



8th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES
5 - 9 October 2021, Budapest, Hungary

**REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE TO
THE 8th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

Introduction

This report is submitted to the 8th Session of the Meeting of Parties (MOP8) by the AEWA Technical Committee (TC) in accordance with Article VII paragraph 3(c) of the Agreement. It describes the activities of the Technical Committee during the period 2019 - 2021 and presents a summary of results achieved.

The Technical Committee is a subsidiary body to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, which was established in accordance with Article VII of the Agreement.

The Technical Committee has the following general functions:

- It provides scientific and technical advice and information to the Meeting of the Parties and, through the Agreement Secretariat, to Parties;
- It makes recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties concerning the Action Plan, implementation of the Agreement and further research to be carried out;
- It prepares a report on its activities for each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties;
- It carries out any other tasks referred to it by the Meeting of the Parties; and
- The TC works closely with the Standing Committee to ensure consistency across the Agreement's work.

Membership of the Committee

The TC membership comprises:

- Nine experts representing the different regions of the Agreement Area (Northern & Southwestern Europe/Ms Ruth Cromie (United Kingdom), Central Europe/Mr Taulant Bino (Albania), Eastern Europe/vacant, Southwestern Asia/Mr Laith El-Moghrabi (Jordan), Northern Africa/Mr Sidi Imad Cherkaoui (Morocco), Central Africa/vacant, Western Africa/Ms Khady Gueye (Senegal), Eastern Africa/Mr Peter Njoroge (Kenya) and Southern Africa/Ms Lizanne Roxburgh (South Africa)) elected among all the Parties of the region in question;
- One representative appointed by each of the following organisations: The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN/Mr Richard Hearn), Wetlands International (Mr Szabolcs Nagy), the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC/Mr Mikko Alhainen); and
- One thematic expert from each of the following fields: rural economics (Mr Philippe Karpe), game management (Mr Pierre Defos du Rau), and environmental law (Mr Emmanuel Kasimbazi), elected by the Parties.

- An additional thematic expert on CEPA (Ms Olesya Petrovych) supported the Committee over the past two triennia following an invitation by the TC Chair in 2015 in response to AEWA MOP Resolution 5.5.
- An additional four experts were invited to support the work of the Committee over the period 2019-2021 in specific workplan tasks. These include Mr Jesper Madsen (sustainable harvest) and Mr Sebastien Le Bel (sustainable harvest and socio-economic importance of waterbirds), Mr Ian Mitchell (seabirds) and Mr David Stroud (various tasks).

Besides the Chair of the AEWA Standing Committee, a number of Contracting Parties joined the meetings of the Committee as observers and the UK designated a permanent observer to the Committee (Mr Danny Heptinstall). The following four permanent observer non-governmental organisations have been admitted to the TC: BirdLife International, The European Federation for Hunting and Conservation (FACE), The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), and Migratory Birds of the Western Palearctic (OMPO). Other observers to the Technical Committee in the past triennium were the UNEP/CMS Secretariat and the Chair of the CMS African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Working Group, the Chair of the Ramsar Scientific & Technical Review Panel, the Chair of the Technical sub-Committee and the Head of the Science Unit of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, and the UNEP/World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

Implementation of the Technical Committee Work Plan

During the triennium 2019-2021, the Technical Committee held two meetings:

- The 15th Meeting was held on 09-11 April 2019 in the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat's premises in the UN Campus in Bonn, Germany;
- The 16th Meeting was held on 25-29 January 2021 remotely through online conferencing due to the COVID-related restrictions.

We express our thanks to the staff of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat for ensuring the effective organisation and running of both meetings.

Both meetings were chaired by Ruth Cromie (United Kingdom), regional representative for North & South-western Europe, who was elected and assumed the functions of Technical Committee chair at the start of the meeting in April 2019.

The TC Work Plan for the period 2019-2021 was adopted by the 7th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP7) in December 2018. The tasks were organised under eight Working Groups (Table 1), each with a chair responsible for supervising the implementation of planned tasks. Each Working Group was supported by a staff member of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat. The Work Plan was further developed and refined by the TC at its 15th Meeting in April 2019 (Table 2).

Intersessionally, the TC worked on the implementation of the work plan via the AEWA Technical Committee Workspace, which is a web-based, password-protected communication space and working area for the TC that provides easy access to documents, enables correspondence and discussions, as well as archiving all the work of the TC. In addition, TC Working Groups convened virtual meetings to advance specific tasks.

Table 1. Technical Committee Working Groups and their membership (2019-2021)

Working Group	Members
1. Field of Application	Peter Njoroge (Chair) , Szabolcs Nagy, Nicola Crockford, Nick Davidson, Sergey Dereliev, Nina Mikander (Secretariat support)
2. Species Conservation	Lizanne Roxburgh (Lead) , Szabolcs Nagy, Danny Heptinstall, Richard Hearn, Peter Njoroge, Jesper Madsen, Sebastien Le Bel, Cy Griffin, Pierre Defos du Rau, Mikko Alhainen, Nicola Crockford, Taulant Bino, Laith El-Moghrabi, David Stroud, Alexandre Czajkowski, Olesya Petrovych, Sergey Dereliev, Nina Mikander (Secretariat support)
3. Habitat Conservation	Szabolcs Nagy (Chair) , David Stroud, Nick Davidson, Pierre Defos du Rau, Nicola Crockford, Olivier Biber, Olesya Petrovych, Danny Heptinstall, Sebastien Le Bel, Nina Mikander (Secretariat support)
4. Management of Human Activities	Taulant Bino (Chair) , David Stroud, Jesper Madsen, Cy Griffin, Szabolcs Nagy, Sebastien Le Bel, Pierre Defos du Rau, Nicola Crockford, Richard Hearn, Alexandre Czajkowski, Mikko Alhainen, Danny Heptinstall, Sergey Dereliev, Eva Meyers (Secretariat support)
5. Research and Monitoring	Imad Cherkaoui (Chair) , Szabolcs Nagy, Evelyn Moloko (Secretariat support)
6. Education and Information	Olesya Petrovych (Chair) , Dunia Sforzin, Florian Keil (Secretariat support)
7. Implementation	Laith El-Moghrabi (Chair) , Emmanuel Kasimbazi, Richard Hearn, Nick Davidson, David Stroud, Danny Heptinstall, Sebastien Le Bel, Szabolcs Nagy, Nina Mikander, Sergey Dereliev (Secretariat support)
8. Strategic, reporting, emerging and other issues	Emmanuel Kasimbazi (Chair) , Szabolcs Nagy, David Stroud, Nick Davidson, Becky Price, Imad Cherkaoui, Danny Heptinstall, Olesya Petrovych, Ruth Cromie, Evelyn Moloko, Sergey Dereliev (Secretariat support)

The Delivery of the Technical Committee Work Plan 2019-2021

Of the 48 tasks on the TC workplan in the current triennium, 23 tasks (48%) were identified to be of essential priority with another 12 tasks (25%) of high priority. Of the remaining, one task (2%) was tagged as medium priority, four tasks (8%) as other priority and eight tasks (17%) as not requiring (immediate) action (Figure 1).

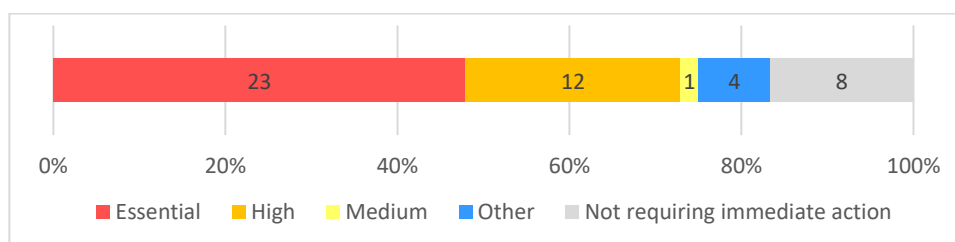


Figure 1. Prioritisation of the 48 tasks in the TC Work Plan.

Of the tasks requiring immediate action by the Technical Committee (40 tasks), 21 were fully implemented, while another 12 were only partially implemented and the remaining 7 tasks were not implemented (Figure 2).

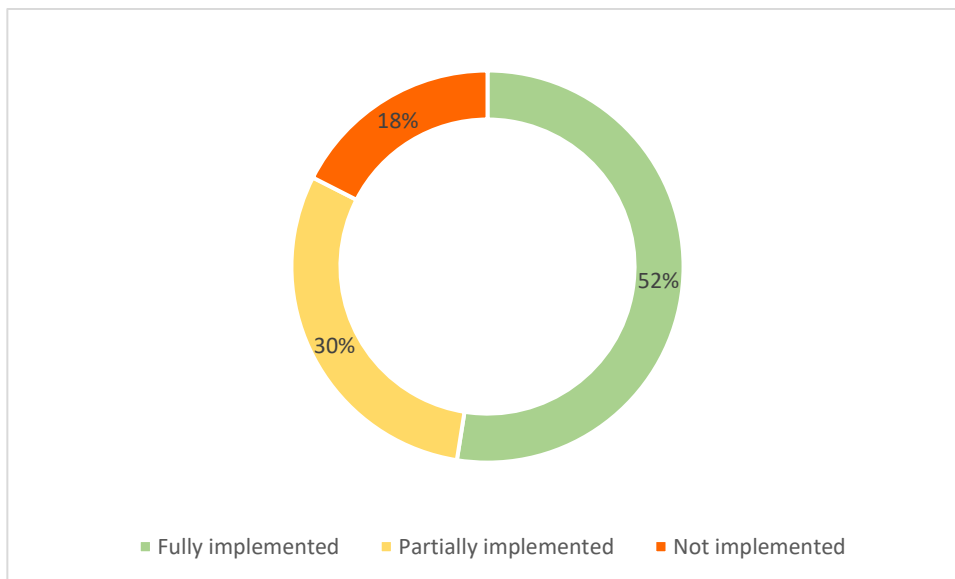


Figure 2. Status of implementation of the 40 tasks in the TC Work Plan requiring immediate action.

For the different levels of priority, the status of implementation is as presented in Figure 3.

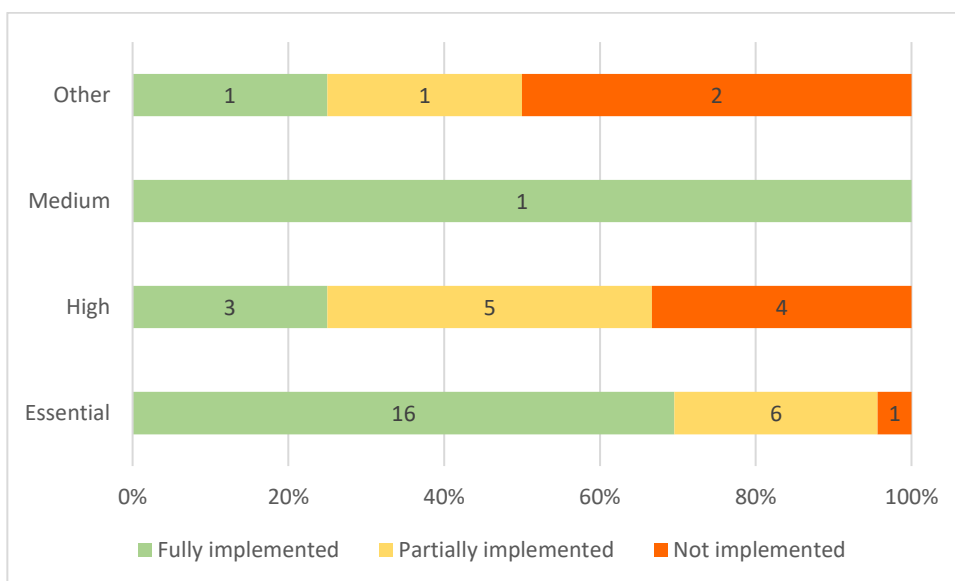


Figure 3. Status of implementation of the 40 tasks in the TC Work Plan requiring immediate action per level of priority.

As the result of TC work, the Committee has drafted seven Resolutions to be endorsed for submission to MOP8 through the Standing Committee. Eighteen MOP8 meeting documents were drafted by the TC or prepared with the close involvement of the Committee.

The following key tasks were carried out by the TC in 2019–2021:

- Review of delineation of population boundaries of nine species. The recommended delineations were approved by the Standing Committee in December 2019 and used for the purposes of the 8th edition of the Conservation Status Report;
- Guide the preparation of and submit the 8th edition of the Conservation Status Review (CSR8) to MOP8;
- Prepare a proposal for revision of Table 1 in Annex 3 to the Agreement for submission to MOP8 based on the results of CSR8;
- Monitor the implementation of species action and management plans and submit to MOP8 recommendations for revision, retirement and extension of plans;
- Revise the format for international single and multi-species action plans;
- Prepare a draft format for international single and multi-species management plans;
- Develop a framework for use by the Parties to review and confirm the inventory of known nationally and internationally important sites;
- Develop a monitoring framework for the AEWA flyway site network;
- Compile a short guidance for managing disturbance to waterbirds addressed to wetland managers;
- Develop criteria for prioritisation of species for harvest data collation and compiled a resulting priority list;
- Compile an overview of identified gaps in information relevant for the implementation of the Agreement with recommended priorities for AEWA to fill such gaps;
- Compile priorities for the development of monitoring of AEWA species and populations;
- Compile and assessment of the status of waterbird monitoring synergies with relevant MEAs and other frameworks and recommendations for strengthening synergies;
- Compile a concise guidance on the provisioning of ecosystem services in relation to migratory waterbirds;
- Elaborate a procedure for dissemination of information supplementary to the AEWA Conservation Guidelines;
- Revise the national report format, including necessary adjustments on the basis of decisions taken at MOP7, for use in the reporting cycle to MOP8;
- Prepare the template for the reporting module on the status of populations of AEWA-listed (native) and non-native waterbird species in the Agreement area for the period 2013-2018;
- Prepare the report format on the implementation of the Plan of Action for Africa for the period 2019-2020;
- Prepare the draft national report format for the period 2021-2023 for submission to MOP8;
- Prepare a draft report format for the Plan of Action for Africa for the period 2021-2023 for submission to MOP8;
- Compile the final assessment of AEWA's contributions to the Aichi Targets;
- Compile an assessment of the potential contribution of AEWA to the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;
- Compile a revised assessment of AEWA's relevance for the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In addition to the specific tasks requested by MOP7, the TC also implemented certain other tasks to fulfil its mandate.

The Technical Committee reviewed and provided comments and suggestions on the draft of the action plan for the Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*).

The Technical Committee reviewed incoming submissions of information for possible Implementation Review Process case files and provided advice to the Standing Committee.

The Chair of the TC, Ms Ruth Cromie, participated in the 15th AEWA Standing Committee meeting that took place in Bristol (United Kingdom) on 11-13 December 2019 and the 16th, 17th and 18th meetings of the Committee held remotely via online conferencing on 4-6th May 2021, 30th June 2021 and 28th July 2021, respectively.

The TC Chair significantly contributed to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) processes under the EU chemicals regulation REACH, to develop a regulation for the European Union on the phase out of lead shot for hunting in wetlands and terrestrial areas including a workshop held in Helsinki (Finland) on 10-11 February 2020. The EU regulation on restricting lead shot in wetlands was adopted in January 2021 and will come into force in 2023.

How could the Technical Committee work be made more effective?

As in the previous triennium, a significant proportion (nearly half) of the tasks in the Work Plan were implemented only partially or not at all due to the large volume of requests to the TC by the Meeting of Parties and the lack of funds necessary for implementation of most of the planned tasks (Table 2). All funding made available in 2019-2021 for undertaking the substantive TC tasks that require outsourcing was on the basis of voluntary contributions that the Secretariat requested from the Contracting Parties.

The consistently high number of requests by the MOP (see document AEWA/MOP 6.7 to illustrate the increase in requests), plus the tasks required to fulfil the Strategic Plan, indicates that the TC work is necessary, yet its capacity to respond to all requests is limited. It is needed to assign a certain part of the core budget to support the work that the MOP and the Strategic Plan request from the TC.

A clear prioritisation from Parties within the numerous tasks requested from the TC is provided in the work plan adopted by the MOP, however, the ratio of essential and high priority tasks is disproportionate (73% of all tasks in the current triennium). Further, more realistic, prioritisation will ensure that the Committee can provide a more effective service to the Parties.

The Secretariat is very closely engaged in the work of the Technical Committee contributing significantly and providing excellent support. Practically every staff member of the Secretariat contributes to a greater or lesser extent. With the ever-increasing work portfolio of the Secretariat, the staff are making every effort to deliver on all its mandates. In order to support the Secretariat in delivering their facilitating role to the Technical Committee, MOP7 through Resolution 7.11 urged those Contracting Parties which provide Junior Professional Officers (JPO) to the United Nations system to prioritise and allocate a JPO to the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat for Technical Committee support. Unfortunately, no JPO was allocated to the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat over the past triennium.

Technical Committee outreach

During the triennium, Members of the TC have participated in several important international meetings. Such engagement assists the TC to review and discuss its work with relevant experts and organisations from outside the Agreement area and to develop necessary synergies with other relevant treaties and conventions.

The TC also had its representatives to the CMS Working Group on Preventing Poisoning to Migratory Birds (the TC Chair Ms Ruth Cromie) and to the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (the representative for Northern Africa – Mr Sidi Imad Cherkaoui) who were involved in the work of these two processes.

TC members actively participated in the following meetings during 2019-2021:

- Scientific Council of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS);

- CMS Conference of the Parties;
- CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean;
- European Union; Expert Group on the Birds and Habitats Directives;
- Wetlands International, Waterbird Monitoring Partnership;
- Wetlands International Specialist Groups Meetings.

Field of application (Working Group 1)

Task	Priority	Status of implementation	Actions undertaken by the TC	Relevant MOP8 documents
<p>1.1. Taxonomy & nomenclature Maintain overview of taxonomic and nomenclatural issues and advise on the need to update Annex 2 to the Agreement as necessary (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018). <i>(Resolution 6.1)</i></p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Fully implemented</p>	<p>A workflow was established with BirdLife International whereby changes to taxonomy and nomenclature in the Checklist of the Birds of the World affecting AEWA species are regularly submitted to the attention of AEWA and taxonomic issues/proposals coming up during the AEWA Conservation Status Review process (particularly sub-species level taxonomy) are referred to the BirdLife Taxonomic Working Group for review.</p> <p>The TC was notified of nomenclature changes (English or scientific name) affecting five AEWA species (Hottentot Teal, Lesser Moorhen, Grey Crowned-crane, Black Crowned-crane, and European Shag). These were reviewed and included in the proposal for amendments of the AEWA Annexes submitted to MOP8 by United Kingdom in accordance with Article X of the Agreement.</p> <p>This is a rolling task and will be carried over to the workplan for the next triennium.</p>	<p>Doc. AEWA/MOP 8.21</p>
<p>1.2 Taxonomic (and geographic) scope of AEWA: Preparation of a review to explore options to extend AEWA as a framework for other migratory bird species/species groups in the Africa-Eurasian region so as to cover all African-Eurasian bird MoUs and Action Plans (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018). <i>(CMS Resolution 11.14, Annex 1, point 19)</i></p>	<p>No (immediate) action required</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>No action was taken on this task under the CMS Flyways Programme of Work, therefore no TC action was necessary.</p> <p>It is proposed to retire this task from the TC workplan.</p>	<p>No</p>

<p>1.3 Population definitions: Evaluate evidence supporting the delineation of current population boundaries for the following species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Eider (<i>Somateria mollissima</i>) • Goosander (<i>Mergus merganser</i>) • Atlantic Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) • Black Guillemot (<i>Cephus grylle</i>) • Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) • Little Auk (<i>Alle alle</i>) • Thick-billed Murre (<i>Uria lomvia</i>) • Common Murre (<i>Uria aalge</i>) • Eurasian Spoonbill (<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>) (<i>CSR8 and proposed changes to Table 1 of AEWAs Action Plan</i>) 	Essential	Fully implemented	<p>Following the General guidance on the definition of species populations under AEWAs, approved by the Standing Committee (StC) at its 12th meeting (Doc. AEWAs/StC 12.11), the TC reviewed at its 15th meeting in 2019 the evidence provided through the proforma for the submission of proposals for population delineation to the TC for the first eight species on the list. The TC also announced a call through the AEWAs website for submission of further proposals. Once such proposal was submitted for the Eurasian Spoonbill.</p> <p>After evaluating the evidence, the TC delivered to the StC a recommendation for the delineation of the populations of those nine species. The StC agreed with the recommended delineations and they were subsequently used in the production of the 8th edition of the AEWAs Conservation Status Report (CSR8).</p> <p>Two additional population delineation issue regarding the Common Eider were raised in 2020 in the context of the development of an action plan for the species. Those were reviewed at the 16th meeting of the Committee and resulted in a recommendation for amendment of delineation of one population (approved by the 16th meeting of the StC in May 2021) and a proposal for addition of a new population to Table 1 of Annex 3 of the Agreement.</p>	No
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			AEWA TC recommendations for the delineation of selected AEWA populations on Table 1 of the Action Plan (Doc. AEWA/StC 15.7 and AEWA/StC 16.8).	
1.4 Review of Table 1 in Annex 3 to the Agreement Prepare a proposal for revision of Table 1 in AEWA Annex 3 for submission to MOP8. (<i>AEWA Article VII.3(b)</i>)	Essential	Fully implemented	Based on the results of CSR8, the TC prepared a proposal for amendments to Table 1 of AEWA Annex 3. This proposal was submitted to MOP8 by the United Kingdom in accordance with Article X of the Agreement.	Doc. AEWA/MOP 8.21

Species Conservation (Working Group 2)

Task	Priority	Status of implementation	Actions undertaken by the TC	Relevant MOP8 documents
2.1. Priority list for species action and management planning Review and update, as necessary, the list of International Species Action and Management Plans required for priority species/populations, involving adaptive harvest management processes where relevant, taking into account the possible need to develop new plans and retire, revise or extend existing plans. (<i>Resolutions 6.8 and 7.5; Strategic Plan 2019-2027</i>)	Essential	Partially implemented	<p>The TC undertook this task early in the triennium already by its 15th meeting in April 2019 and reviewed a draft revised priority list. After an extensive discussion, it was decided to re-think the prioritisation method. At its 16th meeting in January 2021 the TC reviewed a revised approach to prioritisation of populations for action planning and agreed on the method as well as a resulting list based on the version of Table 1 of AEWA Annex 3 to be proposed for adoption by MOP8.</p> <p>The approach to prioritisation of populations for management planning will be reviewed by the TC at the</p>	Doc. AEWA/MOP 8.22; Doc. AEWA/MOP8 DR.4

			<p>start of the next triennium and a priority list will be established.</p> <p>Under this task, the TC also undertook a review of the existing Action and Management Plans for retirement, revision or extension and compiled a recommendation to MOP8 which was discussed and agreed at its 16th meeting in January 2021.</p> <p>In addition, a draft resolution was compiled for submission to MOP8.</p>	
<p>2.2. Conservation and management guidance for AEWA populations Conduct a rapid review of existing information to identify relevant populations for which new or improved conservation and management guidance is required. (<i>Strategic Plan 2019-2027</i>)</p>	<p>Essential</p>	<p>Partially implemented</p>	<p>At its 15th meeting, the TC discussed and agreed on a procedure for the development, issuance and updating of AEWA conservation and management guidance for select populations (other than those with Species Action or Management Plans). This procedure concerned (1) assessment and prioritisation of species, (2) roles, responsibilities and mechanisms for updating of guidance and preparation/dissemination of new guidance, and (3) format/template.</p> <p>Some funding was made available to the Secretariat late in the triennium, which allowed the commissioning of the compilation of conservation and management guidance for five species. At the time of writing the first drafts were reviewed by the TC and a revision was requested. Due to the tight timelines, these pilots will be finalised after MOP8. Further guidance will be compiled in the next triennium as resources become available.</p>	<p>No</p>

<p>2.3. ISSAP Conservation Briefs Facilitate the production of conservation briefs of the ISSAPs for the Great Snipe, Ferruginous Duck, Lesser Flamingo, Maccoa Duck and Madagascar Pond Heron. (<i>Resolution 7.5</i>)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Partially implemented</p>	<p>Some funding was made available to the Secretariat late in the triennium, which allowed the commission of the compilation of conservation briefs for the all the five ISSAPs. At the time of writing the first drafts were reviewed by the TC and a revision was requested. Due to the tight timelines, these briefs will be finalised after MOP8.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>2.4. Sustainable harvests and the socio-economic importance of waterbirds Compile a desk study (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018). (<i>Resolutions 6.4, 6.15, 7.2; CMS Flyways Programme of Work, Resolution 12.11, Annex I</i>)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Not implemented</p>	<p>Late in the triennium an ad hoc group with external expertise was convened to address the tasks on the TC Work Plan related to sustainable harvest, but due to the tight remaining timelines and capacity issues, the task was not implemented and will be carried over to the next triennium.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>2.5. Priorities for seabird conservation Review the seabird conservation priorities approved by MOP7 and provide guidance on their delivery. (<i>Resolution 7.6</i>)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Not implemented</p>	<p>An ad hoc expert on seabirds was identified and appointed to support the TC on this topic, but due to capacity issues, the task was not implemented and will be carried over to the next triennium.</p>	<p>No</p>

Habitat conservation (Working Group 3)

Task	Priority	Status of implementation	Actions undertaken by the TC	Relevant MOP8 documents
<p>3.1. Site inventory framework Develop a simple framework for use by the Parties to review and confirm the inventory of known</p>	<p>Essential</p>	<p>Fully implemented</p>	<p>At its 15th meeting the TC agreed on a site inventory framework which includes interpretation of AEWAs. Action Plan references to “sites of international or national importance” and “internationally accepted</p>	<p>No</p>

<p>nationally and internationally important sites. (<i>Strategic Plan 2019-2027</i>)</p>			<p>criteria of international importance” and it also takes into account existing site network criteria, including those used to identify EU Special Protection Areas, Ramsar Sites, Emerald Network Sites and Important Bird Areas.</p> <p>The TC was also involved in the review of submitted site inventories by the Parties.</p>	
<p>3.2. Site monitoring framework Develop a monitoring framework for the AEWA flyway site network (building on the preliminary Site Network Report presented to MOP5) that is coordinated with similar reporting under other multilateral processes. (<i>Strategic Plan 2019-2027</i>)</p>	<p>Essential</p>	<p>Fully implemented</p>	<p>The drafting of a site monitoring framework and guidance was outsourced following the Terms of Reference agreed at the 15th meeting the TC. At its 16th meeting the TC reviewed and commented on the draft proposal for a site monitoring framework. Following the meeting, after further revision and a review on the TC Workspace, the TC agreed with the draft proposal for submission to the MOP.</p> <p>In addition, a draft resolution was compiled for submission to MOP8.</p>	<p>Doc. AEWA/MOP 8.29; Doc. AEWA/MOP8 DR.6</p>
<p>3.3. Status of principal waterbird habitats Conduct Agreement-level assessment of the status of principal waterbird habitats in the wider environment, drawing on existing studies wherever possible. (<i>Strategic Plan 2019-2027</i>)</p>	<p>Essential</p>	<p>Partially implemented</p>	<p>At its 15th meeting the TC agreed on Terms of Reference for this task, which was expanded to all bird taxa and habitats as a joint project in the African-Eurasian region with the Convention on Migratory Species (Landbirds Action Plan, Central Asian Flyway Waterbird Action Plan) and the Raptors MoU.</p> <p>Some funding was made available to the Secretariat late in the triennium, which allowed the commission of the development of a costed concept for a large-scale</p>	<p>No</p>

			project to be implemented within the next several years. At the time of writing, the first draft of the concept was reviewed by the TC and representatives of the other involved instruments, and feedback was submitted to the compilers. It is expected that the concept will be finalised and agreed after MOP8 and with that fundraising could be launched.	
3.4 Sea-level rise impact Increase understanding of the consequences of sea-level rise on the Critical Site Network and the waterbird populations dependent on coastal habitats. (<i>Resolution 7.9</i>)	High	Not implemented	No progress has been made on this task, will be carried over to the next triennium.	No
3.5. Habitat conservation action plan On the basis of the assessment under task 3.3, develop an action plan (identifying priorities, opportunities and a set of recommended actions), taking into account regional and sub-regional differences in key habitat types and threats/drivers. (<i>Strategic Plan 2019-2027</i>)	Essential	Partially implemented	This task was merged with task 3.3 above and its implementation was included in the Terms of Reference agreed at the 15 th meeting of the TC and the follow up implementation is described above (see task 3.3).	No
3.6. Socio-economic importance of waterbirds Explore the potential to develop a number of case studies summarising the socio-economic benefits (including food security) accruing to local populations from the sustainable management of wetlands and the sustainable use of the waterbirds that depend on these areas (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018). (<i>Resolution 5.13</i>)	Other	Not implemented	No progress has been made on this task, will be carried over to the next triennium, possibly jointly with task 4.11 below.	No

<p>3.7 Net Positive Impact Investigate the feasibility and develop a proposal for international Net Positive Impact including offsetting approaches that involve the corporate sector and governments in order to flyway conservation (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018). (CMS Flyways Programme of Work, Resolution 12.11, Annex 1)</p>	<p>No (immediate) action required</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>No action was taken on this task under the CMS Flyways Programme of Work, therefore no TC action was necessary.</p> <p>It is proposed to retire this task from the TC workplan.</p>	<p>No</p>
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Management of human activities (Working Group 4)

Task	Priority	Status of implementation	Actions undertaken by the TC	Relevant MOP8 documents
<p>4.1. Processes contributing to tackling of the four causes of unnecessary additional mortality and other threats Identify those multilateral processes that can contribute most to progressing AEWA priorities related to the four causes of unnecessary additional mortality and other key threats to migratory waterbirds and their habitats and identify strategic opportunities for positively influencing these processes. (Strategic Plan 2019-2027)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Partially implemented</p>	<p>Some funding was made available to the Secretariat late in the triennium, which allowed the engagement of external support for the implementation of this task. At the time of writing implementation work was ongoing, but due to the tight MOP-related timelines it will be finalised after MOP8.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>4.2. Management of disturbance Commission simple but comprehensive guidance on the management of disturbance in a form that may be widely translated and disseminated and</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Fully implemented</p>	<p>The TC compiled internally a short guidance for managing disturbance to waterbirds addressed to wetland managers and approved it for submission to MOP8.</p>	<p>Doc. AEWA/MOP 8.32</p>

submit to MOP8 for consideration. Produce versions in English, French, Arabic and Russian (carried over from Work Plan 2012-2015). (<i>Resolution 5.24</i>)			Upon adoption by MOP8, possibilities will be sought for translation into other languages.	
<p>4.3. Reducing energy impacts – Energy Task Force</p> <p>Collaborate on implementation of CMS Resolution 11.27 on Renewable energy and migratory species. The task includes participation in the CMS Energy Task Force to provide further guidance and support in relation to the implementation of CMS Resolution 11.27. The task also involves providing further guidance when relevant new developments on reducing the impact of power lines on birds become available, such as improved mitigation techniques (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018). (<i>Resolution 5.11; CMS Flyways Programme of Work, Resolution 12.11, Annex 1</i>)</p>	No (immediate) action required	N/A	The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat participates in the CMS Energy Task Force. No TC involvement was required in this triennium.	No
<p>4.4. Extractive industries – Guide to guidance</p> <p>Work with the Ramsar STRP to finalise the Guide to Guidance on Extractive Industries and to disseminate this to Contracting Parties (carried over from Work Plan 2012-2015). (<i>Resolution 5.14 & Resolution 5.3</i>)</p>	High	Not implemented	Due to capacity issues, the task was not implemented and as discussed by the TC, it is recommended to retire it.	No
<p>4.5. Extractive industries – development of analytical tools</p> <p>Continue to collaborate with the Ramsar STRP on these issues, in particular jointly working with</p>	No (immediate) action required	N/A	<p>The Ramsar STRP has no plans anymore to pursue and finalise this task.</p> <p>It is proposed to retire the task from the TC workplan.</p>	No

<p>other interested organisations to further develop geospatial analytical tools for identifying those areas where potential conflicts may arise regarding impacts of extractive industry processes on wetlands of importance for migratory waterbirds (carried over from Work Plan 2012-2015). (<i>Resolution 5.14</i>)</p>				
<p>4.6. Poisoning and agrochemicals Collaborate on implementation of CMS Resolution 11.15 on Preventing poisoning of migratory birds. Task includes participation in the CMS Preventing Poisoning Working Group to provide further guidance and support in relation to the implementation of CMS Resolution 11.15 (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018). (<i>Resolution 6.12; CMS Flyways Programme of Work, Resolution 12.11, Annex 1</i>)</p>	<p>No (immediate) action required</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>The AEWATC is represented by the TC Chair and Regional Representative for North and South-Western Europe, Ms Ruth Cromie, in the CMS Preventing Poisoning Working Group. No particular activities of the Working Group took place in the current triennium.</p> <p>This is a rolling task and will be carried forward to next triennium.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>4.7. Poisoning by lead shot Collaborate on implementation of CMS Resolution 11.15 on Preventing poisoning of migratory birds. Task includes participation in the CMS Preventing Poisoning Working Group to provide further guidance and support in relation to the implementation of CMS Resolution 11.15 (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018). (<i>Resolution 6.12</i>)</p>	<p>No (immediate) action required</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>The AEWATC is represented by the TC Chair and Regional Representative for North and South-Western Europe, Ms Ruth Cromie, in the CMS Preventing Poisoning Working Group. Information was supplied to the European Chemicals Agency as part of EU restriction proposals on use of lead shot.</p> <p>This is a rolling task and will be carried forward to the next triennium.</p>	<p>No</p>

<p>4.8. Illegal killing Collaborate on implementation of CMS Resolution 11.16 on the prevention of illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds. Task includes participation in the Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean and technical support for implementation of AEW/CMS Plan of Action to Address Bird Trapping Along the Mediterranean Coasts of Egypt and Libya (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018).</p>	<p>No (immediate) action required</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>The TC is represented on the CMS Mediterranean Illegal Bird Killing Task Force by the Regional Representative for Northern Africa, Mr Sidi Imad Cherkaoui. Other than attending meetings and follow up work, no specific TC involvement was required in the current triennium.</p> <p>This is a rolling task and will be carried over to the next work plan.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>4.9. Harvest data collation Propose a list of quarry species that should be prioritised for international collation of harvest data. (<i>Strategic Plan 2019-2027</i>)</p>	<p>Essential</p>	<p>Fully implemented</p>	<p>A Technical Committee working group developed a proposal for criteria for prioritisation of species for harvest data collation and compiled a resulting priority list. These proposals were discussed and agreed at the 16th meeting of the Committee in January 2021 and submitted to the Standing Committee for approval.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>4.10. Sustainability of harvest Undertake a rapid assessment of sustainability of harvest of declining quarry populations. (<i>Strategic Plan 2019-2027</i>)</p>	<p>Essential</p>	<p>Not implemented</p>	<p>Due to capacity issues, the task was not implemented and will be carried over to the next triennium.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>4.11. Sustainable ecotourism Collate case studies of ecotourism initiatives with proven benefits for both community livelihoods and conservation of AEW species and their habitats and identify one or more potential strategic partners with ecotourism expertise to work with. (<i>Strategic Plan 2019-2027</i>)</p>	<p>Essential</p>	<p>Partially implemented</p>	<p>Some funding was made available to the Secretariat late in the triennium, which allowed the engagement of external support for the implementation of this task. At the time of writing implementation work was ongoing, but due to the tight MOP-related timelines it will be finalised after MOP8.</p>	<p>No</p>

Research and monitoring (Working Group 5)

Task	Priority	Status of implementation	Actions undertaken by the TC	Relevant MOP8 documents
<p>5.1. Key gaps in information availability Identify key gaps in information availability on relevant aspects of the implementation of the Agreement, to establish the potential role of AEWA in filling these, and to recommend priorities accordingly. (<i>Strategic Plan 2019-2027</i>)</p>	Essential	Fully implemented	<p>The TC compiled an overview of identified gaps in information with recommended priorities for AEWA to fill such gaps and agreed on a draft to be submitted to MOP8.</p> <p>In addition, a draft resolution was compiled for submission to MOP8.</p>	Doc. AEWA/MOP 8.30; Doc. AEWA/MOP8 DR.7
<p>5.2. Monitoring priorities Identify priorities for the systematic development of monitoring of waterbird populations and the drivers of their trends, in order to increase the number of populations whose status is assessed on the basis of the most complete and up-to-date monitoring data, as well as the quality of these assessment, as per the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 (carried over with amendments from Work Plan 2012-2015).</p>	Essential	Fully implemented	<p>The compilation of priorities for the development of waterbird monitoring and the drivers of their trends was outsourced. The TC reviewed the draft proposal and approved it for submission to MOP8.</p> <p>In addition, a draft resolution was compiled for submission to MOP8.</p>	Doc. AEWA/MOP 8.27; Doc. AEWA/MOP8 DR.5
<p>5.3. Waterbird monitoring synergies with other frameworks Work with Ramsar and its regional initiatives, the European Commission as well as CAFF-AMBI, Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (Wadden Sea</p>	Other	Fully implemented	Initial draft assessment of the status of waterbird monitoring synergies was presented at the 16 th meeting of the TC in January 2021. After further consultation on the TC Workspace, the document was submitted to the 16 th meeting of the Standing Committee in May 2021,	Doc. AEWA/MOP 8.28; Doc. AEWA/MOP8 DR.5

<p>Flyway Initiative), OSPAR, HELCOM and other relevant regional MEAs to identify possible synergies with respect to waterbird population estimates, monitoring and reporting, including in the context of Ramsar Strategic Plan Targets 11 & 13 and possible development of further indicators for Target 5 related to coverage of wetland dependent bird populations by designated Ramsar Sites. (<i>Resolutions 6.3 and 7.7</i>)</p>			<p>which approved it for further consultation with the relevant MEAs and other frameworks. Following the feedback received, the document was finalised for submission to MOP8.</p>	
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Education and information (Working Group 6)

Task	Priority	Status of implementation	Actions undertaken by the TC	Relevant MOP8 documents
<p>6.1. Communication Strategy implementation Provide advice and prioritisation on the ongoing implementation of the Communication Strategy (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018). (<i>Resolution 6.10</i>)</p>	Other	Partially implemented	<p>The TC helped to identify and implement CEPA related activities in the current TC Work Plan as well as provided advice and prioritisation on the ongoing implementation of the Communication Strategy.</p>	No

Implementation (Working Group 7)

Task	Priority	Status of implementation	Actions undertaken by the TC	Relevant MOP8 documents
<p>7.1. Conservation Status Review 8</p>	Essential	Fully implemented	<p>The TC commented extensively on drafts of the 8th Conservation Status Review (CSR8), the production of</p>	Doc. AEWA/MOP 8.19

<p>Guide the process of preparation of Conservation Status Review 8 (<i>Action Plan 7.4a</i>) while taking into account reporting needs on the AEWA Strategic Plan and assessment against relevant Aichi Targets.</p>			<p>which was outsourced to Wetlands International, and adopted the final draft at its 16th Meeting in January 2021 for submission to MOP8.</p>	
<p>7.2. Other international reviews Guide the process of preparation of a) updated review of information from surveys (<i>Action Plan 7.4b</i>) – never compiled so far; b) updated review of pertinent hunting and trade legislation (<i>Action Plan 7.4d</i>) – last produced for MOP4 in 2008, next one was due for MOP7 in 2018; c) updated review of the preparation and implementation of Single Species Action Plans (<i>Action Plan 7.4e</i>) – last produced for MOP6 in 2015, next one is due for MOP8 in 2021; d) updated review of re-establishment projects (<i>Action Plan 7.4f</i>) – last produced for MOP4 in 2008, next was due for MOP7 in 2018; and e) the status of introduced non-native waterbird species and hybrids thereof (<i>Action Plan 7.4g</i>) – last produced for MOP4 in 2008, next was due for MOP6 in 2015 when a short update was produced.</p>	<p>Essential</p>	<p>Partially implemented</p>	<p>The reviews on hunting and trade legislation (7.4d) and species action plans (7.4e) were prioritised but could not be undertaken for resource reasons.</p> <p>The reviews on re-establishment projects (7.4f) and non-native waterbird species (7.4g) were not compiled in full, but as extended chapters of the national report analysis.</p> <p>All remaining reviews, apart from 7.4f and 7.4g will be carried over to the TC workplan for the next triennium.</p>	<p>Doc. AEWA/MOP 8.13</p>
<p>7.3. Review and reformatting of existing Conservation Guidelines Review AEWA Conservation Guidelines (CG) No. 1, 3, 4, 7 and 8 to ensure they continue to reflect best conservation practice.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Partially implemented</p>	<p>The Secretariat undertook a revision of Conservation Guidelines No.1 on the Preparation of National Single Species Action Plans for Migratory Waterbirds. This revision was reviewed and agreed by the TC for submission to MOP8.</p>	<p>Doc. AEWA/MOP 8.31; Doc. AEWA/MOP8 DR.8</p>

Undertake any necessary updates or revision and reformat in the context of any new CG format agreed by Standing Committee 12 (following the current review of CG format). Submit any revised CGs to MOP 8. (<i>Resolution 7.8</i>)			Due to capacity issues, no further guidelines were reviewed or revised, and this task will be carried over to the next triennium. In addition, a draft resolution was compiled for submission to MOP8.	
7.4. Non-native species risk assessment Contribute to the development of internationally-agreed standards and guidance for risk assessment with respect to non-native waterbirds in order to facilitate the implementation of the Agreement and related legal instruments (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018). (<i>Resolution 6.4</i>)	Other	Not implemented	No progress was made on this task, it will be carried over to the TC workplan for the next triennium.	No
7.5. Management plan format Produce a format for International Single and Multi-Species Management Plans (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018). (<i>Resolutions 6.8 and 7.5</i>)	Essential	Fully implemented	Based on the models of the Greylag and Barnacle Geese International Single Species Management Plans, a draft format for single and multi-species management plans was compiled. The TC reviewed the draft and approved it for submission to MOP8.	Doc. AEWA/MOP 8.24
7.6. Guidance on waterbirds as ecosystem services Provide concise guidance in language and shape adapted to policy/decision makers on the provisioning and cultural aspects of ecosystem services in relation to migratory waterbirds. (<i>Strategic Plan 2019-2027</i>)	Essential	Fully implemented	A guidance was compiled by the TC and approved for submission to MOP8.	Doc. AEWA/MOP 8.33

<p>7.7. Mechanism for updating and preparing new conservation and management guidance for AEWA populations Agree roles, responsibilities and mechanism for updating of guidance and preparation/dissemination of new guidance. <i>(Strategic Plan 2019-2027)</i></p>	<p>Essential</p>	<p>Fully implemented</p>	<p>This task was implemented jointly with task 2.2 above.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>7.8. Revision and update of Conservation Guidelines Implement its rolling programme to revise and update existing conservation guidelines and guides to guidance. <i>(Resolutions 6.5; 7.6 and 7.8)</i></p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Partially implemented</p>	<p>The following AEWA Conservation Guidelines were included under this task: CG2 (Emergency situations), CG6 (Regulating trade), CG10 (Non-native waterbirds), CG11 (Infrastructure impact) and CG12 (Climate change adaptation), as well as the guidance on breeding & pre-nuptial migration periods and on look-alike species.</p> <p>The TC was able to revise only the guidance on addressing the risk of accidental shooting of look-alike species by extending its scope to the entire Agreement area and all AEWA species utilising the Critical Site Network tool.</p>	<p>Doc. AEWA/MOP 8.34</p>
<p>7.9. Information supplementary to Conservation Guidelines Consider how new or topical information relating to existing Conservation Guidelines can best be disseminated to Parties and others, including through existing publication platforms and social and other media. <i>(Resolution 7.8)</i></p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Fully implemented</p>	<p>At its 16th meeting the TC discussed and agreed on a succinct concept and procedure for dissemination of information supplementary to the AEWA Conservation Guidelines. This concept and procedure were submitted to the Standing Committee which approved it at its 16th meeting on 4-6 May 2021.</p>	<p>No</p>

Strategic, reporting, emerging and other issues (Working Group 8)

Task	Priority	Status of implementation	Actions undertaken by the TC	Relevant MOP8 documents
<p>8.1. National Reports Revise the national report format and make the necessary adjustments following MOP7. (<i>Resolution 7.1</i>)</p>	Essential	Fully implemented	<p>The TC revised the national report format for the period 2018-2020 approved by MOP7 to accommodate the latest decisions by the MOP requiring reporting. The revised format was approved by the Standing Committee at its 15th meeting in December 2019 and used for reporting to MOP8.</p> <p>The TC also prepared a draft national report format for the period 2021-2023 for reporting to MOP9 and agreed on its submission to MOP8.</p>	Doc. AEWA/MOP 8.14
<p>8.2. Population status and Plan of Action for Africa modules for national reports Develop modules on population status and the Plan of Action for Africa for MOP8 national reports. (<i>Resolution 7.1</i>)</p>	Essential	Fully implemented	<p>The TC developed a template for reporting on the status of populations of AEWA-listed (native) and non-native waterbird species (for the period 2013-2018), which was closely aligned to the one of the reporting under Article 12 of the Birds Directive of the European Union. This template was approved by the Standing Committee by correspondence and used in the reporting cycle to MOP8 (deadline 30 June 2020).</p> <p>The TC also developed a format for reporting on the implementation of the Plan of Action for Africa (PoAA) for the period 2019-2020, which was approved</p>	Doc. AEWA/MOP 8.16

			<p>by the Standing Committee by correspondence and used in the reporting to MOP8.</p> <p>A revised format for the PoAA reporting to be used for MOP9 (period 2021-2023) was produced and agreed for submission to MOP8.</p>	
<p>8.3. Monitoring of implementation of the Strategic Plan and the PoAA (2019-2027) Develop a concept for the monitoring of the implementation. (<i>Resolution 7.1</i>)</p>	Essential	Fully implemented	<p>The Secretariat developed a concept for the assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan and a format for a progress report. This was reviewed by the TC and submitted to the Standing Committee for approval.</p> <p>On the basis of this concept, the Secretariat further proposed an approach to assessing the progress of implementation of the Plan of Action for Africa as well as a format of a progress report, which were agreed by the Technical Committee and submitted to the Standing Committee.</p> <p>Based on these, two progress reports were compiled by the Secretariat and submitted to MOP8.</p> <p>Part of the task will be carried over to the next triennium to address the issue of measuring trend in implementation rate.</p>	Doc. AEWA/MOP 8.11; Doc. AEWA/MOP 8.12
<p>8.4. Harmonisation of reporting Continue to promote synchronised timing and other synergies with the reporting cycles of CMS, Ramsar, EU Birds Directive (Article 12) and others</p>	High	Partially implemented	<p>In the current triennium the TC advanced the harmonisation of reporting by aligning the AEWA reporting on population status with the one under Article 12 of the Birds Directive of the European</p>	No

<p>as opportunities permit, in particular with respect to reporting on the status of species/populations, and contribute to the StC report to MOP8 on this matter (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018). (<i>Resolution 7.1</i>)</p>			<p>Union. This involved the use of a closely aligned reporting template and synchronisation of the reporting period and the frequency of reporting. The next reporting on population status will take place in 2025-2026.</p> <p>This task will be carried over to the next triennium and further opportunities for harmonisation of reporting with other legal frameworks will be sought.</p>	
<p>8.5. AEWA’s contribution to relevant global frameworks Compile concise triennial summaries of AEWA’s contributions to the relevant global frameworks, i.e. SDGs, Aichi Targets, Strategic Plan for Migratory Species, etc, that can be used by Parties, StC and TC members, and the Secretariat to highlight at national and international levels the role of AEWA, particularly with the view of promoting the relevance of AEWA amongst development and aid agencies (Strategic Plan 2019-2027).</p> <p>Bring, to MOP8 (2021), a final assessment of AEWA’s contributions to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and a reflection on AEWA’s potential contribution to the post-2020 development agenda. (<i>Resolution 7.2</i>)</p>	<p>Essential</p>	<p>Fully implemented</p>	<p>Initial drafts of the final assessment of AEWA’s contribution to the Aichi Targets, the potential contribution of AEWA to the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and a revised assessment of AEWA’s relevance for the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals were presented and reviewed at the 16th meeting of the TC. Following further comments and additions, the three documents were finalised for submission to MOP8.</p> <p>In addition, a draft resolution was compiled for submission to MOP8.</p>	<p>Doc. AEWA/MOP 8.35; Doc. AEWA/MOP 8.36; Doc. AEWA/MOP 8.37; Doc. AEWA/MOP8 DR.9</p>

<p>8.6. Emerging diseases Continue to participate in the CMS Scientific Council Working Group on Wildlife Diseases (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018).</p>	<p>No (immediate) action required (due to emerging issues during the triennium the following work was undertaken)</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>The AEWATC is represented in the CMS Scientific Council Working Group on Wildlife Diseases by the Chair and Regional Representative for North and South-Western Europe, Ms Ruth Cromie.</p> <p>In response to the COVID pandemic and increasing focus on wildlife health, a reactivation of the Working Group (the Working Group on Migratory Species and Health), with a new terms of reference was developed at the CMS Scientific Council Meeting in July 2021, along with terms of reference for a review of migration and wildlife health issues.</p> <p>The CMS/FAO Co-convened Scientific Task Force on Avian influenza and Wild Birds was reactivated to provide guidance to stakeholders dealing with outbreaks in early 2021 of highly pathogenic avian influenza in West Africa involving mass mortality of Great White Pelicans <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i> in protected areas including the Djoudj UNESCO and Ramsar site.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>8.7. Implementation On request, assist Parties with implementation of the Agreement including review of possible Implementation Review Process (IRP) cases and possible participation in IRP missions, as well as other advisory services, as needed (carried over from Work Plan 2016-2018). (<i>Strategic Plan 2019-2027; CMS Flyways Programme of Work, Resolution 12.11, Annex 1</i>)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Fully implemented</p>	<p>In this triennium the TC reviewed submissions for five potential IRP case files and provided advice to the Standing Committee (in chronological order from first to last: France – hunting of the Eurasian Curlew; Kenya – power line construction at Lake Elementeita; Portugal – airport establishment at Tagus Estuary; Tunisia – urban development at Lake Sebkhet Sejoumi; Germany – conservation of sites important for Bewick’s Swan in northern Germany).</p>	<p>No</p>

			No other requests for advice have been received.	
<p>8.8. Periodicity of the sessions of the MOP Assist the Standing Committee in evaluating the implications of moving from a 3-year to a 4-year cycle of the sessions of the Meeting of the Parties. <i>(Resolution 7.12)</i></p>	<p>Essential</p>	<p>Fully implemented</p>	<p>The TC assisted the Standing Committee on this evaluation, which included so far a review and suggestions to the scoping of the extent of the exercise.</p> <p>The task will be carried over to the next triennium to assist the Standing Committee with the finalisation of the evaluation.</p>	<p>No</p>