



7th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES
04-08 December 2018, Durban, South Africa

“Beyond 2020: Shaping flyway conservation for the future”

DRAFT 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 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 s 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,

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,

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,

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 other stakeholders to allocate the necessary financial and other resources for the systematic and punctual implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027, and invites non-Party Range States to consider contributing to the implementation of both plans;
3. *Further urges* all AEWA Contracting Parties, the AEWA Secretariat, in close consultation with the AEWA Standing and Technical Committees and other stakeholders as identified by the two Plans, to establish budgeted annual or triennial work plans, as relevant, on the basis of the AEWA Strategic Plan and/or the Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027, and to actively implement them;
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 Grant 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. *Further 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 AEWA MOP;
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. *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.

Annex 1
Revised Draft 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;
- They shall 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.

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.

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.