

16th MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
4-6 May 2021, Virtual Meeting Format

**DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION SUPPLEMENTARY TO CONSERVATION
GUIDELINES**

Compiled by the Technical Committee

[Resolution 7.8](#) adopted a number of conservation guidelines and requested the Technical Committee (TC):

"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, resources permitting; make recommendations to the Standing Committee to that effect; and in developing any such mechanisms always to make clear that such information does not form part of, or supersede, the relevant Conservation Guidelines;"

The issue essentially relates to the dissemination of information pertinent to *Conservation Guidelines* in advance of a full revision of the *Guideline* text.

At its 16th meeting in January 2021 the TC agreed to propose the following dual process:

1. For the regular AEWA E-newsletter to include a section giving links to "**Useful new publications**" or similar - giving a link to the publication and a few words on why it is useful in an AEWA context. For this to work, this would require TC members to supply the Newsletter editor with material. There may be merit in establishing a dedicated email inbox to this end (e.g. e-newsletter@unep-awa.org) but that depends how the Secretariat wishes to run this.
2. There is also a need to aid retrieval of such information when people are accessing the formal *Conservation Guidelines* on a topic.

It is proposed that a new link could be added to the individual page of the guidance (e.g. <https://www.unep-awa.org/en/publication/awa-conservation-guidelines-no-4-guidelines-management-key-sites-migratory-waterbirds>) that collects links and citations to further sources of relevant information produced after the publication of that guidance. This could include a link to pertinent search of www.ConservationEvidence.com, for example for power line avoidance this would include:

- [Mark power lines to reduce incidental bird mortality](#)
- [Insulate power pylons to prevent electrocution](#)
- [Bury or isolate power lines to reduce incidental bird mortality](#)
- [Remove earth wires to reduce incidental bird mortality](#)

ConservationEvidence.com would be willing to supply tailor-made links to supplement each of the guidance documents and is about to complete updating the bird synopses.

Such a 'supplementary page' would a) need to be established and maintained by the Secretariat, and b) would need to indicate that these are additional materials provided by the Technical Committee, but not (yet) formally adopted by the Parties. This would maintain the distinction from the formally adopted *Conservation Guidelines* which is legally sensitive for some Parties.

At the time of the next revision of a *Guideline*, the new material could be included in the main text thus negating the supplementary information page. In this way, the supplementary information page can act as a ‘parking lot’ to gather newly published material in advance of *Guideline* revision.

The communications team of the Secretariat (joint CMS/AEWA Information Management, Communication and Awareness team) have confirmed that the above proposal is feasible.

Before passing the supplementary materials to the Secretariat for inclusion into the E-newsletter and the web page of the respective *Conservation Guideline*, the TC member proposing this supplementary information shall post it on the TC Workspace (a dedicated heading will be established) for review and consideration by the entire Committee for a period of not less than two weeks and provide a short description on how it complements the existing AEWA *Guideline*.

Once the TC has agreed on the usefulness of the proposed content and the appropriateness of its dissemination to Parties, it can be passed on to the Secretariat for dissemination. Only content approved by the TC can be disseminated as supplementary material to the AEWA *Conservation Guidelines*.

Action requested from the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee is requested to review this proposed process for dissemination of information supplementary to conservation guidelines and approve it for implementation.