and requests the AEWA Secretariat, in close consultation with the AEWA Standing and Technical Committees and other relevant stakeholders as identified by the two Plans, to identify innovative actions that can link waterbird conservation with socio-economic development objectives, taking into account the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity;

4. *Calls on* the AEWA Contracting Parties to strongly consider allocating additional resources to the AEWA core budget to support the effective coordination and implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027;
5. *Strongly urges* donor countries and organisations to regularly provide funds to the AEWA Small Grants Fund in order to allow for annual disbursement of at least 50,000 Euros to eligible developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in Africa, as well as in Eurasia, to support the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, including the Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027;
6. *Also calls on* donor countries and organizations to provide support towards the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027 through financial and other contributions, meanwhile acknowledging the need to prioritize support to developing countries, countries with economies in transition and Small Island Developing States for the implementation of work plans associated with the AEWA Strategic Plan and/or the Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027;
7. *Further calls on* donor countries and organizations to consider providing additional Technical Support arrangements, such as the Technical Support Unit provided by the Governments of France and Senegal to the Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2018, to enhance the implementation of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027 in priority areas which have so far received relatively limited support;
8. *Requests* the AEWA Standing Committee, in collaboration with the Technical Committee and the Secretariat, to monitor the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027 and to report progress to each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, where such reporting should:
 - i) consider the progress in the light of the variable time since Parties have acceded to the Agreement; and
 - ii) present not only the status in respect of the achievement of the target, but also the trend of progress towards achievement over time;
9. *Approves* the revised Terms of Reference for the roles and responsibilities of the AEWA Sub-Regional Focal Point Coordinators as annexed to the current Resolution;
10. *Adopts* the format for national reports on the implementation of AEWA for the period 2018-2020 as presented in document AEWA/MOP 7.17.;
11. *Instructs* the Standing Committee, working with the Technical Committee and the Secretariat, to establish a module on the implementation of the Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027 in the national report format and to integrate the module in time for the reporting cycle to MOP8;
12. *Instructs* the Standing Committee, in close consultation with the Technical Committee and the Secretariat, to revise, amend and enhance the national report format after each session of the MOP, as necessary, so as to bring it in line with any relevant decisions of the MOP;
13. *Decides* that the deadline for submission of the national reports by Contracting Parties to MOP8 shall be 180 days before the opening date of MOP8, while the module on the status of native and non-native species of waterbirds shall be submitted by 30 June 2020 and the module on the implementation of the Plan of Action for Africa not later than 240 days before the opening date of MOP8;
14. *Urges* Contracting Parties to submit, in a timely manner, complete and thorough national reports on their progress towards the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027, as well as the other provisions of the Agreement, to each ordinary session of the AEWA MOP;

15. *Instructs* the Standing Committee, in close consultation with the Technical Committee and the Secretariat to identify, and in consultation with related convention secretariats, the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, concrete actions to advance synergies on reporting, *inter alia*, through:

- (i) Common indicators, where appropriate;
- (ii) Reporting modules on shared issues;
- (iii) Interoperability of information management and reporting systems;
- (iv) Other options for increasing synergies in national reporting among the biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions;

and to report back to the 8th Session of the Meeting of the Parties;

16. *Further instructs* the Secretariat to work closely with UN Environment, other relevant MEAs and partner organizations to harmonize the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027 with the implementation of relevant global and regional relevant frameworks, particularly the SDGs, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, SPMS, and the Ramsar Strategic Plan;

17. *Invites* Parties and the Secretariat to engage in the process related to the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, in the context of the Working Group established by CMS, with a view to contributing inputs and raising awareness on migratory wildlife, including watebirds, and connectivity conservation;

18. *Invites* the Secretariat to provide input, resources permitting, into the process initiated by CMS to contribute to the development of the IPBES second work programme to be adopted at the IPBES-7 Plenary (29 April – 4 May 2019), with a view to set IPBES future priorities and to ensure that AEWA needs for science and policy guidance are addressed;

19. *Welcomes* the engagement of the Government of the Republic of South Africa to play a lead role in stimulating and advancing the implementation of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027 adopted by the AEWA MOP7 as a comprehensive guide towards the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 in the African region, through exemplary action on implementing the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa at the national level as well as through promoting strengthened collaboration at regional and flyway levels, and in particular by championing the implementation of the AEWA International Multi-species Action Plan for the Conservation of Benguela Current Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds and International Single Species Action Plans for the Conservation of the White-winged Flufftail and the Grey Crowned-crane across the applicable flyways, while ensuring to sustain a coherent and comprehensive network of suitable, protected and well managed sites of crucial importance for the survival of these populations of migratory waterbirds across their entire flyways.

Annex 1
Revised Terms of Reference
AEWA Sub-Regional Focal Point Coordinators in Africa

Background and mandate

The concept of AEWA Sub-Regional Focal Point Coordinators (SRFPCs) for Africa was established by the 5th Meeting of the Parties to AEWA through Resolution 5.9 on the Implementation of the AEWA African Initiative for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats in Africa. The Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the roles, responsibilities and functioning of SRFPCs was adopted by the 9th Meeting of the AEWA Standing Committee (September 2013 in Trondheim, Norway). The current revised Terms of Reference aim to harmonize and align the roles and responsibilities of the AEWA SRFPCs in Africa with those of the African regional representatives on the AEWA Standing Committee, in order to streamline and improve the efficiency of both coordination mechanisms.

Purpose

The main purpose of the AEWA SRFPCs in Africa is to guide implementation of the Agreement at the sub-regional level, as well as instigate and motivate action, and provide advice for implementation.

Representation/membership

A maximum of five SRFPCs will be nominated from the African region, based on the principle of sub-regional balance. As such, there shall be one SRFPC each from Northern, Eastern, Southern, Western and Central Africa.

The nominated AEWA Standing Committee regional representatives for Africa shall, by default, assume the role of SRFPC for their given sub-regions.

For the other sub-regions with no Party representative nominated to the AEWA Standing Committee, the officially designated AEWA National Focal Points shall nominate a SRFPC from among themselves and communicate the nomination to the AEWA Secretariat and the other AEWA Parties. The nomination of alternate SRFPCs shall be optional and shall follow the same principles as the nomination of the principal SRFPCs, with the alternate regional representatives on the AEWA Standing Committee assuming the role of alternate SRFPCs by default, where applicable.

The nomination of the SRFPCs shall be reviewed during each ordinary session of the AEWA Meeting of the Parties (MOP), in line with the approved institutional arrangements for the AEWA Standing Committee. However, the maximum term of office of SRFPCs shall expire at the close of the second ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties following the session at which they were originally nominated.

Responsibility

The SRFPCs will play an advisory, motivating and guiding role for promoting the implementation of the AEWA African Initiative, including the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa (PoAA) at the level of their respective sub-regions, through the following:

- Act as a central point of contact linking the AEWA National Focal Points in the respective sub-region with the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and other key partners at the international and regional levels (for example, the Technical Support Unit or the African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership), to provide

guidance, advise and information during the planning, development and implementation of activities aimed at implementing the AEWA PoAA at the sub-regional and flyway levels;

- Engage actively in the implementation and reporting of AEWA-related activities conducted at the sub-regional and flyway level as well as encourage the engagement of the AEWA National Focal Points and other relevant stakeholders in the respective sub-regions, to facilitating access to relevant waterbird-related data and information;
- Liaise with the AEWA National Focal Points in the respective sub-regions to identify priorities for the sub-region and/or flyway as relevant and provide feedback, guidance and advise for the implementation of activities applicable to the sub-region, and which are coordinated and/or led by the AEWA Secretariat, Technical Support Unit and/or other AEWA partners involved in supporting the implementation of the AEWA PoAA;
- Promote the implementation and reporting of activities in the AEWA PoAA by the Range States within their respective sub-regions;
- Mobilize, stimulate and coordinate AEWA National Focal Points in the sub-region to establish collaborative arrangements between Parties, with the aim to promote joint activities, projects or programmes that contribute to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats at transboundary, sub-regional or flyway scale;
- Support with the identification of relevant frameworks, forums and events in the sub-region and coordinate the representation of the Agreement by the AEWA National Focal Points at these events, within possible means;
- Promote the recognition of AEWA priorities in the framework of regional economic communities in the African region;
- Liaise with AEWA Ranges States of the sub-region that are not yet Contracting Parties to AEWA, to promote accession;
- Liaise with the National Focal Points of the sub-region to promote and coordinate the collation and sharing of information on AEWA relevant activities conducted at the sub-regional level;
- Ensure the full support of their respective Governments and/or host institutions in order to enable them to execute the above responsibilities (including ensuring their availability for attending relevant meetings¹, as applicable, in relation to executing their roles and responsibilities.

Communication

The AEWA SRFPCs shall communicate with the National Focal Points of their sub-region through various means as appropriate, including through the use of the existing sub-regional group email addresses, virtual meetings (for example, Skype meetings) or meeting in the framework of other forums.

SRFPCs should preferably have the necessary language skills to ensure effective communication with the AEWA National Focal Points in their respective sub-regions.

¹ General rules and criteria for eligibility to travel support as defined by the Meeting of the Parties will be applicable to Sub-Regional National Focal Point Coordinators when attending AEWA meetings in their coordinator capacity.

7th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES
4-8 December 2018, Durban, South Africa

“Beyond 2020: Shaping flyway conservation for the future”

RESOLUTION 7.2

**AEWA’s CONTRIBUTION TO DELIVERING THE AICHI 2020 BIODIVERSITY
TARGETS AND THE RELEVANCE OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Recalling Decision X/2 of the tenth Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Nagoya, Japan, 2010, establishing a Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 which “*represents a useful flexible framework that is relevant to all biodiversity-related conventions*”, and which includes 20 ‘Aichi’ Targets, which are addressed to all relevant intergovernmental organisations and other processes related to biodiversity,

Recalling also Resolutions 5.23 and 6.15 which outlined AEWA’s past and future contribution to the delivery of the Aichi 2020 Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

Noting the relevance of the full implementation of the Convention on Migratory Species’ (CMS) Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 which already includes reference to the Aichi Targets to help guide the future strategy and goals of the CMS Family over the next five years,

Recalling the request from MOP5 to the Technical and Standing Committees to work together to assess progress on issues relevant to the Aichi Targets, and that they should present triennial assessments of AEWA’s contribution to each of the relevant Aichi Targets, elaborating further needs as necessary and appropriate, as an agenda item for each future MOP through to 2020,

Recalling again the request from MOP5 that the UNEP/AEWA and UNEP/CMS Secretariats work together with the CBD Secretariat to ensure that information on the status of migratory species including waterbirds are fully included in future CBD assessments of progress against relevant Aichi Targets, and that progress to this end should be reported to each Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA until 2020,

Noting recent research² on factors influencing waterbird declines, which shows that the strongest predictor of changes in waterbird abundance, and of conservation efforts having beneficial effects, is effective national governance; that in areas where governance is on average less effective, waterbird declines are particularly pronounced; and further that whilst higher protected area coverage of wetland environments facilitates waterbird increases, this only occurs in countries with more effective governance,

² <https://www.nature.com/articles/nature25139>

Recalling the publication of the Ramsar Convention's [Global Wetland Outlook 2018](#), which summarises the global status and trends of wetland habitats and species and, *inter alia*, stresses that “Urgent action is needed at the international and national level to raise awareness of the benefits of wetlands, put in place safeguards for their survival and ensure their inclusion in national development plans”, and in particular to:

- Enhance the network of Ramsar Sites and other wetland protected areas;
- Integrate wetlands into planning and the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda;
- Strengthen legal and policy arrangements to protect all wetlands;
- Implement Ramsar guidance to achieve wise-use;
- Apply economic and financial incentives for communities and businesses;
- Integrate diverse perspectives into wetland management; and
- Improve national wetland inventories and track wetland extent.”,

Welcoming the agreement by the United National General Assembly of *Transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for sustainable development*³ which presents 17 Goals to guide global sustainable development until 2030: “a charter for people and the planet in the twenty-first century”,

Conscious that – as outlined in Annex 3 – the full implementation of the Agreement, at all scales and by both Contracting Parties and other actors, has the potential to directly contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals *inter alia* through actions related to the reduction of biodiversity loss; protection and restoration of habitats; climate change adaptation measures; education and awareness building; capacity development; contributing to food security and poverty reduction through the sustainable harvesting of waterbirds and the wise-use use of wetlands; and actions to address illegal taking, killing and trade,

Noting particularly that *Transforming our world* stresses that “Regional and sub-regional frameworks can facilitate the effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at national level”,

Noting current work to prepare for the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework,

Conscious of the opportunities and benefits that arise from collaborative working between the different multilateral environmental agreements and their secretariats to deliver actions to achieve both the Aichi Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals,

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. Decides to retire Resolution 6.15, the content of which is superseded by this Resolution;
2. Notes the assessment of the Technical Committee in Annex 1 to this Resolution as to priority needs with respect of AEWA's contribution to the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 regarding migratory waterbirds and their habitats;
3. Adopts the actions within Annex 2 to this Resolution as an updated assessment of AEWA's contribution to the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

³ http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/L.1&Lang=E

4. *Determines* that the greatest benefit to development processes are those AEWA implementation actions that, in particular:

- ensure the conservation and wise use of national networks of protected areas, especially, but not restricted to, wetlands, and in both terrestrial and marine environments,
- ensure that land-uses are fully compatible with sustaining migratory waterbird populations,
- reduce, mitigate and compensate for habitat loss and degradation as appropriate, restore degraded habitats to reverse past losses and create new multifunctional wetlands,
- implement climate change adaptation measures related to the waterbird habitats (especially but not restricted to wetlands),
- remove unnecessary causes of waterbird mortality and ensure that harvests, where made, are sustainable, and
- develop strong engagement with local communities with respect to the management and wise use of waterbirds and their wetland habitats;

5. *Urges again* that Contracting Parties ensure that those national authorities responsible for AEWA implementation are fully involved in the process to update national biodiversity strategies and action plans as requested by CBD Decision X/2, in order to further promote synergies between biodiversity-related treaties;

6. *Urges* Contracting Parties to highlight to their development agencies, as appropriate, the relevance of AEWA implementation in the context of SDG-delivery, and to stress the need to better integrate actions for waterbird and wetland conservation within relevant development projects, so as to achieve benefits, not just for waterbirds, but also for human communities; and

7. *Requests* the Technical Committee to bring, to MOP8 (2021), a final assessment of AEWA's contributions to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and a reflection on AEWA's potential contribution to the post-2020 development agenda.

Annex 1: The Technical Committee's 2018 assessment as to priority needs with respect to AEWA's Contribution to the Strategic Goals and Aichi Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2012-2020 with regard to migratory waterbirds and their habitats

Aichi Target	Technical Committee's 2018 assessment of priority needs in respect of delivery of Aichi Targets (with regard to migratory waterbirds)
<i>Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society</i>	
<p>Target 1</p> <p>By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.</p>	<p>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</p> <p>A central target as reflected in the emphasis that has been placed on Communications, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA).</p> <p>Waterbird migratory movements and the international context provided by flyway systems are inherently interesting and give major opportunities for communicating biodiversity conservation at multiple scales.</p> <p>TC assessment of needs:</p> <p>AEWA has a Communications Strategy, and CEPA issues are also central to the Plan for Africa, however much more needs to be undertaken, particularly in developing countries, to implement the identified needs.</p> <p>Continued input to and development of World Migratory Bird Day provides relevant opportunities.</p> <p>MOP7 National Reports indicate good progress in the development of education and awareness programmes in 1/3 of the Parties, however, progress in some countries is hampered by resource and capacity constraints.</p> <p>Note that measuring progress against this target is inherently difficult other than using indirect metrics.</p>
<p>Target 2</p> <p>By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty-reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>	<p>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</p> <p>Directly relevant to AEWA in the context of the socio-economic values of migratory waterbirds, their consumptive and non-consumptive uses, and the benefits that also derive from the conservation of their wetland habitats. Particularly but not exclusively relevant in Africa in the context of integration of migratory waterbird conservation within poverty reduction strategies.</p> <p>TC assessment of needs:</p>

Aichi Target	Technical Committee's 2018 assessment of priority needs in respect of delivery of Aichi Targets (with regard to migratory waterbirds)
	<p>Further also to CMS Resolution 10.18¹, there is particular need to include these issues within National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to ensure the values of waterbirds are fully recognised nationally. Noting that some guidance has already been developed by CMS², consideration of further guidance specific to migratory waterbirds would be valuable.</p> <p>Issue gives particular opportunities for joint working with those responsible for implementation of related MEAs in particular CBD, Ramsar and the CMS Action Plan for the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds.</p>
<p>Target 3</p> <p>By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed, in order to minimise or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio-economic conditions.</p>	<p>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</p> <p>Indirectly relevant to AEWA via impacts on habitats and species.</p> <p>TC assessment of needs:</p> <p>Best delivered through national and international actions and the activity of other MEAs and international processes that influence land-uses, fisheries and other relevant activities (e.g. the international financial sector).</p>
<p>Target 4</p> <p>By 2020, at the latest, governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.</p>	<p>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</p> <p>Highly relevant. The issue of ensuring the sustainable use/harvest of waterbirds is central to AEWA's objectives. AEWA can play a particularly significant role in assisting the delivery of related initiatives initiated by CMS. Ensuring that land-uses are fully compatible with sustaining migratory waterbird populations is critical to delivering Article III of the Agreement.</p> <p>TC assessment of needs:</p> <p>Needs significantly more attention from Parties especially with respect of the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing, implementing and enforcing national legislation on hunting and trade; • ensuring that consumptive uses of waterbirds are sustainable, <i>inter alia</i> through implementation of adaptive management systems of regulating harvests;

¹ Resolution 10.18. Guidelines on the integration of migratory species into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and other outcomes from CBD COP10.

http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/10_18_nsbaps_e_0_0.pdf

² http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/doc_27_guidelines_nbsap_e_0.pdf

Aichi Target	Technical Committee's 2018 assessment of priority needs in respect of delivery of Aichi Targets (with regard to migratory waterbirds)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • collating and reporting data on harvest levels; • establishing of international processes to share harvest information and making assessments of the sustainability of levels of take at biogeographic population scale; • implementing the <i>Guidelines on sustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds</i>; • eliminating illegal killing and/or illegal taking of migratory waterbirds where this occurs; • phasing out the use of lead shot where this is still used, as an unnecessary cause of additional mortality; • addressing inherently unsustainable uses of habitats; and • implementing relevant AEWA guidance on all the above issues. <p>This provides major opportunities to work with a range of stakeholders at various scales.</p> <p>Full implementation of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 is highly relevant.</p> <p>Further development of management plans for priority exploited species including principles of adaptive management would be valuable at appropriate scales.</p>
Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use	
<p>Target 5</p> <p>By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.</p>	<p>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</p> <p>Highly relevant. The issue of habitat loss and degradation is central to delivering AEWA's objectives.</p> <p>TC assessment of needs:</p> <p>Needs significantly more attention from Parties especially with respect of the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establishing schemes to monitor and report on the extent of wetlands and other habitats – and change over time – jointly with Ramsar and other relevant international processes; • identifying and addressing the main drivers of habitat loss at flyway level; • ensuring that important natural habitats of waterbirds are protected through legislative or other means; and • developing a shared and evidence-based understanding of regional rates of wetland habitat loss as the basis for prioritised actions to address the drivers of such loss and degradation in the context of impacts on sustaining flyway populations.

Aichi Target	Technical Committee's 2018 assessment of priority needs in respect of delivery of Aichi Targets (with regard to migratory waterbirds)
	Provides major opportunities ³ to work with those involved with delivering the Ramsar Convention at various scales.
<p>Target 6</p> <p>By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem-based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.</p>	<p>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</p> <p>Highly relevant. The issue of eliminating negative impacts from fisheries is central to AEWA's objectives with respect of both marine and freshwater fish-eating birds. Issues include bycatch of waterbirds, impacts on bird populations, depletion of fish stocks (including shell-fisheries), and habitat destruction or degradation arising from destructive fishing techniques such as bottom-trawling.</p> <p>TC assessment of needs:</p> <p>The issues of eliminating bycatch from fisheries and of sustaining fish stocks are of major importance. For migratory seabirds in particular, the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) provide a mechanism for AEWA Parties to promote best practice standards to that end.</p> <p>Similarly, these issues are also relevant to freshwater fisheries (some of which are of major significance both for waterbirds and people), and where conflicts can exist between birds and fishermen.</p> <p>It is a priority to ensure that the scale and extent of shell-fisheries do not impact on food resources for waterbirds (as a key element of ecosystem function).</p> <p>Typically, many of the negative impacts arise from the lack of implementation of established good practice(s).</p> <p>There are opportunities for joint work with a range of other international processes including the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, RFMOs, the Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative, and processes under CBD.</p>
<p>Target 7</p> <p>By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.</p>	<p>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</p> <p>Highly relevant. The need to ensure that agricultural and other wider habitats (outside protected areas) are managed sustainably for waterbirds is central to AEWA's objectives.</p> <p>TC assessment of needs:</p> <p>Needs significantly more attention from Parties especially with respect of the following issues:</p>

³ Particularly in the context of Resolution 5.19.

Aichi Target	Technical Committee's 2018 assessment of priority needs in respect of delivery of Aichi Targets (with regard to migratory waterbirds)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring that agricultural and land-use policies adequately provide for the needs of migratory waterbirds (and other biodiversity) alongside the need for food production and other land-uses; ensuring that changes of land-use, for example from wetlands to intensive agriculture, or loss of extensive agriculture (via land abandonment), do not negatively impact on migratory waterbirds; and ensuring that appropriate policies (and/or the actions of decision makers) take full account of the ecological needs of migratory waterbirds thus providing benefits both to birds and people. <p>There is a major opportunity for AEWA to work with the CMS Action Plan for the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds on these issues.</p>
<p>Target 8</p> <p>By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.</p>	<p>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</p> <p>Highly relevant. In particular, the lethal and sub-lethal effects of direct and indirect pollution are a significant issue for many waterbirds.</p> <p>TC assessment of needs:</p> <p>Pollution control (notably through the discharge of wastes and industrial effluents into the environment) needs attention in many developing countries, whilst the ecological effects of air-borne nutrient pollution are significant factors altering habitats across much of north-west Europe. Nutrient pollution arising from excess use of agricultural fertilizers can also have major ecological consequences for wetland habitats.</p> <p>Much more rapid progress is needed to phase out the use of lead shot.</p> <p>Pollution from oil spills and discharges can have devastating local impacts on waterbirds and other wildlife. Much guidance exists related to reducing this risk and needs to be more widely implemented.</p> <p>The need to address causes of pollution from plastic debris and micro plastics in the marine environment is being taken forward by a range of international processes and needs support from Contracting Parties.</p>
<p>Target 9</p> <p>By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritised, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.</p>	<p>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</p> <p>Highly relevant. The need to control and eliminate established invasive non-native species, and prevent the establishment of others, is central to AEWA's objectives. This issue is especially significant in the</p>

Aichi Target	Technical Committee's 2018 assessment of priority needs in respect of delivery of Aichi Targets (with regard to migratory waterbirds)
	<p>context of introduced predators on seabird breeding islands. As in the case of Ruddy Duck (<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>), hybridisation with non-natives can be a major threat to the genetic integrity of native waterbirds species.</p> <p>TC assessment of needs:</p> <p>Urgent attention by relevant Contracting Parties is needed to eliminate the Ruddy Duck from the Agreement area.</p> <p>More attention needs to be given by Parties to prevent the establishment and spread of other invasive non-native species (particularly aquatic plants) which could jeopardize migratory waterbirds or the ecological integrity of their habitats.</p> <p>Existing AEWA guidance needs to be better implemented.</p> <p>Priority attention should be given to better harmonising international reporting mechanisms for non-native waterbirds, including opportunities presented by AEWA, the EU Birds Directive, EU Regulation No 1143/2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species, and the International Waterbird Census. Better coordination between these instruments would be valuable.</p> <p>Noting considerable work by CBD on this topic⁴, internationally-agreed standards and guidance for risk assessment specifically with respect to non-native waterbirds would be useful.</p> <p>There are important education and public awareness messages concerned with the risk of keeping and release of non-native waterbirds with which AEWA could assist.</p> <p>MOP7 National Reports note significant activity by many Parties but also the non-implementation of relevant legislation by some Parties.</p>
<p>Target 10</p> <p>By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.</p>	<p>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</p> <p>Highly relevant. The need to put in place climate change adaption measures related to the waterbird habitats (especially but not restricted to wetlands) is central to AEWA's objectives.</p>

⁴ 2014. Analysis on pathways for the introduction of invasive Alien species: Updates. UNEP/CBD/COP/12/INF/10 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-12/information/cop-12-inf-10-en.doc>

Aichi Target	Technical Committee's 2018 assessment of priority needs in respect of delivery of Aichi Targets (with regard to migratory waterbirds)
	<p>TC assessment of needs:</p> <p>MOP7 National Reports indicate that only a small number of Parties, less than a quarter, have yet taken actions to adapt to climate change impacts on waterbirds, either through systematic assessment of vulnerability of key habitats, site networks or species, and consequent review of relevant national conservation policies and/or national climate change action plan. Higher priority needs to be given by Parties to climate change adaptation measures, so as to reduce climate change impacts through the protection and management of networks of key habitats and sites for waterbirds.</p>
<i>Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity</i>	
<p>Target 11</p> <p>By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.</p>	<p>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</p> <p>Highly relevant. The need to establish and appropriately manage networks of protected areas – in both the terrestrial and marine environments – is central to AEWA's objectives. The issue is a major focus of the Plan of Action for Africa.</p> <p>TC assessment of needs:</p> <p>Much higher priority needs to be given by Parties to the completion of national networks of protected areas important for migratory waterbirds both in terrestrial and marine environments.</p> <p>With the addition of many seabird species to AEWA, there is particular need to identify and implement relevant marine protected areas and guidance to this end would be valuable especially for Parties outside Europe (where significant activity is already occurring).</p> <p>Much guidance on protected area management already exists and this needs to be used⁵. Similarly, the simple framework for site monitoring⁶ developed for Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas provides an important relevant tool for Parties to use to assess progress.</p> <p>Delivering this Target provides major opportunities⁷ to work with those involved with delivering the Ramsar Convention at various scales, as well as other relevant processes including the World Heritage Convention, the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative and the delivery of</p>

⁵ For example at <https://www.ramsar.org/resources/ramsar-sites-management-toolkit>

⁶ http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/userfiles/file/IBAs/MonitoringPDFs/IBA_Monitoring_Framework.pdf

⁷ In the context of Resolution 5.19 especially

Aichi Target	Technical Committee's 2018 assessment of priority needs in respect of delivery of Aichi Targets (with regard to migratory waterbirds)
	<p>Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement.</p> <p>MOP7 National Reports indicate the considerable work still needed to develop a coherent overview of nationally and internationally important sites for waterbirds within the Agreement Area, as well as their protection and management status, and address the incompleteness of the site network.</p>
<p>Target 12</p> <p>By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.</p>	<p>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</p> <p>Highly relevant. The need to prevent species extinctions and to reverse declines is central to AEWA's objectives and the continued declining status of many species means the issue is of high priority.</p> <p>TC assessment of needs:</p> <p>As shown by the overall status of AEWA-listed populations (document AEWA/MOP 7.14 Corr.1) and continuing declines in parts of the Agreement area, much higher priority needs to be given by Parties to the conservation of threatened species, notably, but not restricted to the full implementation of relevant Species Action Plans.</p> <p>Full legal protection needs to be given to all relevant species listed in Column A of AEWA's Action Plan with action taken to address illegal killing and/or illegal taking.</p> <p>As necessary, national legislation on hunting and trade needs to be developed, implemented and enforced.</p>
<p>Target 13</p> <p>By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimising genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.</p>	<p>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</p> <p>Only indirectly relevant to AEWA's objectives, although there are potentially issues related to hybridisation between wild and domestic-bred waterbirds.</p> <p>TC assessment of needs:</p> <p>Little that AEWA can directly contribute to this Target.</p>

Aichi Target	Technical Committee's 2018 assessment of priority needs in respect of delivery of Aichi Targets (with regard to migratory waterbirds)
<i>Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services</i>	
<p>Target 14</p> <p>By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.</p>	<p>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</p> <p>Highly relevant. The need to ensure that important habitats for waterbirds are subject to wise and multifunctional use is central to AEWA's objectives and will best ensure their long-term survival in the face of multiple pressures. The restoration of degraded habitats is particularly important to reverse past losses.</p> <p>It is critical to involve local populations in wetland protection and management not just in the context of biodiversity conservation but with respect to livelihood needs. This issue is particularly, but by no means exclusively, relevant in Africa (where the issue is a focus of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa⁸).</p> <p>TC assessment of needs:</p> <p>Especially, with ever growing water resource demand, more attention needs to be given to ensuring that demand for ecosystem services is integrated – on a sustainable basis - into the management of important areas for waterbirds.</p> <p>There are important training needs and the Wings over Wetlands Flyways Training Kit⁹ is highly relevant and needs wider dissemination and use.</p> <p>It would be useful to develop a number of case studies summarising the socio-economic benefits (including food security and other livelihood requirements) accruing to local populations from the sustainable management of wetlands and the sustainable use of the waterbirds that depend on these areas.</p> <p>The issue provides a major opportunity to work with both the Ramsar Convention and the CMS Action Plan for the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds.</p>
<p>Target 15</p> <p>By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.</p>	<p>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</p> <p>Highly relevant. The restoration of degraded wetland and other ecosystems will directly benefit waterbird populations and thus significantly contribute to AEWA's objectives. Given the importance of some wetlands (notably peatlands and inter-tidal mudflats and mangrove swamps) as both carbon stores and as bird habitats, restoration of these areas will have major benefits for migratory waterbirds.</p>

⁸ <http://www.unep-aewa.org/en/node/1935>

⁹ <http://tinyurl.com/mpfm8a8>

Aichi Target	Technical Committee's 2018 assessment of priority needs in respect of delivery of Aichi Targets (with regard to migratory waterbirds)
	<p>TC assessment of needs:</p> <p>Parties should give particular attention to the restoration of peatlands and coastal wetlands (including mangroves) in particular, as habitats of particular importance for migratory waterbirds. In the latter context, BirdLife International's Caring for Coasts Initiative¹⁰ may provide opportunities.</p> <p>The issue provides a significant opportunity to work with both the Ramsar Convention and the CMS Action Plan for the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds.</p>
<p>Target 16</p> <p>By 2015, the <i>Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization</i> is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.</p>	<p>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</p> <p>Only indirectly relevant to AEWA's objectives.</p> <p>TC assessment of needs:</p> <p>Little that AEWA can directly contribute to this Target.</p>
<p>Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building</p>	
<p>Target 17</p> <p>By 2015, each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.</p>	<p>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</p> <p>Highly relevant. Theoretically aims to facilitate the development of national policies for AEWA implementation, but not all NBSAPs have relevant content, nor have all countries yet completed plans.</p> <p>TC assessment of needs:</p> <p>High priority should be given to the completion of NBSAPs by the three Parties still to do this, and the full implementation of such plans once adopted.</p> <p>As relevant, Parties should use the guidance adopted by CMS^{11,12} on integration of migratory species issues with NBSAPs when these are being revised.</p> <p>In the context of national implementation of AEWA, synergies should always be sought with the implementation of other MEA obligations – as already stressed in the context of Ramsar by Resolution 5.19.</p>
<p>Target 18</p> <p>By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local</p>	<p>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</p>

¹⁰ http://www.birdlife.org/content/caring-coasts-initiative#_edn2

¹¹ Resolution 10.18. Guidelines on the integration of migratory species into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and other outcomes from CBD COP10.

http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/10_18_nsbaps_e_0_0.pdf

¹² http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/doc_27_guidelines_nbsap_e_0_0.pdf

Aichi Target	Technical Committee's 2018 assessment of priority needs in respect of delivery of Aichi Targets (with regard to migratory waterbirds)
<p>communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.</p>	<p>Very relevant. Traditional knowledge of waterbirds is important in many parts of the Agreement area with respect to the use and management of migratory waterbirds which – where relevant - always needs to involve local communities.</p> <p>TC assessment of needs:</p> <p>A better understanding of the traditional knowledge, practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of waterbirds is needed.</p>
<p>Target 19</p> <p>By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.</p>	<p>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</p> <p>Highly relevant. Knowledge of the status and trends of waterbird populations, factors affecting these, and their habitat requirements are fundamental to the implementation of the Agreement.</p> <p>TC assessment of needs:</p> <p>Needs significantly more attention from Parties especially with respect of the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring that the International Waterbird Census (as the primary means by which AEWA undertakes status assessments) is adequately, and sustainably funded; • ensuring national inventories of wetland and other habitats exist in each Contracting Party; and • ensuring that policies and practices for the conservation and management of migratory waterbirds are always based on best available scientific evidence.
<p>Target 20</p> <p>By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the <i>Strategy for Resource Mobilization</i>, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.</p>	<p>Relevance of Target for AEWA:</p> <p>Highly relevant. Adequate funding to implement the Agreement is critical to ensure its ultimate effectiveness.</p> <p>TC assessment of needs:</p> <p>Parties should provide funding adequate to fully implement the Agreement.</p>

Annex 2: AEWA's Contribution to the Strategic Goals and Aichi Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2012-2020

Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services

Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2015)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2016-2018	AEWA's future contribution (2019-2021)
<i>Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society</i>			
Target 1 By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	Adoption of a Communications Strategy by MOPs 3 and 6 (Resolutions 3.10 & 6.6) Strategic Plan agreed (2008) with relevant objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Objective 4: To improve Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) about migratory waterbird species, their flyways, their role in alleviating poverty, threats to them and the needs for measures to conserve them and their habitats.</i> • Adoption of <i>Guidelines on the development of ecotourism at wetlands</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised Communications Strategy implemented • Annual organisational support provided for World Migratory Bird Day • Implemented relevant actions from Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2018 	Implement Targets for AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 Objective 2: 2.3 Best-practice codes and standards for waterbird hunting are in place and applied to support enforcement of hunting laws and regulations, including customary law where appropriate and consistent with AEWA objectives, in ensuring sustainable use of migratory waterbirds in at least three-quarters of Contracting Parties. 2.6 Consideration of the ecosystem services derived from migratory waterbirds is integrated into policy and decision-making processes that affect waterbird habitats in at least two-thirds of AEWA Parties. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt and implement relevant actions from AEWA's Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2015)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2016-2018	AEWA's future contribution (2019-2021)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of <i>Guidelines on reducing crop damage, damage to fisheries, bird strikes and other forms of conflict between waterbirds and human activities</i> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued annual organisational support provided for World Migratory Bird Day and other communications and awareness raising activities
<p>Target 2</p> <p>By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented relevant actions from AEWA's Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2018 	<p>Implement Targets for Strategic Plan Objective 3 and 4:</p> <p>3.4 The need to maintain the importance and integrity of AEWA flyway network sites is taken into account in planning and decision-making processes in all Contracting Parties.</p> <p>4.3 National habitat conservation and management priorities have been identified and integrated into relevant sectoral policies of at least two-thirds of Contracting Parties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement relevant actions from AEWA's Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027 Contracting Parties to develop national implementation working groups, in cooperation with relevant implementation of other multi-lateral environmental agreements such as the Ramsar Convention: Resolution 5.19 <i>Encouragement of Further Joint Implementation of AEWA and the Ramsar Convention</i>

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2015)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2016-2018	AEWA's future contribution (2019-2021)
<p>Target 3</p> <p>By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed, in order to minimise or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio-economic conditions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopted and implemented Resolution 5.16 <i>Renewable Energy and Migratory Waterbirds</i> and Resolution 6.11 on <i>Addressing impacts of renewable energy deployment on migratory waterbirds</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented Resolutions 5.16 Resolution 6.11 	<p>Implement Targets for Strategic Plan Objective 3:</p> <p>3.5 Legal or administrative measures are in place at national level – and being implemented effectively – to avoid, mitigate and compensate for adverse impacts of development activities and other pressures, including the impacts of climate change, on sites of national and international importance for migratory waterbirds in all Contracting Parties.</p> <p>Implement Resolution 5.16 and Resolution 6.11</p>
<p>Target 4</p> <p>By 2020, at the latest, governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement International Species Management Plan for the Svalbard population of the Pink-footed Goose <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> Adoption of Resolution 3.19 <i>Implementing the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the sustainable use of biodiversity</i> Adoption of <i>Guidelines on sustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds</i> Adoption of <i>Guidelines on how to avoid, minimise or</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement International Species Management Plan for the Svalbard population of the Pink-footed Goose <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> based on adaptive management principles; Commence implementation of International Single Species Action Plan for the Taiga Bean Goose <i>Anser f. fabalis</i> based on adaptive management principles; Establish and operationalise the European Goose Management Platform 	<p>Implement Targets for Strategic Plan Objective 2:</p> <p>2.3 Best-practice codes and standards for waterbird hunting are in place and applied to support enforcement of hunting laws and regulations, including customary law where appropriate and consistent with AEWA objectives, in ensuring sustainable use of migratory waterbirds in at least three-quarters of Contracting Parties.</p> <p>2.4 Adaptive harvest management regimes are in place and being effectively implemented at flyway level in the framework of Species Action or Management Plans for</p>

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2015)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2016-2018	AEWA's future contribution (2019-2021)
	<p><i>mitigate impact of infrastructural developments and related disturbance affecting waterbirds</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of <i>Guidelines on the development of ecotourism at wetlands</i> • Adoption of <i>Guidelines on regulating trade in migratory waterbirds</i> • Adoption of <i>Guidelines on the management of key sites for migratory waterbirds</i> • Strategic Plan agreed (2008) with relevant objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Objective 2: <i>To ensure that any use of waterbirds in the Agreement area is sustainable</i> • Adoption of revised <i>Guidelines on regulating trade in migratory waterbirds</i> • Adoption of <i>Guidelines on national legislation for the protection of species of migratory waterbirds and their habitats</i> (updating and revising the former <i>Guidelines on Hunting and Trade legislation</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 71 AEWA Parties that are Parties to CMS adopted Resolution 11.15 on <i>Preventing poisoning of migratory birds</i> addressing, <i>inter alia</i>, the need to prevent waterbird poisoning by agricultural chemicals, poison baits; and the use of toxic lead shot and fishing weights; • Lead gunshot fully phased out in wetlands in 23 Parties (as indicated in National Reports to MOP7) 	<p>all prioritised declining quarry populations and 'conflict' species¹³.</p> <p>Parties should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the effectiveness of national measures already taken to phase out the use of lead shot and to phase in non-toxic alternatives in wetlands; and • Engage with all relevant stakeholders, <i>inter alia</i> hunters and the manufacturing industry, to understand and address barriers to implementation; and to establish and implement joint communication strategies, • Where requested, the Secretariat and the Technical Committee will provide support to individual Parties conducting such evaluation and engagement. • Implement CMS Resolution 11.15 on <i>Preventing poisoning of migratory birds</i> addressing, <i>inter alia</i>, the need to prevent waterbird poisoning by agricultural chemicals, poison baits; and the use of lead shot and fishing weights.

¹³ These are species for which significant conflicts with, for example, agriculture or fisheries have been identified in part of the Agreement Area.

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2015)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2016-2018	AEWA's future contribution (2019-2021)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of revised <i>Guidelines on sustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds</i> 		
Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use			
Target 5 By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Plan urges establishment of site networks to protect important wetland habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopted the African Initiative for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in Africa Implementation of the AEWA Action Plan and Strategic Plan Adoption of <i>Guidelines on how to avoid or mitigate impact of electricity power grids on migratory birds in the African-Eurasian region</i> 	Implement Targets for Strategic Plan Objective 2, 3 and 4: 2.6 Consideration of the ecosystem services derived from migratory waterbirds is integrated into policy and decision-making processes that affect waterbird habitats in at least two-thirds of AEWA Parties. 3.5 Legal or administrative measures are in place at national level – and being implemented effectively – to avoid, mitigate and compensate for adverse impacts of development activities and other pressures, including the impacts of climate change, on sites of national and international importance for migratory waterbirds in all Contracting Parties. 4.1 Priorities for habitat conservation and management in the wider environment (as defined at the Objective level) are identified at Agreement level and corresponding actions are being implemented in at least half of Contracting Parties. 4.2 At least half of the key international policy mechanisms

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2015)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2016-2018	AEWA's future contribution (2019-2021)
			<p>identified¹⁴ have made tangible progress towards integrating the waterbird habitat priorities and prescriptions of AEWA as they relate to the wider environment.</p> <p>4.4 At least three of the innovative, international multi-stakeholder partnerships¹⁵ result in the improved management, creation and/or restoration of waterbird habitats in the wider environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the AEWA Action Plan, Strategic Plan and Plan of Action for Africa •
<p>Target 6</p> <p>By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem-based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Single Species Action Plans • Finalised and adopted Multi-species Action Plan for Benguela Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds 		<p>Implement Targets for Strategic Plan Objective 1:</p> <p>1.6 AEWA priorities relating to four causes of unnecessary additional mortality and other key threats to migratory waterbirds and their habitats¹⁶ are integrated in key multilateral processes.¹⁷</p>

¹⁴ As identified under Action 4.2.a.

¹⁵ As established under Action 4.4.a.

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ Examples of relevant multilateral processes include, but are not limited to, Agenda 2030, CBD, CMS, Ramsar Convention, Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), UNFCCC.

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2015)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2016-2018	AEWA's future contribution (2019-2021)
species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement Multi-Species Action Plan for Benguela Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds • Develop active collaboration with other international processes, including the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, to promote conservation measures to benefit AEWA-listed seabirds
<p>Target 7</p> <p>By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of <i>Guidelines on the management of key sites for migratory waterbirds</i> 		<p>Implement Targets for Strategic Plan Objective 3 and 4:</p> <p>3.5 Legal or administrative measures are in place at national level – and being implemented effectively – to avoid, mitigate and compensate for adverse impacts of development activities and other pressures, including the impacts of climate change, on sites of national and international importance for migratory waterbirds in all Contracting Parties.</p> <p>4.1 Priorities for habitat conservation and management in the wider environment (as defined at the Objective level) are identified at Agreement level and corresponding actions are being implemented in at least half of Contracting Parties.</p> <p>4.2 At least half of the key international policy mechanisms</p>

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2015)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2016-2018	AEWA's future contribution (2019-2021)
			<p>identified¹⁸ have made tangible progress towards integrating the waterbird habitat priorities and prescriptions of AEWA as they relate to the wider environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noting the value of waterbirds as indicators of wider environmental conditions especially with respect to agriculture (e.g. lowland breeding waders), AEWA Technical Committee to work with Ramsar, the EU and other international actors to assess the potential utility of policy-related guidance for sustainable management of agriculture and aquaculture and make recommendations to MOP7 as appropriate.
<p>Target 8</p> <p>By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement Resolution 5.12 “<i>Adverse Effects of Agrochemicals on Migratory Waterbirds in Africa</i>” engaging with the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pesticides and other relevant international processes as appropriate, such as the CMS Scientific Council Working Group on minimising

¹⁸ As identified under Action 4.2.a

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2015)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2016-2018	AEWA's future contribution (2019-2021)
			<p>the risk of poisoning to migratory birds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support implementation of conclusions from 25th and 26th meetings of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (2009 & 2011) especially as regards chemical management/ pollution issues relevant to waterbirds, notably with regards to lead. • Implement CMS Resolution 11.15 on <i>Preventing poisoning of migratory birds</i> addressing, <i>inter alia</i>, the need to prevent waterbird poisoning by agricultural chemicals, poison baits; and the use of toxic lead shot and fishing weights.
<p>Target 9</p> <p>By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritised, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of <i>Guidelines on Avoidance of Introductions of non-native Waterbird Species</i> • Adoption of Resolution 4.5 <i>Introduced non-native waterbirds in the Agreement area</i> • <i>Review on the Status of Introduced Non-native Species of Waterbirds</i> (AEWA/MOP 4.12; 2008) • Adoption of Resolution 5.15 <i>Impact of invasive alien aquatic</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued very good progress to eradicate the Ruddy Duck (<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>) from the UK. Control measures also undertaken in Belgium and France, planned in Switzerland, but with no implementation of planned controls in Morocco and Sweden. This summary is based on National Reports to MOP6. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eradication of the Ruddy Duck (<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>) from the AEW region, per Resolution 4.5, before 2020 • Enhanced activity to control invasive non-native waterbirds, notably Sacred Ibis (<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>) where it is non-native (per Resolution 4.5) <p>Implement Target for Strategic Plan Objective 1:</p> <p>1.6 AEW priorities relating to four causes of unnecessary additional mortality and other key threats to</p>

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2015)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2016-2018	AEWA's future contribution (2019-2021)
	<i>weeds on waterbird habitats in Africa</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of revised <i>Guidelines on avoidance of introductions of non-native waterbird species</i> 		migratory waterbirds and their habitats ¹⁹ are integrated in key multilateral processes. ²⁰
Target 10 By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of Resolution 3.17 <i>Climate change and migratory waterbirds</i> Adoption of Resolution 5.13 <i>Climate Change Adaptation Measures for Waterbirds</i> and Resolution 6.6 <i>Updated advice on climate change adaptation measures for waterbirds</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited progress to start to assess analyses of habitat and species vulnerability develop adaptation programmes accordingly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement Resolution 6.6 <i>Updated advice on climate change adaptation measures for waterbirds</i>
Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity			
Target 11 By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Plan urges establishment of site networks to protect important wetland habitats Adoption of <i>Guidelines on the management of key sites for migratory waterbirds</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOP7 National Reports report a total of 129,707 nationally important sites (covering 30.53 million ha) for migratory waterbirds, of which all are legally protected²¹. Of legally protected sites, 3.5% have management plans in place. 	Implement Targets for Strategic Plan Objective 3: 3.1 Known sites of national or international importance ⁴⁴ for populations listed in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan have been reviewed confirmed (in conformity with Paragraph 3.1.2 of the Action Plan) and at least three-quarters of

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ Examples of relevant multilateral processes include, but are not limited to, Agenda 2030, CBD, CMS, Ramsar Convention, Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), UNFCCC.

²¹ Discrepancies in reporting indicate a higher number of protected sites (131,643)

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2015)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2016-2018	AEWA's future contribution (2019-2021)
measures and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of <i>Guidelines on the preparation of site inventories for migratory waterbirds</i> • <i>Report on the Site Network for Waterbirds in the Agreement Area</i> (document AEWA/MOP 5.15) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOP7 National Reports report a total of 1,464 internationally important sites (covering 36.83 million ha) for migratory waterbirds of which 1,274 are legally protected and of them 56% have management plans in place. 	<p>the priority site gaps²² are filled in the case of Contracting Parties.</p> <p>3.3 At least two-thirds of all flyway network sites are actively protected and actively managed, focusing in particular on internationally important sites and those in transboundary areas.</p> <p>3.4 The need to maintain the importance and integrity of AEWA flyway network sites is taken into account in planning and decision-making processes in all Contracting Parties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Parties should address site management issues and which sites to prioritise for designation, including consideration of the tentative conclusions and recommendations of the preliminary report on the Site Network in the Agreement Area. • CSN Tool and Flyway Training Kit need to be used
<p>Target 12</p> <p>By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plan agreed (2008) with the over-arching goal: <i>To maintain or restore migratory waterbird species and their populations at a favourable</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of <i>Guidelines for the translocation of waterbirds for conservation purposes: complementing the IUCN guidelines</i> 	<p>Implement Targets for Strategic Plan Objectives 1 and 2:</p> <p>1.2 All priority species/populations²³ are covered by effectively</p>

²² As identified in *Consolidated Report on the Subregional Gap Identification Workshops under the Wings Over Wetlands Project* WOW Technical Report 12, 2008.

²³ 'Priority' populations are those listed in Column A, Categories 1(a) and 1(b), plus Column A populations marked with an asterisk, in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan.

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2015)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2016-2018	AEWA's future contribution (2019-2021)
{ Actions for Target 12 are also relevant to Targets 3 and 4 }	<p><i>conservation status throughout their flyways</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Objective 1: <i>To undertake conservation measures so as to improve or maintain conservation status of waterbird species and their populations</i> • Adoption of <i>Guidelines on the preparation of National Single Species Action Plans for migratory waterbirds</i> • Single Species Action Plans developed for 15 species and implemented for six globally threatened species • Adoption of <i>Guidelines for a waterbird monitoring protocol</i> • Reporting of status of migratory waterbirds via triennial AEWA Conservation Status Reviews • Adoption of revised <i>Guidelines on identifying and tackling emergency situations for migratory waterbirds</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At MOP 6, SSAPs adopted for Shoebill <i>Balaeniceps rex</i>, Grey Crowned-crane <i>Balearica regulorum</i>, Taiga Bean Goose <i>Anser f. fabalis</i>, Long-tailed Duck <i>Clangula hyemalis</i>, Eurasian Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> and Northern Bald Ibis <i>Geronticus eremita</i> (revision of 2005 ISSAP). International multi-species Action Plan for Benguela Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds adopted. • Support given for implementation of existing SSAPs. 	<p>implemented Species Action Plans at flyway level²⁴.</p> <p>1.3 For all other populations in unfavourable conservation status²⁵, science-based conservation and management guidance is made available by AEWA and/or its Partners and is applied by Parties and other stakeholders.</p> <p>2.4 Adaptive harvest management regimes are in place and being effectively implemented at flyway level in the framework of Species Action or Management Plans for all prioritised declining quarry populations and 'conflict' species²⁶.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single Species Action Plans adopted for White-headed Duck <i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>, Velvet Scoter <i>Melanitta fusca</i>, and Dalmatian Pelican <i>Pelecanus crispus</i>. • Reports made to each MOP on the status of species for which Single Species Action Plans (SSAP) have been developed.

²⁴ Encompassing both international single-species and multi-species action plans (see Resolution 2.1) and international habitat action plans (see Resolution 5.2).

²⁵ "Other populations in unfavourable conservation status" are those listed in Category 1 (c), Category 2 or Category 3 in column A or Category 2 in column B, in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan.

²⁶ These are species for which significant conflicts with, for example, agriculture or fisheries have been identified in part of the Agreement Area.

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2015)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2016-2018	AEWA's future contribution (2019-2021)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to establish international coordination mechanisms for each SSAP.
Target 13 By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimising genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.			
Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services			
Target 14 By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commenced implementation of relevant actions from AEWA's Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2018 Inception of the implementation of FAO / FFEM / EU RESOURCE project in Sahel and Nile Valley's wetlands 	Implement Targets for Strategic Plan Objectives 2 and 4: 2.5 Waterbird-related ecotourism is promoted in at least half of the Contracting Parties following the model/example of at least three ecotourism pilots focusing on migratory waterbirds that exemplify benefits to local communities as well as for the conservation status of AEWA populations and their habitats. 2.6 Consideration of the ecosystem services derived from migratory waterbirds is integrated into policy and decision-making processes that affect waterbird habitats in at least two-thirds of AEWA Parties.

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2015)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2016-2018	AEWA's future contribution (2019-2021)
			<p>4.4 At least three of the innovative, international multi-stakeholder partnerships²⁷ result in the improved management, creation and/or restoration of waterbird habitats in the wider environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement relevant actions from AEWA's Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2018
<p>Target 15</p> <p>By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.</p>			<p>Implement Targets for Strategic Plan Objective 4:</p> <p>4.4 At least three of the innovative, international multi-stakeholder partnerships²⁸ result in the improved management, creation and/or restoration of waterbird habitats in the wider environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Committee to work <i>inter alia</i>, with the Ramsar Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and relevant CBD's Programmes of Work, to make recommendations as to priorities for wetland conservation and management recommendations that would both benefit migratory waterbirds, and contribute to climate change

²⁷ As established under Action 4.4.a.

²⁸ As established under Action 4.4.a.

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2015)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2016-2018	AEWA's future contribution (2019-2021)
			mitigation and adaptation, and/or to combating desertification
Target 16 By 2015, the <i>Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization</i> is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.			
Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building			
Target 17 By 2015, each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 74 AEWA Contracting Parties have adopted NBSAPs whilst those for Cyprus, Libya and Monaco are currently under development 	Implement Targets for Strategic Plan Objective 5: 5.5 Conservation of migratory waterbirds is integrated into the new generation of NBSAPs ²⁹ and/or similar national plans/policies by at least three-quarters of Contracting Parties. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that those authorities responsible for AEWA implementation are fully involved in the process to update national biodiversity strategies and action plans so as further to promote synergies between biodiversity-related treaties
Target 18 By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical Committee to develop understanding of implications of traditional harvest methodologies

²⁹ National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans required under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2015)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2016-2018	AEWA's future contribution (2019-2021)
biodiversity and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.			and the implications these may have for AEWA implementation.
<p>Target 19</p> <p>By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plan agreed (2008) with relevant objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Objective 3: To increase knowledge about species and their populations, flyways and threats to them as a basis for conservation action</i> • Triennial publication of <i>Conservation Status Review</i> summarises knowledge of AEWA-listed migratory waterbirds • CSN Tool and Flyway Training Kit and ONCFS quadrilingual CD-Rom published 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterbird Monitoring Partnership developed to take forward the development of the International Waterbird Census (IWC) • The African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring partnership established the Waterbird Fund to resource the IWC and other conservation work • Publication of seventh edition of AEWA's <i>Conservation Status Review</i> 	<p>Implement Targets for Strategic Plan Objectives 1, 3 and 5:</p> <p>1.4 The quality of waterbird population status assessments, including information on drivers of population trends, is improved so that at least two-thirds of all AEWA populations are being assessed on the basis of the most complete and up-to-date monitoring information available.</p> <p>1.5 Decision-making for national and flyway-level conservation and management of waterbird populations is based on the best-available monitoring data.</p> <p>3.2 The status of, the threats to, and the effectiveness of conservation measures implemented at flyway network sites are being assessed at flyway scale, using data provided</p>

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2015)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2016-2018	AEWA's future contribution (2019-2021)
			<p>by at least three-quarters of Contracting Parties.</p> <p>5.1 Key gaps in scientific and technical information, including population monitoring data, required for implementation of the Agreement have been identified and assessed and initiatives to fill all priority gaps have been completed or are in progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Committee to make proposals as to further needs regarding implementation of Objective 3 of the Strategic Plan in the context of the needs to improve, widely share and transfer, and apply scientific information on waterbirds.
<p>Target 20</p> <p>By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the <i>Strategy for Resource Mobilization</i>, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopted Resolutions 6.18 and 7.12 on <i>Financial and administrative matters</i> 	<p>Implement Targets for Strategic Plan Objective 5:</p> <p>5.6 The resources required for coordination and delivery of the Strategic Plan at international and national levels have been assessed as realistically as possible and corresponding resource mobilisation plans implemented.³⁰</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties and other stakeholders are encouraged to consider increasing funding and other capacity needs for the implementation of the Single

³⁰ Recognising that implementation of AEWA contributes to implementation of Parties' commitments under other MEAs, including CBD, CMS and Ramsar.

Aichi Target	AEWA's past contribution (1999-2015)	AEWA's contribution in the triennium 2016-2018	AEWA's future contribution (2019-2021)
			<p>Species Action Plans for globally threatened species and develop such plans for all globally threatened species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of a long-term basic structural funding regime for the IWC and strengthened strategic approach to IWC development and maintenance.

Annex 3: A summary of AEWA's contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

Those Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) which are highlighted below in bold and shaded are those for which the full implementation of AEWA can make specific contributions.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*
* Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.
Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Summary of those SDG targets to which full implementation of AEWA can contribute

Relevance is indicated as either:

Direct (higher) relevance – where actions to implement the Agreement will directly contribute to the relevant target; or

Indirect relevance – where actions are of indirect (or lower) significance.

Target	Relevance	Nature of AEWA's contribution
Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere		
1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance	Direct	Target 2 of the <i>Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2018</i> calls for community based natural resource management strategies based on wetlands and waterbirds to be developed to sustain rural development and improve conservation Objective 1.4 of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027 is relevant
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture		
2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality	Indirect	Many waterbirds benefit from sustainable, low-intensity agriculture (which benefits land and soil quality), whilst wetland wise-use (including restoration and conservation of coastal habitats) helps adapt to climate change (Resolution 6.6) and reduce disaster risks Objectives 4.1, 4.3 and 4.4 of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027 are relevant
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all		
6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	Indirect	Wise-use of wetlands consistent with AEWA obligations can facilitate water supply as an ecosystem service to human communities
6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally	Direct	Actions to implement AEWA's Action Plan para 4.3.9 will reduce pollution, oil spillages and waste discharge, whilst para 3.2.3, <i>inter alia</i> , addresses the need to regulate the use of agricultural chemicals and waste water which relates to impacts of nitrogen pollution (both eutrophication and hypertrophication) impacting on waterbirds, their habitats, and drinking water supplies

Target	Relevance	Nature of AEWA's contribution
6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate	Indirect	Article III.2d (General Conservation Measures) requires that Parties co-ordinate their efforts to protect wetlands “in particular where wetlands extend over the area of more than one Party”. The protection of such shared wetlands ³⁴ will typically support the provision of water as a relevant ecosystem service to all concerned Parties Objectives 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 4.3 and 4.4 of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027 are relevant
6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes	Direct	Although the habitats of importance to waterbirds are not restricted to water-related ecosystems, wetlands are of major significance as noted in the Preamble to the Agreement Article III.2c (General Conservation Measures) and Action Plan sections 3.2 (Conservation of Areas) and 3.3 (Rehabilitation and Restoration) require Parties to establish a network of sites and habitats and “encourage the protection, management, rehabilitation and restoration of these sites” Objectives 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 4.3 and 4.4 of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027 are relevant
Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all		
8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products		Objectives 2.5 of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027 is relevant
Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns		
12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources	Direct	Article III.2b (General Conservation Measures) requires that Parties “ensure that any use of migratory waterbirds ... is sustainable for the species as well as for the ecological systems that support them” Objectives 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and 3.5 of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027 are relevant
12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout	Indirect	The Parties have set as an objective that “The use of lead shot for hunting in

³⁴ The Trilateral Waddensea Cooperation between Germany, Denmark and The Netherlands is a good example of such functional coordination

Target	Relevance	Nature of AEWA's contribution
their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment		wetlands is phased out in all Contracting Parties" {Strategic Plan Target 2.1} Actions to implement AEWA's Action Plan para 4.3.9 will reduce pollution, oil spillages and discharge of wastes whilst para 3.2.3, <i>inter alia</i> , addresses the need to regulate the use of agricultural chemicals and discharges of waste water
12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature	Direct	Actions to implement AEWA's Action Plan section 6 (Education and Information) are especially targeted at wetland uses to promote the sustainability-based objectives of the Agreement
12.a Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production	Indirect	Hunting according to AEWA's principles will result in sustainable harvesting and thus socio-economic benefits for some communities
12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products	Indirect	Actions to implement AEWA's Action Plan section 4.2 on ecotourism are supportive in seeking to encourage sensitive and appropriate ³⁵ eco-tourism at wetlands holding concentrations of waterbirds
Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*		
<i>* Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.</i>		
13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries	Indirect	Climate change adaptation measures for waterbirds will reduce climate-related disaster risks Resolution 6.6
13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning	Direct	Resolutions 5.13 and 6.6 seek to ensure that climate change adaptation measures are integrated within national policies, strategies and planning, and these will benefit both waterbirds and human communities
13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning	Direct	Responses to changing climate are an important component of actions to implement Action Plan section 6 (Education and Information) and AEWA's Communications Strategy Resolution 6.10

³⁵ which must ensure sufficiently large, disturbance-free, areas for the survival of particularly sensitive species

Target	Relevance	Nature of AEWA's contribution
Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development		
14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution	Indirect	Actions to implement Action Plan para 4.3.9 will reduce pollution (including nutrient pollution), oil spillages and discharge of wastes whilst para 3.2.3, <i>inter alia</i> , addresses the need to regulate the use of agricultural chemicals and discharges of waste water
14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans	Direct	Article III.2c (General Conservation Measures) and Action Plan sections 3.2 (Conservation of Areas) and 3.3 (Rehabilitation and Restoration) require Parties to establish a network of sites and habitats and “encourage the protection, management, rehabilitation and restoration of these sites” Objectives 3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 4.3 and 4.4 of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027 are relevant
14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information	Direct	Article III.2c (General Conservation Measures) and Action Plan section 3.2 (Conservation of Areas) require Parties to establish a network of sites and habitats and encourage their protection and management
Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss		
15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements	Direct	Article III.2c (General Conservation Measures) and Action Plan sections 3.2 (Conservation of Areas) and 3.3 (Rehabilitation and Restoration) require Parties to establish a network of sites and habitats and “encourage the protection, management, rehabilitation and restoration of these sites” in liaison with relevant international frameworks Objectives 3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 4.1, 4.3 and 4.4 of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027 are relevant
15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests		Objective 4.1 of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027 is relevant

Target	Relevance	Nature of AEWA's contribution
and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally		
15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world		Objectives 3.5, 4.1 and 4.4 of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027 is relevant
15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development		Objective 4.1 of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027 is relevant
15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species	Direct	<p>The central objective of the Agreement expressed in the broad objective of Article II.1 is to restore and maintain the conservation status of migratory waterbirds</p> <p>Article III.2c (General Conservation Measures) and Action Plan sections 3.2 (Conservation of Areas) and 3.3 (Rehabilitation and Restoration) require Parties to establish a network of sites and habitats and “encourage the protection, management, rehabilitation and restoration of these sites” in liaison with relevant international frameworks</p> <p>Article III.1 requires Parties to “take measures to conserve migratory waterbirds, giving special attention to endangered species and well as those with an unfavourable conservation status”</p> <p>Objectives 1.2, 1.3, 3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 and 4.1 of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027 are relevant</p>
15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products	Direct	<p>Section 2.1 (Legal measures) of the Action Plan specifically requires Parties to give legal protection for relevant waterbirds, and relevant International Single Species Action Plans address the issues of poaching and trafficking.</p> <p>Action Plan para 4.1.6, requiring Parties to ‘develop and implement measures to reduce, and as far as possible eliminate, illegal taking’, is especially relevant.</p>

Target	Relevance	Nature of AEWA's contribution
		Objectives 1.1 and 2.2 of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027 are relevant
15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species	Direct	<p>Article III.2g (General Conservation Measures) and Action Plan section 2.5 (Introductions) require Parties to prohibit the deliberate introduction and take all appropriate measures to prevent the unintentional release into the environment of non-native species of animals and plants detrimental to waterbirds.</p> <p>This issue has been a major focus of attention with triennial reporting required of the Parties. Both Article III.2g and section 2.5 call for measures to control non-native species – such as predators – that have been already introduced. Paras 3.3, 4.3.10 & 4.3.11 of the Action Plan are also relevant</p>
15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts		Objectives 2.6, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 4.3 and 5.5 of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027 are relevant
15.a Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems	Direct	<p>Actions to resource conservation actions for waterbirds and their habitats will also benefit other species, wider ecosystems and human communities</p> <p>Objective 5.6 of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027 is relevant</p>
15.c Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities	Direct	<p>Relevant International Single Species Action Plans address the issues of poaching and trafficking.</p> <p>AEWA is contributing to relevant international Task Forces convened by CMS on the illegal killing of birds and related issues, and leads the development of the Plan of Action, and Task Force, on bird trapping in Egypt and Libya</p> <p>Objective 2.5 of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027 is relevant</p>
Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development		
17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing		Objective 5.6 of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027 is relevant

Target	Relevance	Nature of AEWA's contribution
countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection		
17.2 Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries		Objective 5.6 of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027 is relevant
17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources		Objective 5.6 of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027 is relevant
17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism		Objective 5.1 of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027 is relevant
17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology		Objective 1.4, 1.5 and 3.2 of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027 is relevant
Capacity-building 17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation	Direct	National development of capacity and expertise within developing countries for waterbird and wetland conservation will also contribute to wider attainment of SDGs. This is addressed in Article III.2i (General Conservation Measures) and paras 6.1 & 6.2 of the Action Plan Objectives 1.4, 1.5, 5.2 and 5.3 of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027 are relevant

Target	Relevance	Nature of AEWA's contribution
Systemic issues <i>Multi-stakeholder partnerships</i> 17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries	Indirect	Multi-stakeholder partnerships, for example as involved in waterbird monitoring are crucial to waterbird conservation
17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships	Direct	Effective implementation of AEWA critically depends on the development and nurturing of such partnerships

7th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

4-8 December 2018, Durban, South Africa

“Beyond 2020: Shaping flyway conservation for the future”

RESOLUTION 7.3

ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE AEWA ANNEXES

Recalling Article X of the Agreement concerning the procedures for amendments to the Agreement and its annexes,

Taking into account the findings of the seventh edition of the Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds in the Agreement Area (document AEWA/MOP 7.14),

Recognising the work of the Technical Committee on reviewing the definition and guidance of the term “significant long-term decline” used in the context of classifying populations in Table 1 of Annex 3 to the Agreement and producing justification of the need to introduce a new criterion for classification of populations based on short-term decline (document AEWA/MOP 7.20),

Acknowledging the proposals for amendments to Annex 3 (Table 1 and the key to classification on Table 1) submitted by the Government of Uganda and Annexes 2 and 3 of the Agreement from the European Union, represented by the European Commission, and the comments received from Contracting Parties concerning these proposals, all of which are presented in the document AEWA/MOP 7.19,

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Adds* the European Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) to Annex 2 to the Agreement;
2. *Amends* category 3(c) of Column A and category 2(c) of Column B of Table 1 in Annex 3 to the Agreement as follows: “(c) showing long-term decline”;
3. *Adds* category 3(e) of Column A and 2(e) of Column B of Table 1 in Annex 3 to the Agreement as follows: “(e) showing rapid short-term decline”;
4. *Amends* Annex 3 to the Agreement by replacing the current Table 1 of the Action Plan and the associated explanatory text with the Table and explanatory text set out in Appendix I to this Resolution;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat and the Depositary to incorporate all approved amendments into Annexes 2 and 3 to the Agreement and to update and disseminate the revised English and French language (online and hard copy) versions in a timely manner and *encourages* the Secretariat and the Depositary to have the Arabic and Russian language versions revised, according to resources available.

APPENDIX I

AEWA ANNEX 3 – ACTION PLAN

Table 1 ^{a/}

STATUS OF THE POPULATIONS OF MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

KEY TO CLASSIFICATION

The following key to Table 1 is a basis for implementation of the Action Plan:

Column A

- Category 1: (a) Species, which are included in Appendix I to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory species of Wild Animals;
(b) Species, which are listed as threatened on the IUCN Red list of Threatened Species, as reported in the most recent summary by BirdLife International; or
(c) Populations, which number less than around 10,000 individuals.
- Category 2: Populations numbering between around 10,000 and around 25,000 individuals.
- Category 3: Populations numbering between around 25,000 and around 100,000 individuals and considered to be at risk as a result of:
(a) Concentration onto a small number of sites at any stage of their annual cycle;
(b) Dependence on a habitat type, which is under severe threat;
(c) Showing long-term decline;
(d) Showing large fluctuations in population size or trend; or
(e) Showing rapid short-term decline.
- Category 4: Species, which are listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List of Threatened species, as reported in the most recent summary by BirdLife International, but do not fulfil the conditions in respect of Category 1, 2 or 3, as described above, and which are pertinent for international action.

For species listed in Categories 2, 3 and 4 above, see paragraph 2.1.1 of the Action Plan contained in Annex 3 to the Agreement.

Column B

- Category 1: Populations numbering between around 25,000 and around 100,000 individuals and which do not fulfil the conditions in respect of Column A, as described above.
- Category 2: Populations numbering more than around 100,000 individuals, which do not fulfil the conditions in respect of Column A, and considered to be in need of special attention as a result of:
(a) Concentration onto a small number of sites at any stage of their annual cycle;
(b) Dependence on a habitat type, which is under severe threat;
(c) Showing long-term decline;
(d) Showing large fluctuations in population size or trend; or
(e) Showing rapid short-term decline.

^{a/}Table 1, “Status of the populations of migratory waterbirds” forms part of the Action Plan contained in Annex 3 to the Agreement.

Column C

Category 1: Populations numbering more than around 100,000 individuals which could significantly benefit from international cooperation and which do not fulfil the conditions in respect of either Column A or Column B, above.

REVIEW OF TABLE 1

The Table shall be:

- (a) Reviewed regularly by the Technical Committee in accordance with article VII, paragraph 3(b), of the Agreement; and
- (b) Amended as necessary by the Meeting of the Parties, in accordance with article VI, paragraph 9(d) of the Agreement, in light of the conclusions of such reviews.

DEFINITION OF GEOGRAPHICAL TERMS USED IN RANGE DESCRIPTIONS

Note that waterbird ranges respect biological, not political, boundaries and that precise alignment of biological and political entities is extremely unusual. The range descriptions used have no political significance and are for general guidance only, and for concise, mapped summaries of waterbird ranges, practitioners should consult the Critical Site Network Tool internet portal:

<http://www.wetlands.org/informationflyway/criticalsitenetworktool/tabid/1349/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

North Africa	Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia.
West Africa	Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo.
Eastern Africa	Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania.
North-west Africa	Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia.
North-east Africa	Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan.
Southern Africa	Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
Central Africa	Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe.
Sub-Saharan Africa	All African states south of the Sahara.
Tropical Africa	Sub-Saharan Africa excluding Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa.
Western Palearctic	As defined in <i>Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa</i> (Cramp & Simmons 1977).
North-west Europe	Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
Western Europe	North-west Europe with Portugal and Spain.

North-east Europe	The northern part of the Russian Federation west of the Urals.
North Europe	North-west Europe and North-east Europe, as defined above.
Eastern Europe	Belarus, the Russian Federation west of the Urals, Ukraine.
Central Europe	Austria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Poland, the Russian Federation around the Gulf of Finland and Kaliningrad, Slovakia, Switzerland.
South-west Europe	Mediterranean France, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Portugal, San Marino, Spain.
South-east Europe	Albania, Armenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, FYR Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey.
South Europe	South-west Europe and South-east Europe, as defined above.
North Atlantic	Faroes, Greenland, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, the north-west coast of the Russian Federation, Svalbard, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
East Atlantic	Atlantic seaboard of Europe and North Africa from northern Norway to Morocco.
Western Siberia	The Russian Federation east of the Urals to the Yenisey River and south to the Kazakhstan border.
Central Siberia	The Russian Federation from the Yenisey River to the eastern boundary of the Taimyr Peninsula and south to the Altai Mountains.
West Mediterranean	Algeria, France, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Tunisia.
East Mediterranean	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia, the Syrian Arab Republic, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey.
Black Sea	Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine.
Caspian	Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, South-west Russia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.
South-west Asia	Bahrain, Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, eastern Turkey, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Yemen.
Gulf	The Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman and Arabian Sea west to the Gulf of Aden.
Western Asia	Western parts of the Russian Federation east of the Urals and the Caspian countries.
Central Asia	Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.
Southern Asia	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.
Indian Ocean	Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

bre:	breeding	win:	wintering
N:	Northern	E:	Eastern
S:	Southern	W:	Western
NE:	North-eastern	NW:	North-western
SE:	South-eastern	SW:	South-western

(): Population status unknown. Conservation status estimated.

*: By way of exception for those populations listed in Categories 2 and 3 in Column A and which are marked by an asterisk, hunting may continue on a sustainable use basis. This sustainable use shall be conducted within the framework of special provisions of an international species action plan, which shall seek to implement the principles of adaptive harvest management (see paragraph 2.1.1 of Annex 3 to the Agreement).

NOTES

1. The population data used to compile Table 1 as far as possible correspond to the number of individuals in the potential breeding stock in the Agreement area. The status is based on the best available published population estimates.
2. Suffixes (bre) or (win) in population listings are solely aids to population identification. They do not indicate seasonal restrictions to actions in respect of these populations under the Agreement and Action Plan.
3. The brief descriptions used to identify the populations are based on the descriptions used in the most recently published edition of *Waterbird Population Estimates*.
4. Slash signs (/) are used to separate breeding areas from wintering areas.
5. Where a species' population is listed in Table 1 with multiple categorisations, the obligations of the Action Plan relate to the strictest category listed.

Populations	A	B	C
Family ANATIDAE (ducks, geese, swans)			
<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i> (White-faced Whistling-duck)			
- West Africa (Senegal to Chad)			1
- Eastern & Southern Africa			1
<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i> (Fulvous Whistling-duck)			
- West Africa (Senegal to Chad)		1	
- Eastern & Southern Africa		2c	
<i>Thalassornis leuconotus leuconotus</i> (White-backed Duck)			
- West Africa	1c		
- Eastern & Southern Africa	2*		
<i>Oxyura maccoa</i> (Maccoa Duck)			
- Eastern Africa	1b 1c		
- Southern Africa	1b 1c		
<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i> (White-headed Duck)			
- West Mediterranean (Spain & Morocco)	1a 1b 1c		
- Algeria & Tunisia	1a 1b 1c		
- East Mediterranean, Turkey & South-west Asia	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Cygnus olor</i> (Mute Swan)			
- North-west Mainland & Central Europe			1
- Black Sea		1	
- West & Central Asia/Caspian			1
<i>Cygnus cygnus</i> (Whooper Swan)			
- Iceland/UK & Ireland		1	
- North-west Mainland Europe			1
- N Europe & W Siberia/Black Sea & E Mediterranean	2		
- West & Central Siberia/Caspian	2		
<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> (Tundra Swan, Bewick's Swan)			
- Western Siberia & NE Europe/North-west Europe	2		
- Northern Siberia/Caspian	1c		
<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> (Brent Goose, Dark-bellied Brent Goose)			
- Western Siberia/Western Europe		2b	
<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> (Brent Goose, Pale-bellied Brent Goose)			
- Svalbard/Denmark & UK	2		
- Canada & Greenland/Ireland	3a		
<i>Branta leucopsis</i> (Barnacle Goose)			
- East Greenland/Scotland & Ireland		1	
- Svalbard/South-west Scotland	3a		
- Russia/Germany & Netherlands			1
<i>Branta ruficollis</i> (Red-breasted Goose)			
- Northern Siberia/Black Sea & Caspian	1a 1b 3a		
<i>Anser anser anser</i> (Greylag Goose, Western Greylag Goose)			
- Iceland/UK & Ireland		1	
- NW Europe/South-west Europe			1
- Central Europe/North Africa		1	
<i>Anser anser rubrirostris</i> (Greylag Goose, Eastern Greylag Goose)			
- Black Sea & Turkey		1	
- Western Siberia/Caspian & Iraq			1
<i>Anser fabalis fabalis</i> (Bean Goose, Taiga Bean Goose)			
- North-east Europe/North-west Europe	3c*		
<i>Anser fabalis johanseni</i> (Bean Goose)			
- West & Central Siberia/Turkmenistan to W China	1c		
<i>Anser fabalis rossicus</i> (Bean Goose, Tundra Bean Goose)			

Populations	A	B	C
- West & Central Siberia/NE & SW Europe			(1)
<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> (Pink-footed Goose)			
- East Greenland & Iceland/UK			1
- Svalbard/North-west Europe		1	
<i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i> (Greater White-fronted Goose, European White-fronted Goose)			
- NW Siberia & NE Europe/North-west Europe			1
- Western Siberia/Central Europe			1
- Western Siberia/Black Sea & Turkey			1
- Northern Siberia/Caspian & Iraq		1	
<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> (Greater White-fronted Goose, Greenland White-fronted Goose)			
- Greenland/Ireland & UK	2*		
<i>Anser erythropus</i> (Lesser White-fronted Goose)			
- NE Europe & W Siberia/Black Sea & Caspian	1a 1b 2		
Fennoscandia	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Clangula hyemalis</i> (Long-tailed Duck)			
- Iceland & Greenland (bre)	1b		
- Western Siberia/North Europe (bre)	1b		
<i>Somateria spectabilis</i> (King Eider)			
- East Greenland, NE Europe & Western Siberia			1
<i>Somateria mollissima mollissima</i> (Common Eider)			
- Baltic, Denmark & Netherlands	4		
- Norway & Russia	4		
<i>Somateria mollissima borealis</i> (Common Eider)			
- Svalbard & Franz Joseph (bre)	4		
<i>Polysticta stelleri</i> (Steller's Eider)			
- Western Siberia/North-east Europe	1a 1b		
<i>Melanitta fusca</i> (Velvet Scoter)			
- Western Siberia & Northern Europe/NW Europe	1b		
- Black Sea & Caspian	1b 1c		
<i>Melanitta nigra</i> (Common Scoter)			
- W Siberia & N Europe/W Europe & NW Africa		2a	
<i>Bucephala clangula clangula</i> (Common Goldeneye)			
- North-west & Central Europe (win)			1
- North-east Europe/Adriatic			1
- Western Siberia & North-east Europe/Black Sea		1	
- Western Siberia/Caspian		1	
<i>Mergellus albellus</i> (Smew)			
- North-west & Central Europe (win)		1	
- North-east Europe/Black Sea & East Mediterranean	2		
- Western Siberia/South-west Asia		1	
<i>Mergus merganser merganser</i> (Goosander)			
- North-west & Central Europe (win)			1
- North-east Europe/Black Sea	2		
- Western Siberia/Caspian	2		
<i>Mergus serrator</i> (Red-breasted Merganser)			
- North-west & Central Europe (win)	3c		
- North-east Europe/Black Sea & Mediterranean	3c		
- Western Siberia/South-west & Central Asia	1c		
<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i> (Egyptian Goose)			
- West Africa	1c		
- Eastern & Southern Africa			1

Populations	A	B	C
<i>Tadorna tadorna</i> (Common Shelduck)			
- North-west Europe		2a	
- Black Sea & Mediterranean			1
- Western Asia/Caspian & Middle East	3c		
<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i> (Ruddy Shelduck)			
- North-west Africa	1c		
- East Mediterranean & Black Sea/North-east Africa		1	
- Western Asia & Caspian/Iran & Iraq	3c		
<i>Tadorna cana</i> (South African Shelduck)			
- Southern Africa		1	
<i>Plectropterus gambensis gambensis</i> (Spur-winged Goose)			
- West Africa		1	
- Eastern Africa (Sudan to Zambia)			1
<i>Plectropterus gambensis niger</i> (Spur-winged Goose)			
- Southern Africa		(1)	
<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i> (African Comb Duck)			
- West Africa	3c		
- Southern & Eastern Africa		(2c)	
<i>Nettapus auritus</i> (African Pygmy-goose)			
- West Africa	1c		
- Southern & Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i> (Marbled Teal)			
- West Mediterranean/West Medit. & West Africa	1a 1b 1c		
- East Mediterranean	1a 1b 1c		
- South-west Asia	1a 1b 3c		
<i>Netta rufina</i> (Red-crested Pochard)			
- South-west & Central Europe/West Mediterranean		1	
- Black Sea & East Mediterranean		1	
- Western & Central Asia/South-west Asia		2c	
<i>Netta erythrophthalma brunnea</i> (Southern Pochard)			
- Southern & Eastern Africa	3c		
<i>Aythya ferina</i> (Common Pochard)			
- North-east Europe/North-west Europe	1b		
- Central & NE Europe/Black Sea & Mediterranean	1b		
- Western Siberia/South-west Asia	1b		
<i>Aythya nyroca</i> (Ferruginous Duck)			
- West Mediterranean/North & West Africa	1a 1c		
- Eastern Europe/E Mediterranean & Sahelian Africa	1a		
- Western Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa	1a		
<i>Aythya fuligula</i> (Tufted Duck)			
- North-west Europe (win)			1
- Central Europe, Black Sea & Mediterranean (win)			1
- Western Siberia/SW Asia & NE Africa		2c	
<i>Aythya marila marila</i> (Greater Scaup)			
- Northern Europe/Western Europe		2c	
- Western Siberia/Black Sea & Caspian		(2c)	
<i>Spatula querquedula</i> (Garganey)			
- Western Siberia & Europe/West Africa			1
- Western Siberia/SW Asia, NE & Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Spatula hottentota</i> (Hottentot Teal)			
- Lake Chad Basin	1c		
- Eastern Africa (south to N Zambia)		1	
- Southern Africa (north to S Zambia)		1	

Populations	A	B	C
<i>Spatula clypeata</i> (Northern Shoveler)			
- North-west & Central Europe (win)		1	
- W Siberia, NE & E Europe/S Europe & West Africa			1
- W Siberia/SW Asia, NE & Eastern Africa			1
<i>Mareca strepera strepera</i> (Gadwall)			
- North-west Europe			1
- North-east Europe/Black Sea & Mediterranean			1
- Western Siberia/SW Asia & NE Africa		(2c)	
<i>Mareca penelope</i> (Eurasian Wigeon)			
- Western Siberia & NE Europe/NW Europe		2c	
- W Siberia & NE Europe/Black Sea & Mediterranean		2c	
- Western Siberia/SW Asia & NE Africa		2c	
<i>Anas undulata undulata</i> (Yellow-billed Duck)			
- Southern Africa			1
<i>Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos</i> (Mallard)			
- North-west Europe			1
- Northern Europe/West Mediterranean			1
- Eastern Europe/Black Sea & East Mediterranean			1
- Western Siberia/South-west Asia			1
<i>Anas capensis</i> (Cape Teal)			
- Eastern Africa (Rift Valley)	1c		
- Lake Chad basin ²	1c		
- Southern Africa (N to Angola & Zambia)		1	
<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i> (Red-billed Teal)			
- Southern Africa			1
- Eastern Africa			1
- Madagascar	2		
<i>Anas acuta</i> (Northern Pintail)			
- North-west Europe		1	
- W Siberia, NE & E Europe/S Europe & West Africa			1
- Western Siberia/SW Asia & Eastern Africa		2c	
<i>Anas crecca crecca</i> (Common Teal)			
- North-west Europe			1
- W Siberia & NE Europe/Black Sea & Mediterranean			1
- Western Siberia/SW Asia & NE Africa		2c	
Family PODICIPEDIDAE (grebes)			
<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis ruficollis</i> (Little Grebe)			
- Europe & North-west Africa			1
<i>Podiceps grisegena grisegena</i> (Red-necked Grebe)			
- North-west Europe (win)		1	
- Black Sea & Mediterranean (win)		1	
- Caspian (win)	2		
<i>Podiceps cristatus cristatus</i> (Great Crested Grebe, Eurasian Crested Grebe)			
- North-west & Western Europe			1
- Black Sea & Mediterranean (win)			1
- Caspian & South-west Asia (win)	3c		
<i>Podiceps cristatus infuscatus</i> (Great Crested Grebe, African Crested Grebe)			
- Eastern Africa (Ethiopia to N Zambia)	1c		
- Southern Africa	1c		
<i>Podiceps auritus auritus</i> (Horned Grebe)			

Populations	A	B	C
- North-west Europe (large-billed)	1b 1c		
- North-east Europe (small-billed)	1b 2		
- Caspian & South Asia (win)	1b 1c		
<i>Podiceps nigricollis nigricollis</i> (Black-necked Grebe)			
- Europe/South & West Europe & North Africa			1
- Western Asia/South-west & South Asia	3c		
<i>Podiceps nigricollis gurneyi</i> (Black-necked Grebe)			
- Southern Africa	2		
Family PHOENICOPTERIDAE (flamingos)			
<i>Phoenicopus roseus</i> (Greater Flamingo)			
- West Africa	3a		
- Eastern Africa	3a 3c		
- Southern Africa (to Madagascar)		2a	
- West Mediterranean		2a	
- East Mediterranean		2a	
- South-west & South Asia		2a	
<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i> (Lesser Flamingo)			
- West Africa	3a		
- Eastern Africa	(3c)		
- Southern Africa (to Madagascar)	4		
Family PHAETHONTIDAE (tropicbirds)			
<i>Phaethon aethereus aethereus</i> (Red-billed Tropicbird)			
- South Atlantic	1c		
<i>Phaethon aethereus indicus</i> (Red-billed Tropicbird)			
- Persian Gulf, Gulf of Aden, Red Sea	1c		
<i>Phaethon rubricauda rubricauda</i> (Red-tailed Tropicbird)			
- Indian Ocean		1	
<i>Phaethon lepturus lepturus</i> (White-tailed Tropicbird)			
- W Indian Ocean		1	
Family RALLIDAE (rails, gallinules, coots)			
<i>Sarothrura elegans reichenovi</i> (Buff-spotted Flufftail)			
- S West Africa to Central Africa			(1)
<i>Sarothrura elegans elegans</i> (Buff-spotted Flufftail)			
- NE, Eastern & Southern Africa			(1)
<i>Sarothrura boehmi</i> (Streaky-breasted Flufftail)			
- Central Africa	1c		
<i>Sarothrura ayresi</i> (White-winged Flufftail)			
- Ethiopia	1a 1b 1c		
- Southern Africa	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Rallus aquaticus aquaticus</i> (Western Water Rail)			
- Europe & North Africa			(1)
<i>Rallus aquaticus korejewi</i> (Western Water Rail)			
- Western Siberia/South-west Asia			(1)
<i>Rallus caerulescens</i> (African Rail)			
- Southern & Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Crex egregia</i> (African Crake)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa			(1)
<i>Crex crex</i> (Corncrake)			
- Europe & Western Asia/Sub-Saharan Africa			1
<i>Porzana porzana</i> (Spotted Crake)			

Populations	A	B	C
- Europe/Africa			1
<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i> (Black Crane)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa			1
<i>Zapornia parva</i> (Little Crane)			
- Western Eurasia/Africa		2c	
<i>Zapornia pusilla intermedia</i> (Baillon's Crane)			
- Europe (bre)	1c		
<i>Amaurornis marginalis</i> (Striped Crane)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa	(2)		
<i>Porphyrio alleni</i> (Allen's Gallinule)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa		(2c)	
<i>Gallinula chloropus chloropus</i> (Common Moorhen)			
- Europe & North Africa			1
- West & South-west Asia			(1)
<i>Gallinula angulata</i> (Lesser Moorhen)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa			(1)
<i>Fulica cristata</i> (Red-knobbed Coot)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa			1
- Spain & Morocco	1c		
<i>Fulica atra atra</i> (Common Coot)			
- North-west Europe (win)		2c	
- Black Sea & Mediterranean (win)			1
- South-west Asia (win)			(1)
Family GRUIDAE (cranes)			
<i>Balearica regulorum regulorum</i> (Grey Crowned-crane, South African Crowned-crane)			
- Southern Africa (N to Angola & S Zimbabwe)	1b 1c		
<i>Balearica regulorum gibbericeps</i> (Grey Crowned-crane, East African Crowned-crane)			
- Eastern Africa (Kenya to Mozambique)	1b 2		
<i>Balearica pavonina pavonina</i> (Black Crowned-crane, West African Crowned-crane)			
- West Africa (Senegal to Chad)	1b 1c		
<i>Balearica pavonina ceciliae</i> (Black Crowned-crane, Sudan Crowned-crane)			
- Eastern Africa (Sudan to Uganda)	1b 3c		
<i>Leucogeranus leucogeranus</i> (Siberian Crane)			
- Iran (win)	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Buggeranus carunculatus</i> (Wattled Crane)			
- Central & Southern Africa	1b 1c		
<i>Anthropoides paradiseus</i> (Blue Crane)			
- Extreme Southern Africa	1b		
<i>Anthropoides virgo</i> (Demoiselle Crane)			
- Black Sea (Ukraine)/North-east Africa	1c		
- Kalmykia/North-east Africa		1	
<i>Grus grus grus</i> (Common Crane)			
- North-west Europe/Iberia & Morocco			1
- North-east & Central Europe/North Africa			1
- Eastern Europe/Turkey, Middle East & NE Africa			1
- Western Siberia/South Asia		(1)	
<i>Grus grus archibaldi</i> (Common Crane)			
- Turkey & Georgia (bre)	1c		

Populations	A	B	C
Family GAVIIDAE (loons / divers)			
<i>Gavia stellata</i> (Red-throated Loon)			
- North-west Europe (win)			(1)
- Caspian, Black Sea & East Mediterranean (win)	1c		
<i>Gavia arctica arctica</i> (Arctic Loon)			
- Northern Europe & Western Siberia/Europe		2c	
- Central Siberia/Caspian	1c		
<i>Gavia immer</i> (Common Loon)			
- Europe (win)	1c		
<i>Gavia adamsii</i> (Yellow-billed Loon)			
- Northern Europe (win)	1c		
Family SPHENISCIDAE (penguins)			
<i>Spheniscus demersus</i> (African Penguin)			
- Southern Africa	1b 3c		
Family CICONIIDAE (storks)			
<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i> (Marabou)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa			1
<i>Mycteria ibis</i> (Yellow-billed Stork)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa (excluding Madagascar)			1
<i>Anastomus lamelligerus lamelligerus</i> (African Openbill)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa			1
<i>Ciconia nigra</i> (Black Stork)			
- Southern Africa	1c		
- South-west Europe/West Africa	1c		
- Central & Eastern Europe/Sub-Saharan Africa		1	
<i>Ciconia abdimii</i> (Abdim's Stork)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa & SW Arabia		(2c)	
<i>Ciconia microscelis</i> (African Woollyneck)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa		(1)	
<i>Ciconia ciconia ciconia</i> (White Stork)			
- Southern Africa	1c		
- W Europe & North-west Africa/Sub-Saharan Africa		2b	
- Central & Eastern Europe/Sub-Saharan Africa			1
- Western Asia/South-west Asia	3c		
Family THRESKIORNITHIDAE (ibises, spoonbills)			
<i>Platalea alba</i> (African Spoonbill)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa		1	
<i>Platalea leucorodia leucorodia</i> (Eurasian Spoonbill)			
- West Europe/West Mediterranean & West Africa	2		
- C & SE Europe/Mediterranean & Tropical Africa	2		
- Western Asia/South-west & South Asia	2		
<i>Platalea leucorodia balsaci</i> (Eurasian Spoonbill)			
- Coastal West Africa (Mauritania)	1c		
<i>Platalea leucorodia archeri</i> (Eurasian Spoonbill)			
- Red Sea & Somalia	1c		
<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i> (African Sacred Ibis)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa			1
- Iraq & Iran	1c		
<i>Geronticus eremita</i> (Northern Bald Ibis)			
- Morocco	1a 1b 1c		

Populations	A	B	C
- South-west Asia	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> (Glossy Ibis)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa (bre)		1	
- Black Sea & Mediterranean/West Africa		1	
- South-west Asia/Eastern Africa		(1)	
Family ARDEIDAE (herons)			
<i>Botaurus stellaris stellaris</i> (Eurasian Bittern)			
- W Europe, NW Africa (bre)	1c		
- C & E Europe, Black Sea & E Mediterranean (bre)			1
- South-west Asia (win)		1	
<i>Botaurus stellaris capensis</i> (Eurasian Bittern)			
- Southern Africa	1c		
<i>Ixobrychus minutus minutus</i> (Common Little Bittern)			
- W Europe, NW Africa/Subsaharan Africa	2		
- C & E Europe, Black Sea & E Mediterranean/Sub-saharan Africa			1
- West & South-west Asia/Sub-Saharan Africa		(1)	
<i>Ixobrychus minutus payesii</i> (Common Little Bittern)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa		(1)	
<i>Ixobrychus sturmii</i> (Dwarf Bittern)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa		(1)	
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax</i> (Black-crowned Night-heron)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa & Madagascar			1
- W Europe, NW Africa (bre)	3c		
- C & E Europe/Black Sea & E Mediterranean (bre)			1
- Western Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa		(1)	
<i>Ardeola ralloides ralloides</i> (Squacco Heron)			
- SW Europe, NW Africa (bre)	1c		
- C & E Europe, Black Sea & E Mediterranean (bre)	3c		
- West & South-west Asia/Sub-Saharan Africa		(1)	
<i>Ardeola ralloides paludivaga</i> (Squacco Heron)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa & Madagascar			(1)
<i>Ardeola idae</i> (Madagascar Pond-heron)			
- Madagascar & Aldabra/Central & Eastern Africa	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Ardeola rufiventris</i> (Rufous-bellied Heron)			
- Central, Eastern & Southern Africa		(1)	
<i>Bubulcus ibis ibis</i> (Cattle Egret)			
- Southern Africa		2c	
- Tropical Africa			(1)
- South-west Europe			1
- North-west Africa			1
- East Mediterranean & South-west Asia		1	
<i>Ardea cinerea cinerea</i> (Grey Heron)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa			1
- Northern & Western Europe			1
- Central & Eastern Europe			1
- West & South-west Asia (bre)		(1)	
<i>Ardea melanocephala</i> (Black-headed Heron)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa			(1)
<i>Ardea purpurea purpurea</i> (Purple Heron)			
- Tropical Africa	(3c)		
- West Europe & West Mediterranean/West Africa		1	
- East Europe, Black Sea & Mediterranean/Sub-Saharan Africa		2c	

Populations	A	B	C
- SW Asia	(2)		
<i>Ardea alba alba</i> (Great White Egret, Western Great Egret)			
- W, C & SE Europe/Black Sea & Mediterranean		1	
- Western Asia/South-west Asia		1	
<i>Ardea alba melanorhynchos</i> (Great White Egret, African Great Egret)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa & Madagascar			(1)
<i>Ardea brachyrhyncha</i> (Yellow-billed Egret)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa		1	
<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i> (Black Heron)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa		1	
<i>Egretta vinaceigula</i> (Slaty Egret)			
- Central Southern Africa	1b 1c		
<i>Egretta garzetta garzetta</i> (Little Egret)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa			(1)
- Western Europe, NW Africa			1
- Central & E Europe, Black Sea, E Mediterranean		1	
- Western Asia/SW Asia, NE & Eastern Africa		(1)	
<i>Egretta gularis gularis</i> (Western Reef-egret)			
- West Africa	2		
<i>Egretta gularis schistacea</i> (Western Reef-egret)			
- North-east Africa & Red Sea	2		
- South-west Asia & South Asia	2		
<i>Egretta gularis dimorpha</i> (Western Reef-egret)			
- Coastal Eastern Africa	2		
Family BALAENICIPITIDAE (shoebill)			
<i>Balaeniceps rex</i> (Shoebill)			
- Central Tropical Africa	1b 1c		
Family PELECANIDAE (pelicans)			
<i>Pelecanus crispus</i> (Dalmatian Pelican)			
- Black Sea & Mediterranean (win)	1a 1c		
- South-west Asia & South Asia (win)	1a 2		
<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i> (Pink-backed Pelican)			
- Tropical Africa & SW Arabia		1	
<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i> (Great White Pelican)			
- Southern Africa		1	
- West Africa		1	
- Eastern Africa		2c	
- Europe & Western Asia (bre)	1a	³⁶	
Family FREGATIDAE (frigatebirds)			
<i>Fregata ariel iredalei</i> (Lesser Frigatebird)			
- W Indian Ocean	2		
<i>Fregata minor aldabrensis</i> (Great Frigatebird)			
- W Indian Ocean	2		
Family SULIDAE (gannets, boobies)			
<i>Morus bassanus</i> (Northern Gannet)			

³⁶ At MOP7 Parties adopted a double listing (A1a and B1) through Resolution 7.3. These two listings are, however, exclusive. The Standing Committee therefore concluded that it was the intention of the MOP to list this population as A1a and decided on 10 May 2019 to delete the listing on B1 from Table 1.

Populations	A	B	C
- North Atlantic			1
<i>Morus capensis</i> (Cape Gannet)			
- Southern Africa	1b		
<i>Sula dactylatra melanops</i> (Masked Booby)			
- W Indian Ocean	3c		
Family PHALACROCORACIDAE (cormorants)			
<i>Microcarbo coronatus</i> (Crowned Cormorant)			
- Coastal South-west Africa	1c		
<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i> (Pygmy Cormorant)			
- Black Sea & Mediterranean		1	
- South-west Asia		1	
<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii</i> (European Shag)			
- East Mediterranean (Croatia, Adriatic Sea) (bre)	1c		
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo carbo</i> (Great Cormorant, Common Great Cormorant)			
- North-west Europe			1
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i> (Great Cormorant)			
- Northern & Central Europe			1
- Black Sea & Mediterranean			1
- West & South-west Asia			(1)
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo lucidus</i> (Great Cormorant, White-breasted Cormorant)			
- Coastal West Africa		1	
- Central & Eastern Africa			1
- Coastal Southern Africa	2		
<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i> (Cape Cormorant)			
- Coastal Southern Africa	1b		
<i>Phalacrocorax nigrogularis</i> (Socotra Cormorant)			
- Arabian Coast	1b		
- Gulf of Aden, Socotra, Arabian Sea	1b		
<i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i> (Bank Cormorant)			
- Coastal South-west Africa	1b 2		
Family BURHINIDAE (thick-knees)			
<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i> (Senegal Thick-knee)			
- West Africa		1	
- North-east & Eastern Africa	(3c)		
Family PLUVIANIDAE (Egyptian plover)			
<i>Pluvianus aegyptius</i> (Egyptian Plover)			
- West Africa		(1)	
- Eastern Africa	1c		
- Lower Congo Basin	1c		
Family HAEMATOPODIDAE (oystercatchers)			
<i>Haematopus moquini</i> (African Oystercatcher)			
- Coastal Southern Africa	1c		
<i>Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus</i> (Eurasian Oystercatcher)			
- Europe/South & West Europe & NW Africa	4		
<i>Haematopus ostralegus longipes</i> (Eurasian Oystercatcher)			
- SE Eur & W Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa	4		

Populations	A	B	C
Family RECURVIROSTRIDAE (avocets, stilts)			
<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> (Pied Avocet)			
- Southern Africa	2		
- Eastern Africa		(1)	
- Western Europe & North-west Africa (bre)		1	
- South-east Europe, Black Sea & Turkey (bre)		1	
- West & South-west Asia/Eastern Africa	2		
<i>Himantopus himantopus himantopus</i> (Black-winged Stilt)			
- Sub-Saharan Africa (excluding south)			(1)
- Southern Africa	2		
- SW Europe & North-west Africa/West Africa			1
- Central Europe & E Mediterranean/N-Central Africa		1	
- W, C & SW Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa		(1)	
Family CHARADRIIDAE (plovers)			
<i>Pluvialis squatarola squatarola</i> (Grey Plover)			
- W Siberia/W Europe & W Africa			1
- C & E Siberia/SW Asia, Eastern & Southern Africa		1	
<i>Pluvialis apricaria apricaria</i> (Eurasian Golden Plover)			
- Britain, Ireland, Denmark, Germany & Baltic (bre)		2c	
<i>Pluvialis apricaria altifrons</i> (Eurasian Golden Plover)			
- Iceland & Faroes/East Atlantic coast			1
- Northern Europe/Western Europe & NW Africa			1
- Northern Siberia/Caspian & Asia Minor		(1)	
<i>Pluvialis fulva</i> (Pacific Golden Plover)			
- North-central Siberia/South & SW Asia, NE Africa		(1)	
<i>Eudromias morinellus</i> (Eurasian Dotterel)			
- Europe/North-west Africa	3c		
- Asia/Middle East		(1)	
<i>Charadrius hiaticula hiaticula</i> (Common Ringed Plover)			
- Northern Europe/Europe & North Africa		1	
<i>Charadrius hiaticula psammophilus</i> (Common Ringed Plover)			
- Canada, Greenland & Iceland/W & S Africa			(1)
<i>Charadrius hiaticula tundrae</i> (Common Ringed Plover)			
- NE Europe & Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa			(1)
<i>Charadrius dubius curonicus</i> (Little Ringed Plover)			
- Europe & North-west Africa/West Africa			1
- West & South-west Asia/Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i> (Kittlitz's Plover)			
- Southern & Eastern Africa			(1)
- West Africa		(1)	
<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i> (African Three-banded Plover)			
- Southern & Eastern Africa		1	
<i>Charadrius forbesi</i> (Forbes's Plover)			
- Western & Central Africa	2		
<i>Charadrius marginatus hesperius</i> (White-fronted Plover)			
- West Africa	2		
<i>Charadrius marginatus mechowii</i> (White-fronted Plover)			
- Inland East & Central Africa	2		
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus</i> (Kentish Plover)			
- West Europe & West Mediterranean/West Africa		1	
- Black Sea & East Mediterranean/Eastern Sahel	3c		
- SW & Central Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa		(1)	

Populations	A	B	C
<i>Charadrius pallidus pallidus</i> (Chestnut-banded Plover)			
- Southern Africa	2		
<i>Charadrius pallidus venustus</i> (Chestnut-banded Plover)			
- Eastern Africa	1c		
<i>Charadrius mongolus pamirensis</i> (Lesser Sandplover)			
- West-central Asia/SW Asia & Eastern Africa			1
<i>Charadrius leschenaultii leschenaultii</i> (Greater Sandplover)			
- Central Asia/Eastern & Southern Africa		(1)	
<i>Charadrius leschenaultii columbinus</i> (Greater Sandplover)			
- Turkey & SW Asia/E. Mediterranean & Red Sea	1c		
<i>Charadrius leschenaultii scythicus</i> (Greater Sandplover)			
- Caspian & SW Asia/Arabia & NE Africa		(1)	
<i>Charadrius asiaticus</i> (Caspian Plover)			
- SE Europe & West Asia/E & Central Southern Africa	3c		
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i> (Northern Lapwing)			
- Europe, W Asia/Europe, N Africa & SW Asia	4		
<i>Vanellus spinosus</i> (Spur-winged Lapwing)			
- Black Sea & Mediterranean (bre)		1	
<i>Vanellus albiceps</i> (White-headed Lapwing)			
- West & Central Africa		(1)	
<i>Vanellus lugubris</i> (Senegal Lapwing)			
- Southern West Africa	2		
- Central & Eastern Africa		1	
<i>Vanellus melanopterus minor</i> (Black-winged Lapwing)			
- Southern Africa	1c		
<i>Vanellus coronatus coronatus</i> (Crowned Lapwing)			
- Eastern & Southern Africa		(2c)	
- Central Africa	(1c)		
- South-west Africa		(1)	
<i>Vanellus senegallus senegallus</i> (Wattled Lapwing)			
- West Africa		(1)	
<i>Vanellus senegallus lateralis</i> (Wattled Lapwing)			
- Eastern & South-east Africa	(3c)		
<i>Vanellus superciliosus</i> (Brown-chested Lapwing)			
- West & Central Africa	(1c)		
<i>Vanellus gregarius</i> (Sociable Lapwing)			
- Central Asia/S, SW Asia, NE Africa	1a 1b 2		
<i>Vanellus leucurus</i> (White-tailed Lapwing)			
- C & SW Asia/NE Africa, SW & S Asia		1	
Family SCOLOPACIDAE (sandpipers, snipes, phalaropes)			
<i>Numenius phaeopus phaeopus</i> (Whimbrel)			
- Northern Europe/West Africa			(1)
- West Siberia/Southern & Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Numenius phaeopus islandicus</i> (Whimbrel)			
- Iceland, Faroes & Scotland/West Africa			1
<i>Numenius phaeopus alboaxillaris</i> (Whimbrel)			
- N of Caspian/Eastern Africa	1c		
<i>Numenius phaeopus rogachevae</i> (Whimbrel)			
- C Siberia (bre)			(1)
<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i> (Slender-billed Curlew)			
- Central Siberia/Mediterranean & SW Asia	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Numenius arquata arquata</i> (Eurasian Curlew)			

Populations	A	B	C
- Europe/Europe, North & West Africa	4		
<i>Numenius arquata suschkini</i> (Eurasian Curlew)			
- South-east Europe & South-west Asia (bre)	1c		
<i>Numenius arquata orientalis</i> (Eurasian Curlew)			
- Western Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa	4		
<i>Limosa lapponica lapponica</i> (Bar-tailed Godwit)			
- Northern Europe/Western Europe	4		
<i>Limosa lapponica taymyrensis</i> (Bar-tailed Godwit)			
- Western Siberia/West & South-west Africa	4		
- Central Siberia/South & SW Asia & Eastern Africa	4		
<i>Limosa limosa limosa</i> (Black-tailed Godwit)			
- Western Europe/NW & West Africa	3c		
- Eastern Europe/Central & Eastern Africa	3c		
- West-central Asia/SW Asia & Eastern Africa	3c		
<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> (Black-tailed Godwit)			
- Iceland/Western Europe	4		
<i>Arenaria interpres interpres</i> (Ruddy Turnstone)			
- NE Canada & Greenland/W Europe & NW Africa			1
- Northern Europe/West Africa	3c		
- West & Central Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa		(2c)	
<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i> (Great Knot)			
- Eastern Siberia/SW Asia & W Southern Asia	1a 1b 1c		
<i>Calidris canutus canutus</i> (Red Knot)			
- Northern Siberia/West & Southern Africa	4		
<i>Calidris canutus islandica</i> (Red Knot)			
- NE Canada & Greenland/Western Europe	4		
<i>Calidris pugnax</i> (Ruff)			
- Northern Europe & Western Siberia/West Africa		2c	
- Northern Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa			1
<i>Calidris falcinellus falcinellus</i> (Broad-billed Sandpiper)			
- Northern Europe/SW Asia & Africa		2c	
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i> (Curlew Sandpiper)			
- Western Siberia/West Africa	4		
- Central Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa	4		
<i>Calidris temminckii</i> (Temminck's Stint)			
- Fennoscandia/North & West Africa	3c		
- NE Europe & W Siberia/SW Asia & Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Calidris alba alba</i> (Sanderling)			
- East Atlantic Europe, West & Southern Africa (win)			1
- South-west Asia, Eastern & Southern Africa (win)			1
<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> (Dunlin)			
- NE Europe & NW Siberia/W Europe & NW Africa			1
<i>Calidris alpina arctica</i> (Dunlin)			
- NE Greenland/West Africa	3a		
<i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i> (Dunlin)			
- Iceland & Greenland/NW and West Africa			1
- Britain & Ireland/SW Europe & NW Africa		1	
- Baltic/SW Europe & NW Africa	1c		
<i>Calidris alpina centralis</i> (Dunlin)			
- Central Siberia/SW Asia & NE Africa			(1)
<i>Calidris maritima</i> (Purple Sandpiper)			
- N Europe & W Siberia (breeding)		1	
- NE Canada & N Greenland (breeding)	2		

Populations	A	B	C
<i>Calidris minuta</i> (Little Stint)			
- N Europe/S Europe, North & West Africa		(2c)	
- Western Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa			(1)
<i>Scolopax rusticola</i> (Eurasian Woodcock)			
- Europe/South & West Europe & North Africa			1
- Western Siberia/South-west Asia (Caspian)			(1)
<i>Gallinago stenura</i> (Pintail Snipe)			
- Northern Siberia/South Asia & Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Gallinago media</i> (Great Snipe)			
- Scandinavia/probably West Africa	4		
- Western Siberia & NE Europe/South-east Africa	4		
<i>Gallinago gallinago gallinago</i> (Common Snipe)			
- Europe/South & West Europe & NW Africa		2c	
- Western Siberia/South-west Asia & Africa			1
<i>Gallinago gallinago faeroeensis</i> (Common Snipe)			
- Iceland, Faroes & Northern Scotland/Ireland			1
<i>Limnocryptes minimus</i> (Jack Snipe)			
- Northern Europe/S & W Europe & West Africa			1
- Western Siberia/SW Asia & NE Africa			1
<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i> (Red-necked Phalarope)			
- Western Eurasia/Arabian Sea			1
<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i> (Red Phalarope)			
- Canada & Greenland/Atlantic coast of Africa		2c	
<i>Xenus cinereus</i> (Terek Sandpiper)			
- NE Europe & W Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa			1
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> (Common Sandpiper)			
- West & Central Europe/West Africa		2c	
- E Europe & W Siberia/Central, E & S Africa			(1)
<i>Tringa ochropus</i> (Green Sandpiper)			
- Northern Europe/S & W Europe, West Africa			1
- Western Siberia/SW Asia, NE & Eastern Africa		(2c)	
<i>Tringa erythropus</i> (Spotted Redshank)			
- N Europe/Southern Europe, North & West Africa	3c		
- Western Siberia/SW Asia, NE & Eastern Africa		(1)	
<i>Tringa nebularia</i> (Common Greenshank)			
- Northern Europe/SW Europe, NW & West Africa			1
- Western Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa			(1)
<i>Tringa totanus totanus</i> (Common Redshank)			
- Northern Europe (breeding)		2c	
- Central & East Europe (breeding)		2c	
- Britain & Ireland/Britain, Ireland, France	3c		
<i>Tringa totanus robusta</i> (Common Redshank)			
- Iceland & Faroes/Western Europe			1
<i>Tringa totanus ussuriensis</i> (Common Redshank)			
- Western Asia/SW Asia, NE & Eastern Africa			(1)
<i>Tringa glareola</i> (Wood Sandpiper)			
- North-west Europe/West Africa			1
- NE Europe & W Siberia/Eastern & Southern Africa			(1)
<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i> (Marsh Sandpiper)			
- Eastern Europe/West & Central Africa		(1)	
- Western Asia/SW Asia, Eastern & Southern Africa		1	
Family DROMADIDAE (crab-plover)			

Populations	A	B	C
<i>Dromas ardeola</i> (Crab-plover)			
- North-west Indian Ocean, Red Sea & Gulf		1	
Family GLAREOLIDAE (coursers, pratincoles)			
<i>Glareola pratincola pratincola</i> (Collared Pratincole)			
- Western Europe & NW Africa/West Africa		1	
- Black Sea & E Mediterranean/Eastern Sahel zone	2		
- SW Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa		(1)	
<i>Glareola nordmanni</i> (Black-winged Pratincole)			
- SE Europe & Western Asia/Southern Africa	4		
<i>Glareola ocularis</i> (Madagascar Pratincole)			
- Madagascar/East Africa	1b 1c		
<i>Glareola nuchalis nuchalis</i> (Rock Pratincole, White-collared Pratincole)			
- Eastern & Central Africa		(1)	
<i>Glareola nuchalis liberiae</i> (Rock Pratincole, Rufous-collared Pratincole)			
- West Africa			1
<i>Glareola cinerea</i> (Grey Pratincole)			
- SE West Africa & Central Africa	(2)		
Family LARIDAE (gulls, terns, skimmers)			
<i>Anous stolidus plumbeigularis</i> (Brown Noddy)			
- Red Sea & Gulf of Aden			1
<i>Anous tenuirostris tenuirostris</i> (Lesser Noddy)			
- Indian Ocean Islands to E Africa			1
<i>Rynchops flavirostris</i> (African Skimmer)			
- Coastal West Africa & Central Africa	1c		
- Eastern & Southern Africa	1c		
<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i> (Little Gull)			
- Central & E Europe/SW Europe & W Mediterranean		1	
- W Asia/E Mediterranean, Black Sea & Caspian	(3c)		
<i>Xema sabini sabini</i> (Sabine's Gull)			
- Canada & Greenland/SE Atlantic			(1)
<i>Rissa tridactyla tridactyla</i> (Black-legged Kittiwake)			
- Arctic from NE Canada to Novaya Zemlya/N Atlantic	1b		
<i>Larus genei</i> (Slender-billed Gull)			
- West Africa (bre)		1	
- Black Sea & Mediterranean (bre)		2a (2c)	
- West, South-west & South Asia (bre)			1
<i>Larus ridibundus</i> (Black-headed Gull)			
- W Europe/W Europe, W Mediterranean, West Africa		2c	
- East Europe/Black Sea & East Mediterranean			1
- West Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa			(1)
<i>Larus hartlaubii</i> (Hartlaub's Gull)			
- Coastal South-west Africa		1	
<i>Larus cirrocephalus poiocephalus</i> (Grey-headed Gull)			
- West Africa		(1)	
- Central, Eastern and Southern Africa			(1)
<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i> (Pallas's Gull)			
- Black Sea & Caspian/South-west Asia	3a		
<i>Larus melanocephalus</i> (Mediterranean Gull)			
- W Europe, Mediterranean & NW Africa		2a	

Populations	A	B	C
<i>Larus hemprichii</i> (Sooty Gull)			
- Red Sea, Gulf, Arabia & Eastern Africa		1	
<i>Larus leucophthalmus</i> (White-eyed Gull)			
- Red Sea & nearby coasts	1a		
<i>Larus audouinii</i> (Audouin's Gull)			
- Mediterranean/N & W coasts of Africa	1a 3a		
<i>Larus canus canus</i> (Mew Gull)			
- NW & C Europe/Atlantic coast & Mediterranean			1
<i>Larus canus heinei</i> (Mew Gull)			
- NE Europe & Western Siberia/Black Sea & Caspian			1
<i>Larus dominicanus vetula</i> (Kelp Gull)			
- Coastal Southern Africa		1	
- Coastal West Africa	1c		
<i>Larus fuscus fuscus</i> (Lesser Black-backed Gull, Baltic Gull)			
- NE Europe/Black Sea, SW Asia & Eastern Africa	3c		
<i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i> (Lesser Black-backed Gull)			
- Western Europe/Mediterranean & West Africa			1
<i>Larus fuscus intermedius</i> (Lesser Black-backed Gull)			
- S Scandinavia, Netherlands, Ebro Delta, Spain			1
<i>Larus fuscus heuglini</i> (Lesser Black-backed Gull, Heuglin's Gull)			
- NE Europe & W Siberia/SW Asia & NE Africa			(1)
<i>Larus fuscus barabensis</i> (Lesser Black-backed Gull, Steppe Gull)			
- South-west Siberia/South-west Asia			(1)
<i>Larus argentatus argentatus</i> (European Herring Gull)			
- North & North-west Europe		2c	
<i>Larus argentatus argenteus</i> (European Herring Gull)			
- Iceland & Western Europe		2c	
<i>Larus armenicus</i> (Armenian Gull)			
- Armenia, Eastern Turkey & NW Iran	3a 3c		
<i>Larus michahellis</i> (Yellow-legged Gull)			
- Mediterranean, Iberia & Morocco			1
<i>Larus cachinnans</i> (Caspian Gull)			
- Black Sea & Western Asia/SW Asia, NE Africa			1
<i>Larus glaucoides glaucoides</i> (Iceland Gull)			
- Greenland/Iceland & North-west Europe			1
<i>Larus hyperboreus hyperboreus</i> (Glaucous Gull)			
- Svalbard & N Russia (bre)			(1)
<i>Larus hyperboreus leuceteres</i> (Glaucous Gull)			
- Canada, Greenland & Iceland (bre)			(1)
<i>Larus marinus</i> (Great Black-backed Gull)			
- North & West Europe			1
<i>Onychoprion fuscatus nubilosa</i> (Sooty Tern)			
- Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, E to Pacific		2a	
<i>Onychoprion anaethetus melanopterus</i> (Bridled Tern)			
- W Africa	1c		
<i>Onychoprion anaethetus antarcticus</i> (Bridled Tern)			
- Red Sea, E Africa, Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea to W India			1
- W Indian Ocean	2		
<i>Sternula albifrons albifrons</i> (Little Tern)			
- Europe north of Mediterranean (bre)	2		
- West Mediterranean/ W Africa (bre)	3b 3c		
- Black Sea & East Mediterranean (bre)	3b 3c		
- Caspian (bre)	2		

Populations	A	B	C
<i>Sternula albifrons guineae</i> (Little Tern)			
- West Africa (bre)	1c		
<i>Sternula saundersi</i> (Saunders's Tern)			
- W South Asia, Red Sea, Gulf & Eastern Africa	2		
<i>Sternula balaenarum</i> (Damara Tern)			
- Namibia & South Africa/Atlantic coast to Ghana	1b 1c		
<i>Gelochelidon nilotica nilotica</i> (Common Gull-billed Tern)			
- Western Europe/West Africa		1	
- Black Sea & East Mediterranean/Eastern Africa	3c		
- West & Central Asia/South-west Asia	2		
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i> (Caspian Tern)			
- Southern Africa (bre)	1c		
- West Africa (bre)		1	
Baltic (bre)		1	
- Black Sea (bre)	1c		
- Caspian (bre)	2		
<i>Chlidonias hybrida hybrida</i> (Whiskered Tern)			
- Western Europe & North-west Africa (bre)		1	
- Black Sea & East Mediterranean (bre)			(1)
- Caspian (bre)		(1)	
<i>Chlidonias hybrida delalandii</i> (Whiskered Tern)			
- Eastern Africa (Kenya & Tanzania)	2		
- Southern Africa (Malawi & Zambia to South Africa)	1c		
<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i> (White-winged Tern)			
- Eastern Europe & Western Asia/Africa			(1)
<i>Chlidonias niger niger</i> (Black Tern)			
- Europe & Western Asia/Atlantic coast of Africa		2c	
<i>Sterna dougallii dougallii</i> (Roseate Tern)			
- Southern Africa & Madagascar	1c		
- East Africa	2		
- Europe (bre)	1c		
<i>Sterna dougallii gracilis</i> (Roseate Tern)			
- Seychelles & Mascarenes	1c		
- North Arabian Sea (Oman)	1c		
<i>Sterna hirundo hirundo</i> (Common Tern)			
- Southern & Western Europe (bre)			1
- Northern & Eastern Europe (bre)			1
- Western Asia (bre)			(1)
<i>Sterna repressa</i> (White-cheeked Tern)			
- W South Asia, Red Sea, Gulf & Eastern Africa			1
<i>Sterna paradisaea</i> (Arctic Tern)			
- Western Eurasia (bre)			1
<i>Sterna vittata vittata</i> (Antarctic Tern)			
- P.Edward, Marion, Crozet & Kerguelen/South Africa	1c		
<i>Sterna vittata tristanensis</i> (Antarctic Tern)			
- Tristan da Cunha & Gough/South Africa	1c		
<i>Sterna vittata sanctipauli</i> (Antarctic Tern)			
- Amsterdam and St Paul/South Africa	1c		
<i>Thalasseus bengalensis bengalensis</i> (Lesser Crested Tern)			
- Gulf/Southern Asia			1
- Red Sea/Eastern Africa			1
<i>Thalasseus bengalensis emigratus</i> (Lesser Crested Tern)			
- S Mediterranean/NW & West Africa coasts	1c		

Populations	A	B	C
<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis sandvicensis</i> (Sandwich Tern)			
- Western Europe/West Africa			1
- Black Sea & Mediterranean (bre)		2a	
- West & Central Asia/South-west & South Asia			1
<i>Thalasseus maximus albidorsalis</i> (Royal Tern)			
- West Africa (bre)		2a	
<i>Thalasseus bergii bergii</i> (Greater Crested Tern)			
- Southern Africa (Angola – Mozambique)	2		
- Madagascar & Mozambique/Southern Africa	1c		
<i>Thalasseus bergii velox</i> (Greater Crested Tern)			
- Red Sea & North-east Africa	2		
<i>Thalasseus bergii thalassinus</i> (Greater Crested Tern)			
- Eastern Africa & Seychelles	1c		
Family STERCORARIIDAE (skuas)			
<i>Stercorarius longicaudus longicaudus</i> (Long-tailed Jaeger)			
- N Europe & W Siberia/S Atlantic			1
<i>Catharacta skua</i> (Great Skua)			
- N Europe/N Atlantic		1	
Family ALCIDAE (auks)			
<i>Fratercula arctica</i> (Atlantic Puffin)			
- Hudson Bay & Maine E to S Greenland, Iceland, Bear Is, Norway to S Novaya Zemlya	1b		
- NE Canada, N Greenland, to Jan Mayen, Svalbard, N Novaya Zemlya	1b		
- Faeroes, S Norway & Sweden, Britain, Ireland, NW France	1b		
<i>Cephus grylle grylle</i> (Black Guillemot)			
- Baltic Sea	3c		
<i>Cephus grylle mandtii</i> (Black Guillemot)			
- Arctic E North America to Greenland, Jan Mayen & Svalbard E through Siberia to Alaska			1
<i>Cephus grylle arcticus</i> (Black Guillemot)			
- N America, S Greenland, Britain, Ireland, Scandinavia, White Sea			1
<i>Cephus grylle islandicus</i> (Black Guillemot)			
- Iceland	3c		
<i>Cephus grylle faeroeensis</i> (Black Guillemot)			
- Faeroes		(1)	
<i>Alca torda torda</i> (Razorbill)			
- E North America, Greenland, E to Baltic & White Seas	4		
<i>Alca torda islandica</i> (Razorbill)			
- Iceland, Faeroes, Britain, Ireland, Helgoland, NW France	4		
<i>Alle alle alle</i> (Little Auk)			
- High Arctic, Baffin Is – Novaya Zemlya			1
<i>Uria lomvia lomvia</i> (Thick-billed Murre)			
- E North America, Greenland, E to Severnaya Zemlya		2c	
<i>Uria aalge aalge</i> (Common Murre)			
- Iceland, Faeroes, Scotland, S Norway, Baltic		2c	
<i>Uria aalge albionis</i> (Common Murre)			
- Ireland, S Britain, France, Iberia, Helgoland			1
<i>Uria aalge hyperborea</i> (Common Murre)			
- Svalbard, N Norway to Novaya Zemlya			1

7th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

4-8 December 2018, Durban, South Africa

“Beyond 2020: Shaping flyway conservation for the future”

RESOLUTION 7.4

ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS OF DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION OF TERMS USED IN THE CONTEXT OF TABLE 1 OF THE AEW A ANNEX 3

Recalling Resolutions 3.3 and 5.7 that adopted guidance on the interpretation of the term “*significant long-term decline*” in the context of Table 1 of the AEW A Action Plan,

Recognising the benefits of explicitly making the difference between those populations listed, that are based on long-term decline and the ones listed based on rapid short-term decline,

Recognising that using 7.5 generations instead of three generations required by the relevant criteria of other international assessment processes, such as the IUCN Red List, the European Red List of Birds and the EU Birds Directive Article 12 reporting, and wishing to minimise conflicting interpretation of the population status,

Wishing to enhance the robustness of early warning for rapidly declining populations,

Thanking the Technical Committee for its work over the past triennium on revisiting the earlier adopted guidance on the interpretation of the term “*significant long-term decline*” and proposing the establishment of a new category to the key of classification on Table 1 of AEW A Annex 3 based on rapid short-term decline (document AEW A/MOP 7.20),

Taking into account Resolution 7.3 on the adoption of amendments to the AEW A annexes that, *inter alia*, amended category 3(c) of Column A and category 2(c) of Column B based on (significant) long-term decline and established new category 3(e) of Column A and category 2(e) of Column B based on rapid short-term decline used in classifying populations on Table 1 of AEW A Annex 3,

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Adopts* the definition of and guidance for interpretation of the terms “*long-term decline*” and “*rapid short-term decline*” as set out in Appendix I to this resolution, to replace the definition and guidance previously adopted by Resolution 5.7.

APPENDIX I

Definition of and Guidance for interpretation of the terms “*long-term decline*” and “*rapid short-term decline*” of waterbird populations

Definitions

A population in '*long-term decline*', is one where the best available data, information or assessments indicate that it has declined by at least 10% in numbers or range over a period of three generations.

A population in '*rapid short-term decline*' is one where the best available data, information or assessments indicate that it has declined at least at a rate that is equivalent to a predicted long-term decline of 30% over three generations based on 10 years of the most recent data.

Guidance for the application of this definition

1. Where there are only poor quantitative assessments of trends at the international scale, international trends should be assessed, on the basis of best expert knowledge and other available information, bearing in mind the scale of decline indicated in the definition above.
2. Where one biogeographical population shows different trends in different countries, if data allows, the rate of population change should be calculated using the national trends weighted by the geometric mean of the national population estimate.
3. Trend information for biogeographical populations at international scales is not always available over three generations. In such situations, equivalent rates of decline may be used over shorter periods, but not shorter than 10 years, and based on a sustained decline at an annual rate that would produce a 10% decline over the three generations.
4. The population should be classified as being in rapid short-term decline, if the short-term (i.e. 10 years) rate of population change is equivalent to a 30% decline over three generations.
5. The delimitation of decline rates resulting from natural fluctuations should be based on the best expert knowledge, including information on the availability of suitable habitats.
6. Care is needed in applying this definition to monitoring data uncritically. There may be instances where a change of a population's range or distribution results in a decrease in numbers of a population counted, as a consequence of a greater proportion of the population now occurring in areas where there is less monitoring. Lower thresholds may be appropriate for a decreasing range, where it is accompanied by population decrease. Raw count data will always need expert interpretation.
7. The geometric mean of population size ranges should generally be taken as the basis of population trend calculations. Following IUCN Red List criteria definitions, generation length is the average age of parents of the current cohort (i.e. new-born individuals in the population). Each significant long-term decline revealed by the above-mentioned calculations will be examined, analysed and approved by the Technical Committee.
8. Where the size of a population is known to be low (<100,000), expert judgments as to trend status should be undertaken on a precautionary basis. This is especially important given recent findings of a low genetic variation of a number of waterbird populations - the implication being that the effective population size is much (possibly by a factor of 10) smaller than the observed population size. In these cases, a population may become unviable in the long-term (owing to vulnerability to changing environmental events) at a higher population size than previously thought.

7th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

4-8 December 2018, Durban, South Africa

“Beyond 2020: Shaping flyway conservation for the future”

RESOLUTION 7.5

ADOPTION, REVISION, RETIREMENT, EXTENSION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL SPECIES ACTION AND MANAGEMENT PLANS

Recalling that paragraph 2.2.1 of the Action Plan of the Agreement states that the Parties shall cooperate with a view to developing and implementing International Single Species Action Plans, as a priority for those populations in Category 1 on Column A of Table 1 and those marked with an asterisk,

Further recalling that although International Species Action Plans are not directly binding, Parties are under a legal obligation to cooperate with a view to implementing such plans,

Noting that in accordance with target 1.2 of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, all priority species/populations shall be covered by effectively implemented International Species Action Plans at flyway level,

Recalling paragraph 4.3.4 of the Action Plan of the Agreement, whereby Parties shall also cooperate with a view to developing management plans for populations which cause significant damage, in particular, to crops and fisheries,

Further recalling that in accordance with target 2.4 of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, adaptive harvest management regimes are to be established and effectively implemented at flyway level in the framework of International Species Action or Management Plans,

Welcoming the establishment of the AEWA European Goose Management Platform (EGMP) as requested by the Parties in Resolution 6.4 on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Migratory Waterbirds,

Following the positive recommendations from both the Technical and Standing Committees concerning the need to approve and implement a further two new International Single Species Action Plans, one revised International Single Species Action Plan, and two International Single Species Management Plans,

Noting in conjunction with the AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Velvet Scoter, the urgent need identified at the 5th Pan-European Duck Symposium’s seminar on marine renewables and seaducks, held in Scotland on 16th April 2018, for guidance on the coordinated implementation of marine management, particularly in relation to strategic spatial planning and the assessment of cumulative impact, in order to effectively manage the rapid growth in use of the marine environment by multiple sectors, including renewable energy and shipping, and to ensure better outcomes for threatened seaducks and other marine waterbirds at a flyway scale,

Further noting the current status of AEWA International Species Action and Management Plan production and coordination, including the Technical Committee recommendations for extension, revision or retirement of AEWA International Single Species Action Plans, as outlined in document AEWA/MOP 7.21,

Recognising the progress made in establishing AEWA International Species Working Groups and AEWA International Species Expert Groups to coordinate the implementation of International Species Action Plans and the, so far only, International Single Species Management Plan and the increased implementation of these Plans, as a result of the operations of such International Species Working and Expert Groups,

Also recognising the need to further develop the action- and management planning process under the Agreement including the adoption of a revised format for AEWA International Single and Multi-Species Action Plans as well as adopting a revised process for the revision, retirement and extension of International Single Species Action Plans,

Acknowledging that despite progress made, continued efforts are necessary to ensure the long-term conservation and/or sustainable use of prioritized species/populations,

Thanking all Parties for the funding provided towards the development of new Action and Management Plans as well as the work of AEWA International Species Working and Expert Groups to implement existing International Species Action and Management Plans,

Further thanking all governmental and non-governmental organisations which provide support to the development, coordination and implementation of International Species Action and Management Plans,

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Adopts* the International Single Species Action Plans for the following species/populations:
 - a) Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) (document AEWA/MOP 7.25),
 - b) Velvet Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*) - Western Siberia & Northern European/NW European population (document AEWA/MOP 7.23),
 - c) White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) - revision of the 2005 International Single Species Action Plan (document AEWA/MOP 7.24);
2. *Adopts* the International Single Species Management Plans for the following species/populations:
 - a) Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) (document AEWA/MOP 7.26 Rev. 1),
 - b) Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) - Northwest/Southwest European population (document AEWA/MOP 7.27);
3. *Encourages* Parties to implement these and previously adopted International Species Action and Management Plans pursuant to paragraphs 2.2.1 and 4.3.4 of the Agreement's Action Plan;
4. *Encourages* Range States that are not yet Contracting Parties to the Agreement to also implement these, as well as, previously adopted International Species Action and Management Plans;
5. *Adopts* the amendment to the decision-making process for the revision and retirement of International Single Species Action Plans to include the extension of the validity of Action Plans as outlined in Appendix 1 and in document AEWA/MOP 7.21;

6. *Retires* the International Single Species Action Plan for the Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) as the respective Action Plan goals have been achieved and the population is increasing as outlined in document AEWA/MOP 7.21, and *instructs* the AEWA Technical Committee to continue to monitor this species as part of its triennial prioritisation of AEWA-listed species/populations for action- and management-planning;
7. *Extends* the validity of the following International Single Species Action Plans for another ten years (2019-2028) as the main threats, as well as the corresponding goals, objectives, results and actions outlined in the respective Action Plans remain valid and the species/populations in question will still benefit from the existence of an international flyway conservation framework, as outlined in document AEWA/MOP 7.21:
- a) Great Snipe (*Gallinago media*),
 - b) Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*),
 - c) Lesser Flamingo (*Phoeniconaias minor*),
 - d) Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*),
 - e) Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*),
 - f) Maccoa Duck (*Oxyura maccoa*),
 - g) White-winged Flufftail (*Sarothrura ayresi*),
 - h) Madagascar Pond Heron (*Ardeola idae*);
8. *Requests* the Technical Committee to facilitate the production of shorter conservation briefs for those extended Action Plans currently without an international coordination mechanism (Great Snipe, Ferruginous Duck, Lesser Flamingo, Maccoa Duck and Madagascar Pond Heron), highlighting any new scientific information and/or threats, to boost implementation and re-engage relevant range states;
9. *Extends* the validity of the International Single Species Action Plan for the Corncrake (*Crex crex*) for the next three years (2019 – 2021), to enable Western/Central European Parties to review the existing Plan and revise it if necessary, taking into consideration the current population trends; as well as to seek a coordinating organization to facilitate a potential revision and/or further extension of the Plan and to stimulate implementation within the framework of an AEWA International Species Expert Group in consultation with the Secretariat;
10. *Extends* the validity of the International Single Species Action Plan for the Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*) for the next three years (2019 – 2021) to prepare the revision of the existing plan;
11. *Extends* the validity of the International Single Species Action Plan for the Black-winged Pratincole (*Glareola nordmanni*) for the next three years (2019-2021) and *requests* the Technical Committee to re-assess this Plan against the criteria for extension, revision or retirement of International Single Species Action Plans;
12. *Encourages* all Range States, relevant governmental and non-governmental organisations and bilateral and multilateral donors to provide assistance for the coordination and implementation of International Species Action and Management Plans that have been adopted and extended, in particular through active participation in, and funding of, AEWA International Species Working and Expert Groups;
13. *Encourages* Parties and Range States that are not yet Party to the Agreement, as well as relevant non-governmental organisations and bilateral and multilateral donors to continue providing assistance for the development of new International Species Action and Management Plans as prioritised by the Technical Committee;
14. *Instructs* the Secretariat to disseminate these new International Species Action and Management Plans to relevant Parties and organisations, to monitor the implementation of all adopted International Species Action and Management Plans, and to report to the Meeting of the Parties as specified in paragraph 7.4 of the

Agreement's Action Plan and through the international review on the stage of preparation and implementation of Single Species Action Plans;

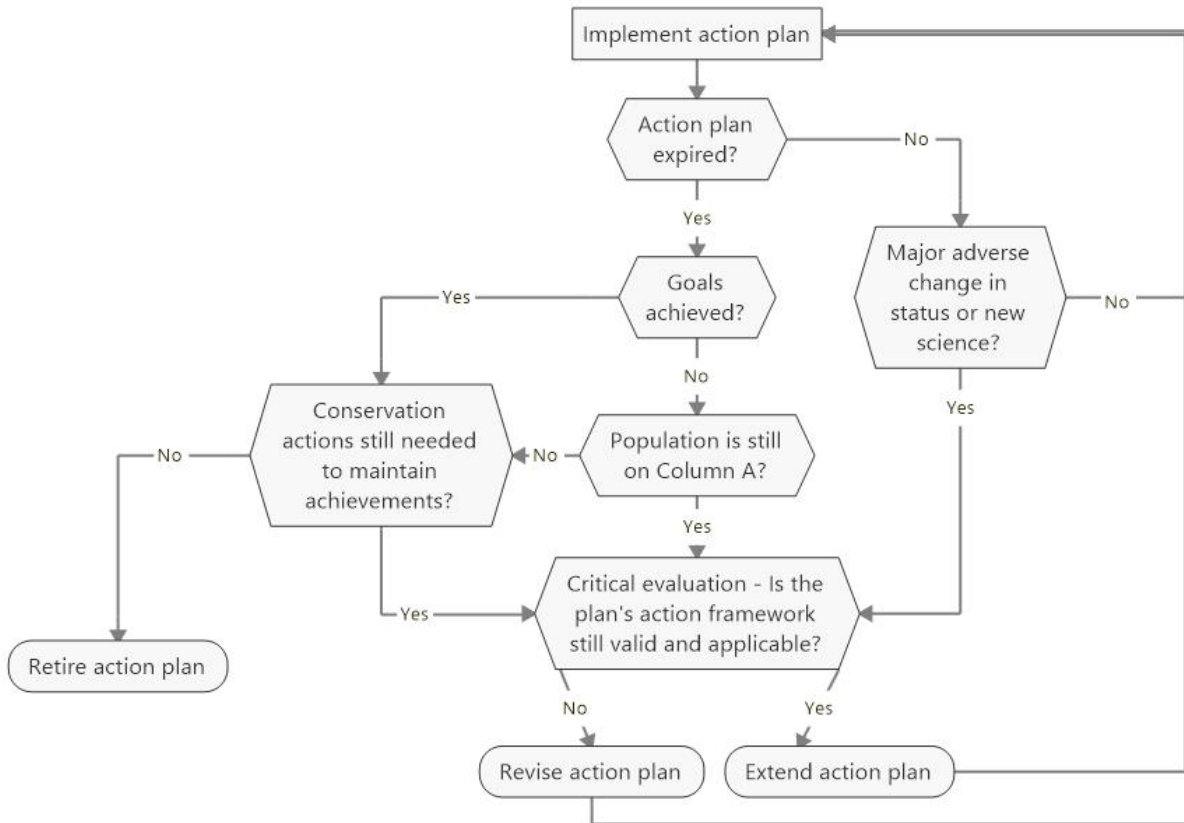
15. *Adopts* the revised format for AEWA International Single and Multi-Species Action Plans as outlined in document AEWA/MOP 7.22, and encourages the Technical Committee to develop such a format for International Species Management Plans;

16. *Encourages* the Technical Committee to revise the AEWA conservation guidelines on the preparation of National Single Species Action Plans for Migratory Waterbirds;

17. *Invites* the AEWA European Seaduck International Working Group and the Wetlands International / IUCN SSC Duck Specialist Group to develop Conservation Guidelines on 'Marine Spatial Planning and the Conservation of Seaducks', in close collaboration with the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and the AEWA Technical Committee, as well as other relevant stakeholders including other international organizations such as ICES, HELCOM and OSPAR, to be presented to the next session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA for adoption;

18. *Reiterates* the request to Parties, as well as the AEWA International Species Working and Expert Groups to continue to follow, as appropriate, the adopted AEWA conservation guidelines when implementing International Species Action and Management Plans, stressing the need for this best practice, and *stresses* in particular the obligation to inform the Secretariat in advance of any re-establishment programmes for populations listed in Table 1 of the Action Plan.

APPENDIX 1. Revised decision-making process for the assessment of AEWA International Single Species Action Plans for revision, extension and retirement (as outlined in document AEWA/MOP 7.21)



7th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

4-8 December 2018, Durban, South Africa

“Beyond 2020: Shaping flyway conservation for the future”

RESOLUTION 7.6

PRIORITIES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SEABIRDS IN THE AFRICAN-EURASIAN FLYWAYS

Conscious that globally, seabirds remain one of the most threatened groups of birds, and *concerned* that of the 84 seabird species listed by AEWA, many are threatened and/or have declining populations at both regional and global level, including four species listed on the IUCN Global Red List as Endangered, seven species listed as Vulnerable, eleven species as Near Threatened, and a total of 39 populations which are in decline within the Agreement,

Further conscious that this marks a continued overall decline in the status of AEWA-listed seabirds,

Noting the outcomes of the 7th edition of the Conservation Status Report, in particular that, whilst the overall status of AEWA waterbird populations has improved during the period of the Strategic Plan 2009-2018, an increasing number of mainly marine and farmland species are listed as globally threatened and Near Threatened as well as in significant long-term decline, which highlights the importance of sustainable management beyond protected areas,

Noting the relevance of Sustainable Development Goal 14 regarding the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and in particular, the following targets for achieving this goal: Target 14.1, on the prevention and significant reduction of marine pollution, Target 14.4, on effectively regulating harvesting and ending overfishing, Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU) and destructive fishing practices; and Target 14.5, on conserving at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas,

Recalling AEWA Strategic Plan (2019-2027) objective 1: To strengthen species conservation and recovery and reduce causes of unnecessary mortality; objective 2: To ensure that any use and management of migratory waterbird populations is sustainable across their flyways; objective 3: To establish and sustain a coherent and comprehensive flyway network of protected areas and other sites, managed to maintain – and where necessary restore – their national and international importance for migratory waterbird populations; and objective 4: To ensure there is sufficient quantity and quality of habitat in the wider environment for achieving and maintaining favourable conservation status for migratory waterbird populations,

Further recalling the actions and recommendations outlined in AEWA Resolution 6.9 on improving the status of AEWA-listed seabirds, in particular, the need to further define AEWA priorities for seabird conservation, to produce relevant guidance and to assess the threat posed by plastics and marine debris to AEWA seabirds,

Welcoming the “Advice on AEWA Priorities for Seabird Conservation” (document AEWA/MOP 7.29), the “Guide to Guidance to Reduce the Impact of Fisheries on AEWA Seabirds” (document AEWA/MOP 7.30), as well as the “Assessment on Plastics and Waterbirds: Incidence and Impacts” (document AEWA/MOP 7.28),

Further welcoming the development of the AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Velvet Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*), which is one of the most threatened AEWA-listed seabirds (document AEWA/MOP 7.23),

Concerned that since its adoption by the 6th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP6) to AEWA in 2015, the International Multi-Species Action Plan for Benguela Current Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds, which addresses priorities for nine species, five of which are Globally Threatened, has not been implemented;

Noting CMS Resolution 12.20 on the management of marine debris, as well as the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) Resolutions 1/6 on Marine Plastic Debris and Micro Plastics (2014), Resolution 2/11 on Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics (2016) and Resolution 3/7 on Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics (2017),

Recognizing that as outlined in the “Assessment on Plastics and Waterbirds: Incidence and Impacts”, although many waterbirds interact with plastics through ingestion, entanglement or use of plastics in nest construction, there is currently no evidence of population-level impacts for AEWA-listed species,

Noting the relevance of Aichi 2020 Biodiversity Target no. 11 related to protected areas, and *further noting* CMS Resolution 12.7 on the need to advance ecological networks of protected sites for migratory species and Article III 2(c) of the Agreement which requires Parties to “*identify sites and habitats for migratory waterbirds occurring within their territory and encourage the protection, management, rehabilitation and restoration of these sites*”, Article III 2(d) which requires parties to “*coordinate their efforts to ensure that a network of suitable habitats is maintained or, where appropriate, re-established throughout the entire range of each migratory waterbird species concerned*”, and Article III 2(e) which requires Parties to “*investigate problems that are posed or are likely to be posed by human activities and endeavour to implement remedial measures...*”,

Recalling the AEWA Action Plan which urges Parties to “*take appropriate actions nationally or through the framework of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and relevant international organisations to minimise the impact of fisheries on migratory waterbirds, and where possible cooperate within these forums, in order to decrease the mortality in areas within and beyond national jurisdiction; appropriate measures shall especially address incidental killing and bycatch in fishing gear including the use of gill nets, longlines and trawling*” in paragraph 4.3.7, and to “*take appropriate actions nationally or through the framework of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and relevant international organisations to minimise the impact of fisheries on migratory waterbirds resulting in particular from unsustainable fishing that causes depletion of food resources for migratory waterbirds*” in paragraph 4.3.8, as well as CMS Resolution 12.22 on bycatch of CMS-listed species, *noting* the relevance of Aichi Target no. 6 related to fisheries and their impacts on threatened species and *welcoming* the European Commission’s 2012 Action Plan for reducing incidental catches of seabirds in fishing gears, and the existing National Plans of Action implemented by a number of Parties,

Recognising the central role and responsibilities of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations to minimise catch of non-target species in their fisheries, as established in the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, and the role of CMS, its other related Agreements and other multiple international actors in addressing these issues,

Recalling the CMS Resolution 12.15 on aquatic wild meat including seabirds, and the establishment of a Thematic Working Group on Aquatic Wild Meat under the CMS Scientific Council,

Recalling Article III.2(b) of the Agreement in accordance with which Parties shall “*ensure that any use of migratory waterbirds is based on an assessment of the best available knowledge of their ecology and is sustainable for the species as well as for the ecological systems that support them*”,

Further recalling paragraphs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 of the AEWA Action Plan, whereby Parties with populations listed in Table 1 shall regulate the taking of birds and eggs of all populations listed in Column B of Table 1, and by way of exemption for those populations listed in Categories 2 and 3 in Column A and which are marked by an asterisk, and those populations listed in Category 4 in Column A, in order to maintain or restore these populations at a favourable conservation status by ensuring that any taking or other use is sustainable,

Recalling Article III. 2 (f) of the Agreement by which Parties shall “*cooperate in emergency situations requiring international concerted action*” and *highlighting* the need for strengthened regional collaboration in responding to both acute and chronic oil pollution and oil spills within the AEWA area, particularly where capacity is low to deal with emergency mitigation especially in respect of rapid response measures, as outlined in CMS Resolution 7.3. (Rev COP12) on Oil Pollution and Migratory Species,

Recalling paragraphs 2.5.3 and 4.3.10 of the AEWA Action Plan by which Parties “*shall take measures to the extent feasible and appropriate, including taking, to ensure that when non-native species or hybrids thereof have already been introduced into their territory, those species or their hybrids do not pose a potential hazard to the populations listed in Table 1*” and “*shall establish appropriate measures, ideally to eliminate or otherwise to mitigate the threat from non-native terrestrial predators to breeding migratory waterbirds on islands and islets. Measures should refer to contingency planning to prevent invasion, emergency responses to remove introduced predators, and restoration programmes for islands where predator populations are already established*” and *welcoming* the work already being undertaken by many Contracting Parties to reduce the impact on seabirds from introduced predators and invasive alien species especially on breeding islands, but *emphasising* that more work is urgently needed to eliminate these impacts,

Recognising the joint issues of concern and potential linkages and synergies that exist between AEWA and the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) as well as HELCOM, OSPAR, CAFF, the European Union and other regional legal frameworks dealing with the conservation of seabirds,

Recognising the preparation of the Guide to Guidance to reduce the Impact of Fisheries on AEWA Seabird Species (document AEWA/MOP 7.30),

Recalling Article IV paragraph 4 of the Agreement, and paragraph 7.3 of the Agreement’s Action Plan, which require the development and review of conservation guidelines in order to assist Contracting Parties with their implementation of the Agreement,

Further recalling Resolutions 1.10, 2.3, 4.13, 5.10 and 6.5, which adopted conservation guidelines focusing on various aspects of waterbird conservation practice,

Noting that these conservation guidelines, although legally non-binding, provide a common framework for action, which aids the coherent implementation of the Agreement by the Contracting Parties to the Agreement, as well as other Range States and interested parties and that it is for each Party to determine whether or how to implement the recommended guidance, whilst having regard to their international obligations and commitments,

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Approves* the following preliminary priorities for seabird conservation action under the Agreement, for application by Parties as appropriate:
 - 1.1. Address bycatch in fishing gear by filling seabird bycatch data gaps throughout the AEWA range, through existing regional frameworks and projects; assess the extent and impact of bycatch by artisanal fisheries to AEWA-listed seabirds; and by feeding bycatch data into a flyway assessment of the cumulative impact of seabird mortality (e.g. from harvesting, illegal killing and taking and bycatch) to inform national and regional decision-making on the sustainable use of seabirds;
 - 1.2. Address human impacts on prey by assessing the impact of artisanal/recreational fisheries on prey; and ensuring regular representation on selected priority Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) through a collaborative approach with other conservation frameworks;
 - 1.3. Assess the extent and impact of artisanal fisheries on AEWA-listed seabirds ; assess hunting and egg harvesting (both legal and illegal) by gathering data on the harvest of AEWA-listed seabird species throughout the AEWA range; and feed into a flyway-level assessment of the cumulative impact of seabird mortality (e.g. from harvesting, illegal killing and taking and bycatch) to inform national and regional decision-making on the sustainable use of seabirds;
 - 1.4. Address the impact of invasive non-native species, especially predation, by identifying those seabird colonies at risk from such impacts and prioritize them for action;
 - 1.5. Address mortality from oil spills and contaminants by identifying the key coastal and at-sea areas where responses to oil spills would be most urgently required within the AEWA region in relation to the presence of AEWA-listed seabirds, including the identification of relevant frameworks tasked with oil spill response; and liaise with identified relevant frameworks to ensure that AEWA seabirds and seabird sites are adequately represented within existing regional oil spill plans;
 - 1.6. Address impacts of offshore wind farms on AEWA seabird species in the North Sea and Baltic Sea, by undertaking a program of data-collection by AEWA Parties to validate models of population level impacts and promotion of a pilot project on the North Sea and Baltic Sea within the CMS Energy Task Force;
 - 1.7. Identify priority sites by filling gaps in the critical site network for seabirds (breeding, non-breeding, pelagic and coastal areas); and protect and manage identified critical sites;
2. *Requests* the Technical Committee, resources permitting, to further refine these priorities during the next triennium, including identifying appropriate approaches through which Parties, non-Party Range States and other relevant stakeholders can deliver on the priorities above and to consider the need for further prioritization and/or broadening of the scope of seabird-related priorities under the Agreement, as appropriate;
3. *Requests* Parties, resources permitting, to also treat as priority a pilot assessment of the implications of reduced prey availability for seabirds within the Benguela region, including the impact of prey scarcity on the conservation status of seabirds as well as the feasibility of introducing mitigation measures and thresholds to improve the availability of food for seabirds as appropriate;
4. *Encourages* relevant Parties and non-Party Range States as well as other stakeholders to implement the recommendations of the *Assessment on Plastics and Waterbirds: Incidence and Impacts* (document AEWA/MOP 7.28), including:

- 4.1 Reducing the risk of plastic ingestion by supporting broad-scale programmes to reduce the amounts of plastic waste entering the environment;
 - 4.2 Reducing entanglement by banning high-risk applications (such as sets of connected plastic rings that are used in multi-packs of beverages, i.e. six-pack rings) where other alternatives are available, by discouraging the use of high-risk items (such as balloons on strings) and educating users not to discard particularly risky materials (such as waste fishing gear) in the marine environment;
5. *Further calls upon* Parties to implement relevant actions in relation to marine plastic debris and microplastics as identified by decisions taken under CMS and UNEA, as relevant and appropriate;
6. *Calls upon* relevant Parties and non-Party Range States as well as other stakeholders to implement the *International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Velvet Scoter* (document AEWA/MOP 7.23) and the *International Multi-species Action Plan for Benguela Current Upwelling System Costal Seabirds adopted by MOP6*;
7. *Adopts the Guide to Guidance to reduce the Impact of Fisheries on AEWA Seabird Species* (document AEWA/MOP 7.30), and *encourages* relevant Parties and non-Party Range States as well as other stakeholders to use this guidance which although legally non-binding provides a common framework for action, when addressing seabird bycatch as well as illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, mitigating indirect impacts of fishing; *requests* the Secretariat to disseminate this guidance and *further requests* the Technical Committee to update this document on a rolling basis as new solutions and guidance become available;
8. *Requests* the Secretariat, resources permitting, to increase the engagement and collaboration of AEWA with relevant international fora and actors, in order to increase synergies with regard to seabird conservation, particularly in relation to the priorities identified above in paragraph 1.

7th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

4-8 December 2018, Durban, South Africa

“Beyond 2020: Shaping flyway conservation for the future”

RESOLUTION 7.7

STRENGTHENING MONITORING OF MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

Recalling Resolution 6.3 “*Strengthening monitoring of migratory waterbirds*”, and *further recalling* Resolution 5.2 “*Addressing gaps in knowledge of and conservation action for waterbird populations and sites important for them*” and Resolution 5.22 “*Establishing a long-term basic structural funding regime for the International Waterbird Census in the African-Eurasian region*”,

Taking note of the Report on the *Development of Waterbird Monitoring along the African-Eurasian Flyways* and the progress made towards achieving Targets 3.1. of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 with respect to waterbird monitoring data gathering and *being aware* that sustainable funding is yet to be secured (document AEWA/MOP 7.31 Rev. 1),

Gratefully acknowledging the contributions to the objectives of AEWA with respect to developing waterbird monitoring, made by Contracting Parties, international donors, national and international non-governmental organisations, particularly through the AEWA African Initiative, the *Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative*, the *Conserving Migratory Waterbirds in West Africa* project, the *Mediterranean Waterbird Monitoring* project, the *Strengthening Waterbird Monitoring in the African-Eurasian Flyway* project, the *Adriatic Flyway Initiative*, the *Migratory Soaring Birds* project, the *Coordinated Waterbird Counts (CWAC)* project as part of South Africa’s commitment to international waterbird conservation and the *RESSOURCE* project as examples of strategic regional initiatives for the conservation of waterbirds and their habitats,

Welcoming the support of the Environment and Protected Areas Authority of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, to the development of the Strategy for monitoring coastal waterbird populations and their habitats on the Arabian Peninsula in response to CMS Resolution 12.25 on “*Promoting conservation of critical intertidal and other coastal habitats for migratory species*” and launched at the Ramsar COP 13 in Dubai, and the active engagement of regional stakeholders in its implementation,

Taking full account of document AEWA/MOP 7.14 “*Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds in the Agreement Area - 7th edition*” (aka CSR7),

Noting that the preliminary “*Report on the Site Network for Waterbirds in the Agreement Area - 1st edition*” (document AEWA/MOP 5.15) was not revised and finalised during the last two triennia due to lack of funding,

Welcoming the revised AEWA Conservation Guidelines on Waterbird Monitoring (document AEWA/MOP 7.35) adopted through Resolution 7.8,

Welcoming the progress with the coordination and reporting from the International Waterbird Census (document AEWA/MOP 7.14) and *recognizing* the need for continued support for the scheme both at national and international level,

Being aware that further improvement of the knowledge of population sizes, with regard to quantity and quality, is primarily limited by the lack of adequate national and international monitoring schemes focusing on breeding birds in Africa and Central & South-west Asia,

Acknowledging the major contributions of the EU Birds Directive Article 12 reporting process and the European Red List of Birds to the last two editions of the AEWA Conservation Status Report,

Welcoming the progress with the 2nd European Breeding Bird Atlas coordinated by the European Bird Census Council and *appreciating* the improvements in population size estimates and range change estimates this may bring,

Acknowledging shared interest in water- and seabird populations covered by status assessment under OSPAR, HELCOM and CAFF,

Further acknowledging the contribution of the 2nd Southern African Bird Atlas project to the status assessment of several AEWA populations,

Acknowledging that in CSR7, the increase of populations whose status is assessed on the basis of regular monitoring data has increased from 102 to 221, i.e. by 116% compared to CSR4, and thus exceeds the Strategic Plan target of 50%, but still represents only 40% of the populations listed in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan,

Concerned that only one of the eight status-related targets of the Strategic Plan have been reached so far and, in the case of six of the eight targets, the situation has worsened (document AEWA/MOP 7.10),

Acknowledging the usefulness of the Critical Site Network Tool for a number of international and national processes under the Agreement *and grateful* for its technical redevelopment under the Climate Resilient Flyways project, *recognizing* its potential to facilitate the monitoring of Objective 3 of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, *while recognising* that adequate monitoring schemes are essential to ensure that the Tool contains information that is adequate to support the management of the site network,

Recognising that other MEAs, particularly the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Convention on Migratory Species, as well as the EU Birds Directive, require regular waterbird monitoring data for their operations, such as Ramsar criteria 5 and 6 for the designation of wetlands of international importance whose applicability is linked to the Waterbird Population Estimates,

Noting the conclusions and recommendations of the Standing Committee *Final Report on the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2018* to MOP7 (document AEWA/MOP 7.10),

Further noting the relevant targets and activities of the *AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027* and of the *Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027*,

Being aware that the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat is represented in the African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership³⁶,

³⁶ <https://europe.wetlands.org/our-network/waterbird-monitoring-partnership/>

Welcoming the establishment of the Waterbird Fund³⁷ and *thanking* the Government of Switzerland and other contributors for their donations to the Fund so far,

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Waterbird Monitoring Partnership and *encourages* the Partnership to continue its work;
2. *Strongly urges* Parties and other donors to regularly contribute to the Waterbird Fund or to other existing international flyway monitoring funding mechanisms;
3. *Reiterates* operative paragraphs 4 - 9 of Resolution 6.3;
4. *Urges* Range States to develop and maintain adequate national monitoring schemes following the principles presented in the revised AEWA Conservation Guidelines on waterbird monitoring and its annexes including the recommended seasons and monitoring methods both for breeding and non-breeding waterbirds so as to identify and monitor international and national important sites, contribute to the production of flyway-level population size and trend estimates for populations listed on Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan;
5. *Encourages* Parties to support research that can inform and improve our understanding of drivers of population changes, with particular focus on the long-term and rapid short-term declines;
6. *Welcomes* the launch of the African Bird Atlas initiative and *urges* Parties and other organisations to join and support the initiative;
7. *Invites* the relevant organisations to upgrade the international coordination of the monitoring of the relevant AEWA populations during the breeding season, with particular attention to colonial breeding species and to engage with the Waterbird Monitoring Partnership;
8. *Urges* Contracting Parties and organisations to provide financial support for the identification of priorities for the systematic development of waterbird monitoring and for the population and site monitoring related activities identified in the *AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027* and the *Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027*;
9. *Invites* the Technical Committee and the Secretariat to review the national reporting format, in consultation with the Waterbird Monitoring Partnership;
10. *Welcomes* the update of the 1% thresholds for waterbird populations listed on Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan (available on the Waterbird Population Estimates web portal³⁸ and in Annex 1 of the 7th edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report) and encourages Parties to use these thresholds when identifying internationally important sites;
11. *Invites* the Technical Committee and the Secretariat to work with the Ramsar Convention and its regional initiatives, the European Commission as well as CAFF-AMBI, Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative), OSPAR, HELCOM and other relevant regional MEAs to identify possible synergies with respect to waterbird population estimates and to waterbird monitoring and reporting.

³⁷ <https://waterbird.fund>

³⁸ <http://wpe.wetlands.org/>

7th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

4-8 December 2018, Durban, South Africa

“Beyond 2020: Shaping flyway conservation for the future”

RESOLUTION 7.8

REVISION AND ADOPTION OF CONSERVATION GUIDANCE

Recalling Article IV paragraph 4 of the Agreement, and paragraph 7.3 of the Agreement’s Action Plan, which require the development and review of conservation guidelines in order to assist Contracting Parties with their implementation of the Agreement,

Further recalling Resolutions 1.10, 2.3, 4.13, 5.10 and 6.5, which adopted conservation guidelines focussing on various aspects of waterbird conservation practice,

Noting that these conservation guidelines, although legally non-binding, provide a common framework for action, which aids the coherent implementation of the Agreement by the Contracting Parties to the Agreement, as well as other Range States and interested parties and that it is for each Party to determine to which extent the guidance will be implemented, whilst having regard to their international obligations and commitments,

Recalling Resolution 4.3 which requested the Technical Committee, amongst other things, to review the purposes for exemptions listed in paragraph 2.1.3 a-e of the AEWA Action Plan and provide advice,

Thanking the Technical Committee for its comprehensive work on this request and the compilation of guidance on the application of exemptions from the prohibitions laid down in paragraphs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 as per paragraph 2.1.3,

Further thanking the Technical Committee for its initiative to develop guidance on the implementation of AEWA’s provisions on non-native species, in order to assist with the implementation of Article 3.2(g) of the AEWA Agreement and of paragraphs 2.5, 3.3, 4.3.10 and 4.3.11 of the AEWA Action Plan,

Recalling Resolution 5.6 which requested the Technical Committee to continue to develop ideas as to how to address multi-species and regional scale declines and *thanking* the Committee for developing a guide to guidance on these issues in the past triennium,

Thanking the African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership for supporting the Technical Committee in revising the AEWA Conservation Guidelines No. 9 on Waterbird Monitoring and the Government of the Netherlands for providing financial resources for this work,

Further recalling Resolution 5.10 that, *inter alia*, adopted guidance on defining periods of breeding and pre-nuptial migration for migratory African-Eurasian waterbirds, with respect to the implementation of paragraph 2.1.2(a) of the AEWA Action Plan, which can be primarily utilised for Palearctic migrants while intra-African migrants would benefit from further focused work,

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Adopts* the following:
 - a. *Guidance on Satisfying the Conditions of Paragraph 2.1.3 of the AEWA Action Plan* as presented in document AEWA/MOP 7.32,
 - b. *Guidance on AEWA's Provisions on Non-native Species*, as presented in document AEWA/MOP 7.33,
 - c. *Guidance on Taking a Systematic Approach to Responding to Waterbird Declines: A Checklist of Potential Actions* as presented in document AEWA/MOP 7.34 Rev. 1,
 - d. *Revised Conservation Guidelines No. 9 on Waterbird Monitoring* as presented in document AEWA/MOP 7.35;
2. *Calls upon* Contracting Parties to utilise these guidelines in a practical way that leads to a minimum of additional bureaucracy and that recognises the different social, economic and environmental conditions within the Agreement area;
3. *Instructs* the Secretariat to disseminate these guidelines to all Range States, and relevant international governmental and non-governmental organisations, and to promote and monitor their use to the extent that this is possible;
4. *Reminds* Parties of the requirement to inform the Agreement secretariat of any exemptions granted pursuant to the provisions of paragraphs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 of the AEWA Action Plan and to do so as soon as possible;
5. *Reiterates* the request to the Technical Committee, outlined at paragraph 4 of Resolution 6.5, to:
 - *implement* its rolling programme to revise and update existing conservation guidelines, as necessary; and
 - *work towards achieving* this programme, resources permitting;
6. *Requests* the Technical Committee to consider how new or topical information relating to existing Conservation Guidelines can best be disseminated to Parties and others, including through existing publication platforms and social and other media, resources permitting; make recommendations to the Standing Committee to that effect; and in developing any such mechanisms always to make clear that such information does not form part of, or supersede, the relevant Conservation Guidelines;
7. *Encourages* Parties to ensure that conservation actions are informed by the most robust available evidence, including using such evidence to assess the likely effectiveness of proposed actions and, where resources allow, to evaluate the effectiveness of actions that are undertaken, including disseminating the conclusions of such actions in the most effective manner possible, such as web-based evidence depositories; and
8. *Urges* all Contracting Parties in Africa to identify at national level, the periods of breeding and of pre-nuptial migration for all AEWA-listed species and their respective populations occurring on their territories and apply this knowledge in the context of implementation of paragraph 2.1.2(a) of the AEWA Action Plan.

7th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

4-8 December 2018, Durban, South Africa

“Beyond 2020: Shaping flyway conservation for the future”

RESOLUTION 7.9

CLIMATE RESILIENT FLYWAYS

Recalling the need, expressed in Article III of the Agreement, for Contracting Parties to identify networks of sites and habitats for migratory waterbirds (such as for example the Critical Site Network), and to protect, manage, rehabilitate and restore these as essential actions to maintain the favourable conservation status of species,

Recalling again Resolution 3.17 on *Climate Change and Migratory Waterbirds*, Resolution 4.14 on *The Effects of Climate Change on Migratory Waterbirds* and Resolutions 5.13 and 6.6 on *Climate Change Adaptation Measures for Waterbirds*,

Further recalling the adoption in Resolution 6.6 of the AEWA guidance framework for climate change adaptation relevant to migratory waterbirds as guidance for the Contracting Parties, which encourages Parties to:

- Maintain and increase ecological resilience to climate change to support the widest range of biodiversity to survive and adapt;
- Conserve the range and ecological variability of habitats and species, to increase the chances that species whose current habitat becomes inhospitable will be able to spread locally into newly favourable habitat;
- Maintain existing ecological networks *and* establish ecological networks through habitat restoration and creation, to promote the success of species dispersal;
- Integrate adaptation and mitigation measures into conservation management to complement existing policies; and
- Undertake vulnerability assessments of biodiversity and associated ecosystem goods and services without delay to prioritise and develop appropriate actions,

Noting that the guidance framework for climate change adaptation, although legally non-binding, provides a common framework for action, which aids the coherent implementation of the Agreement by the Contracting Parties to the Agreement, as well as other Range States and interested parties and that it is for each Party to determine whether or how to implement the guidance framework, whilst having regard to their international obligations and commitment,

Noting recent relevant decisions from the Ramsar COP 13 in relation to climate change and wetlands, inter alia in respect to peatlands (Resolution XIII.13), and coastal and ecologically-associated habitats (Resolutions XIII.20 and XIII.14), and that for coastal areas “*that the projected sea level rises and other climate change aspects such as rising temperatures and acidifying waters are anticipated to result in significant further losses of intertidal wetlands and ecologically associated habitats*”; and noting that the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C released this year reports that warming of 1.5°C or higher increases the risk associated with long-lasting or irreversible changes such as the loss of ecosystems,

Acknowledging adoption of the decision of the COP14 of the CBD on Biodiversity and Climate Change and voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction,

Noting that the Critical Site Network includes sites that meet internationally agreed criteria of international importance as they are based on Criteria 2 and 6 of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands,

Further noting that protection of the Critical Site Network would also contribute to fulfilling international obligations of Contracting Parties under other MEAs, most notably the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Emerald Network of the Bern Convention, as well as the Natura 2000 network of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives,

Noting the available EU guidance document “Guidelines on Climate Change and Natura 2000³⁹: Dealing with the impact of climate change on the management of the Natura 2000 Network of areas of high biodiversity value”,

Noting with appreciation the generous support to the project *Climate Resilient Site Network in the African-Eurasian Flyway* (aka *Climate Resilient Flyway* project) through the International Climate Initiative provided by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Parliament,

Being aware that the *Climate Resilient Flyway* project has delivered or is set to deliver the following results:

- To redevelop the Critical Site Network Tool (CSN 2.0), which now includes enhanced functionalities to support Contracting Parties and other stakeholders in implementing AEWA and waterbird conservation more broadly. Amongst others, the CSN 2.0 now can help with the production of a list of AEWA populations and identification of look-alike species with their Table 1 status for each Range State. The content of the CSN Tool has been enhanced to support Range States in their climate change adaptation planning by providing information on predicted range changes of waterbirds in the Agreement Area and identifying the Critical Sites, which are likely to be vulnerable to climate change;
- To show the importance of adopting a multi-purpose approach to ecosystem-based adaptation that integrates conservation objectives with livelihood and disaster risk mitigation objectives focusing on synergies;
- To demonstrate national level assessments of the vulnerability of Critical Sites to climate change and identify areas where wetland restoration can contribute ecosystem-based climate change adaptation benefiting both the human and the waterbird populations in Ethiopia and Mali;
- To demonstrate the importance of water and land management practices both within and in the catchment of the Critical Sites at the Inner Niger Delta in Mali and at the Abijatta-Shalla National Park in Ethiopia;
- To share the experience gained during the project with African Contracting Parties from two regional workshops and use of a best practice guide,

³⁹ <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/climatechange/pdf/Guidance%20document.pdf>

Recalling that AEWA's text does not provide a definition of Favourable Conservation Status, but that it incorporates through reference (Article I.2) the definition provided in Article I.1(c)-(d) of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS),

Referring to Resolution 12.21 of CMS which, *inter alia*, agreed on an interpretation of the definition of Favourable Conservation Status in the light of climate change and invited the governing bodies of relevant CMS instruments to also approve this interpretation,

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the results of the *Climate Resilient Flyway* project, most notably the redevelopment and enhancement of the functionalities of the Critical Site Network Tool (CSN 2.0), in particular the new information available to support national and flyway-level planning of climate change adaptation, in particular predicted changes in wetland extent, range changes of waterbird species and vulnerability assessments of Critical Sites and populations to climate change, and the national and site-level achievements of the demonstration projects in Ethiopia and Mali;
2. *Underlines* the importance of the project's results in implementing the Agreement and the relevance of those results for the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027;
3. *Requests* the Technical Committee, subject to the availability of resources, to work on better understanding of the consequences of sea-level rise on the Critical Site Network and the waterbird populations dependent on coastal habitats, working collaboratively with Ramsar's Scientific and Technical Review Panel as possible and in the light of the desire to create technical synergies expressed in Resolution 5.19;
4. *Encourages* Contracting Parties to consider using the information available through the Critical Site Network Tool in their national planning for the implementation of the Agreement, such as identifying waterbird populations listed in Column A of Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan and look-alike species occurring on their territory as well as their internationally important sites, and, in particular, for planning ecosystem-based climate change adaptation measures that take account of the vulnerability and management needs of waterbird populations;
5. *Requests* that detailed guidance on using the Critical Site Network Tool be provided as part of the Climate Resilient Flyway project;
6. *Welcomes* the opportunity to share experiences in relation to climate change adaptation and for representatives of the Parties to receive training in the use of the Critical Site Network Tool during the two regional workshops planned in Africa in the framework of the project;
7. *Urges* Contracting Parties to provide adequate legal protection to the Critical Sites and to improve their management to enhance the conditions for waterbird populations, in order to maximise persistence, particularly in the face of climate change, and to facilitate population range shifts;
8. *Encourages* Contracting Parties to consider using the experiences and approaches developed under the Climate Resilient Flyway project and to consider undertaking national assessments of the resilience of their national site and habitat networks and where appropriate integrate measures into national policies and plans;
9. *Strongly urges* donors and funding agencies to support the implementation of integrated ecosystem based adaptation measures, in particular, for the priority areas identified by the Climate Resilient Flyway project considering their outstanding importance for the entire AEWA Critical Site Network and its contribution to the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals;

10. *Adopts* the following interpretation of the definition of Favourable Conservation Status in the light of climate change as in line with Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Resolution 12.21:

According to CMS Article I(1)(c)(4), one of the conditions to be met for the conservation status of a species to be taken as “favourable” is that: “*the distribution and abundance of the migratory species approach historic coverage and levels to the extent that potentially suitable ecosystems exist and to the extent consistent with wise wildlife management*”; and that whereas there is a continued need to undertake conservation action within the historic range of migratory species, such action will increasingly also need to be taken beyond the historic range of species, in order to ensure a favourable conservation status, particularly with a view to climate-induced range shifts, and that further, such action beyond the historic range of species is compatible with and may be required, in order to meet the objectives and the obligations of Parties under the Agreement.

7th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

4-8 December 2018, Durban, South Africa

“Beyond 2020: Shaping flyway conservation for the future”

RESOLUTION 7.10

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS: STANDING COMMITTEE

Recalling Resolution 2.6 regarding the establishment of the Standing Committee and, in particular, the composition of its membership,

Further recalling the tasks given to the Standing Committee as laid down in Resolutions 2.6, 4.6, 4.17, 5.17 and 6.16,

Acknowledging the active role the Standing Committee has played in overseeing, as representative of the Meeting of the Parties, the implementation of the Agreement and the functioning of the Secretariat,

Further acknowledging that the Standing Committee has provided guidance and advice to the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat on the implementation of the Agreement, on the preparation of meetings and any other matters,

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Adopts* the revised regionalization scheme for the operation of the AEWA Standing Committee as presented in Annex 1;
2. *Approves* the list of elected or reconfirmed regional representatives for the Standing Committee, as follows:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Europe and Central Asia (1)	United Kingdom	Luxembourg
Europe and Central Asia (2)	Ukraine	Republic of Moldova
Middle East and Northern Africa	Algeria	Egypt
Western and Central Africa	Côte d’Ivoire	Nigeria
Eastern and Southern Africa	South Africa	Ethiopia

3. *Re-confirms* that the Standing Committee should also include a representative of the host country for the next session of the Meeting of the Parties as well as a representative of the Depositary;
4. *Agrees* that the Standing Committee will meet at least once between the 7th and the 8th Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties;
5. *Decides* to make a provision in the Budget 2019-2021 for payment, upon request, of reasonable and justifiable travel expenses of appointed Standing Committee members from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, within the policy agreed by the Meeting of the Parties;
6. *Requests* Contracting Parties to provide financial assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition that are Parties to the Agreement, to be represented at meetings of the Standing Committee by an observer.

Annex 1: AEWa regionalization scheme for the operation of the Standing Committee⁴⁰

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA	
Europe: ALBANIA, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, BELARUS, BELGIUM, Bosnia-Herzegovina, BULGARIA, Canada, CROATIA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, ESTONIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GEORGIA, GERMANY, Greece ⁴¹ , HUNGARY, ICELAND, IRELAND, ISRAEL, ITALY, LATVIA, Liechtenstein, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, Malta, MONACO, MONTENEGRO, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, Poland, PORTUGAL, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ROMANIA, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SPAIN, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, Turkey, UKRAINE, UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	Central Asia: Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, UZBEKISTAN
EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA	
Eastern Africa: BURUNDI, DJIBOUTI, Eritrea, ETHIOPIA, KENYA, RWANDA, Somalia, South Sudan, SUDAN, UGANDA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA	Southern Africa: Angola, BOTSWANA, Comoros, ESWATINI, Lesotho, MADAGASCAR, Malawi, MAURITIUS, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, SOUTH AFRICA, Zambia, ZIMBABWE
WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA	
Western Africa: BENIN, BURKINA FASO, Cabo Verde, CÔTE D'IVOIRE, GAMBIA, GHANA, GUINEA, GUINEA-BISSAU, Liberia, MALI, MAURITANIA, NIGER, NIGERIA, SENEGAL, Sierra Leone, TOGO	Central Africa Cameroon, Central African Republic, CHAD, CONGO, Democratic Republic of Congo, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, GABON, Sao Tome and Principe
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA	
Middle East: Bahrain, Iraq, JORDAN, Kuwait, LEBANON, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC, United Arab Emirates, Yemen	North Africa: ALGERIA, EGYPT, LIBYA, MOROCCO, TUNISIA

⁴⁰ AEWa Contracting Parties are indicated in capital letters.

⁴¹ Signed but not ratified.

7th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

4-8 December 2018, Durban, South Africa

“Beyond 2020: Shaping flyway conservation for the future”

RESOLUTION 7.11

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS: TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Pursuant to Article VII of the Agreement, the first Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP), through Resolution 1.8, established and determined the composition of the Technical Committee,

Considering that at the present 7th Session of the MOP (MOP7), the terms of office of five members of the Technical Committee expire - the regional representatives for Western Africa, Eastern Africa, South-western Asia, Central Europe, and Eastern Europe - and that the position of the regional representative for Central Africa remained vacant in the past triennium, as well as the term of office of the environmental law thematic expert, which also expires at MOP7,

Further considering the recommendation of the Advisory Group, as per Rule 8 of the Modus Operandi of the Technical Committee, regarding the nominated candidates for the vacant positions,

Thanking members of the Technical Committee for their work in fulfilling the task stipulated by Article VII.2 of the Agreement, thereby contributing to the implementation of the Agreement over the past triennium,

Recalling the Work Plan of the Technical Committee for 2016-2018 adopted by MOP6 and *taking note* of the Report of the Technical Committee to MOP7 (document AEWA/MOP 7.7),

Noting that despite the dedicated work of the Technical Committee and the good results delivered to MOP7, the implementation of the Technical Committee Work Plan for 2016-2018 is relatively limited due to the growing volume of requests to the Committee by the Meeting of Parties, the lack of any earmarked resources with which to contract significant elements of work (e.g. technical reviews) and thus consequent reliance on prior fundraising by the Secretariat to progress these work areas, and the heavy constraints on the amount of *pro bono* input to the Committee’s work by its members as a consequence of economic austerity measures,

Recognising the expanding portfolio and workload of the Secretariat and the stagnant resources allocated to the Secretariat, which impacts on its facilitative role to the Technical Committee,

Noting the need to consider novel ways of working in light of the continued challenge of aligning available financial resources with the required and desired actions of the Agreement and its subsidiary bodies;

Recognising the need of prior strategic review by the Meeting of the Parties of Technical Committee tasks for the forthcoming triennium, in order to allow prioritisation, and resource provision and mobilisation, so as to ensure adequate work allocation and implementation,

Referring to Resolution 7.10, which, *inter alia*, introduced a revised regionalization scheme for the operation of the AEWA Standing Committee; *taking into account* the recommendation of the Technical Committee with respect to the regional affiliation of Burundi, Chad and Rwanda for the operation of the AEWA Technical Committee; and *considering* the formal requests submitted by the three Parties for the change of their regional affiliations,

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Appoints* to the Technical Committee the members and alternates named in Appendix I to the present Resolution, taking into account terms of office in accordance with Rule 5 of the Modus Operandi of the Technical Committee and the geographical representation as laid down in its Annex;
2. *Approves* the Work Plan, summarising the scientific and technical tasks for the AEWA Technical Committee for 2019-2021 and their prioritisation as presented in Appendix II to this Resolution;
3. *Instructs* the Secretariat to provide the necessary support to the Technical Committee in accordance with Article VII of the Agreement, as well as the provisions in the budget for the Agreement and the activities of the Technical Committee or the Agreement Secretariat, as adopted under Resolution 7.12 on Financial and Administrative Matters;
4. *Urges* Contracting Parties which provide Junior Professional Officers (JPO) to the United Nations system to prioritise and allocate a JPO to the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat for Technical Committee support, in order to strengthen the Secretariat in its role of facilitator of the Technical Committee;
5. *Encourages* Contracting Parties to include members of the Technical Committee in their delegations to the Meeting of the Parties, finances permitting, in order to enhance synergies between the bodies of the Agreement;
6. *Adopts* a change of the regional affiliation of Burundi, Chad and Rwanda, as follows, and *adopts* corresponding amendments to Annex 1 of the AEWA Technical Committee Modus Operandi (Division of the Agreement area into nine regions, for the purpose of appointment of regional representatives to the Technical Committee):
 - a. Burundi from the Central Africa region to the Eastern Africa region;
 - b. Chad from the Western Africa region to the Central Africa region; and
 - c. Rwanda from the Central Africa region to the Eastern Africa region;
7. *Instructs* the Secretariat to reflect the amendments in Annex 1 of the AEWA Technical Committee Modus Operandi in accordance with operative paragraph 6 above.

APPENDIX I

AEWA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

ALTERNATES

NORTH AND SOUTHWESTERN EUROPE

Ms Ruth Cromie (United Kingdom)

Vacant

CENTRAL EUROPE

Mr Taulant Bino (Albania)

Vacant

EASTERN EUROPE

Vacant

Vacant

SOUTHWESTERN ASIA

Mr Laith El-Moghrabi (Jordan)

Vacant

NORTHERN AFRICA

Mr Sidi Imad Cherkaoui (Morocco)

Mr Wed Abdou (Egypt)

WESTERN AFRICA

Ms Khady Gueye Fall (Senegal)

Vacant

CENTRAL AFRICA

Vacant

Vacant

EASTERN AFRICA

Mr Peter Njoroge (Kenya)

Vacant

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Ms Lizanne Roxburgh (South Africa)

Vacant

REPRESENTATIVES OF ORGANISATIONS ¹

IUCN

Vacant

Vacant

WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL

Mr Szabolcs Nagy

Mr Taej Mundkur

CIC

Mr Mikko Alhainen

Vacant

THEMATIC EXPERTS

RURAL ECONOMICS

Mr Philippe Karpe

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Mr Emmanuel Kasimbazi

GAME MANAGEMENT

Mr Pierre Defos du Rau

¹ Term of office to be decided by the Organization.

APPENDIX II

WORK PLAN FOR THE AEW A TECHNICAL COMMITTEE 2019-2021

Introduction

1. This section provides explanatory notes concerning the two attached documents (Appendix II, Parts 1 and 2).
2. Part 1 provides a summary list of proposed top priority scientific and technical tasks for the 2019-2021 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 2019-2021.
3. Themes relate largely to the structure of the AEW A Action Plan as follows:
 - a) **Field of application**
 - issues of the taxonomic and geographic scope of the Agreement
 - b) **Species conservation**
 - including issues of legal regulation of taking; international single species action 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 21 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 'Essential' tasks and a few additional 'High priority' tasks.
5. The provisional figure for the total estimated funds needed for full implementation of the recommended 2019-2021 top priority tasks is € 915,000 over the triennium, whilst the total cost of the implementation of the full Work Plan is € 1,141,000.
6. Part 2 provides further details of all proposed scientific and technical implementation support tasks for the Technical Committee during 2019-2021. 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 task adopted by previous MOPs, but for which capacity or funding has been insufficient in the previous triennia to undertake or complete them.
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 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 2019-2021 cycle and reported to the Standing Committee at that time.

It is recognized that much of 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 II - Part 1

Recommended Top Priority Scientific and Technical Tasks for the 2019-2021 Triennium

Recommended Top Priority Tasks 2019-2021 (summary of task only)	Indicative cost
1. Field of application	
1.3. Population definition. Early in the triennium, consider evidence supporting the delineation of current population boundaries for identified species as well as potential others, as necessary.	-
1.4. Review of Table 1 in Annex 3 to the Agreement. Prepare proposals for revision of Table 1 in Annex 3 for submission to MOP8.	-
2. Species Conservation	
2.1. Priority list for species action and management planning. Review and update, as necessary, the list of priority species/populations for new Single Species Action and Management Plans and for retirement, revision or prolongation of existing plans.	-
2.2. Conservation and management guidance for AEWA populations. Conduct a rapid review of existing information to identify relevant populations for which new or improved conservation and management guidance is required.	€10,000
2.3. ISSAP Conservation Briefs. Facilitate the production of conservation briefs of the ISSAPs for the Great Snipe, Ferruginous Duck, Lesser Flamingo, Maccoa Duck and Madagascar Pond Heron.	-
2.5. Priorities for seabird conservation. Review the seabird conservation priorities approved by MOP7 and provide guidance on their delivery.	€20,000
3. Habitat Conservation	
3.1. Site inventory framework. Develop a simple framework for use by the Parties to review and confirm the inventory of known nationally and internationally important sites.	€20,000
3.2. Site monitoring framework. Develop a monitoring framework for the AEWA flyway site network.	€30,000
3.3. Status of principal waterbird habitats. Conduct Agreement-level assessment of the status of principal waterbird habitats in the wider environment.	€80,000
3.4. Sea-level rise impact. Increase understanding of the consequences of sea-level rise on the Critical Site Network and the waterbird populations dependent on coastal habitats.	€100,000
3.5. Habitat conservation action plan. On the basis of the assessment under the previous task, develop an action plan, identifying priorities, opportunities and a set of recommended actions.	€70,000
4. Management of human activities	
4.9. Harvest data collation. Propose a list of quarry species that should be prioritised for international collation of harvest data.	€5,000
4.10. Sustainability of harvest. Undertake a rapid assessment of sustainability of harvest of declining quarry populations.	€50,000

Recommended Top Priority Tasks 2019-2021 (summary of task only)	Indicative cost
4.11. Sustainable ecotourism. Collate case studies of ecotourism initiatives with proven benefits for both community livelihoods and conservation of AEWA species and their habitats.	€20,000
5. Research and monitoring	
5.1. Key gaps in information availability. Identify key gaps in information availability on relevant aspects of the implementation of the Agreement.	€40,000
5.2. Monitoring priorities. Identify priorities for the systematic development of monitoring of waterbird populations and the drivers of their trends.	€20,000
7. Implementation	
7.1. Conservation Status Review 8. Guide the process of preparation of Conservation Status Review 8 for submission to MOP8.	€100,000
7.2. Other international reviews. Guide the process of preparation of a) updated review of information from surveys, b) updated review of pertinent hunting and trade legislation, c) updated review of the preparation and implementation of Single Species Action Plans, d) updated review of re-establishment projects and e) the status of introduced non-native waterbird species and hybrids thereof.	€220,000
7.3. Conservation Guidelines. Review Conservation Guidelines nos. 1, 3, 4, 7 and 8 to ensure they continue to reflect best conservation practice, and reformat as necessary following conclusion of ongoing review of format.	€50,000
7.5. Management plan format. Produce a format for International Single Species Management Plans.	€30,000
7.6. Guidance on waterbirds as ecosystem services. Provide concise guidance in language adapted to policy/decision makers on the provisioning and cultural aspects of ecosystem services in relation to migratory waterbirds.	€30,000
7.7. Mechanism for updating and preparing new conservation and management guidance for AEWA populations. Agree roles, responsibilities and mechanism for updating of guidance and preparation/dissemination of new guidance.	-
8. Strategic, reporting, emerging and other issues	
8.1. National reports. Revise the national report format and make necessary adjustments following MOP7.	-
8.2. Population status and Plan of Action for Africa (PoAA) modules for national reports. Develop module on population status and the Plan of Action for Africa for MOP8 national reports.	-
8.3. Monitoring of implementation of the Strategic Plan and the PoAA (2019-2027). Develop a concept for the monitoring of the implementation.	-
8.4. AEWA's contribution to relevant global frameworks. 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.	€20,000
Total estimates budget for recommended top priority tasks	€915,000

Appendix II – Part 2

Summary of Scientific and Technical Tasks for the AEWA Technical Committee: 2019-2021

- A. The scientific and technical tasks for the Technical Committee are organized 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 processes depend on the task being undertaken *e.g.* reporting to MOP8
- High** – important to progress before MOP8 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 categorization 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 organizations
 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 and Aichi Target:	Provisional estimated cost (€) – see note above
1.1. Taxonomy & nomenclature: Maintain overview of taxonomic and nomenclatural issues and advise on the need to update Annex 2 to the Agreement as necessary (Resolution 6.1) (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018).	Other Rolling task	2	CMS Scientific Council	Strategic Plan: Objective 5 Aichi Target: Target 19	–
1.2. Taxonomic (and geographic) scope of AEWA: The Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways adopted at CMS COP11 envisages the preparation of a review to explore options to extend AEWA as a framework for other migratory bird species/species groups in the Africa-Eurasian region so as to cover all African-Eurasian bird MoUs and Action Plans. Contribute to this as necessary (CMS Resolution 11.14, Annex 1, point 19) (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018). Task for CMS – AEWA to contribute only as necessary.	High	4	CMS Flyways Working Group and collaboration with Raptors MOU and Landbirds Action Plan as appropriate	Strategic Plan: Target 5.4 Aichi Target: Target 12	–
1.3. Population definitions: Early in the triennium, consider evidence supporting the delineation of current population boundaries for the following species as well as potential others, as necessary. TC15 to make any recommendations to the 15 th Standing Committee meeting for interim approval such that any changes can be included within work to develop proposals for MOP8 (CSR 8 and proposed changes to Table 1 of AEWA's Action Plan): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Common Eider (<i>Somateria mollissima</i>) (populations which have been treated separately in Scott & Rose and AEWA Table 1 – extensions of the current definition) - Goosander (<i>Mergus merganser</i>) (same as above) 	Essential Rolling task	2	Wetlands International and its relevant Specialist Groups, CAFF CBird Group	Strategic Plan: Objective 5	-
1.4. Review of Table 1 in Annex 3 to the Agreement Prepare proposals for revision of Table 1 in Annex 3 for submission to MOP8 (AEWA Article VII.3 (b)).	Essential	2		Strategic Plan: Objective 1.1	-

Theme 2: Species conservation

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Collaboration with other organisations	Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:	Provisional estimated cost (€)
2.1. Priority list for species action and management planning 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 or extend existing plans (Resolution 6.8; Strategic Plan 2019-2027).	Essential Rolling	2		Strategic Plan: Targets 1.2 & 2.4 Aichi Target: Targets 4 & 12	-
2.2. Conservation and management guidance for AEWA populations Conduct a rapid review of existing information to identify relevant populations for which new or improved conservation and management guidance is required (Strategic Plan 2019-2027).	Essential	2		Strategic Plan: Target 1.3 Aichi Target: Target 4	[€10,000]
2.3. ISSAP Conservation Briefs Facilitate the production of conservation briefs of the ISSAPs for the Great Snipe, Ferruginous Duck, Lesser Flamingo, Maccoa Duck and Madagascar Pond Heron (Resolution 7.5).	High	2		Strategic Plan: Targets 1.2 Aichi Target: Targets 12	-

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Collaboration with other organisations	Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:	Provisional estimated cost (€)
<p>2.4. Sustainable harvests and the socio-economic importance of waterbirds</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Initial work should compile Terms of Reference for a modular programme, identifying possible collaborating individuals and organizations as well as funding possibilities that will progressively address the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifying those geographical areas where harvesting waterbirds for subsistence and/or commercial purposes is prevalent and the species concerned; - Information, as available, on trends in prevalence of harvesting for socio-economic motivations; - Identification of case studies demonstrating good practice in the sustainable management and regulation of waterbirds harvests; and - Options to highlight the importance of sustainable and well-regulated waterbird harvest within the context of development and aid programmes, notably in the context of national delivery of Aichi target 2 and the Sustainable Development Goals. <p>(Resolutions 6.4, 6.15, 7.2; CMS Flyways Plan #12) (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018)</p>	High	1	<p>CMS, CBD, CMS Flyways Working Group, FAO/FFEM/EU "RESSOURCE" project</p> <p>Linked to tasks 3.5. and 7.6.</p>	<p>Strategic Plan: Objectives 2 & 5</p> <p>Aichi Target: Target 2</p>	[€50,000]
<p>2.5. Priorities for seabird conservation</p> <p>Review the seabird conservation priorities approved by MOP7 and provide guidance on their delivery (Resolutions 7.6).</p>	High	2		<p>Strategic Plan: Objectives 1, 2, 3 & 4</p> <p>Aichi Target: Targets 4 & 12</p>	[€20,000]

Theme 3: Habitat conservation

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Collaboration with other organisations	Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:	Provisional estimated cost (€)
3.1. Site inventory framework 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 “ <i>sites of international or national importance</i> ” and “ <i>internationally accepted criteria of international importance</i> ”. It should also take into account existing site network criteria, including those used to identify EU SPAs, Ramsar Sites, Emerald Network Sites and IBAs (Strategic Plan 2019-2027).	Essential	1, 2	Wetlands International, BirdLife International	Strategic Plan: Target 3.1 Aichi Target: Target 11	[€20,000]
3.2. Site monitoring framework Develop a monitoring framework for the AEWA flyway site network (building on the preliminary Site Network Report presented to MOP5) that is coordinated with similar reporting under other multilateral processes (Strategic Plan 2019-2027).	Essential	1, 2	Wetlands International, BirdLife International	Strategic Plan: Target 3.2 Aichi Target: Target 11	[€30,000]
3.3. Status of principal waterbird habitats Conduct Agreement-level assessment of the status of principal waterbird habitats in the wider environment, drawing on existing studies wherever possible (Strategic Plan 2019-2027).	Essential	5	Ramsar Convention, CMS	Strategic Plan: Target 4.1 Aichi Target: Target 5	[€80,000]
3.4 Sea-level rise impact Increase understanding of the consequences of sea-level rise on the Critical Site Network and the waterbird populations dependent on coastal habitats (Resolution 7.9).	High	5	Ramsar Convention STRP	Strategic Plan: Target 3.2 Aichi Target: Target 5	[€100,000]
3.5. Habitat conservation action plan On the basis of the assessment under the previous task, 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 (Strategic Plan 2019-2027).	Essential	2	Ramsar Convention, CMS	Strategic Plan: Target 4.1 Aichi Target: Target 5	[€70,000]

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Collaboration with other organisations	Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:	Provisional estimated cost (€)
3.6. Socio-economic importance of waterbirds 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 (Resolution 5.13) (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018).	Other Rolling task	4	Linked to task 2.3. and 7.6. FAO/FFEM/EU "RESSOURCE" project	Strategic Plan: Objectives 3 & 4 Aichi Target: Target 14	[€5,000]
3.7. Net Positive Impact Investigate the feasibility and develop a proposal for international Net Positive Impact including offsetting approaches that involve the corporate sector and governments in order to support flyway conservation [CMS Flyways Programme of Work #7] (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018).	Other	3	CMS Flyways Working Group; CMS Scientific Council; Wetlands International; BirdLife International; corporate sector	Strategic Plan: Objective 5 Aichi Target: Targets 4 & 5	[€2,000]

Theme 4: Management of human activities

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Collaboration with other organisations	Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:	Provisional estimated cost (€)
4.1. Processes contributing to tackling of the four causes⁴³ of unnecessary additional mortality and other threats Identify those multilateral processes that can contribute most to progressing AEWA priorities related to the four causes of unnecessary additional mortality and other key threats to migratory waterbirds and their habitats and identify strategic opportunities for positively influencing these processes (Strategic Plan 2019-2027).	High	1	All relevant multilateral processes	Strategic Plan: Target 1.6 Aichi Target: Targets 4 & 12	[€10,000]
4.2. Management of disturbance Commission simple but comprehensive guidance on the management of disturbance in a form that may be widely translated and disseminated and submit to MOP8 for consideration. Produce versions in English, French, Arabic and Russian (Resolution 5.24) (carried over from Work Plan 2012-2015).	High	1	Joint with Ramsar Convention (STRP)	Strategic Plan: Objectives 1, 2 & 5 Aichi Target: Targets 11 & 12	[€76,000] €30,000 to draft plus translation at €2,000/language, plus production costs at €10,000/language

⁴³ 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.

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Collaboration with other organisations	Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:	Provisional estimated cost (€)
4.3. Reducing energy impacts – Energy Task Force 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. Task also involves providing further guidance when relevant new developments on reducing the impact of power lines on birds become available, such as improved mitigation techniques (Resolution 5.11) [CMS Flyways Programme of Work #13] (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018).	Other Rolling	2	CMS Scientific Council and others	Strategic Plan: Objectives 1 & 5 Aichi Target: Targets 2, 4 & 12	[€10,000] (T&S for meetings)
4.4. Extractive industries – Guide to guidance Work with the Ramsar STRP to finalise the <i>Guide to Guidance on Extractive Industries</i> and to disseminate this to Contracting Parties (Resolution 5.14, Resolution 5.3 & IIT No. 11) (carried over from Work Plan 2012-2015).	High	1, 4		Strategic Plan: Objectives 3 & 4 Aichi Target: Targets 4 & 19	[€10,000]
4.5. Extractive industries – development of analytical tools Continue to collaborate with the Ramsar STRP on these issues, in particular jointly working with other interested organisations to further develop geospatial analytical tools for identifying those areas where potential conflicts may arise regarding impacts of extractive industry processes on wetlands of importance for migratory waterbirds. (Resolution 5.14) (carried over from Work Plan 2012-2015).	Low	4	Ramsar STRP and others	Strategic Plan: Objectives 3 & 4 Aichi Target: Targets 4 & 19	[€20,000]
4.6. Poisoning and agrochemicals Collaborate on implementation of CMS Resolution 11.15 on <i>Preventing poisoning of migratory birds</i> . Task includes participation in the CMS Poisoning Working Group to provide further guidance and support in relation to the implementation of CMS Resolution 11.15 [CMS Flyways Programme of Work #14] (Resolution 6.12) (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018).	High Rolling	2	CMS Scientific Council and others	Strategic Plan: Objectives 1 & 5 Aichi Target: Target 12	[€5,000] (T&S for meetings)
4.7. Poisoning by lead shot Collaborate on implementation of CMS Resolution 11.15 on <i>Preventing poisoning of migratory birds</i> . Task includes participation in the CMS Poisoning Working Group to provide further guidance and support in relation to the implementation of CMS Resolution 11.15 (Resolution 6.12) (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018).	High Rolling	2	CMS Scientific Council and others	Strategic Plan: Objectives 1, 2 & 5 Aichi Target: Targets 4 & 12	{ Costs included in poisoning and agrochemicals task above }

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Collaboration with other organisations	Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:	Provisional estimated cost (€)
4.8. Illegal killing 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 AEWA/CMS Plan of Action to Address Bird Trapping Along the Mediterranean Coasts of Egypt and Libya (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018).	High Rolling	2	CMS Scientific Council and others	Strategic Plan: Objectives 1, 2 & 5 Aichi Target: Targets 1 & 12	[€8,000] (T&S for attendance at Task Force meetings)
4.9. Harvest data collation Propose a list of quarry species that should be prioritised for international collation of harvest data (Strategic Plan 2019-2027).	Essential	2		Strategic Plan: Target 2.1 Aichi Target: Target 4	[€5,000]
4.10. Sustainability of harvest Undertake a rapid assessment of sustainability of harvest of declining quarry populations (Strategic Plan 2019-2027).	Essential	2		Strategic Plan: Target 2.4 Aichi Target: Target 4	[€50,000]
4.11. Sustainable ecotourism Collate case studies of ecotourism initiatives with proven benefits for both community livelihoods and conservation of AEWA species and their habitats and identify one or more potential strategic partners with ecotourism expertise to work with (Strategic Plan 2019-2027).	Essential	2		Strategic Plan: Target 2.5 Aichi Target: Targets 4 & 14	[€20,000]

Theme 5: Research and monitoring

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Collaboration with other organisations	Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:	Provisional estimated cost (€)
5.1. Key gaps in information availability Identify key gaps in information availability on relevant aspects of the implementation of the Agreement, to establish the potential role of AEWA in filling these, and to recommend priorities accordingly (Strategic Plan 2019-2027).	Essential	2		Strategic Plan: Target 5.1 Aichi Target: Target 19	[€40,000]

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Collaboration with other organisations	Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:	Provisional estimated cost (€)
5.2. Monitoring priorities Identify priorities for the systematic development of monitoring of waterbird populations and the drivers of their trends, in order to increase the number of populations whose status is assessed on the basis of the most complete and up-to-date monitoring data, as well as the quality of these assessment, as per the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 (carried over with amendments from Work Plan 2012-2015).	Essential	2	Wetlands International, African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership	Strategic Plan: Target 1.4 Aichi Target: Target 19	[€20,000]
5.3. Waterbird monitoring synergies with other frameworks Work with Ramsar and its regional initiatives, the European Commission as well as CAFF-AMBI, Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative), OSPAR, HELCOM and other relevant regional MEAs to identify possible synergies with respect to waterbird population estimates, monitoring and reporting, including in the context of Ramsar Strategic Plan Targets 11 & 13 and possible development of further indicators for Target 5 related to coverage of wetland dependent bird populations by designated Ramsar Sites (Resolutions 6.3 and 7.7) (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018).	Other	4, 5	Ramsar Secretariat and STRP	Strategic Plan: Objectives 1 & 5 Aichi Target: Target 11	-

Theme 6: Education and information

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Collaboration with other organisations	Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:	Provisional estimated cost (€)
6.1. Communication Strategy implementation Provide advice and prioritisation on the ongoing implementation of the Communication Strategy (Resolution 6.10) (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018).	Other	2		Strategic Plan: All objectives Aichi Target: Target 1	—

Theme 7: Implementation

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Collaboration with other organisations	Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:	Provisional estimated cost (€)
7.1. Conservation Status Review 8 Guide the process of preparation of Conservation Status Review 8 (Action Plan 7.4a) while taking into account reporting needs on the AEWA Strategic Plan and assessment against relevant Aichi Targets.	Essential	2 & 5	Wetlands International and its Specialist Groups	Strategic Plan: Objectives 1,2 & 5 Aichi Target: Targets 12 & 19	[€100,000]
7.2. Other international reviews Guide the process of preparation of a) updated review of information from surveys (Action Plan 7.4b) – never compiled so far; b) 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; c) updated review of the preparation and implementation of Single Species Action Plans (Action Plan 7.4e) – last produced for MOP6 in 2015, next one is due for MOP8 in 2021; d) updated review of re-establishment projects (Action Plan 7.4f) – last produced for MOP4 in 2008, next was due for MOP7 in 2018; and e) 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.	Essential	2 & 5		Strategic Plan: All objectives Aichi Target: Targets 12 & 19	[€220,000] 7.4b) [€40,000] 7.4d) [€60,000] 7.4e) [€50,000] 7.4f) [€30,000] 7.4g) [€40,000]
7.3. Review and reformatting of existing Conservation Guidelines Review AEWA Conservation Guidelines (CG) nos. 1, 3, 4, 7 and, 8 ⁴⁴ to ensure they continue to reflect best conservation practice. Undertake any necessary updates or revision and reformat in the context of any new CG format agreed by Standing Committee 11 (following the current review of CG format). Submit any revised CGs to MOP 8 (Resolution 7.5).	High	1	Wetlands International and others	Strategic Plan: All objectives Aichi Target: Target 1	[€50,000] five x [€10,000]
7.4. Non-native species risk assessment Contribute to the development of internationally-agreed standards and guidance for risk assessment with respect to non-native waterbirds in order to facilitate the implementation of the Agreement and related legal instruments (Resolution 6.4) (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018).	Other	2, 5		Strategic Plan: Objectives 1 & 5 Aichi Target: Target 9	-

⁴⁴ Guidelines = 1. National Single Species Action Plans; 3. Preparation of Site Inventories; 4. Management of Key Sites; 7. Ecotourism; and 8. Reducing Crop Damage, Damage to Fisheries, Bird Strikes and other Forms of Conflict.

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Collaboration with other organisations	Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:	Provisional estimated cost (€)
7.5. Management plan format Produce a format for International Single and Multi-Species Management Plans (Resolutions 6.8 and 7.5) (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018).	Essential	2		Strategic Plan: Objective 2 Aichi Target: Target 12	[€30,000]
7.6. Guidance on waterbirds as ecosystem services Provide concise guidance in language and shape adapted to policy/decision makers on the provisioning and cultural aspects of ecosystem services in relation to migratory waterbirds (Strategic Plan 2019-2027).	Essential	1	Linked to tasks 2.3. and 3.5.	Strategic Plan: Target 2.6 Aichi Target: Targets 1 & 14	[€30,000]
7.7. Mechanism for updating and preparing new conservation and management guidance for AEWA populations Agree roles, responsibilities and mechanism for updating of guidance and preparation/dissemination of new guidance (Strategic Plan 2019-2027) – linked to tasks in theme Species Conservation.	Essential	2		Strategic Plan: Target 1.3 Aichi Target: Target 4 & 12	-
7.8. Revision and update of Conservation Guidelines Implement its rolling programme to revise and update existing conservation guidelines and guides to guidance (Resolutions 6.5; 7.6 and 7.8).	High	1		Strategic Plan: All objectives Aichi Target: Target 11	-
7.9. Information supplementary to Conservation Guidelines Consider how new or topical information relating to existing Conservation Guidelines can best be disseminated to Parties and others, including through existing publication platforms and social and other media (Resolution 7.8).	Medium	1		Strategic Plan: All objectives Aichi Target: Target 11	-

Theme 8: Strategic, reporting, emerging and other issues

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Collaboration with other organisations	Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:	Provisional estimated cost (€)
8.1. National Reports Revise the national report format and make the necessary adjustments following MOP7 (Resolution 7.1).	Essential	2		Strategic Plan: All objectives Aichi Target: Target 12	-
8.2. Population status and Plan of Action for Africa modules for national reports Develop modules on population status and the Plan of Action for Africa for MOP8 national reports (Resolution 7.1). These modules will be developed by the end of 2018 and carried over to TC15 for discussion in 2019.	Essential	2		Strategic Plan: Objective 5 Aichi Target: Target 19	-
8.3. Monitoring of implementation of the Strategic Plan and the PoAA (2019-2027) Develop a concept for the monitoring of the implementation (Resolution 7.1).	Essential	2		Strategic Plan: All objectives Aichi Target: Target 17	-
8.4. Harmonisation of reporting 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, and contribute to the StC report to MOP8 on this matter (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018; Resolution 7.1).	High	2	CMS Scientific Council; Ramsar Secretariat and STRP; European Commission and others	Strategic Plan: Objective 5 Aichi Target: Target 19	—

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Collaboration with other organisations	Supports Strategic Plan Objective and Aichi Target:	Provisional estimated cost (€)
8.5. AEWA's contribution to relevant global frameworks Compile concise triennial summaries of AEWA's contributions to the relevant global frameworks, i.e. SDGs, Aichi Targets, 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 (Strategic Plan 2019-2027). Bring, to MOP8 (2021), a final assessment of AEWA's contributions to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and a reflection on AEWA's potential contribution to the post-2020 development agenda. (Resolution 7.2)	Essential	2		Strategic Plan: Target 5.4 Aichi Target: All relevant Targets	[€20,000]
8.6. Emerging diseases Continue to participate in the CMS Scientific Council Working Group on wildlife diseases (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018).	High Rolling	2	CMS Scientific Council, Ramsar STRP, FAO, OIE and others	Strategic Plan: Objectives 1 & 5 Aichi Target: Target 12	No direct costs, possible T&S need for meetings [€2,000]
8.7. Implementation 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 (Strategic Plan 2019-2027; also, CMS Flyways Programme of Work #17) (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018).	High Rolling	2	Contracting Parties	Strategic Plan: Targets 2.2 and 3.5	[€30,000] per IRP case
8.8. Periodicity of the sessions of the MOP Assist the Standing Committee in evaluating the implications of moving from a 3-year to a 4-year cycle of the sessions of the Meeting of the Parties (Resolution 7.12).	Essential	2		-	-

7th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

4-8 December 2018, Durban, South Africa

“Beyond 2020: Shaping flyway conservation for the future”

RESOLUTION 7.12

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Recalling the provisions of Article V, Paragraph 2 (a) and (b), of the Agreement, relating to budgetary matters,

Acknowledging with appreciation the financial and other support provided by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for hosting the Agreement Secretariat, which is co-located with the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals in Bonn,

Recognising the importance of all Parties being able to participate in the implementation of the Agreement and related activities,

Appreciating the additional support given by various Parties and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on a voluntary basis to implement the Agreement,

Taking note with appreciation of the generous pledge from the Government of Norway to cover the costs of the Associate Programme Officer for Single Species Action Plan Support for 2019,

Recognizing that the AEWA budget has been maintained as a zero nominal growth budget for the duration of three budgetary periods, amounting to 10 years (MOP4 (2009-2012); MOP5 (2013-2015) and MOP6 (2016-2018), leading to the progressive cancellation of some operational budget lines such as the Small Grants Fund,

Further recognizing that accordingly the annual contributions of Contracting Parties have not increased since 2009,

Noting that the current level of the AEWA Trust Fund (AWL) balance makes it difficult to withdraw a contribution as high as was possible at the last three sessions of the MOP,

Taking note of the method applied to develop the scale of contributions which returns to the UN scale of assessments with a gradual transitional period of three years (Doc. AEWA/MOP7.37),

Recognising the need for resources to enable the Secretariat to play its facilitating role in implementing the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 and the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027,

Taking note of the reclassification assessment undertaken in 2016 and the recommendation for upgrade of five P-staff positions within the Secretariat (Doc AEWA/MOP7 Inf.2),

Recognizing that an upgrade of all P-staff is required under the UN staff rules and regulations,

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Confirms* that Parties shall contribute to the budget adopted at the scale agreed upon by the Meeting of the Parties in accordance with Article V, Paragraph 2 (a) and (b), of the Agreement;
2. *Adopts* the budget for 2019-2021 to the amount of EUR 1,006,471 for the year 2019, EUR 1,014,266 for the year 2020 and EUR 1,182,423 for the year 2021, attached as Appendix I to the present Resolution;
3. *Adopts* the staffing table as per Appendix II to the present resolution;
4. *Adopts* the scale of contributions for Parties to the Agreement as listed in Appendix III to the present Resolution, and to the application of that scale *pro rata* to new Parties;
5. *Decides* that the contributions of new Parties shall be directed to the AEWA Trust Fund reserve and that the Executive Secretary, subject to approval of the Standing Committee, and in urgent cases with the approval of the Chair, shall have the authority to spend funds from new Parties on activities not covered by the core budget;
6. *Decides* that the minimum contribution shall not be less than EUR 6,000 per triennium and that for the period 2019-2021, the maximum contribution shall be restricted to 20 per cent of the total triennial budget;
7. *Further decides* to set a threshold of 100% increase for all Parties' contributions during the transitional period towards the UN scale of contributions⁴⁵, except for Algeria and Nigeria, Parties with oil-based economy, for which a threshold of 50% is applied with respect to the budget 2019-2021 at exceptional basis and to be offset by a withdrawal from the AEWA Trust Fund (AWL) of EUR 6,000;
8. *Requests* the Secretariat, using the financial and staff rules and regulations of the United Nations including UNEP financial rules, and other administrative issuances promulgated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to develop a series of budget scenarios for further consideration by Parties at the 8th Session of the Meeting of Parties;
9. *Requests* the Standing Committee, with the Secretariat and the Technical Committee, to evaluate the implications of moving from a 3-yearly to 4-yearly Meeting of the Parties and to report on the evaluation by the next Meeting of the Parties;
10. *Requests* Parties to pay their annual contributions promptly as far as possible, but in any case, not later than the end of June of the year in which they relate;
11. *Further requests* Parties, in particular those that are required to pay the minimum contribution, to consider paying for the whole triennium in one instalment;

⁴⁵ A/Res/70/245

12. *Decides* that a working capital be maintained at a level of at least 15 per cent of the estimated annual expenditure or 150,000 Euros, whichever is higher;
13. *Decides* to set the threshold of eligibility for funding of delegates to attend AEWA meetings at 0.200 on the UN Scale of Assessment and, as a general rule, to exclude countries from the European Union, European countries with strong economies and OECD countries, as listed in Appendix V attached hereto and/or countries that have payments in arrears of more than three years;
14. *Requests* the Standing Committee, with the Secretariat and the Technical Committee, to evaluate the possibility to suspend the right of vote for Parties with more than 3 years of arrears and to report on the evaluation by the next Meeting of the Parties;
15. *Takes note* of Resolution 7.1 on the Adoption and Implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa for the period 2019-2027;
16. *Urges* all Parties to make voluntary contributions to the AEWA Voluntary Trust Fund (AVL) to support requests from least developed countries, developing countries, countries with economies in transition and Small Island Developing States to participate in and implement the Agreement throughout the triennium;
17. *Further urges* Contracting Parties and other partners to make an increased effort in providing additional financial or in-kind contributions to secure urgent implementation of the Agreement, in particular implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 and implementation of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027;
18. *Requests* the Secretariat to endeavour compiling a list of all in-kind contributions received in support of meetings, workshops and other projects (co-)organised by the Secretariat to be published through the Report of the Secretariat on Finance and Administrative Issues in 2019-2021;
19. *Recognizes* the need to provide adequate resources to support the implementation of the AEWA Communication Strategy;
20. *Invites* States not Party to the Agreement, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations and other sources to consider contributing to the implementation of the Agreement on a voluntary basis;
21. *Recognizes* that all P posts recommended for upgrade in the reclassification assessment undertaken in 2016 will need to be reconsidered for upgrade at the 8th Session of the Meeting of the Parties in order to meet United Nations rules and regulations;
22. *Decides* that the Executive Secretary shall have the authority to make staffing decisions, as necessary, to implement the priorities of the Parties in accordance with the MOP7 mandates, provided that the implications of the decisions can be met from the existing budget;
23. *Invites* Contracting Parties to consider the feasibility of providing gratis personnel and/or junior professional officers, in accordance with the United Nations rules and regulations, to strengthen the capacity of the Agreement Secretariat;

24. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to extend the duration of the AEWA Trust Fund (AWL) to 31 December 2021;

25. *Approves* the terms of reference for the administration of the Agreement budget as set out in Appendix IV to the present Resolution for the period 2019-2021.

APPENDIX IA

CORE BUDGET FOR THE TRIENNIUM 2019-2021 (IN EURO)					
BL	Budget Item	2019	2020	2021	TOTAL
		EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
	GENERAL MANAGEMENT				
1107	Professional Staff	564,290	575,575	587,087	1,726,952
1305	General Service Staff	194,511	198,401	202,369	595,281
1201	Translators	7,000	7,000	29,531	43,530
1601	Official Travel AEWa Staff	32,130	32,773	33,471	98,373
3201	Training of Staff	2,040	2,081	2,122	6,243
4101	Miscellaneous office supplies	4,080	4,162	4,245	12,486
4201	Office equipment	6,120	6,242	6,367	18,730
4301	Rent and maintenance costs **	-	-	-	-
4302	IT service provider	39,000	40,000	41,000	120,000
5101	Operation/maintenance of computers, photocopiers & others	5,100	5,300	5,400	15,800
5201	Document production (external)	-	-	-	-
5203	Reference material	-	-	-	-
5301	Telephone, Fax	5,200	5,302	5,406	15,908
5302	Postage and miscellaneous	2,550	2,601	2,653	7,804
5303	Bank charges	102	104	106	312
	Sub-total	862,122	879,540	919,757	2,661,419
	IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN INITIATIVE				
2203	Small Grant Fund Projects in African Countries	-	-	-	-
2204	Implementation of the African action plan	-	-	-	-
	Sub-total	-	-	-	-
	SERVICING THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES				
1204	Report Writers	-	-	-	-
1205	Interpreters	-	-	35,000	35,000
1220	Consultancies for MOP (1 review)	-	-	-	-
1602	Travel of Staff to the MOP	-	-	-	-
2201	Organization of MOP	-	-	79,962	79,962
5201	Document production (external)	-	-	-	-
	Sub-total	-	-	114,962	114,962
	SERVICING THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE				
1204	Report Writers	-	-	-	-
1205	Interpreters	-	-	-	-
3302	Meetings of the TC (travel/dsa/ organisational costs)	17,340	18,041	-	35,381
	Sub-total	17,340	18,041	-	35,381
	SERVICING THE STANDING COMMITTEE				
1204	Report Writers	-	-	-	-
1205	Interpreters	-	-	-	-
3303	Meeting of the StC (travel/dsa/ organisational costs)	11,220	-	11,673	22,893
	Sub-total	11,220	-	11,673	22,893
	TOTAL	890,682	897,581	1,046,392	2,834,655
	13 % PSC ***	115,789	116,686	136,031	368,505
	GRAND TOTAL	1,006,471	1,014,266	1,182,423	3,203,160

APPENDIX IB

CORE BUDGET FOR THE TRIENNIUM 2019-2021 (IN EURO) - UN UMOJA FORMAT					
	Commitment Item	2019	2020	2021	TOTAL
1	Staff and Other Personnel Costs	758,800	773,976	789,456	2,322,232
2	Contractual Services	7,000	7,000	144,493	158,492
3	Travel	60,690	50,813	45,144	156,647
4	Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture	6,120	6,242	6,367	18,730
5	Operating and Other Direct Costs	53,992	55,388	56,688	166,068
6	Supplies, Commodities and Materials	4,080	4,162	4,245	12,486
7	UN-PSC	115,789	116,686	136,031	368,505
	TOTAL EUR	1,006,471	1,014,266	1,182,423	3,203,160

APPENDIX II

APPROVED STAFFING TABLE FOR 2019 - 2021

No.	Unit	Post title	Level	Percentage of post financed by Assessed Contributions	Percentage of post to be financed by Voluntary Contributions
1	Executive Management Unit	Executive Secretary	P-4	100%	-
2	Executive Management Unit	Executive Management Support Officer	P-2	100%	-
3	Executive Management Unit	Administrative Assistant	GS-5	100%	-
4	Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit	Head of Science Implementation and Compliance Unit	P-3	100%	-
5	Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit	Associate Programme Officer for Single Species Action Plans	P-2	-	100%
6	Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit	Programme Management Assistant	GS-5	80%	-
7	Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit	Coordinator for the European Goose Management Platform	P-2	-	100%
8	Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit	Programme Management Assistant for the European Goose Management Platform	GS-5	-	100%
9	African Initiative Unit	Coordinator for the African Initiative	P-2	50%	50%
10	African Initiative Unit	Programme Management Assistant	GS-5	50%	30%
11	Communication Unit	Information Officer	P-2	100%	-
12	Communication Unit	Information Assistant	GS-5	50%	-

APPENDIX III

SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY PARTIES TO THE AEWA TRUST FUND FOR 2019 – 2021 (in Euro)

N°	Party	2019	2020	2021	TOTAL
1	Albania	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
2	Algeria	2,700	2,970	3,330	9,000
3	Belarus	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
4	Belgium	26,359	26,646	27,028	80,032
5	Benin	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
6	Botswana	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
7	Bulgaria	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
8	Burkina Faso	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
9	Burundi	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
10	Central African Republic	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
11	Chad	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
12	Congo	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
13	Côte d'Ivoire	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
14	Croatia	2,886	2,974	3,093	8,953
15	Cyprus	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
16	Czech Republic	5,290	5,540	5,874	16,704
17	Denmark	22,932	22,932	22,932	68,796
18	Djibouti	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
19	Egypt	4,507	4,574	4,664	13,746
20	Equatorial Guinea	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
21	Estonia	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
22	Eswatini	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
23	Ethiopia	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
24	Finland	17,195	17,195	17,195	51,585
25	France	137,230	137,678	138,276	413,184
26	Gabon	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
27	Gambia	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
28	Georgia	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
29	Germany	176,126	180,464	186,248	542,837
30	Ghana	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
31	Guinea	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
32	Guinea-Bissau	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
33	Hungary	4,698	4,838	5,024	14,560
34	Iceland	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
35	Ireland	10,006	10,089	10,200	30,295
36	Israel	14,915	14,915	14,915	44,745
37	Italy	103,114	105,924	109,672	318,710
38	Jordan	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
39	Kenya	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000

N°	Party	2019	2020	2021	TOTAL
40	Latvia	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
41	Lebanon	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
42	Libya	3,711	3,762	3,830	11,304
43	Lithuania	2,153	2,169	2,189	6,511
44	Luxembourg	2,071	2,078	2,088	6,238
45	Madagascar	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
46	Mali	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
47	Mauritania	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
48	Mauritius	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
49	Monaco	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
50	Montenegro	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
51	Morocco	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
52	Netherlands	53,977	53,977	53,977	161,931
53	Niger	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
54	Nigeria	2,700	2,970	3,330	9,000
55	Norway	24,662	25,499	26,616	76,777
56	Portugal	11,838	11,838	11,838	35,514
57	Republic of Moldova	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
58	Romania	3,000	4,000	5,000	12,000
59	Rwanda	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
60	Senegal	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
61	Slovakia	3,800	3,980	4,220	12,000
62	Slovenia	2,494	2,528	2,574	7,596
63	South Africa	10,808	10,956	11,153	32,917
64	Spain	72,535	73,531	74,859	220,925
65	Sudan	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
66	Sweden	31,874	31,874	31,874	95,622
67	Switzerland	38,230	38,230	38,230	114,690
68	Syrian Arab Republic	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
69	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
70	Togo	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
71	Tunisia	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
72	Uganda	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
73	Ukraine	2,994	3,094	3,226	9,314
74	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	134,354	134,514	134,729	403,597
75	United Republic of Tanzania	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
76	Uzbekistan	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
77	Zimbabwe	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
78	European Union	25,683	26,592	27,804	80,079
	WITHDRAWAL FROM AEWA TRUST FUND**	2,200	2,020	1,780	6,000
	TOTAL	1,053,041	1,066,352	1,083,768	3,203,160

Appendix IV

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST FUND FOR THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

1. The terms of reference for the Trust Fund of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) are for the financial years beginning 1 January 2019 and ending 31 December 2021).
2. The Trust Fund shall be administered by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) subject to the approval UNEA and the consent of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
3. The administration of the Trust Fund shall be governed by the financial regulations and rules of the United Nations, the staff regulations and rules of the United Nations and other administrative policies or procedures, promulgated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
4. In accordance with United Nations rules, UNEP shall deduct from the income an administrative charge equal to 13 per cent of the expenditure charged to the AEWA Trust Fund in respect of activities financed under AEWA.
5. The financial resources of the Trust Fund for 2019-2021 shall be derived from:
 - (a) Contributions made by Parties by reference to Appendix II of Resolution 7.12, including contributions from any new Party; and
 - (b) Further contributions from Parties and contributions from States not Parties to the Agreement, other governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other sources.
6. All contributions to the Trust Fund shall be paid in fully convertible Euros. For contributions from States that become Parties after the beginning of the financial period, the initial contribution (from the first day of the third month after deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession until the end of the financial period) shall be determined pro rata based on the contribution of other States Parties on the same level of the United Nations scale of assessments, as it applies from time to time. However, if the contribution of a new Party determined on this basis would be more than 20 per cent of the budget, the contribution of that Party shall be 20 per cent of the budget for the financial year of joining (or pro rata for a part year). No contribution shall be less than 2,000 Euros. The contribution of each Party as laid down in Appendix II of Resolution 7.12 shall be fixed until the next ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties. Contributions of new Parties shall flow into the Trust Fund of the Agreement. Contributions shall be paid in annual installments. The contributions shall be due on 1 January 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Contributions shall be paid into the following account:

UNITED NATIONS (DECH1)
Account No. 6161603755
J.P. Morgan AG
Taunustor 1
60310 Frankfurt / Main
Germany
Bank code number 501 108 00
SWIFT No. CHASDEFX
IBAN: DE 565011080061616 03755

7. For the convenience of the Parties, for each of the years of the financial period the Executive Director of UNEP shall as soon as possible notify the Parties to the Agreement of their assessed contributions.
8. Contributions received into the Trust Fund that are not immediately required to finance activities shall be invested at the discretion of the United Nations, and any income shall be credited to the Trust Fund.
9. The Trust Fund shall be subject to audit by the United Nations Board of Auditors.
10. The budget estimates covering income and expenditures for each of the three calendar years constituting the financial period to which they relate, prepared in Euros, shall be submitted to the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement.
11. The estimates of each of the calendar years covered by the financial period shall be divided into sections and objects of expenditure, shall be specified according to budget lines, shall include references to the programmes of work to which they relate, and shall be accompanied by such information as may be required by or on behalf of the contributors, and such further information as the Executive Director of UNEP may deem useful and advisable. In particular, estimates shall also be prepared for each programme of work for each of the calendar years, with expenditure itemized for each programme so as to correspond to the sections, objects of expenditure, and budget lines described in the first sentence of this paragraph.
12. The proposed budget, including all the necessary information, shall be dispatched by the Secretariat to all Parties at least 90 days before the date fixed for the opening of the Meeting of the Parties.
13. The budget shall be adopted by consensus at the Meeting of the Parties.
14. In the event that the Executive Director of UNEP anticipates that there might be a shortfall in resources over the financial period as a whole, the Executive Director shall consult with the Secretariat, which shall seek the advice of the Standing Committee as to its priorities for expenditure.
15. Commitments against the resources of the Trust Fund may be made only if they are covered by the necessary income of the Agreement. No commitments shall be made in advance of the receipt of contributions.
16. Upon the request of the Secretariat of the Agreement, after seeking the advice of the Standing Committee, the Executive Director of UNEP should, to the extent consistent with the financial regulations and rules of the United Nations, make transfers from one budget line to another. At the end of the first, second or third calendar year of the financial period, the Executive Director of UNEP may proceed to transfer any uncommitted balance of appropriations to the second, third or fourth calendar year respectively, provided that

it does not exceed the total budget approved by the Parties, unless this is specifically sanctioned in writing by the Standing Committee.

17. At the end of each calendar year of the financial period, the Executive Director of UNEP shall submit to the Parties, through the Agreement Secretariat, the accounts for the year. The Executive Director shall also submit, as soon as practicable, the audited accounts for the financial period. These shall include full details of actual expenditure compared to the original provisions for each budget line.

18. Those financial reports required to be submitted to the Executive Director of UNEP shall be transmitted simultaneously by the Secretariat of the Agreement to the members of the Standing Committee.

19. The Secretariat of the Agreement shall provide the Standing Committee with an estimate of pro-posed expenditures over the coming year simultaneously with, or as soon as possible after, distribution of the accounts and reports referred to in the preceding paragraphs.


20. The present terms of reference shall be effective from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2021.


Appendix V

ELIGIBILITY FOR SPONSORSHIP FOR AEWA MEETINGS

N°	Party	UN Scale in % 2015*
1	Albania	0.008
2	Algeria	0.161
3	Belarus	0.056
4	Belgium	0.885
5	Benin	0.003
6	Botswana	0.014
7	Bulgaria	0.045
8	Burkina Faso	0.004
9	Burundi	0.001
10	Central African Republic	0.001
11	Chad	0.005
12	Congo	0.006
13	Côte d'Ivoire	0.009
14	Croatia	0.099
15	Cyprus	0.043
16	Czech Republic	0.344
17	Denmark	0.584
18	Djibouti	0.001
19	Egypt	0.152
20	Equatorial Guinea	0.010
21	Estonia	0.038
22	Eswatini	0.002
23	Ethiopia	0.010
24	Finland	0.456
25	France	4.859
26	Gabon	0.017
27	Gambia	0.001
28	Georgia	0.008
29	Germany	6.389
30	Ghana	0.016
31	Guinea	0.002
32	Guinea-Bissau	0.001
33	Hungary	0.161
34	Iceland	0.023
35	Ireland	0.335
36	Israel	0.430
37	Italy	3.748
38	Jordan	0.020
39	Kenya	0.018
40	Latvia	0.050
41	Lebanon	0.046
42	Libya	0.125

N°	Party	UN Scale in % 2015*
43	Lithuania	0.072
44	Luxembourg	0.064
45	Madagascar	0.003
46	Mali	0.003
47	Mauritania	0.002
48	Mauritius	0.012
49	Monaco	0.010
50	Montenegro	0.004
51	Morocco	0.054
52	Netherlands	1.482
53	Niger	0.002
54	Nigeria	0.209
55	Norway	0.849
56	Portugal	0.392
57	Republic of Moldova	0.004
58	Romania	0.184
59	Rwanda	0.002
60	Senegal	0.005
61	Slovakia	0.160
62	Slovenia	0.084
63	South Africa	0.364
64	Spain	2.443
65	Sudan	0.010
66	Sweden	0.956
67	Switzerland	1.140
68	Syrian Arab Republic	0.024
69	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	0.007
70	Togo	0.001
71	Tunisia	0.028
72	Uganda	0.009
73	Ukraine	0.103
74	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	4.463
75	United Republic of Tanzania	0.010
76	Uzbekistan	0.023
77	Zimbabwe	0.004

 Parties which are considered eligible for financial support to attend relevant AEWA sponsored meetings.

 Parties which are considered non-eligible for financial support to attend relevant AEWA sponsored meetings.

* UN Scale of Assessment 2016-2018 as adopted by the General Assembly (doc. A/RES/70/245) on 23 December 2015

7th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

4-8 December 2018, Durban, South Africa

“Beyond 2020: Shaping flyway conservation for the future”

RESOLUTION 7.13

**DATE, VENUE AND FUNDING OF THE 8th SESSION OF THE
MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO AEW**

Recalling Article VI, paragraph 2 of the Agreement, which states that the Agreement Secretariat shall convene ordinary sessions of the Meeting of the Parties, in consultation with the Convention Secretariat, at intervals of not more than three years, unless the Meeting of the Parties decides otherwise,

Appreciating the benefits that may accrue to the Agreement and to Parties, particularly those with developing economies, to host sessions of the Meeting of the Parties in different regions in the Agreement area,

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Decides* that the 8th Session of the Meeting of the Parties shall take place in 2021; and
2. *Welcomes and accepts with great appreciation* the offer from Hungary to host the 8th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds.

7th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

4-8 December 2018, Durban, South Africa

“Beyond 2020: Shaping flyway conservation for the future”

RESOLUTION 7.14

TRIBUTE TO THE ORGANISERS

Recalling the offer of the South African Government to host the 7th Session of the Meeting of Parties, which was accepted by the Standing Committee in November 2017 with great appreciation,

Aware of the effort, in particular, financial, undertaken in the organisation of the current Session of the Meeting of the Parties by the South African Government,

Appreciating the financial support provided by the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Sweden and Switzerland to facilitate the participation of as many Range States as possible,

Further appreciating the financial support provided by the Governments of the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom as well as the European Commission for the substantive preparation of the current Session of the Meeting of Parties,

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Expresses* its gratitude to the South African Government for the arrangements and the important financial investment made to provide an excellent venue, facilities and services for the 7th Session of the Meeting of the Parties;
2. *Also expresses* its gratitude to the Durban Convention Bureau of the Province of Kwazulu-Natal for all the additional support and services offered to the Meeting and the delegates;
3. *Expresses* its appreciation to the Agreement's Secretariat for the preparation of the documents and logistics for the 7th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement;
4. *Also expresses* its appreciation for all the support of the Governments of the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom as well as the European Commission, which contributed to the preparation of the 7th Meeting of the Parties, thus facilitating the participation of many Range States and the substantial preparation of the current Session of the Meeting of Parties.

ANNEX 2

RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED BY MOP7

7th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

4-8 December 2018, Durban, South Africa

“Beyond 2020: Shaping flyway conservation for the future”

RECOMMENDATION 7.1

(Submitted by Norway)

IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW PROCESS

Recalling the AEWA Implementation Review Process established through Resolution 4.6 to address incidents of adverse or potential adverse effects on migratory waterbirds or on their sites and habitats as a result of human activities,

Noting the conclusions of the Report on the AEWA Implementation Review Process (Doc. AEWA/MOP 7.18), which highlight in particular the lack of progress with respect to some of the open Implementation Review Process cases,

The Meeting of the Parties:

Urges Contracting Parties to continue to engage proactively with the Standing Committee and respond to its recommendations in the framework of the AEWA Implementation Review Process on the ongoing open cases in their respective countries.

7th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

4-8 December 2018, Durban, South Africa

“Beyond 2020: Shaping flyway conservation for the future”

ANNEX 3

**RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE SESSIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE
AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY
WATERBIRDS**

Purpose

Rule 1

These rules of procedure shall apply to any Session of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, convened in accordance with article VI of the Agreement.

Insofar as they are applicable, these rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to any other meeting held in the framework of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds.

Definitions

Rule 2

For the purpose of these rules:

- a) “Agreement” means the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, concluded on 16 June 1995 at The Hague, the Netherlands and entered into force on 1 November 1999. This Agreement is an agreement within the meaning of article IV paragraph 3 of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979);
- b) “Convention” means the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, 1979;
- c) “Parties” means the Contracting Parties to the Agreement;
- d) “Meeting of the Parties ” means the Meeting of the Parties in accordance with article VI;
- e) “Session” means any ordinary or extraordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties convened in accordance with article VI of the Agreement;
- f) The “President” means the President elected in accordance with rule 21, paragraph 1, of the present rules of procedure;
- g) “Subsidiary body” means all committees or working groups established by the Meeting of the Parties;
- h) “Technical Committee” means the body established in accordance with article VII;
- i) “Standing Committee” means the body established by Resolution 2.6 as adopted at the second session of the Meeting of the Parties;
- j) The “Meeting Committee”, means the body established in accordance with Rule 26 (1);

- k) “Secretariat” means the Secretariat of the Agreement established in accordance with article VIII;
- l) “Proposal” means a draft resolution or recommendation submitted by one or more Parties, by the Standing Committee, by the Meeting Committee or by the Secretariat.

Place of Meetings

Rule 3

1. The Meeting of the Parties shall take place in the country chosen by the previous Meeting of the Parties on the basis of a formal invitation that should have been issued to this effect by the responsible authority of that country. If more than one Party issues an invitation to host the next session of the Meeting of the Parties, and two or more invitations are maintained after informal consultations, the Meeting of the Parties shall decide on the venue of the next session by secret ballot.
2. If no invitation has been received, the session of the Meeting of the Parties shall be held in the country where the Secretariat has its seat, unless other appropriate arrangements are made by the Secretariat of the Agreement or the Secretariat of the Convention.

Dates of Meetings

Rule 4

1. Ordinary sessions of the Meetings of the Parties shall be held at intervals of not more than three years, unless the Meeting decides otherwise.
2. At each ordinary session, the Meeting of the Parties shall determine the year and venue of the next ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties. The exact dates and duration of each ordinary session shall be established by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Convention Secretariat and the host country of the meeting.
3. Extraordinary sessions of the Meetings of the Parties shall be convened on the written request of at least one third of the Parties.
4. An extraordinary session shall be convened not later than ninety days after the request has been received, in accordance with paragraph 3 of this rule.
5. In the event of an emergency situation, the Technical Committee may urgently request the Secretariat to convene a meeting of the Parties concerned.

Rule 5

The Secretariat shall notify all Parties of the date, venue, and provisional agenda of an ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties at least 12 months before the session is due to commence. The notification shall include the draft agenda for the meeting and the deadline for submission of proposals by the Parties. Only Parties, the Standing Committee, the Technical Committee, the Meeting Committee and the Secretariat shall be entitled to submit proposals.

Observers

Rule 6

1. The Secretariat shall notify the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, in its role as Depositary of the Agreement, the United Nations, its specialized Agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, any Range State not Party to the Agreement, and the secretariats of international conventions concerned *inter alia* with the conservation, including protection and management, of migratory waterbirds of the session of the Meeting of the Parties so that they may be represented as observers.

2. Such observers may, upon the invitation of the President, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any session of the Meeting of the Parties unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.

Rule 7

1. Any agency or body, national or international, whether governmental or non-governmental, technically qualified in conservation matters or in research on migratory waterbirds, which has informed the Secretariat of its wish to be represented at the Meetings of the Parties by observers, shall be admitted unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object. Once admitted these observers shall have the right to participate but not to vote.

2. Bodies or agencies desiring to be represented at the meeting by observers shall submit the names of their representatives, and in case of national non-governmental bodies or agencies, evidence of the approval of the State in which they are located, to the Secretariat at least one month prior to the opening of the session.

3. Such observers may, upon the invitation of the President participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any session unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.

4. Seating limitations may require that no more than two observers from any Range State not a Party, body or agency be present at a session of the Meeting of the Parties. The Secretariat shall notify those concerned of such limitations in advance of the meeting.

5. A standard participation fee may be fixed by the Secretariat of the Agreement, to be paid in advance of the Meeting by all non-governmental organisations. The fee will be announced in the letter of invitation and this Meeting will determine any fee for the next ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Agenda

Rule 8

The Secretariat shall prepare the provisional agenda of each meeting, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Standing Committee.

Rule 9

The provisional agenda of each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties shall include, as appropriate:

- a) Items arising from the articles or the Annexes of the Agreement;
- b) Items, the inclusion of which has been decided at a previous meeting or which emanate from decisions taken at a previous meeting;
- c) Items referred to in rule 15 of the present rules of procedure;
- d) Any item proposed by a Party, the Standing Committee, the Technical Committee or the Secretariat related to the fundamental principles or the implementation of the Agreement.

Rule 10

Except for proposals made in accordance with article X of the Agreement, the official documents for each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, as referred to in Rule 54, and proposals received in accordance with rule 5, shall be distributed in the official languages by the Secretariat to the Parties at least sixty days before the opening of the meeting.

Rule 11

The Secretariat shall, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, include any item which has been proposed by a Party and has been received by the Secretariat after the provisional agenda has been produced, but before the opening of the meeting, in a supplementary provisional agenda.

Rule 12

The Meeting of the Parties shall examine the provisional agenda together with any supplementary provisional agenda. When adopting the agenda, it may add, delete, defer, or amend items. Only items which are considered by the Meeting of the Parties to be urgent and important may be added to the agenda.

Rule 13

The provisional Agenda for an extraordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties shall consist only of those items proposed for consideration in the request for the extraordinary meeting. The provisional agenda and any necessary supporting documents shall be distributed to the Parties at the same time as the invitation to the extraordinary meeting.

Rule 14

The Secretariat shall report to the Meeting of the Parties on the administrative and financial implications of all substantive agenda items submitted to the meeting, before these items are considered by the meeting. Unless the Meeting of the Parties decides otherwise, no such item shall be considered until the Meeting of the Parties has received the Secretariat's report on the financial and administrative implications.

Rule 15

Any item of the agenda of an ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, consideration of which has not been completed at the meeting, shall be included automatically in the agenda of the next ordinary meeting, unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties.

Representation and Credentials

Rule 16

Each Party participating in a meeting shall be represented by a delegation consisting of a head of delegation and such other accredited representatives, alternate representatives, and advisers as the Party may deem necessary. Logistics and other limitations may require that no more than four delegates of any Range State be present at a plenary session. The Secretariat shall notify Parties of any such limitations in advance of the meeting.

Rule 17

A representative may be designated as an alternate head of delegation. An alternate representative or an adviser may act as a representative upon designation by the head of Delegation.

Rule 18

1. The original of the statement of credentials of the head of delegation and other representatives, alternate representatives, and advisers, shall be submitted to the Secretariat of the Agreement or to his/ her designated representative, if possible, not later than twenty-four hours after the opening of the meeting. Any later change in the composition of the delegation shall also be submitted to the Secretary or the representative of the Secretary.
2. The credentials shall be issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or his/her equivalent, or on their behalf by an ambassador who is duly authorised or, in the case of a regional economic integration organisation, by the competent authority of that organisation¹. If other authorities in a Contracting Party are entitled to issue credentials for international meetings, the Secretary should be notified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in advance of the meeting.
3. The credentials must bear a full signature of the appropriate authority or else be sealed and initialled by that authority. The seal and/or letter heading should clearly indicate that the credentials have been issued by the appropriate authority.

¹ For the purpose of interpreting this Rule, in the case of the European Union 'competent authority' means the President of the European Commission or the or the Commissioner responsible for the environment.

4. A representative may not exercise the right to vote unless his/ her name is clearly and unambiguously listed in the credentials.

5. If credentials are submitted in a language other than one of the working languages of the Agreement (French and English), they shall be accompanied by a suitable translation into one of these two languages to permit efficient validations of the credentials by the Credentials Committee.

Rule 19

A Credentials Committee composed of at least two Parties of the African region and two of the Eurasian region, elected at the first session of each ordinary meeting, shall examine the credentials and submit its report to the Meeting of the Parties for approval.

Rule 20

Pending a decision of the Meeting of the Parties upon their credentials, representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the meeting.

Officers

Rule 21

1. At the commencement of the first session of each ordinary meeting, a President and one or more Vice-Presidents shall be elected from among the representatives of the Parties present at the meeting, on the basis of a proposal put forward by the Meeting Committee. In preparing its proposal on this matter, the Meeting Committee shall consider first the candidate(s) put forward by the host country of the meeting for the post of President of the meeting.

2. The President shall participate in the meeting in that capacity and shall not, simultaneously, exercise the rights of a representative of a Party. The Party concerned shall designate another representative who shall be entitled to represent the party in the meeting and to exercise the right to vote.

Rule 22

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon the President elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of the meeting, preside at the sessions of the meeting, ensure the observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote, and announce decisions. The President shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings and over the maintenance of order.

2. The President may propose to the Meeting of the Parties the closure of the list of speakers, limitations on the time to be allowed to speakers and the number of times each Party or observer may speak on a question, the adjournment or the closure of the debate, and the suspension or the adjournment of a session.

3. The President, in the exercise of the functions of that office, remains under the authority of the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 23

The President, if temporarily absent from a session or any part thereof, shall designate a Vice-President to act as President. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

Rule 24

If the President and/or a Vice-President resign or are otherwise unable to complete the assigned term of office or to perform the functions of the office, a representative of the same Party shall be named by the Party concerned to replace the said officer for the remainder of that office's mandate.

Rule 25

At the first session of each ordinary meeting, the President of the previous ordinary meeting, or in the absence of the President, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, shall preside until the Meeting of the Parties has elected a President for the meeting.

The Meeting Committee, other Committees and Working Groups

Rule 26

1. The Meeting Committee is established. It shall consist of the President of the previous ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, the elected President and Vice-Presidents of the current Meeting of the Parties, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, and the Chairperson of the Technical Committee. The Secretariat of the Agreement shall assist and support the Meeting Committee. The Meeting Committee may invite observers to attend the Meeting Committee, as they deem appropriate. The Meeting Committee shall be chaired by the President of the current session of the Meeting of the Parties.
2. The Meeting Committee shall meet at least once daily to review the progress of the meeting, including the draft of the report of the previous day prepared by the Secretariat, and to provide advice to the President in order to ensure the smooth development of the rest of the proceedings.
3. The Meeting of the Parties may establish other committees and working groups if it deems it necessary for the implementation of the Agreement. Where appropriate, meetings of these bodies shall be held in conjunction with the Meeting of the Parties.
4. The Meeting of the Parties may decide that any such body may meet in the period between ordinary meetings.
5. Unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties, the chairperson for each such body shall be elected by the Meeting of the Parties. The Meeting of the Parties shall determine the matters to be considered by each such body.
6. Subject to paragraph 5 of this rule, each body shall elect its own officers. No officers may be re-elected for a third consecutive term.
7. Unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties, these rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the proceedings of such bodies, except that:
 - a) A majority of the Parties designated by the Meeting of the Parties to take part in any such body shall constitute a quorum, but in the event of the body being open-ended, one quarter of the Parties shall constitute a quorum;
 - b) The chairperson of any such body may exercise the right to vote;
 - c) There shall be no requirement to provide interpretation in committee or working group sessions, including the Meeting Committee.

Secretariat

Rule 27

1. The Head of the Agreement Secretariat shall be the Secretary of the Meeting of the Parties. The Secretary or the representative of the Secretary shall act in that capacity in all sessions of the Meeting of the Parties and of subsidiary bodies.
2. The Secretary shall provide and direct the staff as required by the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 28

The Secretariat shall, in accordance with these rules:

- a) Arrange for interpretation at the meeting;
- b) Prepare, receive, translate, reproduce and distribute the documents of the meeting;
- c) Publish and circulate the official documents of the meeting;
- d) Make and arrange for keeping of sound recordings of the meeting;
- e) Arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the meeting;
- f) Draft the report of the meeting for consideration by the Meeting Committee first and for final approval by the Meeting of the Parties; and
- g) Generally perform all other work that the Meeting of the Parties may require.

Conduct of Business

Rule 29

1. Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties shall be held in public, unless the Meeting of the Parties decides otherwise.
2. Sessions of subsidiary bodies shall be held in private unless the subsidiary body concerned decides otherwise.
3. Delegations shall be seated in accordance with the alphabetical order of the English language names of the Parties.

Rule 30

The President may declare a session of the meeting open and permit the debate to proceed if at least one half of the Parties to the Agreement are present, and may take a decision when representatives of at least one half of the Parties are present.

Rule 31

1. No one may speak at a session of the Meeting of the Parties without having previously obtained the permission of the President. Subject to rule 32, 33, 34 and 36, the President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The Secretariat shall maintain a list of speakers. The President may call a speaker to order if the speaker's remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
2. The Meeting of the Parties may, on a proposal from the President or from any Party, limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each Party or observer may speak on a question. Before a decision is taken, two representatives may speak in favour and two against a proposal to set such limits. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call the speaker to order without delay.
3. A speaker shall not be interrupted except on a point of order. He may, however, with the permission of the President, give way during his/her speech to allow any other representative or observer to request clarification on a particular point in that speech.
4. During the course of a debate, the President may announce the list of speakers, and with the consent of the meeting, declare the list closed. The President may, however, accord the right of reply to any representative, if appropriate, due to a speech delivered after the list has been closed.

Rule 32

The chairperson or rapporteur of a subsidiary body may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by that subsidiary body.

Rule 33

During the discussion of any matter, a Party may at any time raise a point of order, which shall be decided immediately by the President in accordance with these rules. A Party may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be put to the vote immediately and the ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the Parties present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 34

Any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Meeting of the Parties to discuss any matter or adopt a proposal or an amendment to a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before the matter is discussed or a vote is taken on the proposal or amendment in question.

Rule 35

1. Proposals for amendment of the Agreement may be made by any Party. According to article X the text of any proposed amendment and the reason for it shall be communicated to the Agreement Secretariat not less than one hundred and fifty days before the opening of the session.

2. A new proposal, other than in paragraph 1 of this rule, that was not submitted to the Secretariat at least 60 days before the opening of the meeting as well as amendments to proposals, shall be introduced in writing by the Parties and handed to the Secretariat in at least one of the official languages, for submission to the Meeting Committee.

3. A new proposal shall deal only with matters that could not have been foreseen in advance of the session or arise out of the discussions at the session. The Meeting Committee shall decide if the new proposal meets this requirement, so as to introduce it formally for consideration by the meeting. If a new proposal is rejected by the Meeting Committee, the sponsor(s) shall be entitled to request the President to submit the question of its admissibility to a vote, as per Rule 34. The sponsor(s) shall be given the opportunity to make one intervention to present the arguments in favour of the introduction of the new proposal, and the President shall explain the reasons for its rejection by the Meeting Committee.

4. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any session unless copies of it, translated into the official languages of the Meeting of the Parties, have been circulated to delegations not later than the day preceding the session. Nevertheless, the President may permit the discussion and consideration of amendments to proposals or of procedural motions and, in exceptional circumstances, in cases of urgency and when deemed useful to advance the proceedings, permit the discussion and consideration of proposals even though these proposals, amendments or motions have not been circulated or have been circulated only the same day or have not been translated into all the official languages of the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 36

1. Subject to rule 33, the following motions shall have precedence, in the order indicated below, over all other proposals or motions:

- a) To suspend a session;
- b) To adjourn a session;
- c) To adjourn the debate on the question under discussion; and
- d) For the closure of the debate on the question under discussion.

2. Permission to speak on a motion falling within (a) to (d) above shall be granted only to the proposer and, in addition, to one speaker in favour of and two against the motion, after which it shall be put immediately to the vote.

Rule 37

A proposal or motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has begun, provided that the motion has not been amended. A proposal or motion withdrawn may be reintroduced by any other Party.

Rule 38

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered at the same meeting, unless the Meeting of the Parties, by a two-thirds majority of the Parties present and voting, decides in favour of reconsideration. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to the mover and one other supporter, after which it shall be put immediately to the vote.

Voting

Rule 39

Each Party shall have one vote. Regional economic integration organisations, which are Parties to this Agreement shall, in matters within their competence, exercise their voting rights with a number of votes equal to the number of their Member States which are Parties to the Agreement. A regional economic integration organisation shall not exercise its right to vote if its Member States exercise theirs, and *vice versa*.

Rule 40

1. The Parties shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters of substance by consensus. If all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted and no agreement reached, the decision shall, as a last resort, be taken by a two-thirds majority of the Parties present and voting, unless otherwise provided by the Agreement such as in the case of:

the adoption of the budget for the next financial period and any changes to the scale of assessment, which require unanimity (article V);

2. For the purposes of these rules, the phrase "Parties present and voting" means Parties present at the session at which voting takes place and casting an affirmative or negative vote. Parties abstaining from voting shall be considered as not voting.

Rule 41

If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the Meeting of the Parties, unless it decides otherwise, shall vote on the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted. The Meeting of the Parties may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

Rule 42

Any representative may request that any parts of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal be voted on separately. The President shall allow the request unless a Party objects. If objection is made to the request for separate voting, the President shall permit two representatives to speak, one in favour of and the other against the motion, after which it shall be put to the vote immediately.

Rule 43

If the motion referred to in rule 42 is adopted, those parts of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal, which are approved, shall then be put to the vote as a whole. If all the operative parts of a proposal or amendment have been rejected, the proposal or amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Rule 44

A motion is considered to be an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from, or revises parts of that proposal. An amendment shall be voted on before the proposal to which it relates is put to the vote, and if the amendment is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

Rule 45

If two or more amendments to a proposal are put forward, the Meeting of the Parties shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal, then on the amendment next furthest removed there from, and so on, until all amendments have been put to the vote. The President shall determine the order of voting on the amendments under this rule.

Rule 46

Voting, except for elections and the decision on the venue of the next ordinary meeting, shall normally be by show of hands. A roll-call vote shall be taken if one is requested by any Party; it shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the Parties participating in the meeting, beginning with the Party whose name is drawn by lot by the President. However, if at any time a Party requests a secret ballot, that shall be the method of voting on the issue in question, provided that this request is accepted by a simple majority of the Parties present and voting. The President shall be responsible for the counting of the votes, assisted by tellers appointed by the Meeting, and shall announce the result.

Rule 47

1. The vote of each Party participating in a roll-call vote shall be expressed by "Yes", or "No", or "Abstain" and shall be recorded in the relevant documents of the meeting.
2. When the meeting votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of hands and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call vote.

Rule 48

After the President has announced the beginning of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual proceedings. The President may permit the Parties to explain their votes, either before or after the voting, but may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. The President shall not permit those who put forward proposals or amendments to proposals to explain their vote on their own proposals or amendments, except if they have been amended.

Rule 49

All elections and the decision on the venue of the next ordinary meeting shall be held by secret ballot, unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties.

Rule 50

1. If, when one person or one delegation is to be elected, no candidate obtains a majority of votes cast by the Parties present and voting in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken between the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If, in the second ballot, the votes are equally divided, the President shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.
2. In the case of a tie in the first ballot among three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes, a second ballot shall be held. If there is then a tie among more than two candidates, the number shall be reduced to two by lot and the balloting, restricted to them, shall continue in accordance with the procedure set forth in paragraph 1 of this rule.

Rule 51

1. When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, the number of candidates must not exceed the number of such places, those obtaining the largest number of votes and a majority of the votes cast by the Parties present and voting in the first ballot shall be deemed elected.

2. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of persons or delegations to be elected, there shall be additional ballots to fill the remaining places. The voting shall then be restricted to the candidates that obtained the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot and shall not exceed twice the places that remain to be filled. After the third inconclusive ballot, votes may be cast for any eligible person or delegation.

3. If three such unrestricted ballots are inconclusive, the next three ballots shall be restricted to the candidates who obtained the greatest number of votes in the third of the unrestricted ballots and shall not exceed twice the places that remain to be filled. The following three ballots thereafter shall be unrestricted, and so on until all the places have been filled.

Languages

Rule 52

The official and working languages of the Meeting of the Parties shall be English and French.

Rule 53

1. Statements made in an official language shall be interpreted into the other official language.
2. A representative of a Party may speak in a language other than an official language, if the Party provides for interpretation into one such official language.

Documents

Rule 54

1. Official documents of the meetings shall be drawn up in one of the official languages and translated into the other official language.
2. Financial limitations may make it necessary to limit the number of documents provided to each Party and observer. The Secretariat shall encourage Parties and observers to download the documents from the Agreement website on the Internet or to receive them on a CD-ROM, so as to save costs of photocopying and mailing.
3. Any documents, including proposals, submitted to the Secretariat in any language other than a working language shall be accompanied by a translation into one of the working languages.
4. When in doubt, the Secretariat shall ask the approval of the Meeting Committee for issuing a document as an official document of the meeting.
5. Parties and observers wishing to distribute documents that have not been approved as official documents of the meeting shall make their own arrangements for distribution, after having sought the advice of the Secretariat on how to proceed.

Sound Recordings of the Meeting

Rule 55

Sound recordings of the Meeting of the Parties, and whenever possible of its subsidiary bodies, shall be kept by the Secretariat.

Entering into Force and Amendments to the Rules of Procedure

Rule 56

These rules of procedure shall enter into force immediately after their adoption. Amendments to these rules shall be adopted by consensus by the Meeting of the Parties, upon a proposal by one or more Parties and/or the Standing Committee.

Overriding authority of the Agreement

Rule 57

In the event of a conflict between any provision of these rules and any provision of the Agreement, the Agreement shall prevail.

7th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES
4-8 December 2018, Durban, South Africa

“Beyond 2020: Shaping flyway conservation for the future”

ANNEX 4

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

CHAIRMAN / PRÉSIDENT

Country / Pays	Name / Nom	Organisation	Contact details / Coordonnées
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Mr Shonisani Munzhedzi	Deputy Director-General Biodiversity and Conservation Department of Environmental Affairs	Tel.: +27 123999171 Mob.: +27 764000637 Fax: +27 123593637 smunzhedzi@environment.gov.za

VICE-CHAIRMAN / VICE-PRÉSIDENT

Country / Pays	Name / Nom	Organisation	Contact details / Coordonnées
Uganda	Dr Barirega Akankwasah	Ag. Commissioner Wildlife Conservation / Head Department of Wildlife Conservation Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities	Tel.. +256 414 561723 Mob.: +256 772 831348 akankwasah@gmail.com

CONTRACTING PARTIES / PARTIES CONTRACTANTES

Country / Pays	Name / Nom	Organisation	Contact details / Coordonnées
Algeria / Algérie	Ms Nadjiba Bendjedda	Chargée du bureau des zones humides Direction Générale des Forêts Direction de la Protection de la Faune et de la Flore	Tel.: +213 23238297 Mob.: +213 542170234 Fax: +213 23238297 bendjeddanadjiba@yahoo.fr
Algeria / Algérie	Mr Abd-El-Naceur Belaid	Ambassador of Algeria to South Africa Embassy of Algeria 0083 Pretoria South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Tel: +21323238297+27 (0) 12 342 5074/5/7 Fax: +27 (0) 12 342 6479 algemb.pretoria@gmail.com
Belgium / Belgique	Dr Micheal O'Briain	Deputy Head of Nature Protection Unit Directorate-General for Environment European Commission	Tel.: +32 22968722 Mob.: +32 485059864 mogobriain@gmail.com
Belgium / Belgique	Ms Janine van Vessem	Head of international reporting and strategic coordination of externally requested research Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO)	Tel.: + 32 473 91 77 12 Mob.: +213 542170234 janine.vanvessem@inbo.be
Botswana	Ms Malebogo Somolekae	Chief Wildlife Officer Research and Statistics Division Department of Wildlife and National Parks	Tel.: +267 3971405; +267 3996585 Mob.: +267 74237614; +267 75282559 Fax: +267 3181775 mlsentsho@gov.bw
Côte d'Ivoire	Mr Ossiena Kone	Chef de service Protection de la Faune Direction de la Faune et des Ressources Cynégétiques Ministère des Eaux et Forêts	Tel.: +225 58654849 aristidekone42@gmail.com
Côte d'Ivoire	Mr Kouassi Kouame	Direction de la Faune et des Ressources Cynégétiques Ministère des Eaux et Forêts	Tel.: +225 20 21 07 00 Mob.: +225 07 44 33 90 Fax: +225 20 21 09 90 firkouame@yahoo.com
Croatia / Croatie	Ms Ivana Jelenić	Head of Sector for Biodiversity and Strategic Affairs Nature Protection Directorate Ministry of Environment and Energy	Tel.: +385 14866122 Mob.: +385 98406548 Fax: +385 14866100 ivana.jelenic@mzoe.hr
Croatia / Croatie	Dr Jelena Kralj	Senior Scientific Assistant Institute of Ornithology Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts	Tel.: +385 1 4825 401 Mob.: +385 91 786 3072 jkralj@hazu.hr
Czech Republic / République Tchèque	Ms Jan Brojáč	Adviser Ministry of the Environment International Relations Department	Tel.: +420 734167438 Jan.brojac@mzp.cz
Czech Republic / République Tchèque	Dr Josef Chytil	Comenius Museum in Přerov Ornithological Station	Tel.: +420 581219910 Mob.: +420 724947544 jchytil@centrum.cz
Denmark / Danemark	Dr Preben Clausen	Danish Centre for Environment and Energy University of Aarhus Department of Bioscience	Mob.: +45 2334 4767 pc@bios.au.dk
Denmark / Danemark	Prof Jesper Madsen	Professor; Head of Wetlands International Waterbird Harvest Specialist Group Aarhus University EGMP Data Centre	Tel.: 45 29440204 jm@bios.au.dk

Country / Pays	Name / Nom	Organisation	Contact details / Coordonnées
Denmark / Danemark	Ms Camilla Uldal	Head of Section Species and Nature Protection Danish Environmental Protection Agency	Mob.: +45 93 58 79 47 cakis@mst.dk
Egypt / Égypte	Dr Ayman Ahmed	General Manager of Species Diversity Nature Conservation Sector Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency	Mob.: +20 1000418222 aymanhamada@yahoo.com
Equatorial Guinea / Guinée équatoriale	Mr Santiago Atomo Ayang	Ministerio de Pesca y Medio Ambiente Délégation Régional de Bata	Tel.: +240 333082015 santiagomartin1970@yahoo.es
Estonia / Estonie	Mr Marku Lamp	Deputy Secretary General Ministry of the Environment	+372 6262920 marku.lamp@envir.ee
Estonia / Estonie	Mr Karli Ligi	Head of Forest Department Ministry of the Environment	Tel.: +372 6260749 Mob.: +372 55578376 karli.ligi@envir.ee
Estonia / Estonie	Ms Merike Linnamägi	Senior Officer Nature Conservation Department Ministry of the Environment	Tel.: +372 6262900 Mob.: +372 5050857 merike.linnamagi@envir.ee
Estonia / Estonie	Ms Kadri Möller	Advisor Nature Conservation Department Ministry of the Environment	Tel.: +372 62628786 Mob.: +372 5243169 kadri.moller@envir.ee
Estonia / Estonie	Ms Liina Vaher	Senior Officer Nature Conservation Department Ministry of the Environment	Tel.: +372 6262887 Mob.: +372 5076202 liina.vaher@envir.ee
Estonia / Estonie	Mr Hanno Zingel	Advisor Nature Conservation Department Ministry of the Environment	Tel.: +372 6260720 hanno.zingel@envir.ee
Eswatini	Mr Bhekithemba Thusi	Strategy Coordinator Eswatini National Trust Commission	+268 78069574 teddy.dlamini@sntc.org.sz
Eswatini	Mr Thulani Methula	Director of Parks Eswatini National Trust Commission	Mob.: +268 76063660 thulani.methula@sntc.org.sz
Eswatini	Mr Saneliso Vuyo	Eswatini National Trust Commission	Tel.: +268 78026934 saneliso.makhanya@undp.org
Eswatini	Mr. Teddy Ncamiso Dlamini	National Environmental Education Programmes Officer Eswatini National Trust Commission	Tel.: +268 78069574 teddy.dlamini@sntc.org.sz
Ethiopia / Éthiopie	Mr Kahsay G. Asgedom	Director Community Partnership and Conservation Education Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority	+251 11 5541109 +251 11 5546804 +251 911742003 kahsaygt@hotmail.com
European Union/ l'Union européenne	Dr Micheal O'Briain	Deputy Head of Nature Protection Unit Directorate-General for Environment European Commission	Tel.: +32 22968722 Mob.: +32 485059864 mogobriain@gmail.com
European Union/ l'Union européenne	Mr Joseph van der Stegen	Policy Officer Nature Protection Unit Directorate-General for Environment European Commission	Tel.: +32 22996902 Mob.: +32 478979084 joseph.van-der-stegen@ec.europa.eu
Finland / Finlande	Mr Mikko Alhainen	Senior Planning Officer Finnish Wildlife Agency	Tel.: +358 29 431 2401 mikko.alhainen@riista.fi
Finland / Finlande	Dr Esko Hyvärinen	Senior Ministerial Advisor Ministry of the Environment	Tel.: +358 400143876 esko.o.hyvarinen@ym.fi
Finland / Finlande	Mr Olli Ojala	Senior Specialist Natural Environment / Biodiversity Ministry of the Environment	Tel.: +358 50 470 0907 Mob.: +358 50 470 0907 olli.ojala@ym.fi

Country / Pays	Name / Nom	Organisation	Contact details / Coordonnées
France	Dr Pierre Defos du Rau	Researcher Migratory Birds Unit Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage (ONCFS)	Tel.: +33 6 25032211 pierre.defosdurau@oncfs.gouv.fr
France	Mr François Lamarque	Chargé de mission conventions et programmes internationaux et européens relatifs aux espèces de faune sauvage Ministère de la transition écologique et solidaire DGALN/DEB/ET3	Tel.: +33 1 40813190 Mob.: +33 6 13608273 francois.lamarque@developpement-durable.gouv.fr
France	Mr Jean-Yves Mondain-Monval	Research Engineer Migratory Birds Unit Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage (ONCFS)	Tel.: +336 25070843 Mob.: +336 25070843 jean-yves.mondain-monval@oncfs.gouv.fr
Gambia / Gambie	Mr Nuha Jammeh	Cadet Wildlife and Conservation Officer Department of Parks and Wildlife Management Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources	Tel.: +220 4376972; +220 4376973 Mob.: +220 2707856 Fax: +220 4392179 jammeh05@gmail.com
Georgia / Géorgie	Ms Irine Lomashvili	Chief Specialist Biodiversity and Forestry Department Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture	Tel.: +995 32 2727234 Mob.: +995 595119787 irinaloma@yahoo.com
Germany / Allemagne	Mr Gerhard Adams	Head of Division Species Protection Division N I 3 Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	Tel.: +49 228 993052632 gerhard.adams@bmu.bund.de
Germany / Allemagne	Mr Martin Fichtler	Adviser Dachverband Deutscher Avifaunisten e.V.	Tel: +495517899583 martin.fichtler@t-online.de
Germany / Allemagne	Mr Oliver Schall	Species Protection Division N I 3 Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	Tel.: +49 228 3052632 Fax: +49 228 3052684 oliver.schall@bmu.bund.de
Germany / Allemagne	Ms Dana Wiemann	Finance Officer Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	Tel.: +49 228 99 305 2633 dana.wiemann@bmu.bund.de
Ghana	Nana Kofi Adu-Nsiah	Executive Director Wildlife Division Forestry Commission	Tel.: +233 244107143 Mob.: +233 244107143 adunsiah@yahoo.com
Guinea / Guinée	Mr Bakary Magassouba	Chef de Division Aménagement et Gestion des Aires Protégées Office Guinéen des Parcs et Réserves Ministère de l'Environnement, des Eaux et Forêts	Tel.: +224 628148150 magassoubab@gmail.com
Hungary / Hongrie	Mr Zoltan Czirak	Ministry of Agriculture Biodiversity and Gene Conservation Unit	Tel.: +36 30 650 1945 zoltan.czirak@am.gov.hu
Hungary / Hongrie	Mr Levente Kőrösi	Head of Department Ministry of Agriculture Biodiversity and Gene Conservation Department	Tel.: +36 306502030 levente.korosi@am.gov.hu
Iceland / Islande	Mr Sigurdur Thrainsson	Head of Division Department of Land Natural Heritage Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources	Tel.: +354 5458600 Mob.: +354 8402419 sigurdurthrains@gmail.com
Israel / Israël	Mr Ohad Hatzofe	Avian Ecologist Science Division Israel Nature & Parks Authority	Tel.: +972 53 7762344 Mob.: +972 53 7762344 Fax: +972 2 5006281 ohad@npa.org.il

Country / Pays	Name / Nom	Organisation	Contact details / Coordonnées
Israel / Israël	Dr Simon Nemtsov	Head of International Relations Science Division Israel Nature and Parks Authority	Tel.: +972 58 5063118 Mob.: +972 58 5063118 simon@npa.org.il
Italy / Italie	Dr Lorenzo Serra	Senior Researcher Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA)	Tel.: +39 0516512207 lorenzo.serra@isprambiente.it
Italy / Italie	Dr Fernando Spina	Head of Science Bird Migration Research Area Istituto Superiore Protezione Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA)	Tel.: +39 0516512214 Mob.: +39 3473507032 Fax: +39 051796628 fernando.spina@isprambiente.it
Italy / Italie	Mr Marco Valentini	Public Officer Nature Protection Department Ministry of the Environment	Tel.: +39 06 57225361 Mob.: +39 333 2507270 valentini.marco@minambiente.it
Kenya	Mr Solomon Kyalo	Head of Multilateral Environmental Agreements & Research Authorization Biodiversity Research and Planning Directorate Kenya Wildlife Service	Tel.: +254 722722214 Mob.: +254 775563642 cites@kws.go.ke
Kenya	Ms Catherine Wekesa	Senior Warden Parks & Reserves/ Lake Nakuru National Park Kenya Wildlife Service	Tel.: +254-20 266 4071/9 Mob.: +254 722 255532 cwambani@kws.go.ke
Latvia / Lettonie	Mr Vilnis Bernards	Senior Desk Officer Nature Protection Department Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development	Tel.: +371 67026524 Fax: +371 67820442 vilnis.bernards@varam.gov.lv
Latvia / Lettonie	Dr Otars Opermanis	Lead Researcher Faculty of Biology, Department of Zoology and Animal Ecology, University of Latvia	Tel.: +371 29485626 Mob.: +371 29485626 otars.opermanis@lu.lv
Lebanon / Liban	Mr Jeff Gerges	Environmental Specialist Department of Ecosystems Ministry of Environment	Tel.: +961 70/836592 Mob.: +961 70/836592 j.gerges@moe.gov.lb
Luxembourg	Mr Gilles Biver	Conseiller de Gouvernement Département de l'Environnement Ministère du Développement durable et des Infrastructures	Tel.: +352 24786834 Mob.: +352 62140 gilles.biver@mev.etat.lu
Madagascar	Ms Hary Misa Rakotozafy	Chef de Division des Evaluations Environnementale Strategique Direction des Évaluations Environnementales Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Ecologie et des Forêts	Tel.: +261 345844312 Mob.: +261 340562334 harymisarakotozafy@yahoo.fr
Mauritania / Mauritanie	Mr Daddah El Moctar	Directeur adjoint de la Direction des Aires Protégées et du Littoral (DAPL) Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable (MEDD)	Tel.: +222 45253139 Mob.: +222 46469070 Fax: +222 45253139 omoctar@yahoo.fr
Mauritius / Maurice	Ms Houshna Naujeer	Scientific Officer National Parks and Conservation Service Ministry of Agroindustry and Food Security	Tel.: +230 464 4053 Mob.: +230 5251 1984 Fax: +230 466 0453 naujeerhb@gmail.com
Moldova / Moldavie	Ms Ala Rotaru	Senior Consultant Policy in Biodiversity Department Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment	Tel.: +373 22 204537 Mob.: +373 79623192 Fax: +373 22 204537 ala.rotaru@madrm.gov.md ala.rotaru@yahoo.com

Country / Pays	Name / Nom	Organisation	Contact details / Coordonnées
Netherlands / Pays-Bas	Ms Wilmar Remmelts	Senior Policy Officer Nature and Biodiversity Department Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	Tel.: 31 70 3784907 Mob.: 31 6 38825338 w.j.remmelts@minez.nl
Niger	Mr O. Magagi Issoufou	Directeur adjoint DFC/PR Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Salubrité urbaine et du Développement durable Direction de la Faune, de la Chasse et des Parcs et Réserves	Mob.: +227 96 88 32 72 magagiissouf@yahoo.fr
Niger	Mr Ibrahim Madougou	Technical Focal Point Direction de la Faune, Chasse des Parcs et Réserves	Tel.: +227 96986138 ibrahimmadougou616@yahoo.fr
Nigeria	Mr Ozigis Abdulmalik	Assistant Chief Wildlife Superintendent Wildlife Unit Federal Department of Forestry Federal Ministry of Environment	Mob.: +234 8066333850 oziaabdulmark4@yahoo.com
Norway / Norvège	Mr Arild Espelien	Senior Advisor Norwegian Environment Agency	Tel.: +47 41512396 Mob.: +47 41512396 arild.robert.espelien@miljodir.no
Norway / Norvège	Mr Øystein Størkersen	Principal Advisor Norwegian Environment Agency	Tel.: +47 73580500 oystein.storkersen@miljodir.no
Romania / Roumanie	Ms Monica Elena Costin	Counselor for European Affairs Ministry of the Environment Biodiversity	Tel.: +40 786470792 Mob.: +40 751974564 monica.costin@mmediu.ro
Romania / Roumanie	Dr Nela Miauta	Biodiversity Section Ministry of Environment	Tel.: +40 21 4089545 Mob.: +40 754231517 nela.miauta@mmediu.ro
Senegal / Sénégal	Mr Abdoulaye Diop	Directeur Direction des Parcs nationaux Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement durable	Tel: +221 338591438 Mob.: +221 777409350 abdoulayed63@gmail.com
Slovakia / Slovaquie	Ms Janka Guzmova	Ministry of Environment Nature Conservation Department	Tel.: +421 259562242 Mob.: +421 907329989 janka.guzmova@enviro.gov.sk
Slovakia / Slovaquie	Mr Jan Kadlecik	Head of Department State Nature Conservancy Department of International Cooperation	Tel.: +421 48 4299942 Mob.: +421 903 298105 Fax: +421 48 4299942 jan.kadlecik@sopssr.sk
Slovenia / Slovénie	Mr Andrej Bibic	Directorate for the Environment, Nature Conservation Sector Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning	Tel.: +386 14787471 andrej.bibic@gov.si
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Mr Cyprian Cindi	Biodiversity Officer Production Grade A Biodiversity & Conservation Department of Environmental Affairs	Tel.: +27 123999495 Mob.: +27 727809413 mcindi@environment.gov.za
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Dr Howard Hendricks	General Manager South African National Parks	Tel.: +27 12 4265165 Fax: +27 12 3432832 Mob.: +27 836405296 howard.hendricks@sanparks.org
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Ms Matshidiso Hlalele	Biodiversity and Conservation Department of Environmental Affairs	Tel: +27 123999099 Mob.: +27 810925100 mhlalele@environment.gov.za

Country / Pays	Name / Nom	Organisation	Contact details / Coordonnées
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Mr Barney Kgope	Acting Chief Director Biodiversity and Conservation Department of Environmental Affairs	Tel.: +27 123999165 bkgope@environment.gov.za
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Ms Katleho Bernice Losaba	Administrative Officer Department of Environmental Affairs	Tel.: +27 123998502 Mob.: +27 781394959 klosaba@environment.gov.za
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Ms Humbulani Mafumo	Deputy Director: Conservation Management Department of Environmental Affairs	Tel.: +27 123999586 Mob.: +27 824856499 hmafumo@environment.gov.za
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Ms Elize Makkink	Assistant Director Department of Environmental Affairs	Tel.: +27 836448800
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Ms Millicent Makoala	Oceans Conservation Strategies Department of Environmental Affairs	Tel.: +27 218192637 Mob.: +27 723371474 mmakoala@environment.gov.za
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Ms Tiisetso Mashishi	Assistant Director International Governance Department of Environmental Affairs	Tel.: +2712 3999237 Mob.: +27 83 4367303 tmashishi@environment.gov.za
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Ms Tebogo Mashua	Department of Environmental Affairs	Tel.: +27 123999583 Mob.: +27 828381082 tjmashua@gmail.com
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Mr Albi Modise	Head of Communications Department of Environmental Affairs	Tel.: +27 123999943 Mob.: +27 834902871 amodise@environment.gov.za
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Ms Matshidiso Mokhatla	Assistant Director: Administration and Coordination Biodiversity and Conservation Department of Environmental Affairs	Tel.: +27 123998832 Mob.: +27 787485199 mmokhatla@environment.gov.za
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Ms Mirriam Motsepe	Deputy Director International Relations Department of Environmental Affairs	Tel.: +27 123999232 Mob.: +27 834574827 mmotsepe@environment.gov.za
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Mr Sunnyboy Mkhulu	Communication Officer Department of Environmental Affairs	Tel.: +27 12 3999983 smthimunye@environment.gov.za
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Mr Azwinaki Muingi	Biodiversity Officer: Conservation Management Biodiversity and Conservation Department of Environmental Affairs	Tel.: +27 123999608 Mob.: +27 824725591 AMuingi@environment.gov.za
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Mr Ernest Mulibana	Deputy Director Communication Department of Environmental Affairs	Tel.: +27 123999450 Mob.: +27 822637372 emulibana@environment.gov.za
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Mr Shoni Munzhedzi	→ Chair / Président	
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Ms Kgomotso Salaminah Mokgoko	Department of Environmental Affairs	Tel.: +27 123999993 Mob.: +27 835197516 kmokgoko@environment.gov.za

Country / Pays	Name / Nom	Organisation	Contact details / Coordonnées
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Ms Nosipho Ngcaba	Director General of Environmental Affairs Department of Environmental Affairs	Tel.: +27 123999943 Mob.: +27 822178018
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Mr Wessel Oosthuizen	Oceans and Coasts Section Department of Environment Affairs	Tel.: + 27 21 8195008 Mob.: + 27 82 374 7731 oosthuiz@environment.gov.za
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Ms Lerato Constance Phahlane	Administrator Department of Environmental Affairs SEI	Tel.: +27 123999248 Mob.: +27 719375483 lphahlane@environment.gov.za
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Ms Malta Qwathekana	Senior Policy Advisor International Advisory Services Department of Environmental Affairs	Tel.: +27 12 39 99 624 mqwathekana@environment.gov.za
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Mr Melusi Innocent Sangwen	Events Management Department of Environmental Affairs	Tel.: +27 123999993 Mob.: +27 646820390 msangweni@environmet.gov.za
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Mr Mgobhozi Vukani	Assistant Director: Administration Support Chief Directorate: Biodiversity Planning and Management Department of Environmental Affairs	Tel.: +27 12 399 9564 Mob.: +27 82 299 3771 vmgobhozi@environment.gov.za
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Ms Funeka Mbali Simelane	Graphic Designer Department of Environmental Affairs	Tel.: +27 12 399 9142 Mob.: +27 78 499 6185
Sudan / Soudan	Mr Adam Hassan Adam Mohammed	Wildlife Officer Wildlife Conservation General Administration	Tel.: +249 183 206781 Mob.: +249 912892433 adamasmahassan@yahoo.com
Sudan / Soudan	Mr Ahmed Kabbashi	Police Officer Wildlife Conservation General Administration	Mob.: +249 124859944 wildlife_sudan33@yahoo.com
Sweden / Suède	Ms Louise Bednarz	Senior Advisor Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	Tel.: +46 106981366 louise.bednarz@swedishepa.se
Sweden / Suède	Mr David Schöneberg Alm	Senior Advisor Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	Tel.: +46 106981688 david.schonberg.alm@naturvardsverket.se
Sweden / Suède	Mr Marcus Marissink	Deputy Director Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	Tel.: +46 106981334 mark.marissink@naturvardsverket.se
Switzerland / Suisse	Ms Sabine Herzog	Senior Policy Advisor Species, Ecosystems, Landscapes Division Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)	Tel.: +41 584630340 sabine.herzog@bafu.admin.ch
Syrian Arab Republic / République arabe syrienne	Ms Omayma Rihan	Head of Department of Migratory Species Conservation and Regulating Trade of Wildlife Biodiversity, Land and Natural Reserves Ministry of Local Administration and Environment	Tel.: +963 112321305 Mob.: +963 947451588 Fax: +963 11 2320885 blalhayek75@gmail.com
Togo	Mr Yao Apla	Directeur Direction des Ressources forestières Ministère de l'Environnement et des Ressources forestières	Tel.: +228 22 21 46 04 ; +228 22 20 86 43 Mob.: +228 90 26 48 89 aplaema02@gmail.com
Uganda	Dr Barirega Akankwasah	→ Vice-Chairman / Vice-Président	
Ukraine / Ukraine	Dr Volodymyr Domashlinets	Head of Fauna Protection Department of Biodiversity Protection and Biosafety	Tel.: +380 442063127 Mob.: +380 662886229 Fax: +380 442063127 vdomashlinets@yahoo.com

Country / Pays	Name / Nom	Organisation	Contact details / Coordonnées
		Division Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland / Royaume Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord	Mr Danny Heptinstall	Senior International Biodiversity Adviser Joint Nature Conservation Committee	Tel.: +44 1733866949 danny.heptinstall@jncc.gov.uk
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland / Royaume Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord	Mr Simon Mackown	Head of Wildlife Management, Wildlife Crime and Wild Bird Conservation Policy Department for Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)	Tel.: +44 2080266900 simon.mackown@defra.gsi.gov.uk
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland / Royaume Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord	Mr David Stroud	Senior Ornithologist Global Advice Team Joint Nature Conservation Committee	Tel.: +44 7974257549 David.Stroud@jncc.gov.uk
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland / Royaume Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord	Ms Elif Skinner	Senior Policy Advisor International Species Conservation Team Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)	Tel.: +44 2080266665 elif.skinner@defra.gsi.gov.uk
United Republic of Tanzania / République-Unie de Tanzanie	Mr Mzamilu Kaita	Wildlife Division Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism	Tel.: +255 262321566 Mob.: +255 719866955 Fax.: +255 262321514 kaitaduma@gmail.com
Uzbekistan	Mr Alisher Yunusov	Leading Specialist Bioinspection under State Committee on Ecology and Environment Protection	Tel.: +998 71 207 24 24 (1005#) Mob.: +998 903500898 alicom85@mail.ru
Yemen	Mr Faisal AlThalabi	Director General Aden Branch for Environmental Protection Environment Protection Authority	Tel.: +967 777479801 Mob.: +967 777639756 foxy2020foxy@yahoo.com ; k-ecc@hotmail.com
Zimbabwe	Mr Abraham Z. Matiza	Deputy Director Environment Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Hospitality Industry	Tel.: +263 242701549 Mob.: +263 712233046 Fax: +263 242252673 matiza.abraham@gmail.com
Zimbabwe	Ms Tendai Wachi	Senior Ranger Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority	Mob.: +263 772112166 tendaiwachi@gmail.com

NON-PARTY RANGE STATES / ÉTATS NON PARTIES DE L'AIRE DE RÉPARTITION

Country / Pays	Name / Nom	Organisation	Contact details / Coordonnées
Austria / Autriche	Dr Andreas Ranner	Conservation Officer Regional Government of Burgenland Conservation Department	Tel.: +43 26826002882 Mob.: +436648279842 Fax: +43 26826002818 andreas.ranner@bgld.gv.at
Austria / Autriche	Ms Elisabeth Schneeweiss	Senior Expert Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism	Tel.: +43 6646112984 elisabeth.schneeweiss@bmnt.gv.at
Central African Republic / République centrafricaine	Mr Salomon Yamale	Ingénieur des Eaux et Forêts Ministère des Eaux, Forêts, Chasse et Pêche	Tel.: +236 72548237 Mob.: +236 72548237 ; +236 75090872 Fax: +236 75090872 yamalesalomon@gmail.com
Malawi	Mr William Oscar Mgoola	Assistant Director Department of National Parks and Wildlife	Tel.: +265 888 353 993 Mob.: +265 993 189 350 Fax: +265 1759 832 wmgoola@yahoo.co.uk
São Tomé & Príncipe / Sao Tomé-et- Príncipe	Ms Gelsa Vera Cruz	Chief Evaluation Department of Environmental Impact Studies General Direction of the Environment	Tel.: + 239 2225271 gelsacarvalho@yahoo.com.br
Saudi Arabia / Arabie Saoudite	Mr Ali Al Faqih	Assistant Environmental Protection Specialist Saudi Wildlife Authority	Tel.: +966 559905001 asasf1990@gmail.com
Saudi Arabia / Arabie Saoudite	Prof Mohammed Yaslam Shobrak	Advisor Saudi Wildlife Authority	Tel.: +966 127480571 Mob.: +966 50 5721001 shobrak@saudibirds.org

**MEMBERS OF THE AEWA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE /
MEMBRES DU COMITÉ TECHNIQUE DE L'AEWA**

Country / Pays	Name / Nom	Organisation	Contact details / Coordonnées
France	Mr Alexandre Czajkowski	Director OMPO Institut européen pour la gestion des oiseaux sauvages et de leurs habitats	Tel.: +33 144010516 Fax: +33 144010511 vanneau@ompo.org
Lithuania / Lituanie	Dr Saulius Švažas	Senior Researcher Chair of the AEWA Technical Committee Institute of Ecology Lithuanian Nature Research Centre	Tel.: +370 52729296 Mob.: + 370 65029680 Fax: +370 52729296 saulius.svazas@gamtc.lt
Netherlands / Pays-Bas	Dr Szabolcs Nagy	Senior Advisor Wetlands International	Tel.: +31 628554823 szabolcs.nagy@wetlands.org
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Ms Melissa Lewis	Environmental Law Consultant and Researcher	Tel.: +27 661111970 m.g.lewis@webmail.co.za
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Dr Lizanne Roxburgh	Senior Scientist Conservation Science Unit Endangered Wildlife Trust	Tel.: +27 113723600 Mob.: +27 716822157 lizanner@ewt.org.za
Ukraine	Dr Olesya Petrovych	Chief Specialist The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	Tel.: +380 677841153 Mob.: +380 677841153 petrovych.o@gmail.com
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland / Royaume Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord	Dr Ruth Cromie	Head of Ecosystem Health Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)	Tel.: +44 1453 891254 Mob.: +44 7866942999 ruth.cromie@wwt.org.uk

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS /
ORGANISATIONS INTER-GOUVERNEMENTALES**

Organisation	Name / Nom	Function / Fonction	Contact details / Coordonnées
Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI)	Mr Sergio Rejado	CAFF/AMBI Representative	Mob.: +49 151 17610808 sergio@caff.is
Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)	Mr Bruno Portier	Forestry Officer RESSOURCE Project Coordinator	Tel.: +32 473490324 Bruno.Portier@fao.org
Ramsar Convention	Dr Paul Ouedraogo	Senior Advisor for Africa	Tel.: +41 229990164 Mob.: +41799427655 ouedraogo@ramsar.org
UN Environment	Ms Diane Klaimi	Programme Management Officer	Tel.: +254 20 7625526 Mob.: +254 720421484 diane.klaimi@un.org
UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)	Ms Kelly Malsch	Head, Species Programme	Tel.: +44 1223 277314 Kelly.Malsch@unep-wcmc.org
UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)	Ms Rebecca Price	Programme Officer	Tel.: +44 1223 814650 becky.price@unep-wcmc.org

INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS / ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES NON-GOUVERNEMENTALES

Organisation	Name / Nom	Function / Fonction	Contact details / Coordonnées
BirdLife International	Mr Geoffroy Citegetse	Project Manager	Tel.: +221 778581349 Mob.: +221 778581349 geoffroy.citegetse@birdlife.org
BirdLife International	Ms Nicola Crockford	RSPB Principle Policy Officer	Tel.: +44 1767 693072 Mob.: +44 7718116994 nicola.crockford@rspb.org.uk
BirdLife International	Dr Vicky Jones	Flyways Science Coordinator	Tel.: +44 7817918964 Mob.: +44 7817918964 vicky.jones@birdlife.org
European Federation for Hunting and Conservation (FACE)	Mr Roderick Enzerink	Wildlife Policy Officer	Tel.: +31 636323619 roderick.enzerink@face.eu
European Federation for Hunting and Conservation (FACE)	Dr David Scallan	Senior Conservation Manager	Tel.: +32 2 4161614 Mob.: +353 879504563 david.scallan@face.eu
International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC)	Mr Tamas Marghescu	Director General	Tel.: +36 20 2227546 Mob.: +36 20 2227546 t.marghescu@cic-wildlife.org
Oiseaux Migrateurs du Paléarctique Occidental (OMPO)	Mr Patrick Massenet	President	Tel.: +33 144010510 Mob.: +33 612777753 Fax: +33 144010511 patrick.massenet@wanadoo.fr
Oiseaux Migrateurs du Paléarctique Occidental (OMPO)	Dr Thibaut Powolny	Project Director	Tel.: +33 144010510 thibaut.powolny@yahoo.fr
Wetlands International	Mr Frank Breiner	Technical Officer	Tel.: +31 687561861 frank.breiner@wetlands.org
Wetlands International	Ms Joy Kivata	Communications Lead Eastern Africa	Tel.: +254 723608642 Mob.: +254 723608642 jkivata@wetlands-africa.org
Wetlands International	Mr Mori Diallo	Team Leader Wetlands International Mali Office	Tel.: +223 21420122 Mob.: +223 76114432 mdiallo@wetlands-africa.org
Wetlands International	Mr Tom Langendoen	Technical Officer	Tel.: +31 318 660921 tom.langendoen@wetlands.org
Wetlands International	Mr Merijn van Leeuwen	Project Manager Climate Resilient Flyway	Tel.: +31 318 660 910 Mob.: +31 647261163 merijn.vanleeuwen@wetlands.org

NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS / ORGANISATIONS NATIONALES NON-GOUVERNEMENTALES

Organisation	Name / Nom	Function / Fonction	Contact details / Coordonnées
Association " Les Amis des Oiseaux" (AAO) BirdLife in Tunisia	Mr Hichem Azafzaf	Président	Tel.: +216 23 207 238 Mob.: +216 23 207 238 azafzaf@gmail.com
Association Burundaise pour la protection de la Nature (ABN)	Mr Eric Niyongabo	Coordonnateur National des Dénombrements Internationaux des Oiseaux d'Eau (DIOE)	Tel.: +257 79996188 Mob.: +257 79996188 nericallev@gmail.com
BirdLife Botswana	Dr Kabelo Senyatso	Director	Tel.: +267 3190540 Mob.: +267 74867838 Fax: +267 3190541 kabelosenyatso@yahoo.com

Organisation	Name / Nom	Function / Fonction	Contact details / Coordonnées
BirdLife Port Natal	Ms Lesley Frescura	Vice-Chair	Tel.: +27 312664150 Mob.: +27 832313408 galefra@mweb.co.za
BirdLife South Africa	Mr Andrew de Blocq	Seabird Conservation Project Officer Seabird Conservation Programme	Tel.: +27 794800021 Mob.: +27 794800021 andrew.deblocq@birdlife.org.za
BirdLife South Africa	Ms Sam Ralston-Paton	Birds and Renewable Energy Project Manager	Tel.: +27 836733948 energy@birdlife.org.za
BirdLife South Africa	Dr Hanneline Robinson	Terrestrial Bird Conservation Programme Manager	Tel.: +27 11 789 1122 Mob.: +27 82 4534714 conservation@birdlife.org.za
BirdLife South Africa	Ms Linda van den Heever	Threatened Species Project Manager Terrestrial Bird Conservation Programme	Tel.: +27 117891122 Mob.: +27 823313902 linda.vdheever@birdlife.org.za
BirdLife South Africa	Dr Arnia Van Vuuren	Volunteer	Tel.: +27 11 789 1122 Mob.: +27 83 2712919 swavv@mweb.co.za
Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)	Dr Ramesh Kumar	Scientist Wetlands Programme	Tel.: +91 2222821811 Mob.: +91 9751003535 r.selvaraj@bnhs.org
Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)	Dr Nita Shah	Conservation Ecologist Conservation and Policy	Tel.: +91 2222821811 Mob.: +91 9033091064 n.shah@bnhs.org
British Association for Shooting & Conservation (BASC)	Dr Matt Ellis	Head of BASC	Tel.: +44 1244573006 matt.ellis@basc.org.uk
Danish Hunters' Association	Ms Iben Hove Sørensen	Migratory Birds Officer	Tel.: +45 81771664 ihs@jaegerne.dk
Endangered Wildlife Trust	Mr Andre Botha	Programme Manager Vultures for Africa Programme	Tel.: +27 829625725 Mob.: +27 829625725 andreb@ewt.org.za
Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife	Mr Brent Miles Coverdale	Animal Scientist: Mammals and Birds	Tel.: +27 825609769 Brent.Coverdale@kznwildlife.com
Federation Nationale des Chasseurs (FNC)	Dr Mathieu Boos	Scientific Expert	Tel.: +33 630224364 Mob.: +33 630224364 mboos.naturaconst@free.fr
Fédération Nationale des Chasseurs (FNC)	Mr Jean-Pierre Poly	Consultant	Tel.: +33 141096510 Mob.: +33 625070811 jean.pierre.poly@gmail.com
NatureUganda	Dr Dianah Nalwanga	Director Conservation and Science	Tel.: +256 772929626 dianah.nalwanga@gmail.com
Southern African Wingshooters Association	Mr Andre van der Westhuizen	Executive Chairman	Tel.: +27117814762 Mob.: +27 85659654 Fax: +27117823486 andre@wingshooters.co.za
South African Hunters and Game Conservation Association	Ms Lizanne Nel	Manager	Tel.: +27 128089300 Mob.: 27 767972530 Fax: +27 865588009 vanessa@sahunt.co.za
South African Hunters and Game Conservation Association	Dr Philip Jacobus Viljoen		Tel.: +27 842020184 Mob.: +27 842020184 slangvil@iafrica.com
Tour du Valat	Ms Laura Dami	Chef de projet Département Espèces	Tel.: +33 490972013 Mob.: +33 612735815 dami@tourduvalat.org
Tour du Valat	Ms Clémence Deschamps	Chef de projet Unité de Soutien Technique (UST)	Tel.: +33 490970671 deschamps@tourduvalat.org
Tour du Valat	Ms Marie Suet	Ingénieur en géomatique	Tel.: +33 663989670 suet@tourduvalat.org
Wetlands International	Mr Amdemichael Gebreyohannes	Project Coordinator Wetlands International Ethiopia Office	Tel.: +251 115527791 Mob.: +251 910123505 a.mulugeta@wetlands-africa.org

Organisation	Name / Nom	Function / Fonction	Contact details / Coordonnées
Wetlands International Afrique	Ms Khady Gueye	Chargée de projet DIOE	Mob.: +221777016894 kgueye@wetlands-africa.org
Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)	Ms Sacha Dench	Creative Consultant	Tel.: +44 7823530756 Mob.: +44 7534698525 sacha.dench@wwt.org.uk
Wildlife Poisoning Prevention & Conflict Resolution	Mr Timothy Snow	Director	Tel.: +27 82 8026223 Mob.: +27 82 8026223 snowman@bundunet.com

OTHER PARTICIPANTS / AUTRES PARTICIPANTS

Country / Pays	Name / Nom	Organisation	Contact details / Coordonnées
Cameroon / Cameroun	Dr Samuel Christian Tsake	Directeur Adjoint École de Faune de Garoua	Tel.: +237 672785802 Mob.: +237 697692181 ctsakem@yahoo.fr
France	Mr Christophe Patrick Deniau	PhD Candidate / Project Assistant CIRAD (Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement Environnement et Société / Forêts et Société	Tel.: +33 467593923 Mob.: +33 750806564 christophe.deniau@cirad.fr
France	Dr Sebastien Le Bel	Rechercheur CIRAD (Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement)	Tel.: +33 666158445 sebastien.le_bel@cirad.fr
Germany / Allemagne	Dr Wolfgang Fiedler	Scientist Max Planck Institute for Ornithology	Tel.: +49 7732150160 fiedler@orn.mpg.de
Nigeria / Nigéria	Prof Ulf Ottosson	Senior Lecturer AP Leventis Ornithological Research Institute	Tel.: +46 702279073 ulfottossonlux@gmail.com
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Mr Tony Carnie	Environment Journalist (Freelance)	Mob.: +27 827817904 tony.carnie@gmail.com
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Ms Sonto Mayise	Acting Chief Convention Bureau Officer KZN Convention Bureau	Mob.: +27 825737349 sonto@zulu.org.za
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Mr Sihe Ndlazi	KZN Convention Bureau CB Officer	Tel.: +27 3136667517 Mob.: +27 740499219 sihen@zulu.org.za
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Mr Nhlanhla	SABC Radio News	Tel.: +27 631125613 Mob.: +27 31 362 5442 lwandle1617@gmail.com
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Ms Elizabeth Adetola Oyewo-Umoh	Journalist SMME NEWs Media	Tel.: +27 610714433 Mob.: +27 610714433 ollytola@yahoo.com
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Prof Leslie Gordon Underhill	University of Cape Town	Tel.: +27 21 72 062 1140 les.underhill@uct.ac.za
Uganda / Ouganda	Mr Robert Baluku	Principal Uganda Wildlife Research and Training Institute	Tel.: +256 393240143 Mob.: +256 773416069 robbaluku@gmail.com
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland / Royaume Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord	Dr Claire Felicity Rose Wordley	Postdoctoral Research Associate Conservation Evidence University of Cambridge Department of Zoology	Tel.: +44 7958512056 cfw41@cam.ac.uk
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland / Royaume Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord	Dr Rob Sheldon	Director RDS Conservation	Tel.: +44 7901854194 vanellus1970@yahoo.co.uk
United Republic of Tanzania / République-Unie de Tanzanie	Dr Hamadi I. Dulle	Lecturer and Head of Wildlife Management Department College of African Wildlife Management, Mweka	Tel.: +255 692 883 333 Mob.: +255 682 594436 Fax: +255 27 2974133 hdulle@mwekawildlife.ac.tz
United Republic of Tanzania / République-Unie de Tanzanie	Dr Ally Nkwabi	Country Coordinator International Waterbirds Count Department of Wildlife Research Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI)	Tel.: +255 272548240 Mob.: +255 769958177 Fax: +255 272548240 ally.nkwabi@tawiri.or.tz

Country / Pays	Name / Nom	Organisation	Contact details / Coordonnées
France	Dr Sebastien Le Bel	Rechercheur CIRAD	Tel.: +33 666158445 sebastien.le_bel@cirad.fr
Germany / Allemagne	Dr Wolfgang Fiedler	Scientist Max Planck Institute for Ornithology	Tel.: +49 7732150160 fiedler@orn.mpg.de
Nigeria / Nigéria	Prof Ulf Ottosson	Senior Lecturer AP Leventis Ornithological Research Institute	Tel.: +46 702279073 ulfottossonlux@gmail.com
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Ms Sonto Mayise	Acting Chief Convention Bureau Officer KZN Convention Bureau	Mob.: +27 825737349 sonto@zulu.org.za
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Mr Sihe Ndlazi	KZN Convention Bureau CB Officer	Tel.: +27 3136667517 Mob.: +27 740499219 sihen@zulu.org.za
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Mr Nhlanhla	SABC Radio News	Tel.: +27 631125613 Mob.: +27 31 362 5442 lwandle1617@gmail.com
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Ms Elizabeth Adetola Oyewo-Umoh	Journalist SMME NEWS Media	Tel.: +27 610714433 Mob.: +27 610714433 ollytola@yahoo.com
South Africa / Afrique du Sud	Prof Leslie Gordon Underhill	University of Cape Town	Tel.: +27 21 72 062 1140 les.underhill@uct.ac.za
Uganda / Ouganda	Mr Robert Baluku	Principal Uganda Wildlife Research and Training Institute	Tel.: +256 393240143 Mob.: +256 773416069 robbaluku@gmail.com
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland / Royaume Uni de Grande- Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord	Dr Claire Felicity Rose Wordley	Postdoctoral Research Associate Conservation Evidence University of Cambridge Department of Zoology	Tel.: +44 7958512056 cfw41@cam.ac.uk
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland / Royaume Uni de Grande- Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord	Dr Rob Sheldon	Director RDS Conservation	Tel.: +44 7901854194 vanelus1970@yahoo.co.uk
United Republic of Tanzania / République-Unie de Tanzanie	Dr Hamadi I. Dulle	Lecturer and Head of Wildlife Management Department College of African Wildlife Management, Mweka	Tel.: +255 692 883 333 Mob.: +255 682 594436 Fax: +255 27 2974133 hdulle@mwekawildlife.ac.tz
United Republic of Tanzania / République-Unie de Tanzanie	Dr Ally Nkwabi	Country Coordinator International Waterbirds Count Department of Wildlife Research Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI)	Tel.: +255 272548240 Mob.: +255 769958177 Fax: +255 272548240 ally.nkwabi@tawiri.or.tz

UNEP/AEWA SECRETARIAT / SECRÉTARIAT PNUE/AEWA

Country / Pays	Name / Nom	Organisation	Contact details / Coordonnées
Germany / Allemagne	Dr Jacques Trouvilliez	Executive Secretary UNEP/AEWA Secretariat	Tel.: +49 2288152414 Fax: +49 2288152450 Mob.: +49 151 145 713 25 jacques.trouvilliez@unep-aewa.org
Germany / Allemagne	Mr Sergey Dereliev	Head of the Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit UNEP/AEWA Secretariat	Tel.: +49 2288152415 Mob.: +49 151 167 890 84 Fax: +49 2288152450 sergey.dereliev@unep-aewa.org
Germany / Allemagne	Ms Jeannine Dicken	Programme Management Assistant Implementation and Compliance Unit UNEP/AEWA Secretariat Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit	Tel.: +49 228 8152455 Fax: +49 228 8152450 jeannine.dicken@unep-aewa.org
Germany / Allemagne	Ms Birgit Drerup	Programme Management Assistant African Initiative Unit UNEP/AEWA Secretariat	Tel.: +49 2288152412 Fax: +49 2288152450 birgit.drerup@unep-aewa.org
Germany / Allemagne	Ms Christina Irven	Programme Management Assistant Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit UNEP/AEWA Secretariat Science	Tel.: +49 228 8152464 Fax: +49 228 8152450 christina.irven@unep-aewa.org
Germany / Allemagne	Ms Marie-Therese Kämper	Administrative Assistant Executive Management Unit UNEP/AEWA Secretariat	Tel.: +49 2288152413 Mob.: +49 175 5700056 Fax: +49 2288152450 mt.kaemper@unep-aewa.org
Germany / Allemagne	Mr Florian Keil	Information Officer Joint Communication Team IMCA UNEP/AEWA Secretariat	Tel.: +49 228 815 2451 Mob.: +49 151 147 016 33 Fax: +49 2288152450 florian.keil@unep-aewa.org
Germany / Allemagne	Ms Catherine Lehmann	Executive Management Support Officer Executive Management Unit UNEP/AEWA Secretariat	Tel.: +49 2288152453 Mob.: +49 151 140 82219 Fax: +49 2288152450 catherine.lehmann@unep-aewa.org
Germany / Allemagne	Ms Eva Meyers	Associate Programme Management Officer Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit UNEP/AEWA Secretariat	Tel.: +49 228 815 2457 Mob.: +49 171 838 5691 Fax: +49 228 815 2450 eva.meyers@unep-aewa.org
Germany / Allemagne	Ms Nina Mikander	Associate Programme Officer Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit UNEP/AEWA Secretariat	Mob.: +49 15165611240 Fax: +49 2288152450 nina.mikander@unep-aewa.org
Germany / Allemagne	Ms Evelyn Moloko	Coordinator for the AEWA African Initiative African Initiative Unit UNEP/AEWA Secretariat	Tel.: +49 2288152479 Mob.: +49 151 145 713 86 Fax: +49 2288152450 evelyn.moloko@unep-aewa.org
Germany / Allemagne	Ms Dunia Sforzin	Information Assistant Joint Communication Team IMCA UNEP/AEWA Secretariat	Tel.: +49 228 8152454 Fax: +49 2288152450 dunia.sforzin@unep-aewa.org

UNEP/CMS SECRETARIAT / SECRÉTARIAT PNUE/CMS

Country / Pays	Name / Nom	Organisation	Contact details / Coordonnées
Germany / Allemagne	Mr Aydin Bahramlouian	Consultant Joint Communication Unit IMCA UNEP/CMS Secretariat	Tel.: +49 2288152428 aydin.bahramlouian@cms.int
Germany / Allemagne	Ms Catherine Brueckner	Conference Services Secretary Conference Services Unit UNEP/CMS Secretariat	Tel.: +49 228815 2486 catherine.brueckner@cms.int
Germany / Allemagne	Ms Tine Lindberg- Roncari	Meeting Services Assistant Conference Services Unit UNEP/CMS Secretariat	Tel.: + 49 2288152493 tine.l-roncari@cms.int
Germany / Allemagne	Mr Mayar Manssour	Finance and Budget Assistant Administration & Fund Management Unit UNEP/CMS Secretariat	Tel.: +49 2288152408 mayar.manssour@cms.int
Germany / Allemagne	Ms Barbara Schoenberg	Secretary Executive Management Unit UNEP/CMS Secretariat	Tel.: +49 228 815 2406 barbara.schoenberg@cms.int

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS / VOLONTAIRES DES NATIONS UNIES

Country / Pays	Name / Nom	Organisation	Contact details / Coordonnées
Germany / Allemagne	Mr Thilan Mannan	Infrastructure Assistant IT United Nations Volunteers	+Tel.: 49 228815 2225 Mob.: +49 152 0152 22226 thilan.mannan@unv.org

INTERPRETERS AND REPORT WRITERS / INTERPRÈTES ET RAPPORTEURS

Country / Pays	Name / Nom	Organisation	Contact details / Coordonnées
Switzerland / Suisse	Ms Starr Pirot	Conference Interpreter	Tel.: +41 223682067 Mob.: +41 796117462 s.pirot@aiic.net
France	Ms Anne-Marie Arbaji-Sfeir	Conference Interpreter	Tel.: +33 147681692 Mob.: +33 631168513 arbajianna@gmail.com
France	Ms Odile Montpetit	Conference Interpreter	Tel.: +33 628067330 odile.montpetit@gmail.com
France	Ms Claudine Pierson	Conference Interpreter	Tel.: +33 685057326 Mob.: +33 685057326 claudine.louise.pierson@gmail.com
France	Ms Lara Rivard	Conference Interpreter	Tel.: +33 629893843 lararivard@hotmail.com
France	Ms Claire-Emmanuelle Weyland	Conference Interpreter	Tel.: +41 793622467 ceweyland@hotmail.com
Netherlands / Pays-Bas	Mr Simon Delany	Consultant, Report Writer Delany Environmental	Tel. +31 488 441 036 Mob.: +31 655 684 550 simondelany3@gmail.com
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland / Royaume Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord	Mr Tim Jones	Report Writer	Tel. +44 7866 456575 tim.jones@djenvironmental.com

7th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

04-08 December 2018, Durban, South Africa

ANNEX 5

LIST OF PRE-SESSION DOCUMENTS

Document Number	Agenda item	I. Document Title	Language Availability ⁴⁸			
MEETING DOCUMENTS						
AEWA/MOP 7.1 Rev.2	-	Provisional List of Documents	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP 7.2	2	Rules of Procedure for the Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP 7.3	4	Provisional Agenda	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP 7.4 Rev.2	4	Provisional Annotated Agenda and Meeting Schedule	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP 7.5 Rev.1	6	Admission of Observers	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP 7.6	9a	Report of the Standing Committee	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP 7.7 Rev.1	9b	Report of the Technical Committee to the 7 th Session of the Meeting of the Parties	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP 7.8	9c	Report of the Depositary	E	✓	F	✓

⁴⁸ The Secretariat will endeavour to have as many documents as possible translated into French, depending on the resources available.

Document Number	Agenda item	I. Document Title	Language Availability ⁴⁸			
AEWA/MOP 7.9 Corr. 1	9d	Report of the Secretariat	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP 7.10	10	Report on the Implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009 - 2018	E	✓	F	x
AEWA/MOP 7.11	11	Report on the Implementation of the African Initiative and the Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2018	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP 7.12	12	Analysis of the AEWA National Reports for the Triennium 2015-2017	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP 7.13	13	Report on the Implementation of the AEWA Communication Strategy	E	✓	F	x
AEWA/MOP 7.14 Corr.1	14	Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds in the Agreement Area (CSR7) - 7 th Edition	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP 7.15	15	Draft AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP 7.16	16	Draft AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027 - A Guide to the Implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 in the African Region	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP 7.17	15/16	Draft Format for National Reports on the Implementation of AEWA 2018-2020	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP 7.18 Rev.1	17	Implementation Review Process – Report to MOP7	E	✓	F	x
AEWA/MOP 7.19	18	Proposals to the 7 th Session of the Meeting of the Parties for Amendments to Annexes 2 and 3 of AEWA	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP 7.20	18	Proposal to Amend the Definition of Significant Long-term Decline and Establish a Criterion on Short-term Decline to Apply when Classifying Populations in Table 1 of Annex 3 of the Agreement	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP 7.21	19	Summary of the Current Status of Single Species Action and Management Plan Production and Coordination with Recommendations to MOP for Extension, Revision or Retirement	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP 7.22	19	Draft Revised Format and Guidelines for AEWA International Single and Multi-species Action Plans	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP 7.23	19	Draft AEWA/EU International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Velvet Scoter (<i>Melanitta fusca</i>) - Western Siberia & Northern Europe/NW Europe Population	E	✓	F	x
AEWA/MOP 7.24	19	Draft Revised CMS/AEWA/EU International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the White-headed Duck (<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>)	E	✓	F	x

AEWA/MOP 7.25	19	Draft CMS/AEWA/EU/EAAFP International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Dalmatian Pelican (<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>)	E	✓	F	x
AEWA/MOP 7.26	19	Draft AEWA International Single Species Management Plan for the Barnacle Goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>)	E	✓	F	x
AEWA/MOP 7.27	19	Draft AEWA International Single Species Management Plan for the Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) - NW/SW European Population	E	✓	F	x
AEWA/MOP 7.28	20	Report on Plastics and Waterbirds: Incidence and Impacts	E	✓	F	x
AEWA/MOP 7.29 Rev.1	20	Advice on AEWA Priorities for Seabird Conservation	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP 7.30	20	Draft Guide to Guidance to Reduce the Impact of Fisheries on AEWA Seabirds Species	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP 7.31	21	Report on the Development of Waterbird Monitoring along the African-Eurasian Flyways	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP 7.32	22	Draft Guidance on Satisfying the Conditions of Paragraph 2.1.3 of the AEWA Action Plan	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP 7.33	22	Draft Guidance on AEWA's Provisions on Non-native Species	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP 7.34	22	Guidance on Taking a Systematic Approach to Responding to Waterbird Declines: A Checklist of Potential Actions	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP 7.35	22	Draft Revised AEWA Conservation Guidelines on Waterbird Monitoring (AEWA Conservation Guidelines No.9)	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP 7.36 Rev.2	25	Report of the Secretariat on Finance and Administrative Issues 2016-2018	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP 7.37 Rev.1	25	Draft Scale of Contributions for 2019-2021	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP 7.38	25	Draft Budget Proposal for the Triennium 2019-2021	E	✓	F	✓
DRAFT RESOLUTIONS						
AEWA/MOP7 DR1	15/16	Draft Resolution on Adoption and Implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa for the Period 2019-2027	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP7 DR2 Rev.1	10/15/16	Draft Resolution on AEWA's Contribution to the Aichi Targets and Relevance of the Sustainable Development Goals	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP7 DR3	18	Draft Resolution on Adoption of Amendments to the AEWA Annexes	E	✓	F	✓

AEWA/MOP7 DR4	18	Draft Resolution on the Adoption and Amendments of definitions and Interpretation of Terms Used in the Context of Table 1 of the AEWA Annex 3	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP7 DR5	19	Draft Resolution on Adoption, Revision, Retirement, Extension and Implementation of International Species Action and Management Plans	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP7 DR6	20	Priorities for the Conservation of Seabirds in the African-Eurasian Flyways	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP7 DR7	21	Draft Resolution on Strengthening Monitoring of Migratory Waterbirds	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP7 DR8	22	Draft Resolution on the Adoption of Guidance in the Context of Implementation of the AEWA Action Plan	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP7 DR9 Rev.1	23	Draft Resolution on Climate Resilient Flyways	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP7 DR10	24a	Draft Resolution on Institutional Arrangements: Standing Committee	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP7 DR11 Rev.1	24b	Draft Resolution on Institutional Arrangements: Technical Committee	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP7 DR12	25	Draft Resolution on Financial and Administrative Matters	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP7 DR13	28	Draft Resolution on Date, Venue and Funding of the 8 th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP7 DR14	30	Draft Resolution on Tribute to the Organizers	E	✓	F	✓
INFORMATION DOCUMENTS						
AEWA/MOP7 Inf.1	-	Participants Information Sheet	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP7 Inf.2	25	UNEP/AEWA Secretariat: Review of Job Classification	E	✓	F	x
AEWA/MOP7 Inf.3	-	Provisional List of Participants	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP7 Inf.4	-	United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) Security Briefing for Durban, South Africa	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP7 Inf.5	-	MOP7 In-session Document Procedure	E	✓	F	✓
AEWA/MOP7 Inf.6	-	Information for Funded Delegates	E	✓	F	✓

PART II

STATEMENTS

(REPRODUCED IN THE FORM SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARIAT)

STATEMENTS MADE DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY

United Nations Environment Programme Statement at the Seventh 7th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP7) to Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) 4-8 December 2018, Durban, South Africa

Distinguished delegates, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.

Firstly, please allow me to express the appreciation of the Executive Management of UN Environment to the Meeting of the Parties Presidency as well as the hosting Government of South Africa, for their instrumental support for the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds. Congratulations to the 77 Parties for joining the Convention including the most recent ratifications from Belarus and Botswana.

And of course, UN Environment wishes to thank the donors to the agreement for their commitment to conserving migratory waterbirds species and their flyways and the many international organizations, nations, civil societies and communities who are undertaking considerable efforts towards implementing the agreement and protecting nearly half a billion waterbirds and seabirds across the African-Eurasian Flyway.

MOP 7 has a challenging agenda and workplan with an impressive number of draft resolutions that lie ahead for this week, and one cannot but stand by and applaud the remarkable efforts undertaken by the Secretariat and its few staff with limited financial resources, in undertaking this extensive work, especially in reviewing and consolidating the species conservation plans, the provision of guidance and the preparations for this global meeting.

It is also worth noting the upward trend for migratory waterbirds from the recent findings of the 7th Edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Review of Migratory Waterbirds in the Agreement Area, and thanks to targeted conservation measures by countries along the birds' migration routes across countries and continents. Currently more than 60 per cent of populations of the species covered by AEWA are stable or increasing. This is despite the accelerating global negative trends in biodiversity loss that was confirmed at the latest CBD COP 14, UN Biodiversity Conference, in Sharm Al Sheikh, Egypt where many parties and organizations underscored cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions and other international organizations to plan and implement the post-2020 biodiversity Framework. Another global biodiversity convention, The Ramsar Convention on wetlands also concluded successfully in Dubai, UAE, with noted efforts with the AEWA agreement. All these events highlighted

importance of biodiversity and ecosystems to achieve sustainable development and the need to invest and Mainstream of biodiversity in the energy and mining; industry; infrastructure and health sectors”.

Multilateral Environmental Agreements and related frameworks form the overarching international legal basis that supports governments and other stakeholders in addressing environmental issues and sustainable development. Promoting synergies and cooperation with other conventions is key at the global, regional and national levels to achieve efficiency and mobilize resources. Now it would be useful for us to reflect on why we’re here, and what the challenges and opportunities lie ahead for AEWA especially in the context of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals. Through the SDGs targets and indicators, the 2030 agenda promises high political commitment, lays out a road map and framework for sectors’ integration, biodiversity governance, and building partnerships for policy coherence mainstreaming environmental protection and socio-economic development, strengthening scientific knowledge and gender mainstreaming among many things.

At UN Environment, we attach enormous importance to the AEWA agreement, and our role to oversee the effective functioning of the Secretariat. UN Environment has now fully implemented the resolution 2/18 on “Relationships between the United Nations Environment Programme and Multilateral Environmental Agreements for which it provides the secretariat”, adopted by the second session of the UN Environment Assembly in May 2016, and submitted a report to the 13th Standing Committee of AEWA in July 2018. We will continue to engage with the Secretariat and provide support on administrative and financial management of the Agreement. Substantial voluntary contributions have been allocated to the AEWA Secretariat, nevertheless, in the absence of a financial mechanism for the agreement, more innovative approaches are needed today in mobilizing financial resources including work with the private sector, and other global mechanisms to meet the growing agenda of the Secretariat.

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolutions also open the opportunity for coherent action and engaging through the World Migratory Birds Day campaign and inform the ongoing discussions of the new AEAWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 for consideration by the Parties at MOP7. In line with the theme of the 2017 UN Environment Assembly, “Towards a Pollution-Free Planet”, UN Environment Member States and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) are now contributing to the “Pollution Implementation Plan” to fight

pollution. The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species and AEWA have actively engaged in this process and revealed the impact of pollution from marine debris, oil spills, contaminants and wastes on migratory species and their objectives have been expanded to include reduction of the impact of pollution on migratory species. Now we invite you to join us in preparing for the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) to take place in March 2019, with the theme, 'Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production (SCP).

I wish all a good week and fruitful discussions. Thank you.

Diane Klaimi

UN Environment, Law Division

Opening statement of the European Union

Mister Chairman, distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

In this meeting, Estonia, as an acting Presidency of the Council of the European Union on behalf of Austria, has the honour to be speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

We wish to express our gratitude to the Government of South-Africa, for its generosity and hospitality in hosting this meeting and for the very warm welcome we have all received from the local authorities and the people of Durban.

The slogan of the meeting is “Beyond 2020- shaping flyway conservation for the future”. It reflects beautifully a central objective of the meeting- the approval of the new Strategic Plan for 2019 to 2027.

The EU is committed to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and has strong dedicated legislation – The EU Birds Directive – providing for their conservation and sustainable use in its Member States. However, AEWA is a critically important instrument for us in the EU to strengthen collaboration along the flyways, including with our African partners, for our shared heritage of waterbirds and we therefore welcome in particular the new Action Plan for Africa.

The AEWA MOP7 here in Durban will give an important input to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework through these strategic documents. We look forward to working with all Parties on an ambitious but realistic and achievable follow-up to the current Strategic Plan, taking into account the lessons learnt from the previous period. This decision should provide for making real progress towards achieving the objectives of our Agreement and the SDGs as well as strong commitments of Parties and all other relevant stakeholders to spur its implementation. Through such action we will significantly advance the conservation and restoration of biodiversity and the vital life support services it provides. As 2020 is just around the corner we need to make every effort to achieve our agreed goals. The European Union and its MS are fully committed to this process.

The EU and its MS welcome the work that has been carried out on the international single species action and management plans. These plans will provide an important framework for the conservation of key migratory bird species, and the habitats that they depend upon throughout their annual migration cycle.

We look forward to working with other Contracting Parties and different stakeholder groups, in order to make significant progress on the conservation of migratory birds.

Finally, we would like to extend our thanks and congratulations to the Secretariat, the Technical Committee and the Standing Committee for all their work in preparing for this MOP. We are looking forward to engaging actively and constructively in the discussions over the coming days to ensure that this 7th meeting of the parties is a success that delivers tangible results.

The agenda for this MOP provides a real opportunity for a meaningful and successful outcome. It is in our hands to achieve this goal.

Thank you.

OPENING STATEMENT OF THE AFRICA GROUP

On behalf of the Africa contracting Parties to AEWA, I wish to congratulate the people and Government of the Republic of South Africa on hosting AEWA MoP7 in this beautiful city of Durban. I congratulate you MoP7 Chair upon your election.

Since the MoP is being held in Africa Region, I wish to welcome the rest of the AEWA Regions to beautiful Africa.

Africa looks at MoP7 with optimism that this MoP will indeed shape the flyway conservation for the future. As the world looks at striking a new deal for nature beyond 2020, we should in this meeting strike a new deal for migratory water birds that will be part of the global new deal for nature.

Africa region remains committed to the tenets and objects of African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement and to that end calls upon all contracting parties to work towards maintaining migratory water birds in a favorable conservation status. To this end, we call upon all AEWA contracting parties to support approval and financing of AEWA Plan of Action for Africa which is a blue print for water bird conservation in Africa.

As we move towards adopting the new deal for migratory water birds inform of AEWA Strategic Plan, we need to commit reasonable resources to support implementation of this new deal for water birds.

We know that the economic situation globally may not be the best, however, losing migratory water birds may actually worsen the economic situation since these are a source of livelihoods and in some cases source of direct economic development.

The 7th edition of the conservation status review indicates mixed positive and negative performance. What is clear however is we can get a net positive conservation outcome if we strive for waterbirds within the framework of AEWA.

The region looks forward to meaningful engagements throughout MoP7 with the aim of making a positive difference in the conservation status of migratory water birds.

Thank you.

Barirega Akankwasah, PhD
Republic of Uganda
For and on behalf of Africa Region

**STATEMENT BY THE WINNER OF THE AEWA WATERBIRD
CONSERVATION AWARD 2018 IN THE INSTITUTIONAL CATEGORY**

Winner of the AEWA Conservation Award 2018 in the Institutional Category:

Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)

It is really a great pleasure and honor to receive the AEWA Conservation Award on behalf of the Nature Conservation Sector (NCS) of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA). The 2018 Award means a lot to me as the new Egyptian National Focal Point and to the NCS as well. To the NCS, it was really a challenge to be awarded such award while it is the governmental implementing authority of the AEWA.

NCS is the Egyptian governmental body that is responsible for managing and conserving the natural resources and biodiversity. It is also the competent administrative authority for implementing all the international environmental agreements related to biodiversity conservation including AEWA (with exception of CITES).

Egypt has been taking care of the wetlands, particularly the northern lakes. Few years ago, EEAA has initiated coordinated and collaborative efforts to sustainably manage the coastal zones and wetlands. These efforts resulted in the launch of a national program to save the Egyptian lakes. NCS has initiated and implemented many studies and census surveys aiming at improving our understanding of all the factors affecting the conservation of waterbirds and wetlands resources and thus enhancing the decision-making process related to sustainable management of waterbirds and hunting activities. The EEAA/NCS efforts have been complemented by valuable contributions of two projects, the RESSOURCE Project and the Sustainable Bird Hunting along the Mediterranean Coast Project.

In fact, awarding the 2018 award to NCS as one of the governmental AEWA implementing agencies is expected to encourage other counterpart agencies to keep working hard for the sake of waterbirds.

To NCS, this award means that we are on the right track to sustainably manage waterbirds and their habitats and it also give us the motive for further actions. Therefore, NCS is confirming its commitment to the conservation and sustainable use of waterbirds and wetlands resources.

Finally, I would like to thank the AEWA family for their trust and the RESSOURCE Project and its technical partners and the Sustainable Bird Hunting Project for the support.

STATEMENT BY THE HONORARY PATRON OF AEWA (2018)

Distinguished Delegates, Friends

Thank you so much for this honour. Nothing could give me greater personal pleasure than to have this formal association with Gerard Boere, the Patron of, Father to, the Agreement, whose energy did so much to bring AEWA into existence. I very much consider myself a subsidiary Patron!

My association with the Agreement extends almost over my working life, from early discussions in the 1980s to the present, where it is lovely to be back again in South Africa, nearly 20 years after the first Meeting of Parties. In those years, AEWA has gone from strength to strength. When just 22 Parties met in Cape Town, it didn't seem possible that two decades later, they would be joined by a further 55 from across the entire Agreement area, from the high arctic to here at the southernmost terminus of African Eurasian migration systems.

And there are more signatories to come....

As well as gaining coverage across a significant extent of the Agreement area, AEWA is supported by an active Secretariat with talented and deeply committed staff – acting as the vital organs of the Agreement.

AEWA has grown taxonomically as well as geographically. Migratory seabirds have latterly been brought within its scope, and progressively – as will be discussed – their conservation needs are being considered.

And latest assessment presented in the *Conservation Status Review* – the detail of which we will hear later today – indicates that AEWA is making a real difference.

The strength of the treaty is not just its focus on actions for endangered species - crucially important though these are. It is unusually wide vision seeks to address multiple issues related to waterbirds – and not just through traditional conservation models.

For example, the Agreement created a framework for the close involvement of the hunting community as a key element of its mission. From cautious beginnings in the early negotiations, hunting organisations now contribute significantly not only to AEWA's technical

work, but importantly, also to implementing practical conservation actions ‘on-the-ground’, such as seeking to eliminate the use of lead gunshot from wetlands – an activity that, as is known, results in significant additional mortality for many waterbirds (and indeed other species).

AEWA has yet further scope.

It has always seen education and awareness building amongst the public as a core activity – pioneering World Migratory Bird Day since 2006 and developing a wide variety of outreach materials. People need birds, and birds need people to do the right things.

Yet sometimes the interactions between birds and people go wrong, and AEWA’s role in helping to address and resolve conflicts between waterbirds and human interests has always been a key element. Whilst perhaps not being seen as highest priority in early years, recent initiatives such as the European Goose Management Platform have the scope to make a real difference in addressing acute conflicts with other interests. We urgently need to learn lessons from other parts of the world – such as from North America – where belated policy responses to rapidly increasing goose populations in particular, have had major economic and other consequences. The Action Plans to be considered at this MOP have scope to help resolve such problems.

Yet the central focus of the Agreement will always remain the restoration of threatened populations that are in decline. And such activity is needed more urgently than ever.

AEWA has come such a long way, but there is further to go...

‘Our’ waterbirds face threats at so many scales.

- Locally, through impacts at key sites.
- Through the more profound problems arising from widescale degradation and loss of habitat.
- And from the global and multi-faceted consequences of climate change whose effects remain difficult to predict.

The Preamble to the Agreement - **Recognises** "the need to take immediate action to stop the decline of migratory waterbird species and their habitats ...;"

Never has there been more of a need for a Strategic Plan that is ambitious in its vision and scope – and recognising that need for immediacy.

As we look to the future, it is critical that **all** those involved with AEWA significantly step-up their actions to ensure that future landscapes still contain waterbirds.

An ambitious AEWA with committed signatories can help bring that about.

Thank you once again

David Stroud

STATEMENT MADE DURING THE OFFICIAL CLOSING CEREMONY

Closing statement of the European Union

Mister Chairman, distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, the European Commission has the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

We wish to express our sincere thanks to the Government and people of South Africa for their excellent hosting of this meeting and also for providing us with the opportunity to experience at first hand the magnificent nature and culture of your country. We would like to express our warm gratitude to the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Meeting as well as of the working groups and to the AEWA Secretariat for all the work they have undertaken in helping make this MOP a success.

This has been an important and timely meeting. While the EU and its Member States remain committed to progress towards achieving the 2020 biodiversity targets, the central theme of this conference on 'Beyond 2020- shaping flyway conservation for the future' has provided all contracting parties to AEWA with a real opportunity to shape our future common agenda.

The adoption of the new Strategic Plan for 2019 to 2027 and the Plan for Africa are therefore major milestones in providing a framework for cooperation and future action. These Plans capture the key challenges for successful conservation and sustainable use, ranging from strengthening knowledge and the science base to ensuring a strong legal underpinning and sound governance mechanisms.

The success in their delivery is dependent on the commitment of many people as well as on assuring the necessary resources to promote compliance with implementation of the Agreement. This requires important financial resources. We have had discussions on the budget at this MOP, which underline the need to have clear priorities for action so that we focus limited resources on the most pressing and important conservation priorities. Together with the AEWA secretariat, the EU and its Member States will need to examine ways to support delivering key elements of the Plan, including through possible voluntary contributions. In this regard a key EU priority is supporting the development of capacity building, training and action in Africa.

Ultimately the success of conservation is determined by practical action. The work of AEWA on species action plans is a core delivery mechanism. Important progress has been made at this MOP in relation to adopting plans, including for several successful waterbird species that come into conflict with human interests. Such management work is important but we also particularly welcome the recognition at this MOP that the main focus on species action planning has to be on species in decline. The European Union and its Member States are committed to continue to strengthening our partnership with AEWA in developing and implementing species action plans, including, where relevant, involving adaptive harvest management approaches for huntable species to ensure that any use of waterbirds is sustainable.

The conservation and wise use of wetlands is central to delivery of the flyway objective of AEWA. The earlier work developed under the 'Wings over Wetlands' project and other initiatives to identify important wetlands for migratory waterbirds remain highly relevant. The EU and its Member States have established a network of Special Protection Areas under the EU Birds Directive, although much work is still needed for its effective management. We look forward to action to strengthen the networks of protected wetland areas along the flyways of species and that this is done in ways that also benefits local communities who live in and depend upon these areas.

There is a great deal of work ahead of us all to achieve the objectives of AEWA and advancing the conservation of our shared heritage of waterbirds. The EU and its Member States looks forward to meeting this challenge. Finally, as Hungary has offered to host the next meeting of the Parties, the EU and its Member States very much look forward to welcoming you all to Budapest in 2021.

UNEP/AEWA Secretariat
UN Campus
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1
53113 Bonn
Germany
Tel.: +49 (0)228 815 2413
Fax: +49 (0)228 815 2450
aewa.secretariat@unep-aewa.org
www.unep-aewa.org

