

8th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

26 – 30 September 2022, Budapest, Hungary

“Strengthening Flyway Conservation in a Changing World”

OPPORTUNITIES FOR AEWA TO SUPPORT THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Introduction

This document considers AEWA’s potential contribution to the ‘Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework’. The Framework will be of significant political importance, providing a major opportunity to ‘reset’ international responses to the biodiversity crisis and significantly raise ambitions in addressing it. It is timely that AEWA take the opportunity to respond to it, not least in drawing direct linkages between likely themes and targets within the Framework, and AEWA’s own Strategic Plan 2019-2027 adopted at MOP7.

However, development of such a document is problematic due to the postponement of CBD COP15 which will now occur *after* AEWA MOP8.

Issues for the Meeting of the Parties to consider:

Subject to agreement by the Meeting of the Parties, it is proposed to handle this document as follows:

1. This version of the document is to be noted by MOP8. It concentrates on the broad themes within the Framework rather than the detailed targets which will change in their detail when negotiated. The broad themes are unsurprisingly similar to the Aichi Targets (protected areas, alien invasives, habitat restoration etc.) given the failure to achieve those Targets (document AEWA/MOP 8.35);
2. The current paper has been revised following the release by CBD of the [First Draft Framework](#) (the associated [proposed headline indicators](#)) on 12 July 2021. At the time of writing, this will be discussed at the next (third) meeting of CBD’s Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to be held between 23 August and 3 September and it seems unlikely that a second draft of the Framework will be released prior to MOP8;
3. In the accompanying Resolution 8.9, the MOP is asked to note the paper, and to mandate the Technical Committee to update it following the anticipated adoption of the Framework by COP15 (now possibly end of 2022 or spring of 2023), and submit it to the 23rd meeting of the Standing Committee for adoption on behalf of the MOP (likely occurring in late 2023);
4. Following the Standing Committee’s adoption, the Secretariat is then asked by Resolution 8.9 to formally circulate it to Parties and make it available on the website. By providing a broad perspective on the themes (which are currently pretty similar to Aichi – albeit more focussed) it is expected to have a limited need for revision following agreement of the Framework by CBD.

Action requested from the Meeting of the Parties

The Meeting of the Parties is asked to note this version of the paper and to approve the suggested procedure for its finalisation and adoption.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR AEWA TO SUPPORT THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Compiled by the Technical Committee

Summary

The Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Conference of Parties has, through [Decision 14/34](#), established a process to develop a 'Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework'. It is anticipated that this will be adopted CBD COP 15 which will occur after AEWA MOP 8.

This paper reflects on the main themes within the formal first draft issued by CBD Secretariat in July 2021. Resolution 8.9 proposes that the Technical Committee develop an updated version of this analysis after the adoption of the Framework by COP 15, to be submitted to the Standing Committee, and following sign-off, to be made available to Parties and others.

There is a better direct fit of the Post-2020 Framework themes with AEWA's core objectives than was the case with the Aichi Targets established under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (document AEWA/MOP 8.35).

The main themes reflected in 2021 first draft relate closely to AEWA objectives, and are:

1) Reducing threats to biodiversity

1. Spatial planning for land- and sea-use and retention of intact and wilderness areas
2. Promotion of marine and terrestrial ecosystem restoration and connectivity
3. At least 30% of global land and sea as integrated protected areas
4. Species recovery and conservation, and conflict resolution
5. Harvesting, trade and use that is sustainable, legal and safe for human health
6. Invasive alien species
7. Pollution control
8. Climate change adaptation and mitigation

2) Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing

9. Food security through sustainable species management
10. Agricultural, aquaculture and forestry sustainability and use
11. Maintaining nature's contributions to ecosystem services
12. Human health and well-being from nature
13. Genetic benefit sharing including traditional knowledge

3) Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming

14. Biodiversity integrated into policy
15. Sustainable production and supply changes and sustainability reporting by businesses
16. Addressing unsustainable consumption patterns and reduction of waste
17. Biotechnology impacts
18. Elimination of harmful incentives
19. Increase financial incentives
20. Information for decision-makers including traditional knowledge
21. Equitable and effective participation in decision making

The full implementation of AEWA's own Strategic Plan 2019-2027 will significantly contribute to the delivery of the four Goals of the Framework.

For a number of issues there is a lack of AEWA-related guidance as to implementation that will best benefit migratory waterbirds and development of such guidance would be useful. These issues include:

- spatial planning;
- habitat restoration;
- addressing air- and water-borne nutrient pollution;
- agricultural sustainability (including best practice agri-environment provisions, and the role of incentives);
- mainstreaming biodiversity requirements into other policies (including the positive and negative consequences of incentives); and

- provision of suitable information for decision makers.

Introduction

The Convention on Biological Diversity’s (CBD) Conference of Parties, has through [Decision 14/34](#), established a process for developing a Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The intention of the Framework (the name of which is currently a placeholder and has yet to be formally determined), is, as for the preceding Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, to be applicable to and be implemented by, a wide range of other actors including other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements such as AEWA.

The Framework has been developed through an Open-ended Working Group with a ‘[zero draft](#)’ being issued in January 2020, an [update](#) circulated in August 2020, and a [first draft](#) with suggested [headline indicators](#) issued in July 2021.

As for the earlier Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (AEWA Resolution 7.2; document AEWA/MOP 8.35) it can be anticipated that the full implementation of AEWA’s own Strategic Plan will significantly contribute to the delivery of the goals of the Framework.

Unfortunately, CBD’s COP15 has been deferred until after AEWA’s MOP8 as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic. Thus, whilst the shape of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework is developing through the activities of the Open-ended Working Group, nothing has yet been agreed, nor will it be so until after MOP8. However, it is timely for AEWA to reflect on the main themes that are emerging, although clearly detail within suggested milestones and targets may yet change before adoption.

Accordingly, this paper presents:

- a) A summary of the purpose of the Framework as expressed by the first draft;
- b) A reflection on the decisions and guidance already agreed by AEWA’s MOP as they relate to each of the broad themes in the 2030 Action Targets (noting again that the detail of these targets are not yet adopted and will likely change); and
- c) A reflection on possible ways through which the implementation activities of AEWA and its Parties could be enhanced in relation to delivery against the main themes of the anticipated Framework (irrespective of the precise detail of final targets).

The purpose of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework¹

1. “The framework aims to galvanise urgent and transformative action by Governments and all of society, including indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society, and businesses, to achieve the outcomes it sets out in its vision, mission, goals and targets, and thereby to contribute to the objectives of the CBD, its Protocols, and other biodiversity related multilateral agreements, processes and instruments.
2. The framework aims to facilitate implementation, which will be primarily through activities at the national level, with supporting action at the subnational, regional and global levels. Specifically, it provides a global, outcome-oriented framework for the development of national, and as appropriate, regional, goals and targets and, as necessary, the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans to achieve these, and to facilitate regular monitoring and review of progress at the global level. It also aims to promote synergies and coordination between the CBD and its Protocols, and other relevant processes.”

Relationship with 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

3. “The Framework is a fundamental contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the same time, progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals will help to provide the conditions necessary to implement the framework.”

¹ From CBD/WG2020/3/3 – first draft, July 2021. {EN [here](#); FR [ici](#)}

The Framework proposes a 2030 Mission with a number of milestones to chart progress to 2050. It has also developed 21 action targets for 2030 (Table 1). These targets address a wide range of broad themes, many of which have been the subject of past AEWA MOP decisions and guidance, and/or are already reflected in AEWA's Strategic Plan for 2019-2027. The framework stresses that "The actions set out in each target need to be implemented immediately and completed by 2030."

The themes for each of which there is an action target, are organised in three groups, and relate to:

1) Reducing threats to biodiversity

1. Spatial planning for land- and sea-use and retention of intact and wilderness areas
2. Promotion of marine and terrestrial ecosystem restoration and connectivity
3. At least 30% of global land and sea as integrated protected areas
4. Species recovery and conservation, and conflict resolution
5. Harvesting, trade and use that is sustainable, legal and safe for human health
6. Invasive alien species
7. Pollution control
8. Climate change adaptation and mitigation

2) Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing

9. Food security through sustainable species management
10. Agricultural, aquaculture and forestry sustainability and use
11. Maintaining nature's contributions to ecosystem services
12. Human health and well-being from nature
13. Genetic benefit sharing including traditional knowledge

3) Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming

14. Biodiversity integrated into policy
15. Sustainable production and supply changes and sustainability reporting by businesses
16. Addressing unsustainable consumption patterns and reduction of waste
17. Biotechnology impacts
18. Elimination of harmful incentives
19. Increase financial incentives
20. Information for decision-makers including traditional knowledge
21. Equitable and effective participation in decision making

Many of these themes relate to issues that were identified by the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets and are proposed for continuing attention given the failure of to achieve the Aichi Targets².

Table 1 below presents a cross-matching of draft Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework themes against AEWA guidance and decisions on these topics together with their relevance for AEWA's implementation.

It should be noted that there is a better direct fit of the first draft Post-2020 GBF themes with AEWA's core objectives than was the case with the Aichi Targets (document AEWA/MOP 8.35).

² Convention on Biological Diversity 2020. *Global Biodiversity Outlook 5*. CBD, Montreal, Canada.

Integration and awareness raising

The framework’s ‘Enabling conditions’ note, *inter alia*, that

“16. Efficiency and effectiveness will be enhanced for all by integration with relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant international processes, at the global, regional and national levels, including through the strengthening or establishment of cooperation mechanisms.”

and that

“21. Outreach, awareness and uptake of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework by all stakeholders is essential to effective implementation, including by:

- (a) Increasing understanding, awareness and appreciation of the values of biodiversity, including the associated knowledge, values and approaches used by indigenous peoples and local communities;
- (b) Raising awareness of all actors of the existence of the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and progress made towards their achievement;
- (c) Promoting or developing platforms and partnerships, including with media and civil society, to share information on successes, lessons learned and experiences in acting for biodiversity.

Issues where full AEWA implementation will help deliver the Post-2020 Framework

AEWA implementation will have the greatest benefit to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals in relation to those actions that, in particular:

- ensure the conservation and wise use of national networks of protected areas, especially, but not restricted to, wetlands, and in both terrestrial and marine environments [Target 3];
- ensure that land-uses are fully compatible with sustaining migratory waterbird populations [Targets 1, 10, 14 & 18];
- reduce, mitigate and compensate for habitat loss and degradation as appropriate, restore degraded habitats to reverse past losses and create new multifunctional wetlands [Targets 2, 14 & 15];
- address the causes and consequences of introductions of invasive alien species [Target 6];
- implement climate change adaptation measures, including nature-based solutions and ecosystem approaches related to the waterbird habitats (especially but not restricted to wetlands) [Targets 8 & 11];
- remove unnecessary causes of waterbird mortality and ensure that harvests, where made, are sustainable [Targets 4, 5 & 7]; and
- develop strong engagement with local communities with respect to the management and wise use of waterbirds and their wetland habitats [Targets 9, 12, 20 & 21].

Missing guidance relevant to the implementation of AEWA

Cross-matching Post-2020 GBF themes with existing AEWA guidance (Table 1) indicates a number of issues, of high relevance both to the delivery of Post-2020 GBF and to AEWA objectives, but yet for which AEWA has not yet developed significant guidance for Parties. These include:

Issue	AEWA relevance	Post-2020 Framework anticipated target
Spatial planning	2019-2027 Strategic Plan , Action Plan; Plan of Action for Africa	[Target 1]

Habitat restoration	2019-2027 Strategic Plan , Action Plan; Plan of Action for Africa	[Target 2]
Addressing air- and water-borne nutrient pollution	2019-2027 Strategic Plan , Action Plan; Plan of Action for Africa	[Target 7]
Agricultural sustainability (including best practice agri-environment provisions, and the role of incentives)	2019-2027 Strategic Plan , Action Plan; Plan of Action for Africa ; multiple International Single Species Action Plans	[Targets 10 and 18]
Mainstreaming biodiversity requirements into other policies (including the positive and negative consequences of incentives)	2019-2027 Strategic Plan , Plan of Action for Africa , multiple International Single Species Action Plans	[Target 14 and 18]
Provision of suitable information for decision makers	2019-2027 Strategic Plan , Plan of Action for Africa	[Target 20]

In the context of the need identified by GBF “to develop guidance materials”, the Technical Committee should monitor and, if appropriate, contribute to development of this guidance.

Indicators

A suite of proposed headline indicators³ are being developed as part of a monitoring framework for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. A number of these indicators directly assess issues already evaluated by relevant indicators for AEWA’s Strategic Plan 2019-2027 (such as coverage or protected areas; Red List Index; and extent to which harvesting is sustainable).

Upon finalisation of the Post-2020 GBF and its monitoring framework, it would be desirable for AEWA’s Technical Committee to assess the extent to which AEWA indicators can contribute to global reporting of the GBF.

Co-ordination across the UN system

The draft GBF suggests that “the Environment Management Group and the Biodiversity Liaison Group [be invited] to identify measures for effective and efficient implementation of the post-2920 global biodiversity framework across the United Nations system and report on the work to the [CBD] Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.”

There would be scope for AEWA to contribute to such consideration, working through the Convention on Migratory Species.

³ CBD/WG2020/3/3/ADD1 – {EN [here](#); FR [ici](#)}

Table 1. Anticipated 2030 Action Targets of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework ordered under broad issues and themes⁴

	Core existing AEWA decisions and tools ⁵	Relevance for AEWA implementation
1) Reducing threats to biodiversity		
<p>Issue – spatial planning for land- and sea-use and retention of intact and wilderness areas</p> <p>[Target 1. Ensure that all land and sea areas globally are under integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning addressing land- and sea-use change, retaining existing intact and wilderness areas.]</p>	<p>Target 4.3 of the 2019-2027 Strategic Plan aims to identify and integrate national habitat conservation and management priorities into relevant sectoral policies.</p> <p>The Agreement’s Action Plan (3.2.3) requires that “Parties shall endeavour to make wise and sustainable use of all of the wetlands in their territory. In particular they shall endeavour to avoid degradation and loss of habitats that support populations listed in Table 1 through the introduction of appropriate regulations or standards and control measures. ...”</p> <p>Tools include the following Ramsar Handbooks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. 2: National Wetland Policies • No 8: Water-related guidance 	<p>Highly relevant</p> <p>Establishment of spatial planning measures is a critical means by which good decision-making relating to the use of land and sea can be made. Such decision making should follow the principles of the Ecosystem Approach.</p> <p>Such decisions can control and determine habitat suitability beyond protected areas, thus providing for the requirements of dispersed waterbirds for which protected areas in themselves are an ineffective conservation response.</p>
<p>Issue – promotion of marine and terrestrial ecosystem restoration and connectivity</p> <p>[Target 2. Ensure that at least 20 per cent of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems are under restoration, ensuring connectivity</p>	<p>Technical guidance on wetland restoration techniques is available via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance on taking a systematic approach to responding to waterbird declines: a checklist of potential actions <p>Tools include the following Ramsar Handbook:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. 18: Managing wetlands 	<p>Habitat restoration is crucial to restore degraded ecosystems and reverse past losses. It is an important means of creating or restoring connectivity between now separated habitats.</p> <p>Continued decline of wetlands generally, most of which sustain waterbirds, indicates that the implementation of requirements in the</p>

⁴ All targets taken from CBD/WG2020/3/3 – first draft, July 2021. {EN [here](#); FR [ici](#)}

⁵ Tools include relevant Ramsar guidance documents (especially [Handbooks](#)) as appropriate given the almost complete accession of AEWA Parties to the Convention

	Core existing AEWA decisions and tools ⁵	Relevance for AEWA implementation
among them and focusing on priority ecosystems.]		Agreement's Action Plan to sustain wetlands have been inadequate and restoration is needed.
<p>Issue – at least 30% of global land and seas area as integrated protected areas</p> <p>[Target 3. Ensure that at least 30 per cent globally of land areas and of sea areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.]</p>	<p>Objective 3 of the 2019-2027 Strategic Plan aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To establish and sustain a coherent and comprehensive flyway network of protected areas and other sites, managed to maintain – and where necessary restore – their national and international importance for migratory waterbird populations. <p>Relevant actions include: the listing of nationally and internationally important sites (3.1); the assessment of threats and conservation measures at those sites (3.2); their effective management (3.3); their proper inclusion in national planning and decision-making processes (3.4); and the implementation of measures to avoid, mitigate and compensate for adverse impacts of development and other pressures, including the impacts of climate change (3.5).</p>	<p>Highly relevant</p> <p>The need to establish and appropriately manage networks of protected areas – in both the terrestrial and marine environments – is central to AEWA's objectives.</p> <p>AEWA's Action Plan requires Parties (action 3.1.2) to “to identify all sites of international or national importance for populations listed in Table 1”, using these as the basis “to continue establishing protected areas to conserve habitats important for” listed populations (action 3.2.1), giving “special attention to those wetlands which meet internationally accepted criteria of international importance” (action 3.2.2).</p> <p>The issue is a major focus of the Plan of Action for Africa⁶ and the 2019-2027 Strategic Plan.</p>

⁶ <https://www.unep-aewa.org/en/node/1935>

	Core existing AEWA decisions and tools ⁵	Relevance for AEWA implementation
	<p>Tools include the following AEWA Guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. 3 - Preparation of site inventories for migratory waterbirds • No. 4 - Management of key sites for migratory waterbirds • No. 11 - How to avoid, minimise or mitigate impact of infrastructural developments and related disturbance affecting waterbirds • No. 15 - National legislation for the protection of species of migratory waterbirds and their habitats <p>and the following Ramsar Handbooks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. 13: Inventory, assessment and monitoring • No. 15: Wetland inventory • No 16: Impact assessment • No. 17: Designating Ramsar Sites • No. 18: Managing wetlands 	
<p>Issue – species recovery and conservation, and conflict reduction</p> <p>[Target 4. Ensure active management actions to enable the recovery and conservation of species and the genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species, including through ex situ conservation, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to avoid or reduce human-wildlife conflict.]</p>	<p>Objective 1 of the 2019-2027 Strategic Plan aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To strengthen species conservation and recovery and reduce causes of unnecessary mortality. <p>Relevant actions include: the transposition of protective requirements into national legislation (1.1); the inclusion of all priority populations within effectively implemented Species Action Plans at flyway scale (1.2); the development of guidance for all other populations in unfavourable conservation status (1.3); improvement of the quality of waterbird population status assessments (1.4); and ensuring AEWA priorities relating to four causes of unnecessary additional mortality and other key threats to migratory</p>	<p>Highly relevant</p> <p>Species recovery: Compared to other taxa, AEWA has a good understanding of the status of its listed waterbird species through the preparation of <i>Conservation Status Reviews</i> for each MOP (CSR 5, CSR 6, CSR 7 and CSR 8). These review knowledge of each of AEWA’s listed populations. It has a well-developed process for the development and implementation of Action Plans for threatened populations that, whilst constrained by resources from full functionality, has been shown to be effective.</p> <p>Conflict reduction: One of central themes of the Agreement relates to all forms of conflict</p>

	Core existing AEWA decisions and tools ⁵	Relevance for AEWA implementation
	<p>waterbirds and their habitats are integrated into key multilateral processes (1.6).</p> <p>Tools include the following AEWA Guidelines and guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. 2 - Identifying and tackling emergency situations for migratory waterbirds • No. 8 - Reducing crop damage, damage to fisheries, bird strikes and other forms of conflict between waterbirds and human activities • No. 15 - National legislation for the protection of species of migratory waterbirds and their habitats • Guide to Guidance to Reduce the Impact of Fisheries on AEWA Seabird Species • Guidance on taking a systematic approach to responding to waterbird declines: a checklist of potential actions <p>and, for geese, the work of the European Goose Management Platform.</p>	<p>reduction. Major programmes run through the European Goose Management Platform directly address conflict reduction in relation to migratory geese.</p> <p>Both issues are major themes of the 2019-2027 Strategic Plan.</p>
<p>Issue – harvesting, trade and use that is sustainable, legal and safe for human health</p> <p>[Target 5. Ensure that the harvesting, trade and use of wild species is sustainable, legal, and safe for human health.]</p>	<p>Objective 2 of the 2019-2027 Strategic Plan aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that any use and management of migratory waterbird populations is sustainable across their flyways <p>Relevant actions include: that harvest levels are monitored and readily available at flyway level (2.1); that provisions of AEWA’s Action Plan relating to use and management, including harvesting, are transposed into all Parties’ domestic legislation and enforced effectively (2.2); that best-practice codes and standards for waterbird hunting are in place and applied to support enforcement of hunting laws and regulation (2.3); and that adaptive harvest management</p>	<p>Highly relevant</p> <p>The issue of harvesting of waterbirds has the potential to be highly unsustainable and ensuring the sustainable use of waterbirds is central to AEWA’s objectives. The recent commencement of collection of information on harvest levels (bag size) will progressively allow assessments to be made of harvest sustainability, nationally and internationally, and as relevant adoption of adaptive harvest mechanism as already in place for some AEWA-listed species.</p>

	Core existing AEWA decisions and tools ⁵	Relevance for AEWA implementation
	<p>regimes are in place and being effectively implemented as appropriate (2.4).</p> <p>Tools include the following AEWA Guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. 5 - Sustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds • No. 6 - Regulating trade in migratory waterbirds • No. 15 - National legislation for the protection of species of migratory waterbirds and their habitats 	<p>The consumption of waterbirds shot with toxic lead gunshot has implications for human health.</p> <p>The issue is a major theme of the 2019-2027 Strategic Plan.</p>
<p>Issue – invasive alien species</p> <p>[Target 6. Manage pathways for the introduction of invasive alien species, preventing, or reducing their rate of introduction and establishment by at least 50 per cent, and control or eradicate invasive alien species to eliminate or reduce their impacts, focusing on priority species and priority sites.]</p>	<p>Invasive alien species are a central element of AEWA’s Action Plan. AEWA has previously reviewed the status of non-native waterbirds in the Agreement area, and has adopted Guidelines for avoiding introduction of non-native birds. Most recently, MOP 7 adopted Guidance on AEWA’s provisions on non-native species which presents a legal analysis of AEWA’s provisions. Invasive alien species are addressed also by the 2019-2027 Strategic Plan and Plan of Action for Africa, and have been addressed by Resolutions 4.5 and 7.6.</p> <p>Tools include the following AEWA Guidelines and guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. 10 - Avoidance of introductions of non-native waterbird species • Guidance on AEWA’s provisions on non-native species 	<p>Highly relevant</p> <p>The need to control and eliminate established invasive non-native species, and prevent the establishment of others, is central to AEWA’s objectives. Section 2.5 of AEWA’s Action Plan <i>inter alia</i> prohibits Parties from introducing non-native plant or animal species than might be detrimental to migratory waterbirds listed by the Agreement. It further requires the taking of appropriate precautions to prevent the accidental escape of captive non-native animals than may be detrimental to listed waterbirds</p> <p>This issue is especially significant in the context of introduced mammalian predators on seabird breeding islands.</p> <p>As for Ruddy Duck <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>, hybridisation with non-native species can be a major threat to the genetic integrity of native waterbird species.</p>
<p>Issue – pollution control</p> <p>[Target 7. Reduce pollution from all sources to levels that are not harmful</p>	<p>AEWA has given significant attention to the need to eliminate the use of lead gunshot from wetlands, with the</p>	<p>Highly relevant</p> <p>The lethal and sub-lethal effects of direct and indirect pollution are a significant issue for many</p>

	Core existing AEWA decisions and tools ⁵	Relevance for AEWA implementation
<p>to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and human health, including by reducing nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, and pesticides by at least two thirds and eliminating the discharge of plastic waste.]</p>	<p>issue specifically addressed by the Action Plan, 2019-2027 Strategic Plan and Plan of Action for Africa, and with the Resolutions (1.14, 2.2, 3.4, 4.1, 6.4) by multiple MOPs. Slow progress is being made.</p> <p>Tools include the following AEWA Guidelines and guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. 2 - Identifying and tackling emergency situations for migratory waterbirds • Phasing out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands: experiences made and lessons learned by AEWA Range States <p>Relevant actions include provisions of the Action Plan (4.3.9) that require Parties to “establish and effectively enforce adequate statutory pollution controls in accordance with international norms and legal agreements, particularly as related to oil spills, discharge and dumping of solid wastes, for the purpose of minimising their impacts on the populations listed in Table 1.”</p> <p>Resolution 5.14 addressed the impacts of extractive industries on wetlands and waterbirds outlines important actions Parties should take to mitigate these impacts.</p> <p>The issue of air- and water-borne nutrient pollution has not previously been addressed by AEWA despite its significance.</p>	<p>waterbirds. Pollution control (notably through the discharge of wastes and industrial effluents into the environment) needs attention in many developing countries, whilst the ecological effects of air-borne nutrient pollution are significant factors altering habitats across much of north-west Europe.</p> <p>Nutrient pollution arising from excess use of agricultural fertilizers can also have major ecological consequences for wetland habitats.</p> <p>Lead shot discharged into wetlands still poisons millions of waterbirds annually within the Agreement area.</p> <p>Pollution from oil spills and discharges can have devastating local impacts on waterbirds and other wildlife.</p> <p>The need to address causes of pollution from plastic debris and micro plastics in the marine environment is being taken forward by a range of international processes.</p> <p>Extractive industries have the potential to cause significant loss of, and pollution to, wetlands as a result of their activities.</p>
<p>Issue – climate change adaptation and mitigation</p> <p>[Target 8. Minimize the impact of climate change on biodiversity, contribute to mitigation and adaptation through ecosystem-based approaches, contributing at least 10 GtCO₂e per</p>	<p>Multiple decisions of the MOP (Resolutions 3.17, 5.13, 6.6 and 7.9) have addressed climate change adaptation and mitigation measures in the context of migratory waterbird conservation, and through Resolution 6.6, AEWA adopted a climate change adaptation framework.</p>	<p>Highly relevant</p> <p>The need to put in place climate change adaption measures related to the waterbird habitats (especially but not restricted to wetlands) is central to AEWA’s objectives.</p>

	Core existing AEWA decisions and tools ⁵	Relevance for AEWA implementation
year to global mitigation efforts, and ensure that all mitigation and adaptation efforts avoid negative impacts on biodiversity.]	Target 3.5 of the 2019-2027 Strategic Plan aims inter alia, that national legal or administrative measures are in place and being implemented effectively to avoid, mitigate and compensate for adverse impacts of ... climate change, on sites of national and international importance in all Contracting Parties.	
(2) Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing		
<p>Issue – food security through sustainable species management</p> <p>[Target 9. Ensure benefits, including nutrition, food security, medicines, and livelihoods for people especially for the most vulnerable through sustainable management of wild terrestrial, freshwater and marine species and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.]</p>	<p>Resolution 7.2 recognises that “the full implementation of the Agreement, at all scales and by both Contracting Parties and other actors, has the potential to directly contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals <i>inter alia</i> through actions related to ... contributing to food security and poverty reduction through the sustainable harvesting of waterbirds and the wise-use use of wetlands; ...,</p> <p>Target 2.6 of the 2019-2027 Strategic Plan aims to ensure that “consideration of the ecosystem services derived from migratory waterbirds is integrated into policy and decision-making processes that affect waterbird habitats.”</p> <p>No targeted guidance to this end has been developed however, although AEWA’s Guidance on Sustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds is highly relevant.</p>	<p>Relevant as a consequence of AEWA implementation</p> <p>The Preamble to the Agreement specifically recognises the “economic, social, cultural and recreational benefits accruing from the taking of certain species of migratory waterbirds and of the environmental, ecological, genetic, scientific, aesthetic, recreational, cultural, educational, social and economic values of waterbirds in general” whilst stressing also that “that any taking of migratory waterbirds must be conducted on a sustainable basis...”.</p> <p>The use of waterbirds as a sustainable source of food presupposes that the impact of the harvest regime on the population must be sustainable.</p>
<p>Issue – agricultural, aquacultural and forestry sustainability and use</p> <p>[Target 10. Ensure all areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity,</p>	<p>AEWA’s direct and strategic treatment of agricultural sustainability has been limited despite the crucial dependence of many migratory waterbirds on these areas, and despite the high awareness of the significance of agricultural intensification as a driver of declines of multiple species (as reflected in many International Single Species Action Plans).</p> <p>Tools include the following Ramsar Handbook:</p>	<p>Highly relevant</p> <p>The need to ensure that agricultural and other wider habitats (outside protected areas) are managed sustainably for waterbirds is central to AEWA’s objectives.</p> <p>A large number of waterbirds listed by AEWA are dependent on agricultural landscapes either for breeding (for example many wader species)</p>

	Core existing AEWA decisions and tools ⁵	Relevance for AEWA implementation
increasing the productivity and resilience of these production systems.]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. 18: Managing wetlands 	or in the non-breeding season (many ducks, geese and swans). The appropriate management of these areas is critical to their continued suitability for these species.
<p>Issue – maintaining nature’s contributions to ecosystem approaches</p> <p>[Target 11. Maintain and enhance nature’s contributions to regulation of air quality, quality and quantity of water, and protection from hazards and extreme events for all people.]</p>	<p>The broad-ranging scope of AEWA’s Action Plan means implementation of the Agreement is well-placed to support ecosystem approaches.</p> <p>Of particular relevance will be the full implementation of the 2019-2027 Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa.</p>	<p>Highly relevant</p> <p>It has become increasingly recognised that successful conservation outcomes depend on integrated approaches – as exemplified by CBD’s Ecosystem Approach which is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way.</p>
<p>Issue – human health and well-being from nature</p> <p>[Target 12. Increase the area of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces, for human health and well-being in urban areas and other densely populated areas.]</p>	None	<p>Relevant as a consequence of AEWA implementation</p> <p>The Preamble to the Agreement specifically recognises the “economic, social, cultural and recreational benefits accruing from the taking of certain species of migratory waterbirds and of the environmental, ecological, genetic, scientific, aesthetic, recreational, cultural, educational, social and economic values of waterbirds in general.”</p>
<p>Issue – genetic benefit sharing including traditional knowledge</p> <p>[Target 13. Implement measures at global level and in all countries to facilitate access to genetic resources and to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, and as relevant,</p>	None	<p>Less directly relevant</p>

	Core existing AEWA decisions and tools ⁵	Relevance for AEWA implementation
of associated traditional knowledge, including through mutually agreed terms and prior and informed consent.]		
(3) Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming		
<p>Issue – Biodiversity integrated into policy</p> <p>[Target 14. Fully integrate biodiversity values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies, accounts, and assessments of environmental impacts at all levels of government and across all sectors of the economy, ensuring that all activities and financial flows are aligned with biodiversity values.]</p>	<p>The 2019-2027 Strategic Plan aims to promote integrating of waterbird conservation needs into relevant national and international laws, policies, and frameworks, with Targets with respect to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrating needs to address unnecessary additional mortality from energy infrastructure (especially powerlines, wind turbines); illegal taking and killing; fisheries bycatch; and invasive alien species, and other key threats to migratory waterbirds and their habitats into key multilateral processes (1.6); • sustainable use and harvesting (2.2); • ecosystem services derived from migratory waterbirds (2.6); • conservation and wise use of flyway network sites (3.4); • policies to avoid, mitigate and compensate for adverse impacts of development activities and other pressures, including climate change, on sites of national and international importance for migratory waterbirds (3.5); • priorities for habitat conservation and management in the wider environment (4.1 & 4.2); • national habitat conservation and management priorities (4.3); and • conservation of migratory waterbirds is integrated into national implementation policies and plans related to the SDGs, Aichi Targets/Post-2020 biodiversity framework, 	<p>Highly relevant</p> <p>The full of integration of the needs of migratory waterbirds into sectoral and other policies is critical both for the conservation of species and their habitats. This is directly relevant, <i>inter alia</i>, for policies in relation to spatial planning, agriculture, fisheries, infrastructure development, energy, poverty reduction, and transportation networks.</p>

	Core existing AEWA decisions and tools⁵	Relevance for AEWA implementation
	Strategic Plan for Migratory Species and Ramsar Strategic Plan (5.4), as well as integrated into the new generation of NBSAPs and/or similar national plans/policies (5.5).	
<p>Issue – sustainable production and supply chains</p> <p>[Target 15. All businesses (public and private, large, medium and small) assess and report on their dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, from local to global, and progressively reduce negative impacts, by at least half and increase positive impacts, reducing biodiversity-related risks to businesses and moving towards the full sustainability of extraction and production practices, sourcing and supply chains, and use and disposal.]</p>	Resolution 5.14 specifically address the impacts of extractive industries, important for economic production and yet potentially highly damaging to the wetland habitats of migratory waterbirds, and outlines important actions Parties should take to mitigate the impacts of such industries.	<p>Relevant through land-use change and pollution in particular</p> <p>For waterbirds this issue is relevant largely in the contexts of agricultural sustainability and pollution respectively highlighted by Targets [10 and 7] above.</p> <p>The impacts of extractive industries such as in relation to coal, oil and gas, precious and base minerals, sand and gravel, industrial minerals, peat, salt and soda ash, have the potential, if not appropriately managed and regulated, to have direct and indirect negative impacts on waterbirds through changes to the ecological character of their wetland habitats.</p> <p>Some wetlands are particular vulnerable to the consequences of extractive industries with the potential for impacts to be transferred both upstream and downstream within a river basin.</p>
<p>Issue – addressing unsustainable consumption patterns and reduction of waste</p> <p>[Target 16. Ensure that people are encouraged and enabled to make responsible choices and have access to relevant information and alternatives, taking into account cultural preferences, to reduce by at least half</p>	None	Less directly relevant

	Core existing AEWA decisions and tools ⁵	Relevance for AEWA implementation
the waste and, where relevant the overconsumption, of food and other materials.]		
<p>Issue – biotechnology impacts</p> <p>[Target 17. Establish, strengthen capacity for, and implement measures in all countries to prevent, manage or control potential adverse impacts of biotechnology on biodiversity and human health, reducing the risk of these impacts.]</p>	None	Less directly relevant
<p>Issue – elimination of harmful incentives</p> <p>[Target 18. Redirect, repurpose, reform or eliminate incentives harmful for biodiversity, in a just and equitable way, reducing them by at least US\$ 500 billion per year, including all of the most harmful subsidies, and ensure that incentives, including public and private economic and regulatory incentives, are either positive or neutral for biodiversity.]</p>	AEWA’s direct and strategic treatment of this issue has been limited despite the significance of incentivised sectoral policies as drivers of declines of multiple species (reflected in many International Single Species Action Plans).	Highly relevant Sectoral policies for agriculture and fisheries with associated provision of incentives have been directly linked to decline of AEWA-listed species and are the main frameworks providing subsidies harmful to habitats (for example inappropriate management of wet grasslands), or directly harmful to species (for example through fisheries by-catch).
<p>Issue – increase financial resources</p> <p>[Target 19. Increase financial resources from all sources to at least US\$ 200 billion per year, including new, additional and effective financial resources, increasing by at least</p>	A number of past AEWA Resolutions have addressed the need for funding for the Small Grants Fund , whilst others have highlighted funding needs with respect to national and international monitoring processes.	Highly relevant Adequate financing is critical for to ensure its ultimate effectiveness of waterbird conservation, yet financial limitations have constrained the implementation of the Agreement and associated programmes both nationally and internationally.

	Core existing AEWA decisions and tools⁵	Relevance for AEWA implementation
<p>US\$ 10 billion per year international financial flows to developing countries, leveraging private finance, and increasing domestic resource mobilization, taking into account national biodiversity finance planning, and strengthen capacity-building and technology transfer and scientific cooperation, to meet the needs for implementation, commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the framework.]</p>	<p>Multiple other Resolutions have called on donors to financially support their implementation, but such support has rarely been forthcoming.</p> <p>Target 5.6 of the 2019-2027 Strategic Plan aims to ensure that “the resources required for coordination and delivery of the Strategic Plan at international and national levels have been assessed as realistically as possible and corresponding resource mobilisation plans implemented.”</p>	<p>There is still no sustainable long-term financial support for monitoring programmes such as the International Waterbird Census, nor for assessment programmes such as for the triennial production of the <i>Conservation Status Review</i> critical to the Review of AEWA’s population status listings.</p> <p>AEWA’s Small Grants Fund has not been operational since 2015 owing to lack of funding.</p>
<p>Issue – information for decision makers including traditional knowledge</p> <p>[Target 20. Ensure that relevant knowledge, including the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities with their free, prior, and informed consent, guides decision-making for the effective management of biodiversity, enabling monitoring, and by promoting awareness, education and research.]</p>	<p>Target 1.5 of the 2019-2027 Strategic Plan aims to ensure that “decision-making for national and flyway-level conservation and management of waterbird populations is based on the best-available monitoring data.”</p> <p>More strategically, AEWA has not yet provided guidance on good practices in summarising relevant data and information for decision making, although MOP 7 adopted Guidance on taking a systematic approach to responding to waterbird declines: a checklist of potential actions which stressed the need for evidence-based and adaptive approaches.</p>	<p>Highly relevant</p> <p>Good conservation outcomes depend critically on understanding of issues involved and the consequences of different possible decisions.</p>
<p>Issue – equitable and effective participation in decision-making</p> <p>[Target 21. Ensure equitable and effective participation in decision-making related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, and respect their rights</p>	<p>None, although a number of Ramsar Handbooks provide relevant guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. 5. Partnerships • No. 6. Wetland CEPA • No. 7. Participatory skills 	<p>Highly relevant</p> <p>Good governance, which includes participation in decision-making, has been identified as a</p>

	Core existing AEWA decisions and tools⁵	Relevance for AEWA implementation
over lands, territories and resources, as well as by women and girls, and youth.]		critical determinant of successful waterbird conservation ⁷ .

⁷ Amano, T., Székely, T., Sandel, B., Nagy, S., Mundkur, T, Langendoen, Blanco, D., Soykan, C.U. & Sutherland, W.J. 2018. Successful conservation of global waterbird populations depends on effective governance. *Nature* 553: 199–202.