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“Beyond 2020: Shaping flyway conservation for the future”

FINAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AEWA STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2018

Compiled by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat for the AEWA Standing Committee

Summary

The AEWA Strategic Plan for the period 2009-2017 was adopted by MOP4 in 2008. Through Resolution 6.14 MOP6 in 2015 extended the longevity of the Strategic Plan until MOP7 in 2018. Previously, the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat has compiled two reports on the progress of implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Standing Committee, for the periods 2009-2011 and 2012-2015, which were submitted to MOP5 in 2012 and MOP6 in 2015 respectively. The current report represents the final and concluding report on the implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2018.

To achieve the Strategic Plan goal, five objectives have been set, each with its associated targets, amounting to 26 altogether. The targets are measured by 35 quantifiable indicators. Another 12 indicators have been assigned to measure the overall progress towards the goal. This report has been produced on the basis of the Strategic Plan Logical Framework. The assessments are drawn from various sources, predominantly other MOP7 documents. Each target or indicator has been assessed and placed in one of six categories.

The achievement of the overall Strategic Plan goal is described as highly insufficient. The thresholds of half of the indicators have not been reached and due to unavailability of data 34% of indicators have not been assessed. The threshold of only one indicator (8%) was reached and on another one (8%) it was nearly reached.

The overall progress towards achieving the Strategic Plan objectives was ranked as average but has had a consistently improving trend over the period of Strategic Plan implementation. Altogether 30% of targets have either been *achieved* (11%) or *significant progress* has been registered (19%). More than a quarter (27%) of the indicators have been assessed as showing *good progress* and the remaining have shown only *limited progress* (31%) or have *not been assessed* (12%).

Amongst the five objectives none is outstanding in terms of reaching its associated targets, but Objective 2 has the highest score with 80% of the targets either *reached* (20%, 1 target), or showing *significant* (20%, 1 target) or *good* (40%, 2 targets) *progress*. All objectives demonstrated an increasing trend towards reaching their targets over the period of Strategic Plan implementation apart from Objective 4, which was constant.

A detailed overview was made of the achievement of each objective and its associated targets and the report concludes with carry over recommendations for the implementation of the new AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, which will require significantly increased cooperation, resources, capacity and focused input.

A discrepancy has been identified between the overall average implementation of the Strategic Plan, even if with a consistently increasing trend over the decade, and the highly insufficient achievement of the goal of the Plan. This discrepancy points to the need to allocate more attention to targets that can directly influence the status of the AEWA waterbird populations.

Introduction

The AEWA Strategic Plan for the period 2009-2017 was adopted in 2008 by the 4th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) through Resolution 4.7. Later in 2015, through Resolution 6.14, MOP6 extended the longevity of the Strategic Plan until MOP7 in 2018. The Strategic Plan aims at providing the context for implementation of the Agreement, putting forward a medium-term perspective, by setting the overall goal, the objectives and targets for a period of nine years (three triennial MOP cycles¹). It is intended to provide coherent and strategic guidance to the Contracting Parties and other stakeholders in their endeavour to act effectively both nationally and regionally, whilst cooperating internationally along the flyways. The Strategic Plan further provides guidance to the AEWA governing bodies (the Meeting of the Parties, the Standing and Technical Committees) and the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat.

Resolution 4.7, amongst others, requested the Standing Committee to monitor the implementation of the Strategic Plan and report progress to each ordinary session of the MOP.

This final and concluding report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2009-2018 has been compiled by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat for the Standing Committee and approved by the Committee for submission to MOP7.

Report structure and approach

The vision put forward in the Strategic Plan is as follows:

'All countries along the African-Eurasian Flyways share viable waterbird populations, and people throughout the region understand, respect, facilitate and sustain the phenomenon of their migration'.

The goal of this Strategic Plan is **to maintain or to restore migratory waterbird species and their populations at a favourable conservation status throughout their flyways** and it sets five related objectives corresponding to the headings of the AEWA Action Plan, each aiming at achieving, respectively, favourable conservation status, sustainable use, increased knowledge, improved communication, and improved cooperation and capacity.

To achieve each objective, a series of targets has been set – three for Objective 4, five for each of Objectives 1, 2 and 3, and eight for Objective 5. Each target is measured by quantifiable indicators, usually one per target, with the exception of Targets 2.1 and 3.1 (two indicators) and Target 4.2 (nine indicators), amounting to 35 in total. Twelve indicators have also been assigned to measure the progress towards achieving the overall goal of the Strategic Plan – eight of which are at the Agreement-wide level and four at the national level. The sources

¹ The cycles between MOP4 and MOP5 as well as between MOP5 and MOP6 were 3.5 years each, which extended the overall Strategic Plan longevity to 10 years.

of data for these indicators have also been identified and have been reflected in the Strategic Plan Logical Framework as ‘means of verification’.

To compile this report, the detailed overview of progress against each target and indicator was produced first, on the basis of the Strategic Plan Logical Framework, which is presented in Tables 3-8. Summaries of progress have been drawn from a number of other MOP7 documents, such as:

- AEW/MOP 7.9 (*Report of the Secretariat*);
- AEW/MOP 7.11 (*Report on the Implementation of the African Initiative and the Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2018*);
- AEW/MOP 7.12 (*Analysis of the AEW National Reports for the Triennium 2015-2017*);
- AEW/MOP 7.13 (*Report on the Implementation of the AEW Communication Strategy*);
- AEW/MOP 7.14 (*7th edition of the AEW Conservation Status Report*);
- AEW/MOP 7.21 (*Summary of the current status of Single Species Action and Species Management Plan production and coordination with recommendations to MOP for extension, revision and retirement*), and
- other documents, as well as some other information sources.

Being the final and concluding report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2009-2018, it builds on the progress reports submitted to MOP5 and MOP6 (documents AEW/MOP 5.11 and AEW/MOP 6.12) as well as the data sources used for the compilation of those reports, mostly various documents submitted to both sessions of the MOP.

Progress towards each indicator or target has been assessed on the basis of the available information and they have been placed in one of the following six categories: *not achieved/not reached/no progress, limited progress, good progress, significant progress, achieved/reached, not assessed*. The overall change since MOP4 (2008) or the earliest assessment after that has been recorded for each indicator.

On the basis of these accounts, an overall assessment was made of the level of achieving the Strategic Plan goal, all objectives as a whole and each objective separately. The major achievements have been acknowledged and the significant gaps have been pointed out. Recommendations for the implementation of the new Strategic Plan for the period 2019-2027 have also been proposed and shall be taken into account by the Parties, the Agreement’s governing bodies, the UNEP/AEW Secretariat and all other involved stakeholders and partners.

Level of achieving the Strategic Plan goal

The Strategic Plan goal follows the Agreement’s fundamental principles (Article II) and aims at **maintaining or restoring migratory waterbird species and their populations at a favourable conservation status throughout their flyways**. The progress towards the overall goal is measured through 12 indicators - eight at the Agreement-wide level and four at the national level. Table 1 presents the distribution of these 12 indicators across the six categories of progress.

	International level	National level	Overall
Not achieved/ no progress	3 / 5 / 6	2 / - / -	5 / 5 / 6
Limited progress	2 / 2 / -	1 / - / -	3 / 2 / -
Good progress	2 / 1 / -		2 / 1 / -
Significant progress	- / - / 1		- / - / 1
Achieved	1 / - / 1		1 / - / 1
Not assessed		1 / 4 / 4	1 / 4 / 4
Overall	8	4	12

Table 1. Number of Strategic Plan goal indicators according to their category of progress. The numbers on the left in black represent the situation at MOP5 in 2012 and MOP6 in 2015 respectively, the number on the right in red represents the current situation at MOP7 (2018).

Overall, the thresholds of half of the indicators have not been reached and in fact the parameters have worsened over the period of the Strategic Plan. The threshold of one indicator (8%) was *reached* and on another one (8%) it was closely missed. Due to unavailability of data, 34% of indicators have *not been assessed* (see Figure 1).

In comparison to the situation at MOP5 in 2012 and MOP6 in 2015 (see Figures 2 and 3) the proportion of not achieved indicators has increased. Altogether four indicators have not been assessed but compared to MOP5 in 2012 when three of them were assessed they were either *not achieved* or with *limited progress* (see Figure 9). Eventually of two of the indicators which were previously assessed as showing *limited progress*, one has now been *achieved* and the other one nearly achieved.

Despite achieving or performing highly on two of the indicators in this final assessment, overall the progress of achieving the goal has been declining throughout the lifespan of the Strategic Plan and the final conclusion is that the goal has been highly insufficiently achieved.

The progress towards achieving the Agreement-wide level indicators (G1-G8) has declined compared to the previous assessments in 2012 and 2015 (see Figures 4-6). The proportion of *not achieved* indicators has increased from 37% in 2012 through 62% in 2015 to 75% in the final assessment in 2018. As in 2012, one indicator is considered *achieved*, although these are different indicators, and one indicator scored *significant progress* for the first time. No indicators have been placed in other categories of progress. The national level indicators (G9-G12) have not been assessed as national reports to MOP7 and MOP6 did not involve reporting on species status (see Figure 7 and 6). However, at MOP5, two of the national level indicators were assessed as *not achieved* and one with *limited progress*.

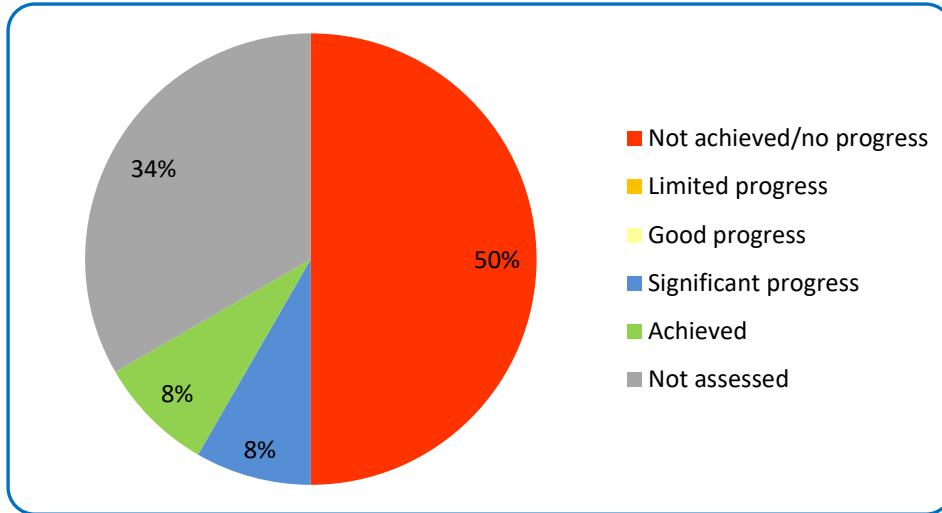


Figure 1. Proportion of Strategic Plan goal indicators per category of progress at MOP7 (2018).

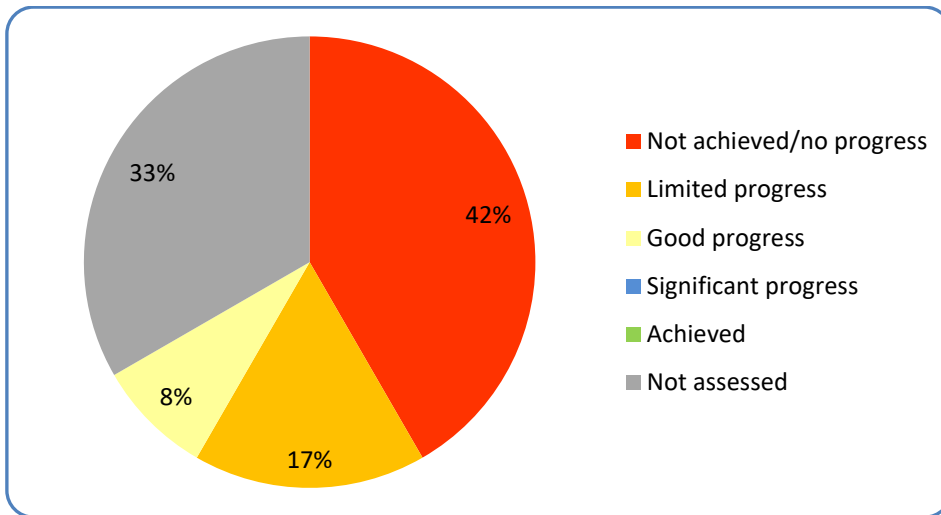


Figure 2. Proportion of Strategic Plan goal indicators per category of progress at MOP6 (2015).

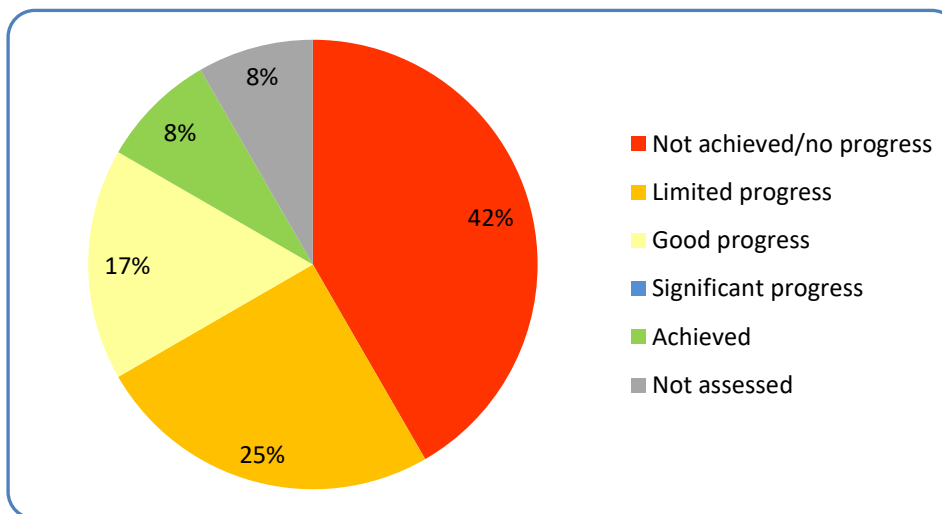


Figure 3. Proportion of Strategic Plan goal indicators per category of progress at MOP5 (2012).

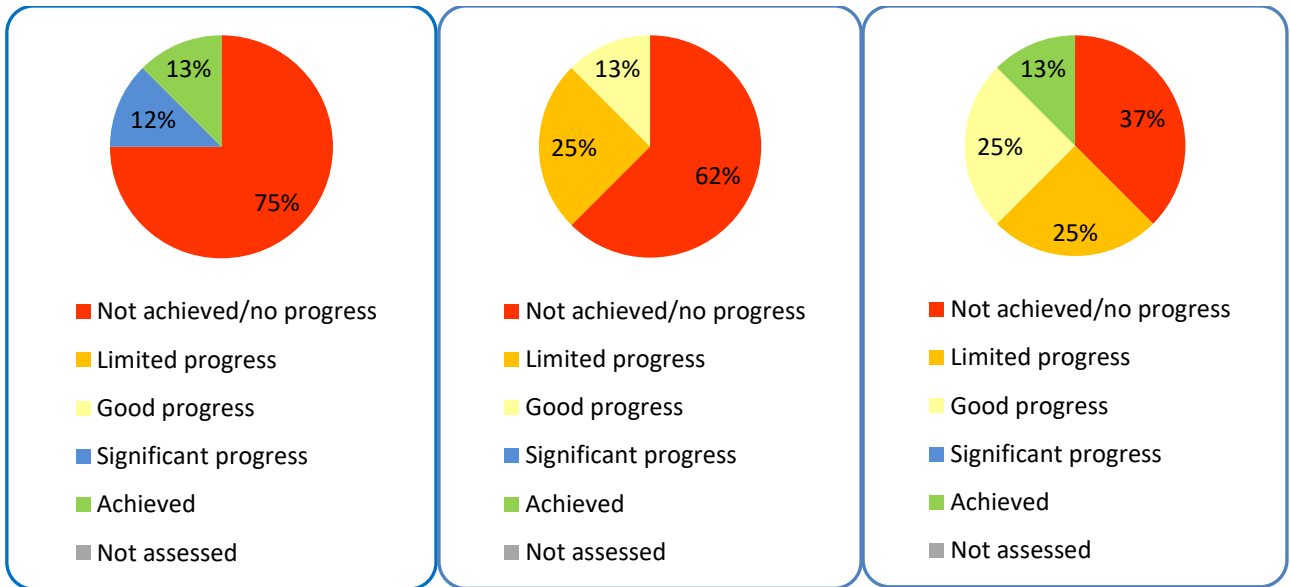


Figure 4 (left). Proportion of Strategic Plan goal indicators at the Agreement-wide level (G1-G8) per category of progress at MOP7 (2018).

Figure 5 (centre). Proportion of Strategic Plan goal indicators at the Agreement-wide level (G1-G8) per category of progress at MOP6 (2015).

Figure 6 (right). Proportion of Strategic Plan goal indicators at the Agreement-wide level (G1-G8) per category of progress at MOP5 (2012).

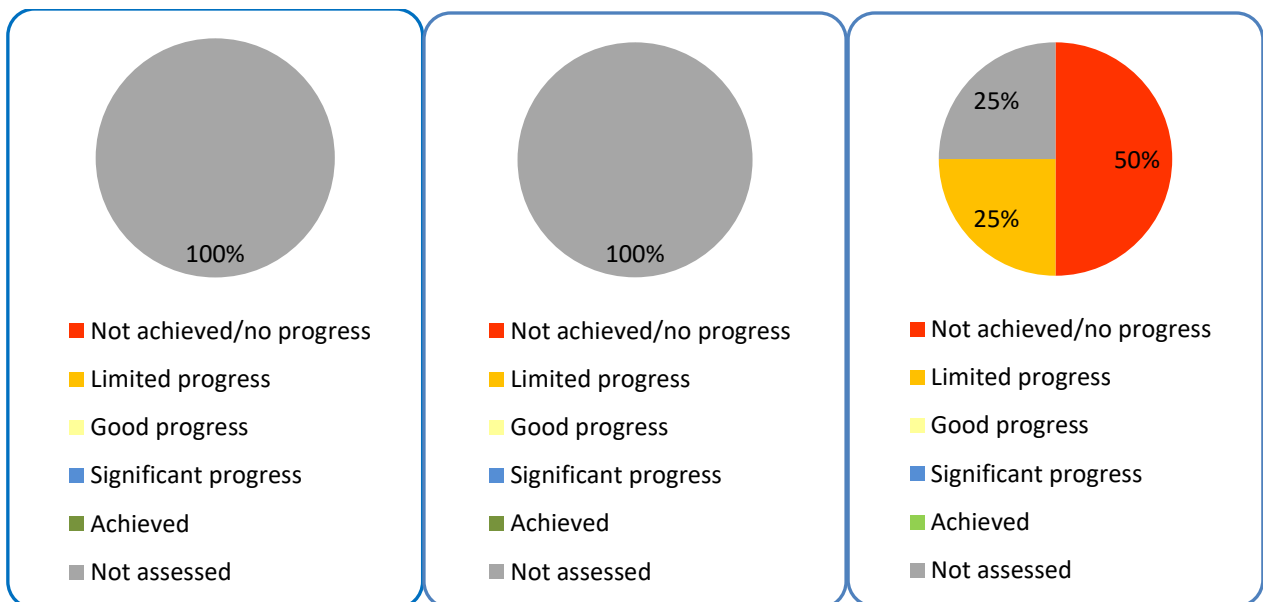


Figure 7 (left). Proportion of Strategic Plan goal indicators at the national level (G9-G12) per category of progress at MOP7 (2018).

Figure 8 (centre). Proportion of Strategic Plan goal indicators at the national level (G9-G12) per category of progress at MOP6 (2015).

Figure 9 (right). Proportion of Strategic Plan goal indicators at the national level (G9-G12) per category of progress at MOP5 (2012).

The indicators which failed to be achieved, relate to prevention of extinction of AEWA populations (G1), populations retaining their favourable conservation status (G2), reducing extinction risk (G5), downlisting on the IUCN Red List (G6), fewer populations listed in category 1 of Column A (G7) and in Column A in general (G8). They all had worsening parameters compared to the baseline of 2008 (MOP4) (see *Table 3*). The only achieved indicator is G4 (overall status as measured by the Waterbird Indicator) while the threshold of indicator G3 (population with positive trend) was missed by just 2% points (73% achieved instead of target 75%).

Overall level of achieving the Strategic Plan objectives

Five objectives have been set towards achieving the Strategic Plan goal each aiming at, respectively, favourable conservation status, sustainable use, increased knowledge, improved communication, improved cooperation and capacity.

	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Objective 5	Overall
Not reached/ no progress						
Limited progress	3 / 1 / 2	- / 1 / 1	2 / 1 / 1	2 / 2 / 2	3 / 3 / 2	10 / 8 / 8
Good progress	2 / 3 / 3	4 / 3 / 2	- / 1 / -		3 / 2 / 2	9 / 9 / 7
Significant progress		- / 1 / 1	1 / 1 / 2		1 / 1 / 2	2 / 3 / 5
Reached		- / - / 1		1 / 1 / 1	- / 1 / 1	1 / 2 / 3
Not assessed	- / 1 / -	1 / -	2 / 2 / 2		1 / 1 / 1	4 / 4 / 3
Overall	5	5	5	3	8	26

Table 2. Number of targets per Strategic plan objective according to their category of progress. The numbers on the left in black represent the situation at MOP5 in 2012 and MOP6 in 2015 respectively, the number on the right in red represents the current situation at MOP7 (2018).

Altogether 26 targets have been identified - three for Objective 4, five for each of Objectives 1, 2 and 3, and eight for Objective 5. The progress towards the achievement of the objectives is measured through the indicators associated with each of these targets. Table 2 presents the distribution of these 26 targets across the six categories of progress.

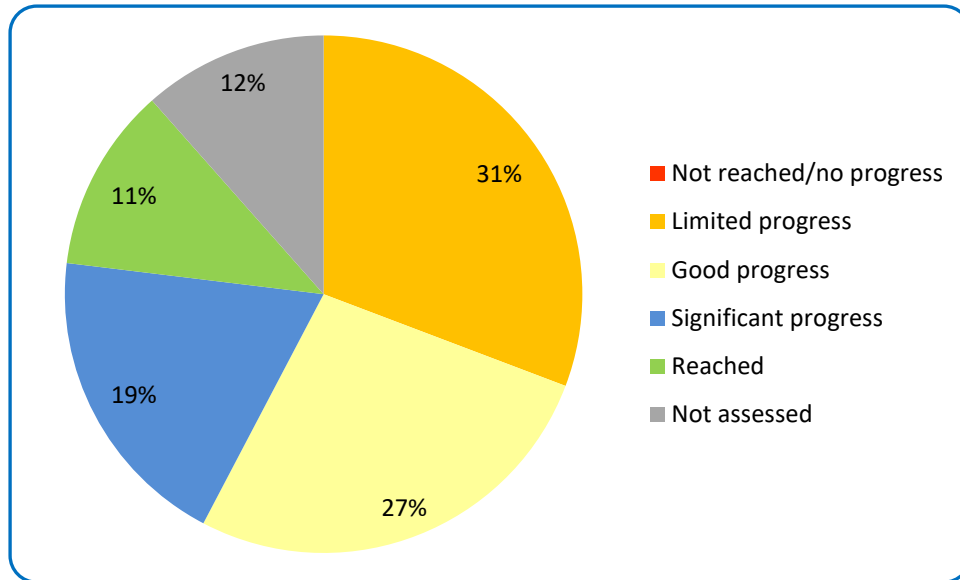


Figure 10. Proportion of the targets associated with the Strategic Plan objectives per category of progress at MOP7 (2018).

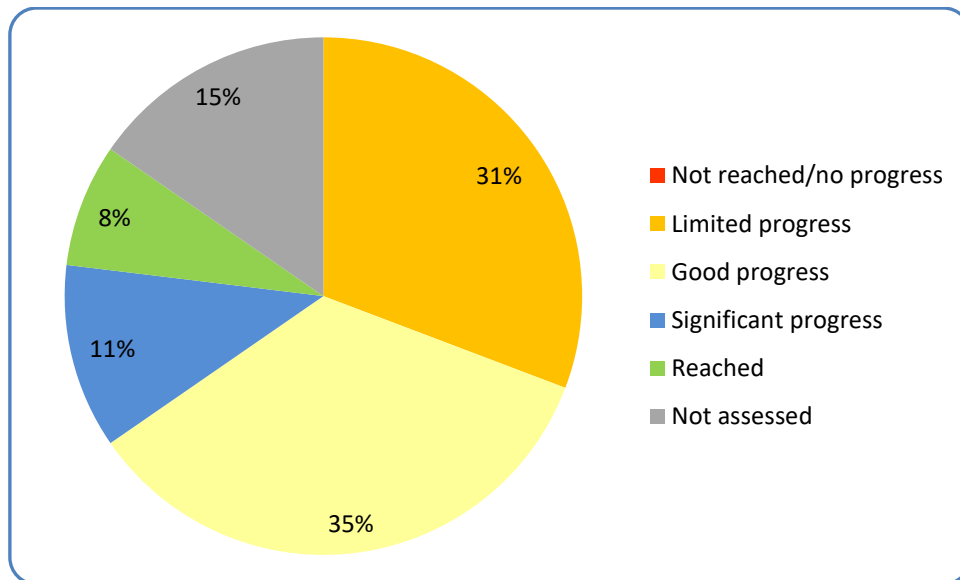


Figure 11. Proportion of the targets associated with the Strategic Plan objectives per category of progress at MOP6 (2015).

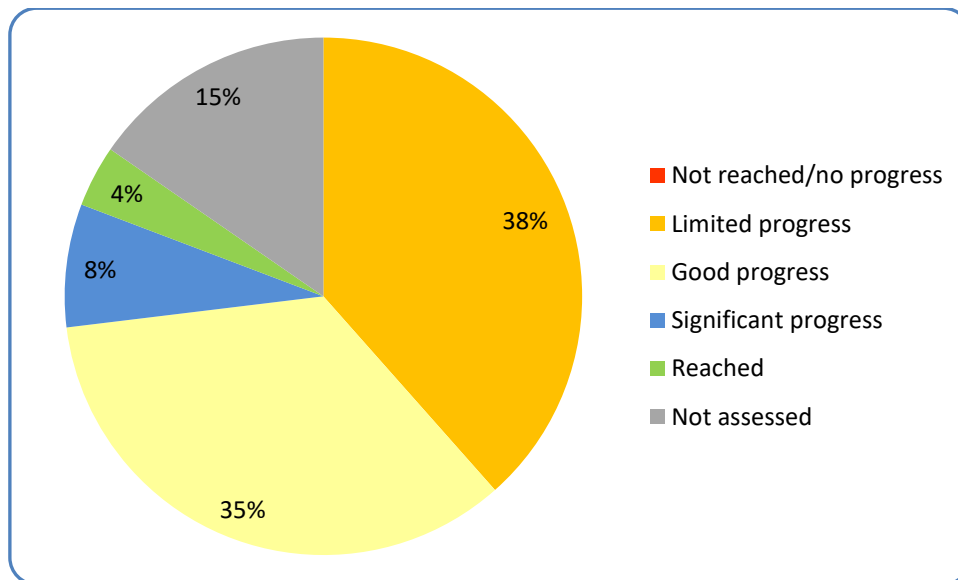


Figure 12. Proportion of the targets associated with the Strategic Plan objectives per category of progress at MOP5 (2012).

No target has been identified as completely lacking progress, which sets a positive background; however, 31% of targets have registered only *limited progress* (see Figure 10). It is encouraging that 30% of the targets have either been *reached* (11%) or *significant progress* has been registered (19%). A further 27% of targets (representing more than a quarter) are assessed as showing *good progress*. For 12% of the targets no assessment was possible due to the lack of readily available data. **Overall, the level of achieving the Strategic Plan objectives can be described as being average, however, it has been demonstrating an increasing trend throughout the lifespan of the Strategic Plan (see Figures 10-12).** The proportion of targets with *limited progress* and *not assessed* has declined (by 10% points compared to 2012), while at the same time the targets that have been *reached* or are showing *significant progress* have increased, also at the expense of fewer targets with *good progress*.

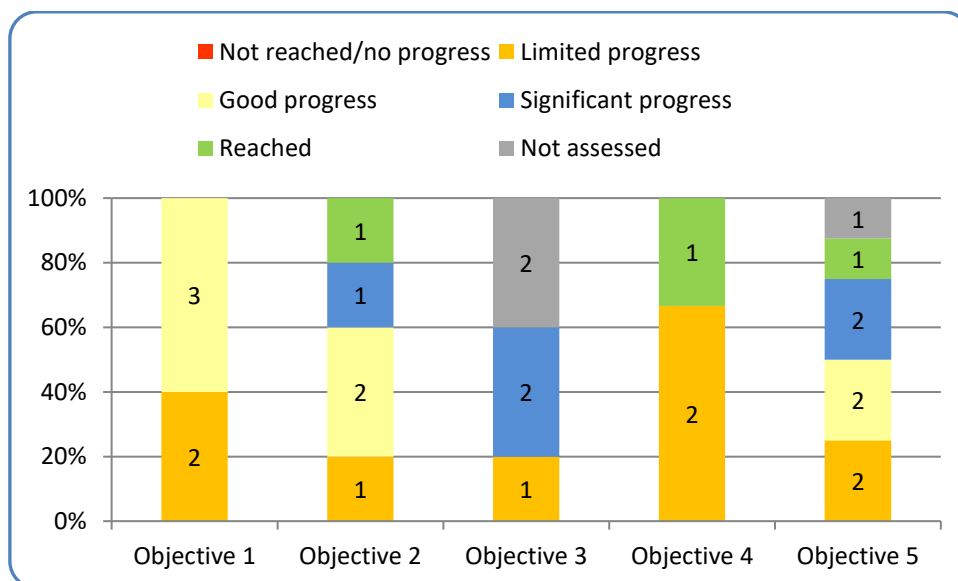


Figure 13. Proportion of the targets of each Strategic Plan objective per category of progress at MOP7 (2018).

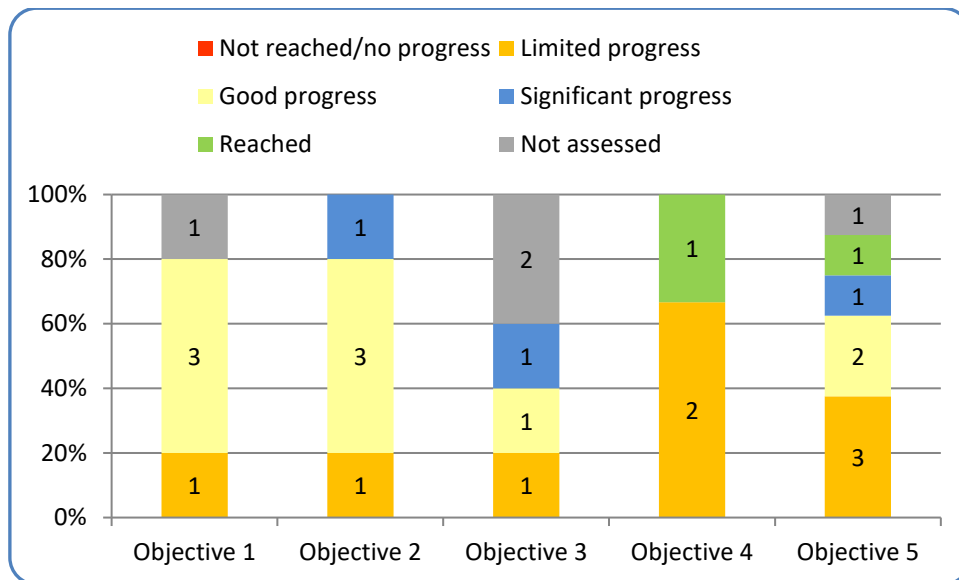


Figure 14. Proportion of the targets of each Strategic Plan objective per category of progress at MOP6 (2015).

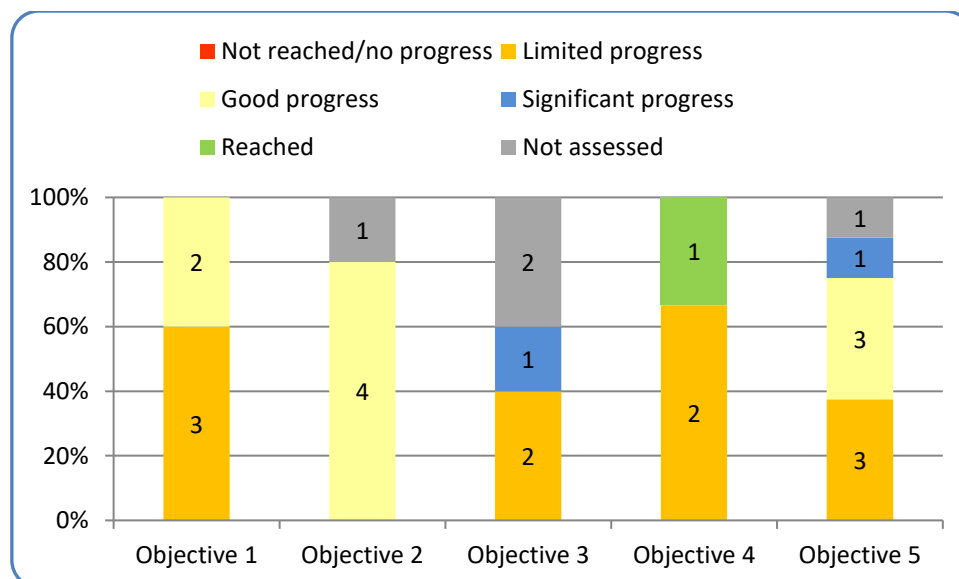


Figure 15. Proportion of the targets of each Strategic Plan objective per category of progress at MOP5 (2012).

Comparing all objectives (see Figure 13), none is outstanding in terms of reaching its associated targets. Objective 2 demonstrates the highest score with one target *reached*, one with *significant progress* and two with *good progress*. Only one target has been assessed as showing *limited progress*. Performance against Objective 2 has also been consistently improving throughout the lifespan of the Strategic Plan (see Figures 13-15). Objective 5 has one target *reached* and two targets with *significant progress*, as well as two with *good progress*. These five are proportionally lower (63% altogether) than the four targets in the three categories in Objective 2 (80%), as Objective 5 has eight targets and two of them are with *limited progress* and one is *not assessed*. Objective 5, as well as Objectives 1 and 3, also demonstrated increasing progress towards reaching the associated targets in the course of the last decade. Objective 4 is the only one that remained constant throughout the period with one *reached* target and two *limited progress* targets.

Level of achieving Objective 1

Objective 1 aims **to undertake conservation measures so as to improve or maintain conservation status of waterbird species and their populations**. Five targets have been set to achieve this objective. 60% of the five targets set for Objective 1 have reached the level of *good progress* and the remaining 40% are still at the level of *limited progress*. A detailed account is presented in Table 4.

Previously *not assessed*, Target 1.1 on legal protection of all Column A-listed species has now been assessed based on the data provided through the national reports to MOP7. Considering the fundamental importance of the appropriate legal status of the AEWA species in the domestic legislation for their effective conservation, it is deemed highly insufficient that only 12% of the Contracting Parties reported full protection of their Column A populations.

Limited progress has been registered also against Target 1.5 on tackling threats from non-native species with only 13% of the Contracting Parties having National Action Plans for non-native species. No noticeable progress was achieved throughout the last decade.

Targets 1.2 (site network), 1.3 (EIA/SEA) and 1.4 (Species Action Plans) scored better results and have been subsequently assessed as having *good progress*. The ambition of Target 1.2 to achieve a comprehensive climate-resilient site network of protected and managed sites in all Contracting Parties is partially fulfilled and still requires considerable efforts, particularly on assessing climate resilience, but also the inventory of the network by individual countries and the protection and management of the sites. Unfortunately, little progress has been registered in the last 10 years towards reaching this target. Similar lack of noticeable improvement has been identified with respect to Target 1.3 with only 55% of the Contracting Parties reporting use of EIA/SEA for all projects potentially affecting AEWA populations. A better trend has been recorded for Target 1.4 with the active development of Species Action Plans and international mechanisms for their implementation. However, a major gap remains in the efforts to implement these plans comprehensively by the Contracting Parties that are Range States to the respective species/populations.

Level of achieving Objective 2

Objective 2 aims **to ensure that any use of waterbirds in the Agreement area is sustainable**. This objective is to be achieved through five targets. A total of 80% of the targets have either been *reached* (20%, 1 target), are showing either *significant* (20%, 1 target) or *good* (40%, 2 targets) *progress* with only one target (20%) assessed as having *limited progress* (see Table 5).

With nearly 1/3 of Contracting Parties having fully banned the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands and an additional 12% which introduced partial bans, there has been a positive move towards achieving Target 2.1, but this issue still requires strong attention by the Parties and other stakeholders since the progress has been slow and the previous deadline set in the AEWA Action Plan (year 2000) was not met, which subsequently led to an amendment of the provision in the Action Plan at MOP4 (2008). There has been consistent, but slow progress towards reaching this target over the last 10 years. Overall the *progress* has been assessed as *limited*.

While 45% of the Contracting Parties report harvest data collection systems in place, only 19% describe them as being comprehensive (covering all AEWA species, all harvesting activities and the whole territory of the country). This is beyond the threshold of the indicator, but the essential element of international coordination and synchronisation of the data collection systems is missing, therefore Target 2.2 will require further work to be undertaken with the hunting community in the lead. The currently small-scale coordinated harvest data

collection by the AEWA European Goose Management Platform can serve as an example to build on. There has been a negative trend in the proportion of Parties with harvest data collection systems in place and with comprehensive systems, but the overall *progress* has been described as *good*.

There has been minimal progress over the last decade towards Target 2.3 on reducing illegal taking of waterbirds. While 69% of the Contracting Parties report pertinent legislation and measures in place, only 36% assess the effectiveness of their measures as being high. The assessment of the progress towards elimination of the use of poison baits and non-selective methods of taking showed that only 43% of the Contracting Parties have banned all AEWA-listed non-selective methods. The overall *progress* has been described as *good* but will require further efforts.

Target 2.5, on the other hand, has been *reached*. This is justified by the successful ongoing implementation of the International Single Species Management Plan (ISSMP) for the Svalbard population of the Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) and the International Single Species Action Plan (ISSAP) for the Taiga Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis fabalis*). In addition, the ISSAP for the Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) also contains elements of adaptive harvest management and two further ISSMPs for the Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) and the Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) (NW/SW European population) have been developed and submitted to MOP7 for review and adoption. The progress on this target has been consistently improving over the past decade.

With 35% of the Contracting Parties reporting best practice codes and standards in place out of 45% of Parties which confirmed that such an approach is considered a priority, Target 2.4 on enforcing legally binding best practice standards associated with waterbird harvest was assessed as showing *significant progress*. Throughout the lifespan of the Strategic Plan, the progress towards this target has improved.

Level of achieving Objective 3

Objective 3 aims at **increasing knowledge about species and their populations, flyways and threats to them, as a basis for conservation action** and five targets have been set to achieve this objective. Significant progress has been registered on two targets (40%), limited progress on one target (20%) and the remaining two targets (40%) have not been assessed (see *Table 6*).

Advanced progress has been recorded on Target 3.2 where nearly 60% of the countries report comprehensive or partial year-round waterbird monitoring schemes; however, an overall negative trend has been recorded in the progress towards this target from the first assessment in 2012. A closer analysis of the existing national monitoring schemes will be useful, in order to be able to understand the actual monitoring coverage.

Target 3.1, aiming at long-term resourcing of the international waterbird monitoring processes, in order to secure data for status assessments, is essential. The production of the International Waterbird Census (IWC) summary reports, the AEWA Conservation Status Report and the global Waterbird Population Estimates has been kept on track. Financial sustainability of the IWC has not been yet achieved, despite the very good progress in the last decade, including the establishment of the Waterbird Fund under the African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership. Only 15 Contracting Parties provided support to the IWC at international level either through voluntary financial contributions or logistical support and only 11 Contracting Parties reported bi-lateral, technical or financial support, in the last triennium.

Nationally, 49% of Parties have supported the IWC, which is an increase compared to the beginning of the period. The target to increase the numbers of populations whose international status was assessed on the basis of regular monitoring data has been surpassed in the last decade (116% increase achieved against 50% target),

which is a result of the stepped-up support for and development of the waterbird monitoring in the Agreement. Overall *progress* towards reaching Target 3.1 has been improving throughout the decade and is now considered *significant*. However, in order to maintain the achievements to date, the strengthened strategic approach needs to be maintained and further elaborated and the sustainability of the IWC still needs to be ensured.

A total of 55% of Contracting Parties provided lists of research activities and results in their national reports, which is just above half way towards reaching Target 3.5. However, accessibility has to be provided through the development of an analytical tool to the Online Reporting System used for national reporting.

Further criteria would have been needed to be defined for assessing progress towards Target 3.3 on the establishment of new AEWA-linked research programmes and assessment. Assessment of Target 3.4 required a stand-alone process of analysing the database of www.conservationevidence.com, which could not be undertaken. Both of these targets have not been assessed.

Level of achieving Objective 4

Objective 4 aims **to improve Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) about migratory waterbird species, their flyways, their role in alleviating poverty, threats to them and the measures needed to conserve them and their habitats**. This objective is to be achieved through three targets. The progress towards these three targets remained constant throughout the period of the Strategic Plan with one *reached* and two having registered only *limited progress* (see Table 7).

With 32% of the Contracting Parties reporting that they have established and are implementing programmes for awareness raising on waterbird conservation and AEWA, the threshold of the indicator (25%) of Target 4.3 has been surpassed. A more comprehensive analysis should be undertaken to assess the level and type of CEPA activities of the Parties. There has been a downward trend in the parameters of the indicator against the target compared to the first assessment in 2012.

With only 12% of the Contracting Parties reporting funding and other support provided for the implementation of the Communication Strategy and with no specific assessment of the progress towards the achievement of this target made at Secretariat level, further considering that progress towards most of the other communication-related indicators has been limited and that in those cases funding has been restricted or not available, the category of *progress* towards Target 4.1 has been as assessed as *limited*.

The implementation of the Communication Strategy (Target 4.2) is being measured through multiple (9) indicators and their achievement has been estimated to be at various levels of progress. With more than half (56%) of the indicators either with limited progress or no progress at all, the aggregated *progress* towards the target has been assessed as *limited*. Only one indicator (11%) has been *achieved* and another has scored a *significant progress*, with the remaining two (22%) in the average level.

Level of achieving Objective 5

Objective 5 aims **to improve the capacity of Range States and international cooperation and capacity towards the conservation of migratory waterbird species and their flyways** and eight targets have been set to achieve this objective. One of the targets was *achieved* (12%), two scored *significant progress* (24%) and the *progress* towards one target is assessed as being *good* (12%). The remaining 39% (three targets) show *limited progress* and one (13%) is *not assessed* (see Table 8).

Increased capacity of government staff to implement the Agreement has been delivered through a series of training events, including jointly with the Convention on Migratory Species, and the threshold of the indicator for Target 5.6 has been surpassed.

With 39% of the Contracting Parties reporting, that they have operational national coordination mechanisms for AEWA implementation, there has been significant progress achieved towards Target 5.7 and this represents a positive trend compared to the initial assessment in 2012. These operational mechanisms should be strengthened, and more Parties should establish them; experiences shall be shared.

The growth of the number of Contracting Parties has been moderate – it increased from 61 at MOP4 to 77 at present, which is significantly below the threshold of the indicator of Target 5.1 - *at MOP7 the Agreement should have had 90 Parties*. The pace has declined after MOP6 and only one African and one European country acceded. Central Asia and the Middle East still largely remain white spots. The target was not reached, but >50% of the targeted number of new Contracting Parties has been recruited, which can be considered as *good progress*. The work of the Secretariat to recruit new Parties should be stronger, complemented by additional efforts from the Agreement's Parties.

There has been a significant progress in establishing or reinforcing synergies with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements or other key partners (Target 5.3). Efforts should continue in this direction.

Only 29% of what has been targeted has been disbursed through the Small Grants Fund (SGF) since MOP4 (Target 5.4). Regular and substantial voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties will be required in order to renew and maintain the operations of the SGF and it should be also extended to eligible countries beyond the African region. The overall progress on this target has been assessed as limited.

The rate of submission of national reports to MOP7 reached its peak with 71%, which is the highest in the history of AEWA to date. However, some of the Parties have not reported to two, three, four or even six consecutive MOPs. In order to reach this target, Parties need to approach national reporting responsibly and address report quality and completeness, as well as timely submission. Funding permitting, training would be useful to this end. Despite the relatively high submission rate and its overall upward trend over the last decade, the *progress* on this target has been assessed not higher than *good* due to the quality issues that need to be addressed yet.

Assessment on Target 5.8 on the recognition of AEWA by the other biodiversity-related MEAs has not been performed. No specific assessment has been made on Target 5.2 relating to full funding for the implementation of the Strategic Plan. However, taking into account that progress towards a substantial number of other targets has been limited and that in those cases funding has been restricted or not available, the *progress* towards the latter has been judged as *limited*.

Recommendations on the implementation of the new Strategic Plan 2019-2027

This is the final assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2009-2018, As such, any strengths, weaknesses, achievements and deficiencies identified will provide useful lessons learnt and a starting point to the launch of the implementation process of the new Strategic Plan for 2019-2027.

While the overall implementation of the Strategic Plan 2009-2018 has been ranked average, but with an improving trend over the decade, the goal has been assessed as highly insufficiently achieved. This discrepancy points to the need to allocate more attention to targets that can make a tangible difference in the status of the AEWA species. Two of the three targets reached relate to capacity building of government staff and to

implementation of awareness-raising activities, both of which are prerequisites for conservation outcome, but could hardly deliver such without being complemented by a stronger focus on targets that can directly influence the status of the AEWA waterbirds. **The third target reached deals with adaptive harvest management of quarry populations.** This is a tangible target, but it has a modest threshold (very few populations addressed) and a longer period of time will be required in order to be able to achieve a noticeable change. **The work implemented under this target needs to be broadened and further strengthened in the course of the new Strategic Plan 2019-2027.**

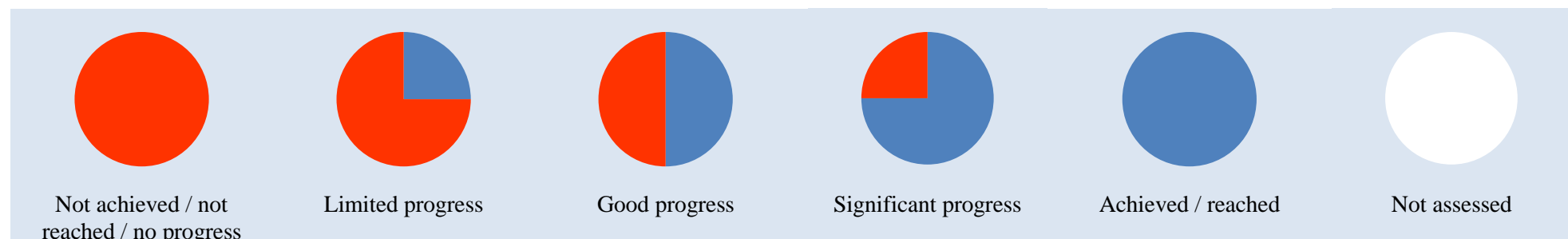
The majority of the objectives and targets of the current Strategic Plan, or their successors, have been carried over into the new one. Based on the performance against those objectives and targets in the past decade, a number of additional recommendations to the ones above can be made to focus the attention on areas of work that need to be strengthened in order to deliver tangible conservation output.

1. It is of fundamental importance that all Parties should, as a matter of urgency and priority, **adjust their national legislation so as to provide full protection to all Column A-listed species** occurring on their territory and review this regularly in line with the amendments to AEWA Annex 3, Table 1 adopted by each session of the MOP in order to provide for effective conservation and to address the currently low level of compliance with the provisions of the Agreement;
2. Parties and other involved stakeholders should urgently **increase funding and other capacity to fully implement the International Single Species Action Plans for globally threatened species**, coordinate their implementation and develop further such plans for all globally threatened species listed under the Agreement building on the good progress achieved in the past decade;
3. Parties should **provide sufficient funding through the established mechanisms**, such as the Waterbird Fund, so as **to maintain the sustainability of the structured strategic approach to the development and maintenance of the waterbird populations and their critical sites** in the Agreement area and provide continuity to the significant advancements attained in the past period. National monitoring schemes should be established, where absent, or otherwise reviewed and strengthened;
4. Parties should take a systematic approach and **step up work on eradication or control programmes for non-native species** of waterbirds and other taxa posing threats to AEWA native waterbirds and their habitats;
5. **Illegal taking of waterbirds needs to be comprehensively addressed** at all levels in each Contracting Party and, in particular, legislative bans should be introduced on all non-selective methods of taking;
6. With the hunting community in the lead, **an internationally coordinated system for waterbird harvest data collection should be established** and made operational to build on the existing national data collection schemes and expand on the limited coordinated approach under the AEWA European Goose Management Platform;
7. The introduction and application of **best-practice standards for waterbird harvest should be strengthened** and expanded amongst Contracting Parties in support of the enforcement of hunting law and regulations;
8. Learning from the experience of those Contracting Parties which have already **phased out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands**, all other Parties should **introduce self-imposed deadlines for such complete bans**, inform the Secretariat and other Parties and introduce the bans as soon as possible;

9. All Parties should **inventorize all sites of international and national importance, fill identified gaps, address outstanding priority site designation and management issues**, while taking also into account the aspects of climate change resilience;
10. All Parties should **develop legislation on Environmental Impact Assessment & Strategic Environmental Assessments** and should apply it appropriately in all cases when there is risk of impact on AEWA species or habitats/sites on which they depend;
11. **Provide funding and other resources for the implementation of the Communication Strategy** and utilize it as a tool to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027 both nationally and internationally;
12. More Parties should **pro-actively complement the Secretariat's efforts for recruiting new Parties** to the Agreement;
13. Parties should **provide regular and substantial voluntary contributions to the Small Grants Funds** to allow for the renewal and maintenance of its operation and its extension to other eligible range states outside of the African region;
14. **Means should be made available for training of National Focal Points and Designated National Respondents in the use of the CMS Family Online Reporting System** in order to improve the quality and completeness of national reports as well as increase reporting rates.

The Meeting of the Parties is invited to note this report and take its conclusions and recommendations into account in the decision-making process and as useful guidance towards the implementation of the new Strategic Plan 2019-2027. The recommendations will require to be addressed through joint planning and action by the Parties, the Agreement's governing bodies, the Secretariat and all other involved stakeholders and partners. Significantly increased cooperation, resources, capacity and focused input will be essential, in order to implement the new AEWA Strategic Plan according to schedule.

Key to pie charts and colour code used in Tables 1-8





Lacking or insufficient implementation; indicator/target not achieved/reached or distant. Requires initiation of activities or further significant resources and implementation.

Implementation underway; on a good course towards achieving/reaching the indicator/target. Implementation shall continue and be strengthened.




Fully implemented or advanced implementation; indicator/target achieved/reached or closely approached. Review the indicator/target or step up action for full implementation and achieving/reaching the indicator/target.




No assessment available.

Table 3. Goal: To maintain or to restore migratory waterbird species and their populations at a favourable conservation status throughout their flyways

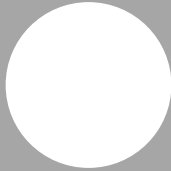
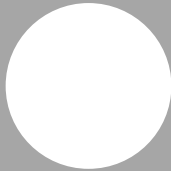
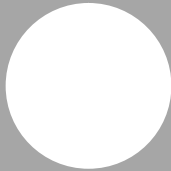
Progress	Indicator (at the Agreement level)	Summary and reference
	<p>G1²: No AEWA waterbird population has become extinct in the Agreement area</p>	<p>On the basis of the available information and the IUCN Red List 2017, no species has been identified as being extinct, however, the latest assessment of the status of AEWA populations identified the first confirmed population extinction – the Demoiselle Crane (<i>Anthropoides virgo</i>) population that used to breed in Turkey. There are two more populations – the population of the Siberian Crane (<i>Leucogeranus leucogeranus</i>) wintering in Iran and the population of the Northern Bald Ibis (<i>Geronticus eremita</i>) breeding in South-west Asia that have declined to single individuals. In addition, no sightings of the Critically Endangered Slender-billed Curlew (<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>) have been confirmed since 1998 and the extensive surveys launched in the end of 2008 did not prove extant birds of the species. There is a risk that the species might be extinct. The target was not achieved.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Negative.</p> <p>Reference: 7th edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report (document AEWA/MOP 7.14)</p>
	<p>G2: All AEWA waterbird populations at a favourable conservation status at the time of MOP4 (September 2008) have retained that status</p>	<p>Sixty populations formerly listed in Categories 1 of Columns B and C (considered as having a favourable conservation status) have now been classified under other categories describing poorer status) due to significant long-term decline (44 population; 33 and 19 more since the previous assessments in 2012 and 2015 respectively) or lower population estimates (16 populations; 8 and 6 more since the previous assessments in 2012 and 2015 respectively). The target was not achieved.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Negative. The number of populations that have been reclassified to other categories describing poorer status as compared to 2008 has increased from 20 in 2012, to 35 in 2015, to 60 in 2018.</p> <p>Reference: 7th edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report (document AEWA/MOP 7.14) Proposals to MOP7 for amendments to Annexes 2 and 3 of AEWA (document AEWA/MOP 7.19)</p>

² The numbering of the indicators associated with the Strategic Plan Goal from G1 to G12 does not exist in the Strategic Plan but has been introduced in this report for ease of reference.

Progress	Indicator (at the Agreement level)	Summary and reference
	<p>G3: At least 75% of the AEWA waterbird populations show a positive trend (growing or stable)</p>	<p>73% of the populations with known population trends have a positive trend. Thus, the target was nearly achieved. There is a substantial increase of 14% points as compared to the assessment of 2008 12%-point increase and 9%-point increase since the last assessments in 2012 and 2015.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Positive. There is a significant increase from 59% in 2008, to 61% in 2012, to 64% in 2015, to 73% in 2018 of the AEWA populations with positive trends.</p> <p>Reference: 7th edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report (document AEWA/MOP 7.14)</p>
	<p>G4: Overall status of indicator species has improved, as measured by the Waterbird Indicator</p>	<p>The latest value of the Waterbird Indicator is -0.0966 (N₂₀₁₇ = 445) compared to -0.1363 (N₂₀₀₈ = 396) at MOP4 which is higher than in 2008. While the target was achieved, still more populations are declining than increasing.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Positive. The value of the Waterbird Indicator has increased from -0.1363 (N₂₀₀₈ = 396) in 2008, to -0.1118 (N₂₀₁₁ = 391) in 2011, followed by a drop to -0.1144 (N₂₀₁₄ = 376) in 2014, to its current value of -0.0966 (N₂₀₁₇ = 445).</p> <p>Reference: 7th edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report (document AEWA/MOP 7.14)</p>
	<p>G5: Overall extinction risk of waterbirds has reduced, as measured by the Red List Index</p>	<p>The Red List Index for the AEWA species has declined by 2.2 % since 1988 compared to 0.8% for all species: they have declined in status proportionately much faster over the last two decades. The target was not achieved.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Negative. The Red List Index had declined in 2010 by 1% compared to 1988, the decline increased to 1.6% during the previous assessment to 1.6% (2014), to 2.2% at the present one (2016).</p> <p>Reference: 7th edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report (document AEWA/MOP 7.14)</p>

Progress	Indicator (at the Agreement level)	Summary and reference
	G6: 20% of threatened and Near Threatened species have been downlisted to lower categories of threat	<p>Since 2008 only two species have been downlisted owing to genuine improvement of the status – Dalmatian Pelican (<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>) from Vulnerable to Near Threatened and Audouin’s Gull (<i>Larus audouinii</i>) from Near Threatened to Least Concern. At the same time, the number of Globally Threatened and Near Threatened species increased from 37 in 2008 (MOP4) to 52 in 2017 (MOP7) with most substantive increase between MOP6 and MOP7 (39 species at MOP5 and 41 at MOP6). The target was not achieved.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Negative.</p> <p>Reference: 7th edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report (document AEWA/MOP 7.14)</p>
	G7: Fewer populations to be listed in Category 1 in Column A (20% reduction)	<p>The number of populations listed in category 1 of Column A increased from 97 in 2008 to 122 in 2018, which represents a 26% increase. The target was not achieved.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Negative. There has been a continuous increase in the species listed in category 1 of Column A, starting with 97 in 2008, to 100 in 2012, to 110 in 2015 to 122 in 2018.</p> <p>Reference: 7th edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report (document AEWA/MOP 7.14); Proposals to MOP7 for Amendments to Annexes 2 and 3 of AEWA (document AEWA/MOP 7.19)</p>
	G8: Fewer populations to be listed in Column A (5% reduction)	<p>The number of populations listed in Column A has increased from 197 in 2008 to 234 at present, which represents an increase of 19%. This increase is a result of lower population estimates, identified long-term decline or up-listing of species on the IUCN Red List. The target was not achieved</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Negative. (lowered category of progress – from category <i>achieved / reached</i> to not <i>achieved / no progress</i>). While at MOP5 this indicator was reported surpassed (achieved 8% reduction of Column A listed populations), there has been a significant slide into the negative direction for this indicator. The number of populations listed on Column A increased from 197 in 2008 to 214 in 2012, stabilized at the same number in 2015 and increased again to 234 in 2018.</p>

Progress	Indicator (at the Agreement level)	Summary and reference
		Reference: 7 th edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report (document AEWA/MOP 7.14); Proposals to MOP7 for amendments to Annexes 2 and 3 of AEWA (document AEWA/MOP 7.19)

Progress	Indicator (at the national level)	Summary and reference
	G9: No AEWA waterbird population has gone extinct as a breeding, migrating, or wintering (whichever is applicable) species in any CPs territory	<p>Not assessed (no national reporting on population status to MOP6 and MOP7).</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Recent change unknown. At MOP5 eight Contracting Parties (CPs) reported extinctions of breeding populations involving 19 species. These extinctions range from 1% to 9% of the species reported as breeding within the respective CPs. Some of these extinctions are however based on population assessments from the early 2000s.</p>
	G10: Current favourable status of AEWA waterbirds, as breeding, migrating or wintering species, within any CPs has been retained	<p>Not assessed (no national reporting on population status to MOP6 and MOP7).</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Unknown.</p>
	G11: At least 75% of AEWA waterbird species occurring in any CP have a positive trend (stable or growing)	<p>Not assessed (no national reporting on population status to MOP6 and MOP7).</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Recent change unknown. At MOP5 only four Contracting Parties (CPs) (7% of the CPs) reported 75% or more of their breeding populations with a positive trend with another 12 CPs (19% of the CPs) approaching the target (50-75%). In 21 CPs (34% of the CPs) the proportion is below 50% and for the rest of the parties no information is available.</p>

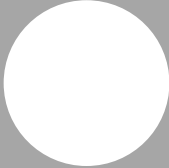





Progress	Indicator (at the national level)	Summary and reference
	<p>G12: 20% of threatened and Near Threatened species have been downlisted to lower categories of threat in each CP</p>	<p>Not assessed (no national reporting on population status to MOP6 and MOP7).</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Recent change unknown. At MOP5 only one Contracting Party (CP) reported downlisting more than 20% of their threatened and Near Threatened species to lower categories with two more CPs approaching the target. However, some of the down-listing reported by the CP could have resulted from change in the method used in the different assessments.</p>

Table 4. Objective 1: To undertake conservation measures, so as to improve or maintain conservation status of waterbird species and their populations

Progress	Target	Indicator	Summary and reference
	<p>1.1: Full legal protection is provided to all Column A species</p>	<p>All CPs have adopted national legislation protecting all Column A species</p>	<p>Only 9 Contracting Parties (CPs) reported full protection of the Column A populations occurring on their territories. This represent 12% of the CPs. Another 15 CPs reported >75% of their Column A populations under full protection. Considering that legal status is a fundamental prerequisite for effective conservation this progress was deemed insufficient.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Negative. At MOP5 10 Contracting Parties (CPs) (16% of the CPs) reported full protection of all Column A species occurring in their respective territories with additional 15 CPs providing protection to 76-99% of their Column A species. The figures at MOP7 nearly did not change, but the number of CPs increased, thus proportionally the change has been negative.</p> <p>Reference: Analysis of the AEWA National Reports for the Triennium 2015-2017 (document AEWA/MOP 7.12)</p>
	<p>1.2: A comprehensive and coherent flyway network of protected and managed sites, and other adequately managed sites, of international and national importance for waterbirds is established and maintained, while taking into account the existing</p>	<p>All CPs are in place and maintain comprehensive national networks of sustainably-managed, protected, and other managed areas, that form a coherent flyway site network, which aims to be resilient to the effects of climate change</p>	<p>65% of the Contracting Parties (CPs) have indicated that they have fully or partially identified their networks of sites. Information provided by up to 60% of CPs on their nationally or internationally important sites (or both) shows very high proportion of sites protected (100%³ and 87% respectively) and of those protected sites only 3% of nationally important sites have management plans in place while a much higher proportion of internationally important sites are managed (56%). Only 24% of the CPs have assessed the resilience of their site networks for migratory waterbirds with additional 8% that have assessed resilience of individual sites. Certain progress has been made against this indicator, but it is still far from achieving the target.</p>



³ A discrepancy in the reporting indicated a higher number of sites protected compared to the overall number of sites reported.



Progress	Target	Indicator	Summary and reference
	networks and climate change		<p>Change since MOP4: Slightly positive. There have been slight changes, either negative or positive, in the different parameters of this indicator. Overall it has been assessed that there has been little progress over the last decade.</p> <p>Reference: Analysis of the AEWA National Reports for the Triennium 2015-2017 (document AEWA/MOP 7.12)</p>
	<p>1.3: Environmental Impact Assessment & Strategic Environmental Assessments are used to reduce the impact of new development on waterbird species and populations</p>	<p>All CPs use EIA/SEA to reduce the impact on waterbirds</p>	<p>61% of the Contracting Parties (CPs) reported EIA/SEA legislation in place and in 55% of the CPs EIA/SEA has been used for all relevant projects to assess their impact on AEWA species or habitats/sites on which they depend. Certain progress has been made against this indicator, but it is still far from achieving the target.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Slightly positive. 3%-point increase in the CPs reporting EIA/SEA legislation in place and 5%-point increase in the number of CPs where EIA/SEA has been used for all relevant projects.</p> <p>Reference: Analysis of the AEWA National Reports for the Triennium 2015-2017 (document AEWA/MOP 7.12)</p>
	<p>1.4: Single Species Action Plans (SSAPs) are developed and implemented for most threatened species listed in category 1 and categories 2 and 3, marked with an asterisk on column A of Table 1</p>	<p>SSAPs are in place and being effectively implemented for all globally threatened species and species marked with an asterisk</p>	<p>Of the 32 AEWA species classified as globally threatened in 2017, AEWA SSAPs have been adopted or developed for 13 species and five species are covered by a Multi-species Action Plan. Of these, international mechanisms for coordination of implementation have been established for 11 SSAPs and for the MSAP, although not all of them are fully operational yet.</p> <p>SSAPs have been developed and adopted for two of the three populations marked with an asterisk. For the species with adopted SSAPs just a few</p>

Progress	Target	Indicator	Summary and reference
			<p>national action plans have been developed and implemented by very few Contracting Parties.</p> <p>Strong progress has been made in the development in plans and establishment of international coordination mechanisms. However, the main gap remaining is in the comprehensive implementation of the plans. Hence, the overall assessment of the progress towards this target is only moderate.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Positive. The coverage of Globally Threatened species by species action plans has increased from 33% in 2012 to 59% in 2018 and of the asterisk-marked populations from zero to 67%. International coordination mechanisms are in place for all but two of the 19 species for which species action plans have been adopted under AEWa.</p> <p>Reference: 7th edition of the AEWa Conservation Status Report (document AEWa/MOP 7.14); Analysis of the AEWa National Reports for the Triennium 2015-2017 (document AEWa/MOP 7.12); Summary of the Current Status of Single Species Action Plan and Species Management Plan Production and Coordination with Recommendations to MOP for Extension, Revision or Retirement (document AEWa/MOP 7.21)</p>
	<p>1.5: Waterbirds are considered thoroughly in the context of the delivery of National Action Plans on non-native species by other international fora, such as CBD, Bern Convention, and GISP</p>	<p>CPs have incorporated, as part of National Action Plans on non-native species, specific measures for invasive non-native species of waterbirds and are implementing them in</p>	<p>Only 13% of the Contracting Parties have National Action Plans on non-native species in place. No up-to-date information was reported to MOP7, but at MOP6 of the 17 CPs confirming breeding non-native species on their territories only eight CPs are implementing or developing control/eradication programmes on six species.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Neutral. There has been little or no progress for most of the period of the Strategic Plan 2009-2018.</p>

Progress	Target	Indicator	Summary and reference
		order to ensure their control or eradication	Reference: Analysis of the AEWA National Reports for the Triennium 2012-2014 (document AEWA/MOP 7.12)

Table 5. Objective 2: To ensure that any use of waterbirds in the Agreement area is sustainable

Progress	Target	Indicator	Summary and reference
	<p>2.1: The use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands is phased out in all CPs</p>	<p>All CPs have adopted national legislation prohibiting the use of lead shot (in wetlands)</p> <p>No authenticated report of continued use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands in the Agreement area is received by the Secretariat</p>	<p>31% of the Contracting Parties have fully phased out the use of lead shot with an additional 12% having introduced partial ban. While gradual progress has been made, after one decade the target is far from being met.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Positive. In 2008 20% of the CPs reported a full ban on lead shot, which proportion in 2018 has increased to 31%. The proportion of CPs with partial bans has shown a minimal increase.</p> <p>Reference: Analysis of the AEWA National Reports for the Triennium 2015-2017 (document AEWA/MOP 7.12)</p>
	<p>2.2: Internationally coordinated collection of harvest data is developed and implemented</p>	<p>Internationally coordinated harvest data collection in place involving at least 25% of the CPs</p>	<p>45% of the Contracting Parties (CPs) have confirmed that harvest data collection systems are in place, which surpasses the target, and for 19% of the CPs these systems cover all AEWA species, the whole territory of the country and all harvesting activities. However, the international coordination and synchronization of these national schemes is still lacking. Coordination of harvest data collection at a smaller scale is now being established under the AEWA European Goose Management Platform, but that covers a very limited number of species and populations.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Negative. 5%-point decline in the number of CPs confirming harvest data collection systems in place compared to 2012 and 12%-point decline in the number of CPs reporting comprehensive systems covering all species, the whole territory and all harvesting activities.</p> <p>Reference: Analysis of the AEWA National Reports for the Triennium 2015-2017 (document AEWA/MOP 7.12); Report of the Secretariat (document AEWA/MOP 7.9)</p>

Progress	Target	Indicator	Summary and reference
	<p>2.3: Measures to reduce, and as far as possible eliminate, illegal taking of waterbirds, the use of poison baits and non-selective methods of taking are developed and implemented</p>	<p>All CPs have pertinent legislation in place which is being fully enforced</p>	<p>69% of the Contracting Parties (CPs) confirmed that measures are in place to reduce/eliminate illegal taking of waterbirds within their country, while only 36% of the CPs consider the effectiveness of these measures to be high. 43% of the CPs have indicated that all non-selective methods of taking, as listed in the AEWA Action Plan, including poison baits, have been prohibited.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Slightly positive. There have been a 4%-point increase in the number of CPs reporting measures in place, although a 1%-point decline in those considering effectiveness to be high. The 43% of CPs with prohibition of all non-selective modes of taking is a significant increase from the 34% in the last assessment in 2015.</p> <p>Reference: Analysis of the AEWA National Reports for the Triennium 2015-2017 (document AEWA/MOP 7.12)</p>
	<p>2.4: Best practice codes and standards, such as bird identification, are developed and prompted, in order to achieve proper enforcement of legally binding provisions</p>	<p>50% of CPs are effectively enforcing legally binding best practice standards</p>	<p>35% of the CPs reported that best practice codes and standards are in place and 45% of CPs which confirmed that legally binding best practice codes and standards are considered priority.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Positive. This indicator was assessed for first time at MOP5 and since then figures changed substantially (9%-point increase in the number of CPs with best practice codes in place and 13%-point increase of CPs considering such standards to be priority)</p> <p>Reference: Analysis of the AEWA National Reports for the triennium 2015-2017 (document AEWA/MOP 7.12)</p>




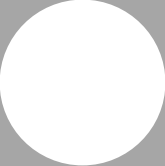
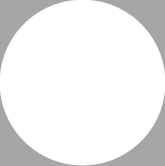
Progress	Target	Indicator	Summary and reference
	<p>2.5: Adaptive harvest management of quarry populations is ensured at international scale</p>	<p>International harvest management plans (IHMP) for two quarry populations developed and implemented</p>	<p>The International Single Species Management Plan (ISSMP) for the Svalbard population of the Pink-footed Goose (<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>) and the International Single Species Action Plan (ISSAP) for the Taiga Bean Goose (<i>Anser fabalis fabalis</i>) have been successfully implemented since MOP5 and MOP6 respectively. The Eurasian Curlew ISSAP also contains elements of adaptive harvest management. Two new ISSMPs for the Barnacle Goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) and the Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) have been compiled and submitted to MOP7 for review and adoption. The target has been fully met and even surpassed with the latest plans.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Positive Since the start of the Strategic Plan there have been a consistent progress with the production of five relevant plans, two of which are already in implementation phase.</p> <p>Reference: Draft International Single Species Management Plans for the Barnacle Goose and for the Greylag Goose (NW/SW European population) (documents AEWA/MOP .26 and AEWA/MOP 7.27); Summary of the Current Status of Single Species Action Plan and Species Management Plan Production and Coordination with Recommendations to MOP for Extension, Revision or Retirement (document AEWA/MOP 7.21)</p>

Table 6. Objective 3: To increase knowledge about species and their populations, flyways and threats to them, as a basis for conservation action

Progress	Target	Indicator	Summary and reference
	<p>3.1: Necessary resources are in place to support, on a long-term basis, the international processes for gathering monitoring data for status assessment.</p>	<p>Timely production of annual IWC summary report and the AEWA CSR and global <i>Waterbird Population Estimates</i></p> <p>50% increase of species/ populations whose international status is being assessed with regular monitoring data</p>	<p>Annual International Waterbird Census (IWC) summary reports (national totals) have been published every year since 2011 and are available on the IWC online portal. The 7th edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report (CSR) was produced in 2018 and submitted to MOP7. In 2018 the 1% thresholds of the Waterbird Population Estimates (WPE) Have been updated if they have changed by more than 10% since the last comprehensive update in 2012. The WPE are now published on a searchable online database.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Positive. Production of all products has been kept on track over the period of the Strategic Plan 2009-2018.</p> <p>Reference: 7th edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report (document AEWA/MOP 7.14); Report on the development of waterbird monitoring along the African-Eurasian Flyways (document AEWA/MOP 7.31)</p> <p>The number of populations whose international status was assessed on the basis of regular monitoring data increased from 102 in 2008, to 107 in 2012, to 180 in 2015, to 221 in 2018 i.e. by 116%, which is much higher than the target.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Positive.</p> <p>Reference: 7th edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report (document AEWA/MOP 7.14)</p> <p>Although most of the financial targets outlined in document AEWA/MOP 5.42 were largely met, majority of the funding is project-based and short- or maximum medium-term without any guarantee of long-term sustainability. Only 15 CPs have reported financial and/or</p>

Progress	Target	Indicator	Summary and reference
			<p>logistical support provided to the International Waterbird Census at international level and 11 CPs reported bi-lateral technical or financial support to other CPs/Range States. The Waterbird Fund was established by the African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership, but only modest funds have been donated to date.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Positive. However, financial sustainability of IWC has not been achieved.</p> <p>Reference: Report on the development of the waterbird monitoring along the African-Eurasian flyways (document AEWA/MOP 7.31); Analysis of the AEWA National Reports for the Triennium 2015-2017 (document AEWA/MOP 7.12)</p> <p>Nationally, 49% of the CPs have funded or logistically supported IWC activities.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Positive. 5%-point increase in the number of CPs supporting IWC compared to the first assessment in 2012.</p> <p>Reference: Analysis of the AEWA National Reports for the Triennium 2015-2017 (document AEWA/MOP 7.12)</p> <p>Overall change since MOP4: Positive</p>
	<p>3.2: Capacity of national monitoring systems to assess the status of the waterbirds is established, maintained and further developed</p>	<p>Half of CPs have year-round (as appropriate) monitoring systems in place</p>	<p>59% of the Contracting Parties (CPs) confirmed that waterbird monitoring schemes for AEWA species are in place in their countries, but only 9% reported full coverage of all three periods (breeding, passage/migration and non-breeding/wintering). The proportion of CPs reporting either full or partial coverage of all three periods is</p>

Progress	Target	Indicator	Summary and reference
			<p>significantly higher (45%). Further details and closer analysis of national monitoring schemes will be useful.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Slightly negative. All parameters above have declined compared to the first assessment in 2012; however, the category of progress has been retained.</p> <p>Reference: Analysis of the AEWA National Reports for the Triennium 2015-2017 (document AEWA/MOP 7.12)</p>
	<p>3.3: Nationally responsible state agencies, academic and other wildlife-related research institutions are encouraged to establish research programmes to support implementation of waterbird conservation priorities</p>	<p>Ten new AEWA-linked research programmes are established</p>	<p>48% of the Contracting Parties (CPs) reported that research relating to waterbirds and their conservation had been undertaken over the past triennium. A large number of projects was listed, although not all of them were initiated in the last triennium and they also have different levels of research objectives. Definition of further criteria would have been needed for assessing progress towards this target.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Unknown.</p> <p>Reference: Analysis of the AEWA National Reports for the Triennium 2015-2017 (document AEWA/MOP 7.12)</p>
	<p>3.4: Best practices, including traditional knowledge, for waterbird conservation programmes are collated and incorporated</p>	<p>50 best practices collated and published at www.conservationevidence.com</p>	<p>Not assessed.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Unknown.</p>




Progress	Target	Indicator	Summary and reference
	<p>3.5: Sharing and accessibility of relevant data and information are enhanced so as to underpin relevant conservation decision- making</p>	<p>Web-based list of research related to waterbirds and their conservation in each CP per triennium</p>	<p>A large number of projects was listed by 55% the Contracting Parties reporting to MOP7. However, this list is still not readily accessible and searchable, which can be addressed through the development of an analytical tool to the CMS Family Online Reporting System.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: No change.</p> <p>Reference: Analysis of the AEWA National Reports for the triennium 2015-2017 (document AEWA/MOP 7.12)</p>

Table 7. 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 measures needed to conserve them and their habitats

Progress	Target	Indicator	Summary and reference
	<p>4.1: Support for the implementation of the Communication Strategy (CS) is secured</p>	<p>100% funding and other support, as appropriate (e.g. expertise, network, skills and resources), is secured for the Communication Strategy implementation</p>	<p>While no specific assessment of the progress towards the achievement of this target has been made at Secretariat level and with only 12% of CPs reporting financial or other support provided, considering that progress towards a substantial number of other Communication Strategy related indicators has been limited and that in those cases funding has been restricted or not available, it would be justified to assess the progress towards target 4.1 as limited. It should be noted that a new AEWA Communication Strategy was adopted by MOP6 in 2015.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Unknown.</p> <p>Reference: Analysis of the AEWA National Reports for the Triennium 2015-2017 (document AEWA/MOP 7.12)</p>
	<p>4.2: The AEWA Communication Strategy is implemented</p>	<p>The Communication Strategy has been monitored annually and reviewed and updated on a tri-annual basis</p>	<p>Detailed reports on the implementation of the CS were presented to MOP4 (September 2008), the 6th Meeting of the Standing Committee (StC6) (June 2010), StC7 (November 2011), MOP5 (May 2012) and StC9 (September 2013). No specific reviews of the CS have been undertaken for StC10 (July 2014), but a summary of communication-related activities by the Secretariat were included in the Report of the Secretariat to the StC. A new AEWA Communication Strategy was initiated in 2014 by the Secretariat and adopted by MOP6 in 2015. The first progress report on the new CS is being submitted to MOP7.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Neutral.</p>


Progress	Target	Indicator	Summary and reference
			<p>Reference: Various reports to StC and MOP meetings; Report on the Implementation of the AEWA Communication Strategy (document AEWA/MOP 7.13)</p>
		<p>At least one Training of Trainers workshop for CEPA has been held in each AEWA region (CS 3.1)⁴</p>	<p>In the framework of the UNEP-GEF African-Eurasian Wings over Wetlands (WOW) Flyways Project, three Training of Trainers (ToT) workshops using the WOW Flyway Training Kit (FTK) took place in four sub-regions (West Africa and Central Africa (Cameroon), the Middle East (Jordan) and Central Asia & Caucasus (Kazakhstan) since MOP4.</p> <p>Thanks to funding from the AEWA/CMS EC ENRTP Project, two ToT courses were organized in the framework of AEWA using the WOW FTK and other training materials (e.g. the ONCFS toolkit on waterbird identification and census and the BirdLife International IBA approach). The first workshop for Anglophone countries in Southern and Eastern Africa (May 2013, Naivasha, Kenya) brought together 19 technical experts from 13 countries. The second workshop, for the five Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa (January 2014, Luanda, Angola) brought together 21 technical experts.</p> <p>The focus of these ToT's has not been on CEPA per se, although the workshops do include CEPA related topics and training elements.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Positive. Two ToT training workshops took place.</p>

⁶ Between brackets and, where appropriate, the targets are linked to the Communication Strategy (CS), the number given reflects the respective activity in the Communication Strategy.

Progress	Target	Indicator	Summary and reference
			<p>Reference: Report on the Implementation of the African Initiative and the Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2018 (document AEWA/MOP 7.11)</p>
		<p>In at least three AEWA regions, follow-up trainings for CEPA at the national level have been conducted by the people trained under target 3.3 (CS 3.2)</p>	<p>Only one CP reported that training for CEPA, conducted by staff trained in the framework of the AEWA Training of Trainers programme, had taken place. Three Parties reported that AEWA Training of Trainers programme are being planned in their country.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Slightly positive. One national training has taken place and three.</p> <p>Reference: Analysis of the AEWA National reports for the Triennium 2015-2017 (document AEWA/MOP 7.12)</p>
		<p>Regional Centres for the exchange of information on AEWA have been established in all regions (CS 2.2)</p>	<p>While 47% of Contracting Parties reported that they had not yet considered hosting a Regional AEWA Exchange Centre, 10 Parties (Czech Republic, Djibouti, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Morocco, Senegal and South Africa) indicated that they have considered and are interested in hosting a Regional AEWA Exchange Centre, while four Parties (Benin, Guinea-Bissau, Romania and Slovakia) indicated that they are currently considering it.</p> <p>The four regional centres established in the framework of Wings over Wetlands (WOW) project in Dakar, Almaty & Moscow, Nairobi and Amman, in many ways, functioned as <i>de facto</i> information exchange and capacity building centres on AEWA over the course of WOW project implementation (2006-2010). However, after the closure of the project the level of activity of these centres has significantly reduced and</p>




Progress	Target	Indicator	Summary and reference
			<p>further funding will be required to resume their operation as AEWA exchange centres. Funding would also be required to support the set-up of Regional AEWA Centres in some of the countries which have indicated that they would be interested in hosting one.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: No change.</p> <p>Reference: Analysis of the AEWA National reports for the Triennium 2015-2017 (document AEWA/MOP 7.12); Report on the implementation and revision of the communication strategy (document AEWA/MOP 5.18)</p>
		<p>The AEWA website has been improved and maintained, and in particular made more interactive (CS 4.1)</p>	<p>The new AEWA website was launched in May 2014 as part of the CMS Family Website Project, but it still requires further work and investment to meet the needs of the AEWA constituency Further improvements on the overall usability and presentation of the website is ongoing.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Positive new website launched and work to improve it further is ongoing.</p> <p>Reference: Report of the Secretariat (document AEWA/MOP 6.9);</p>
		<p>The AEWA newsletter is being published regularly, and twice yearly in hard copy supported by monthly electronic updates (CS 4.2)</p>	<p>The AEWA E-Newsletter has evolved to become one of the primary communication tools of the Secretariat to reach out to the currently 3000+ contacts, currently on 4-6-month basis. A total of 31 E-Newsletters have been sent out since MOP4 – 10 between MOP4 and MOP5, 15 between MOP5 and MOP6 and 6 between MOP6 and MOP7). With the development of the new AEWA Website in 2014, a new E-Newsletter creation and dissemination tool has also been developed.</p>


Progress	Target	Indicator	Summary and reference
			<p>The last hard copy Newsletter was produced in-house in January 2008 and there are currently no plans to resume the regular production and dissemination of a hard copy Newsletter to compliment the E-Newsletter.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Positive.</p> <p>Reference: Report on the Implementation of the AEWA Communication Strategy (document AEWA/MOP 7.13); AEWA Website E-Newsletter Archive: http://www.unep-aewa.org/en/publications/newsletter</p>
		<p>The infrastructure for e-discussions is in place and the discussions facilitated (CS 4.3)</p>	<p>Group e-mail addresses were established to facilitate communication and exchange of information between AEWA National Focal Points in the African region as well as for each of the five sub-regions. In addition, the CMS Family National Focal Point E-Community was established and is designed to function as a state-of-the-art electronic discussion forum for National Focal Points of all CMS Family Instruments. However, despite being promoted at NFP workshops, it has not been actively used as a communication platform by NFPs.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Slightly positive. CMS Family NFP Community developed.</p> <p>Reference: Report on the Implementation of the African Initiative and the Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2018 (document AEWA/MOP 7.11); CMS Family NFP Community Website</p>



Progress	Target	Indicator	Summary and reference
		<p>Guidelines for Accession have been updated and distributed to all non-CPs (CS 4.4)</p>	<p>Accession guidelines were produced by the Secretariat in English, French, Arabic, Russian and Portuguese language versions. These guidelines were printed and widely distributed to non-Contracting Parties.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Positive. Revised guidelines have been published and distributed.</p> <p>Reference: Report of the Secretariat (document AEWA/MOP 6.9)</p>
		<p>A flexible toolkit is produced, and distributed, providing a set of resource materials for awareness raising at the national level (CS 4.5)</p>	<p>Not implemented due to lack of funding. Some materials for inclusion in a toolkit exist, but resources are needed to produce and disseminate the toolkit.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: No change</p> <p>Reference: Report on the Secretariat (document AEWA/MOP 6.9)</p>
	<p>4.3: Awareness and understanding of waterbird conservation issues in general and of AEWA in particular are increased at all levels within the CPs</p>	<p>At least 25% of CPs have developed and are implementing programmes for raising awareness and understanding on waterbird conservation and AEWA</p>	<p>32% of the Contracting Parties (CPs) reported that they have in place and are implementing programmes for awareness raising on waterbird conservation and AEWA. A further 5% are developing such programmes. A more comprehensive analysis should be made to assess the level and type of CEPA activities and the extent of the programmes developed by the CPs.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Negative. Although still surpassing the target, the proportion of CPs reporting programmes in place has dropped from 39% during the first assessment in 2012.</p>

Progress	Target	Indicator	Summary and reference
			Reference: Analysis of the AEWA National Reports for the Triennium 2015-2017 (document AEWA/MOP 7.12)


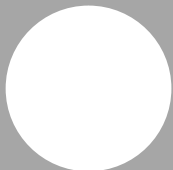
Table 8. Objective 5: To improve the capacity of Range States and international cooperation and capacity towards the conservation of migratory waterbird species and their flyways

Progress	Target	Indicator	Summary and reference
	<p>5.1: The membership of the Agreement is expanded</p>	<p>AEWA Membership has increased to 75 Parties by MOP5, to 85 Parties by MOP6, and to 90 Parties by MOP 7, with particular focus on Central Asia and the Middle East</p>	<p>The number of Contracting Parties (CPs) increased by 16 from 61 at MOP4 (as of 1 September 2008) to 77 at MOP7 (as of 1 October 2018) with 14 new CPs from Africa and two from Europe. Since MOP6 (2015) only two new Parties joined (one African and one European). Only four CPs reported approaching non-CPs to encourage them to accede to the Agreement.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Positive.</p> <p>Reference: Report of the Depositary (document AEWA/MOP 7.8); Analysis of the AEWA National Reports for the Triennium; 2015-2017 (document AEWA/MOP 7.12)</p>
	<p>5.2: Sufficient funding for the implementation of the SP is raised from different sources</p>	<p>Full funding is raised</p>	<p>While no specific assessment of the progress towards the achievement of this target has been made, considering that progress towards a substantial number of other targets has been limited and that in those cases funding has been restricted or not available, it will be justified to assess the progress towards target 5.2 as limited.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: No change.</p>
	<p>5.3: Cooperation with other MEAs and key partners is enhanced</p>	<p>At least 5 new MoU/MoC between AEWA and other MEA's and key partners are established</p>	<p>At the AEWA 15th Anniversary Symposium in June 2010, a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) was signed with the Ramsar Convention, BirdLife International and Wetlands International to continue the joint work and partnership established during the Wing over Wetlands (WOW) project (post-WOW partnership).</p>

Progress	Target	Indicator	Summary and reference
			<p>An MoC with Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) was signed on 12 July 2012 during Ramsar COP11.</p> <p>An MoC was signed at MOP5 between the Ramsar Convention and the CMS (also on behalf of its instruments, including AEWA) under which a Joint Work Plan of 2004 between AEWA and Ramsar was renewed.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Positive. Three new MoC's signed.</p> <p>Reference: Report of the Secretariat (document AEWA/MOP 6.9)</p>
	<p>5.4: The Small Grants Fund (SGF) is activated</p>	<p>At least 100,000 EUR annually is disbursed to developing countries for implementation of AEWA</p>	<p>Starting from 2010 there have been six cycles of the AEWA SGF, which have disbursed 286,230 EUR altogether, which has been divided between the cycles as follows: 2010 – 93,071 EUR; 2011 – 43,400; 2012 – 45,382 EUR; 2013 – 30,393 EUR, 2014 – 39,644 and 2015 – 35,448 EUR.</p> <p>The SGF has been fed with resources from the AEWA core budget, which provided to date 170,000 EUR (20,000 EUR annually from 2009 to 2012 and 30,000 EUR annually from 2013 to 2015) and by voluntary contributions from Parties and individuals amounting to 113,032 EUR (including UNEP 13% PSC) for the period 2009-2015.</p> <p>These voluntary contributions were provided by France (56,500 EUR), Switzerland (27,398 Euros), United Kingdom (28,684 EUR) and Mr Sergey Dereliev (450 EUR).</p> <p>All the six cycles have been limited only to the African region due to geographic restrictions of the available funding.</p> <p>The amount disbursed so far in the six cycles constitutes 29% of the target (1,000,000 EUR for the decade).</p>

Progress	Target	Indicator	Summary and reference
			<p>Change since MOP4: Positive.</p> <p>Reference: Report on the Implementation of the African Initiative and the Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2018 (document AEWA/MOP 7.11)</p>
	<p>5.5: The rate of submission of National Reports is increased</p>	<p>All Contracting Parties regularly provide complete national reports</p>	<p>Submission rate of national reports to MOP7 was 71%, which is the highest rate ever. At MOP4 it was 64% and increased to 69% at MOP5 but went down at MOP6 to 55%. There are still Parties which have not submitted reports to two, three, four or even six consecutive MOPs. Although above 1/2 of the Contracting Parties have been submitting reports, their quality and completeness, as well as timely submission are yet to be addressed.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Positive. There has been an overall increase in the submission rate of national report from MOP4 to MOP7.</p> <p>Reference: Analysis of the AEWA National Reports for the Triennium 2015-2017 (document AEWA/MOP 7.12)</p>
	<p>5.6: Capacity of national staff to implement the Agreement is increased through proper training mechanisms</p>	<p>At least 30 governmental staff members have been trained in at least 20 countries</p>	<p>In the framework of the ENRTP Strategic Cooperation Agreement between the European Commission - Directorate General for the Environment and UNEP a three-year capacity building project was launched in 2012 and was implemented by the UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWA Secretariats.</p> <p>The two Secretariats compiled a set of guidelines entitled “CMS Family National Focal Points (NFP) Manual”, as well as established an online forum (CMS Family NFP e-community) for NFPs to access and share information, resources and experience on implementation. This Manual</p>

Progress	Target	Indicator	Summary and reference
			<p>was the basis for the training delivered to 40 NFPs or their representatives from 26 African countries in a training workshop organised by both Secretariats and hosted by South Africa on 29-31 October 2013 in Cape Town.</p> <p>Another workshop for the East Adriatic Parties to AEWA (Albania, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro and Slovenia) as well as Bosnia & Herzegovina and Serbia as countries in the process of accession, took place in Samobor, Croatia on 13-15 September 2016 and was organised by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat in cooperation and with the support of the German NGO Euronatur. NFPs of three East Adriatic Parties received training during this event.</p> <p>In the framework of the African preparatory meetings for the 6th and 7th Sessions of the AEWA Meeting of the Parties (Pre-MOP6 and Pre-MOP7 respectively), AEWA NFPs from Africa or their representatives were trained on their roles and responsibilities, as well as skills for negotiation under Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), using the CMS Family NFP Manual as the key training tool. These trainings covered 32 African Parties at the Pre-MOP6 (South Africa, August 2015) and 24 African Parties at the Pre-MOP7 (Eswatini, September 2018).</p> <p>In addition, technical capacity of government officers was enhanced through the series of Training of Trainers events (see relevant information under Target 4.2).</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Positive.</p> <p>Reference: Report of the Secretariat (document AEWA/MOP 7.9); Report on the Implementation of the African Initiative and the Plan of Action for Africa 2012-2018 (document AEWA/MOP 7.11)</p>

Progress	Target	Indicator	Summary and reference
	<p>5.7: Appropriate national coordination mechanism for implementation of AEWA linking to national coordination mechanisms for other biodiversity MEAs are established</p>	<p>In at least 50% of the Contracting Parties AEWA national coordination mechanisms have been established and are operational on regular basis</p>	<p>39% of the Contracting Parties reported that they have such national coordination mechanism and they are operating regularly. Further countries reported non-operational mechanisms, mechanisms in preparation or described other system for national coordination of the Agreement.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: Slightly positive. There have been a 5%-point increase in the number of CPs reporting operational coordination mechanisms in place since the first assessment in 2012.</p> <p>Reference: Analysis of the AEWA National Reports for the Triennium 2015-2017 (document AEWA/MOP 7.12)</p>
	<p>5.8: AEWA is recognized by other biodiversity MEAs as an MEA whose effectiveness in protecting waterbirds can be used as an indicator for sustaining biodiversity on a global level</p>	<p>All global biodiversity MEAs are referring to the effectiveness of AEWA as an indicator for sustaining biodiversity on a global level</p>	<p>Not assessed.</p> <p>Change since MOP4: No change.</p>