



8th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES
26-30 September 2022, Budapest, Hungary

“Strengthening Flyway Conservation in a Changing World”

RESOLUTION 8.8

REVISION AND ADOPTION OF CONSERVATION GUIDANCE

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

Further recalling Resolutions 1.10, 2.3, 4.13, 5.10, 6.5 and 7.8, which, *inter alia*, adopted conservation guidelines focusing on various aspects of waterbird conservation practice and requested the Technical Committee to put in place a rolling programme to revise and update existing guidelines, as necessary, and developing any new guidelines,

Thanking the Technical Committee for its comprehensive work on revising Conservation Guidelines No. 1 on the Preparation of National Single Species Action Plans for Migratory Waterbirds which were first approved by the 2nd Session of the Meeting of the Parties in 2002,

Further thanking the Technical Committee for developing in response to Action 2.6(a) of the Strategic Plan 2019-2027 an initial guidance on ecosystem services in relation to migratory waterbirds,

Recalling Resolution 5.24 which requested the Technical Committee to produce simple but comprehensive guidance on the management of disturbance in a form that may be widely translated and disseminated to wetland site managers throughout the Agreement area and *thanking* the Committee for compiling such a guidance in the past triennium,

Recalling Resolution 6.7 which requested the Technical Committee to further work on the Guidance on Dealing with Accidental Shooting of Look-alike Species in Western Palearctic and present a revised and extended version for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties and *thanking* the Committee for undertaking a revision of this guidance in the past triennium,

Recalling Resolution 7.8 which requested the Technical Committee to consider how new or topical information relating to existing Conservation Guidelines can best be disseminated to Parties and others, including through existing publication platforms and social and other media, and to bring a recommendation to the Standing Committee,

Recalling the Climate Resilient Flyway project launched at MOP6 and coordinated by Wetlands International with the financial support of the International Climate Initiative of the Federal Government of the Republic of Germany and co-funded by the Secretariat through a grant by the Government of Luxembourg and *recognising* one of its outputs – the *Complementary Guidelines on Climate Change Adaptation Measures for Waterbirds* – which was reviewed and approved by the AEWA Technical Committee as a guidance in the context of the implementation of AEWA.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Adopts* the following:
 - a. Revised *Conservation Guidelines No. 1 on the Preparation of National Single Species Action Plans for Migratory Waterbirds* as presented in document AEWA/MOP 8.31;
 - b. *Initial Guidance on Ecosystem Services in Relation to Migratory Waterbirds* as presented in document AEWA/MOP 8.33;
 - c. *Managing waterbird disturbance: a short guide for wetland managers* as presented in document AEWA/MOP 8.32 Rev.1 subject to editorial adjustments during the production of the publication;
 - d. *Guidance on Addressing the Risk of Accidental Shooting of Look-alike Species of Waterbirds in the Agreement Area* as presented in document AEWA/MOP 8.34 Rev.1;
 - e. *Complementary Guidelines on Climate Change Adaptation Measures for Waterbirds* as presented in document AEWA/MOP 8.42;
2. *Calls upon* Contracting Parties to utilise these guidelines in a practical way that leads to a minimum of additional bureaucracy and that recognises the different social, economic and environmental conditions within the Agreement area;
3. *Instructs* the Secretariat to disseminate these guidelines to all Range States, and relevant international governmental and non-governmental organisations, and to promote and monitor their use to the extent that this is possible;
4. *Acknowledges* the Concept for Dissemination of Information Supplementary to Conservation Guidelines developed by the Technical Committee and approved by the Standing Committee at its 16th meeting in May 2021 as presented in document AEWA/MOP Inf. 8.8 and *requests* the Technical Committee to proactively research for additional relevant information and disseminate it to the Contracting Parties following the approved concept;
5. *Requests*, in the context of the implementation of the *Guidance on Addressing the Risk of Accidental Shooting of Look-alike Species of Waterbirds in the Agreement Area*, Contracting Parties having in place effective identification training and proficiency testing for hunters to submit case studies to the AEWA Technical Committee for dissemination;
6. *Further requests* Contracting Parties to give consideration to launching pilot projects in view of exploring possibilities for the development of standardised identification training and proficiency testing for hunters across AEWA Contracting Parties;
7. *Further requests* the AEWA Technical Committee to prepare, working with AEWA's European Goose Management Platform, the European Commission's Task Force on the Recovery of Birds and other appropriate treaties or agreements, simple guidance on adaptive harvest management, drawing on legislation, principles and theory from existing models and scientific literature, and submit it to the Standing Committee for potential-endorsement as interim guidance ahead of possible adoption at MOP9.