

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

“Strengthening Flyway Conservation in a Changing World”

RESOLUTION 8.9

**AEWA’S PAST CONTRIBUTION TO DELIVERING THE AICHI 2020
BIODIVERSITY TARGETS AND ITS FUTURE RELEVANCE TO THE POST-2020
PROCESS AND TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Convention on Biological Diversity’s Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and Aichi Targets

Recalling Decision X/2 of the tenth Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Nagoya, Japan, 2010, establishing a Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 which “represents a useful flexible framework that is relevant to all biodiversity-related conventions”, and which included ‘Aichi’ Targets addressed to all relevant intergovernmental organisations and other processes related to biodiversity,

Recalling also Resolutions 5.23, 6.15 and 7.2 which outlined AEWA’s contribution to the delivery of those Aichi 2020 Biodiversity Targets,

Recalling again the request from MOP5 to the Technical and Standing Committees to work together to assess progress on issues relevant to the Aichi Targets, and that they should present triennial assessments of AEWA’s contribution to each of the relevant Aichi Targets, elaborating further needs as necessary and appropriate, as an agenda item for each future MOP through to 2020,

Concerned by the conclusion of CBD’s *Global Biodiversity Outlook 5* (2020), that, of the 20 Aichi Targets, 15 have not been achieved, and five have been only partly achieved,

Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework¹

Noting current work by the Parties of the CBD to prepare for a Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework through an open-ended Working Group, and noting that many of the themes identified in the draft Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework continue to address issues identified as priorities in CBD’s Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,

Aware that, since 2018, multiple global and regional assessments have been published that are directly relevant to AEWA in providing new and updated data and information on the state of the environment for migratory waterbirds, and which include:

- the *Global Biodiversity Outlook 5* (2020) from CBD;
- the *Global Assessment Report on the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service* (2019) from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), including linked regional assessments for Europe and Central Asia (2018) and Africa (2018);

¹ Note that the name is currently a placeholder and has yet to be determined.

- the *Global Assessment Report on the Land Degradation and Restoration* (2018) from IPBES;
- the *Sustainable Use of Wild Species Assessment* (2022) from IPBES;
- the *Global Wetland Outlook: Special Edition 2021* from the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands;
- *State of nature in the EU: Results from reporting under the nature directives 2013-2018* (2020) by the European Environment Agency;
- *State of the World's Birds* (2022) by BirdLife International;
- *Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services: An EU ecosystem assessment* (2020) from the EU; and
- *Mediterranean Wetlands Outlook 2* (2018) from the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory/Tour du Valat,

Recalls the conclusion by MOP7 that the greatest benefit to development processes, are those fundamental AEWA implementation 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;
- ensure that uses of the land and sea are fully compatible with sustaining migratory waterbird populations;
- reduce, mitigate and compensate for habitat loss and degradation as appropriate, restore degraded habitats to reverse past losses and create new multifunctional wetlands;
- address the causes and consequences of introductions of invasive alien species;
- implement climate change adaptation measures including nature-based solutions and ecosystem approaches related to the waterbird habitats (especially but not restricted to wetlands);
- remove unnecessary causes of waterbird mortality and ensure that harvests, where made, are sustainable; and
- develop strong engagement with local communities with respect to the management and wise use of waterbirds and their wetland habitats including the promotion of their involvement to those ends,

But *Strongly Concerned* with the conclusions from the analysis of AEWA national reports of the previous (document AEWA/MOP 7.12) and the current (document AEWA/MOP 8.13) trienniums as well as the final report on the implementation of AEWA's *Strategic Plan 2009-2018* (document AEWA/MOP 7.10) that implementation actions in relation to many of these issues have been poor, leading to a failure to achieve relevant AEWA Strategic Plan targets,

Noting the lack of guidance on issues of high relevance both to the delivery of the future Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and AEWA objectives,

UN Sustainable Development Goals

Conscious that the full implementation of the Agreement, at all scales and by both Contracting Parties and other actors, also directly contributes to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015, *inter alia* through actions related to the reduction of biodiversity loss; protection and restoration of habitats; climate change mitigation and adaptation

measures; education and awareness building; capacity development; contributing to food security and poverty reduction through the sustainable and legal harvesting of waterbirds and the wise-use use of wetlands; and actions to address illegal taking, killing and trade.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Adopts* document AEWA/MOP 8.35 as a final assessment of AEWA's contribution to the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;
2. *Requests* the Technical Committee to finalise document AEWA/MOP 8.36 Rev.2 once the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework has been adopted by CBD COP15; submit this to the Standing Committee for their approval (after which it should be circulated to Parties and made available via AEWA's website); and in the interim, urges Parties to use the analysis in document AEWA/MOP 8.36 Rev.2 as interim guidance related to the general means by which future AEWA implementation may assist the delivery of the issues anticipated to be included in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (many of which directly follow from the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020);
3. *Urges* Contracting Parties, non-Party Range States and the wider AEWA conservation community involved in the negotiations of the Global Biodiversity Framework to ensure adequate consideration of migratory waterbirds and their habitats, emphasizing the role of other biodiversity-related agreements and regional treaties such as AEWA in delivering on specific aspects of the GBF within their respective mandates;
4. *Urges again* that Contracting Parties ensure that those national authorities responsible for AEWA implementation are fully involved in the process to update national biodiversity strategies and action plans as requested by CBD Decision X/2 in line with Action 5.5(a) of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, in order to further promote synergies between biodiversity-related treaties and ensure that waterbird conservation is fully integrated into the updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans as per target 5.5 of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027;
5. *Adopts* document AEWA/MOP 8.37 as a current assessment of the potential for the AEWA to contribute to the delivery of SDGs, and requests the Secretariat to further disseminate this information, including in formats that are accessible to the aid and development sector so as to reinforce the understanding of this relevance, specifically in support of actions with AEWA's Strategic Plan 2019-2027 and the Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027;
6. *Urges* Contracting Parties to stress to their development agencies, as appropriate, the relevance of AEWA implementation in the context of SDG-delivery, and to emphasise the need to better integrate actions for waterbird and wetland conservation within relevant development projects, so as to achieve benefits, not just for waterbirds, but also for human communities;
7. *Requests* the Technical Committee to bring, to the 10th Session of the Meeting of the Parties, a mid-term assessment of AEWA's contribution to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; and
8. *Requests* also that the Technical Committee monitor and contribute, as appropriate, to the development of relevant guidance on the following issues under other multilateral fora and bring such guidance to Contracting Parties' attention:

- Spatial planning;
- Habitat restoration;
- Addressing air- and water-borne nutrient pollution;
- Agricultural sustainability (including best practice agri-environment provisions);
- Mainstreaming biodiversity requirements into other policies; and
- Provision of suitable information for decision makers.