**REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT ON FINANCE AND**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**

*Prepared by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat*

**Introduction**

At the 8th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP8) in September 2022, the core budget for 2023-2025 was adopted through Resolution 8.12.

The Secretariat reported on financial and administrative matters at the 16th Standing Committee Meeting
(4-6 May 2021) for the period 1 January 2019 – 24 March 2021 and presented the final expenditure situation for 2021 and the expenditures for the period 1 January 2022 – 19 May 2022 at the 21st Standing Committee Meeting on 1 June 2022.

The present document focuses on the income and expenditures for the period 1 January 2023 – 12 June 2023. To complement the report delivered at MOP8 it also contains the final expenditure situation for 2022 after closure of 2022 accounts and reports on all voluntary contributions received in 2022.

**Action Requested from the Standing Committee:**

The Standing Committee is requested to take note of the information provided in the report.

**1. Staffing (January – June 2023)**

For details on the staffing situation and organisation of the Secretariat please see the Report of the Secretariat (UNEP/AEWA/StC/23.5).

**2. Core Budget (AWL) - Overview of income and expenditure**

*Income*

The assessed contributions 2023-2025 approved by MOP8 amount to 3,523,917 EUR. Since the adoption of the budget the Governments of Cameroon, Greece and Saudi Arabia joined the Agreement, which adds to the assessed contributions approved by MOP8. In accordance with Resolution 8.12 the contributions of the new Contracting Parties will be directed to the AEWA trust fund reserve. The Secretariat will submit to the Standing Committee proposals of activities to be financed through the new Parties’ contributions in due course.

Annex 1 summarizes the status of collection of annual assessed contributions from Parties as at 12 June 2023. The overview shows a fairly healthy income situation. Still, unpaid pledges amount to a total of 894,214 EUR, split up as follows: 503,909 EUR for 2022 and previous years, and 390,305 EUR for 2023. Advanced payments for future years amount to 4,035 EUR. The Secretariat regularly reminds Parties with arrears to pay their dues and has been successful in individual cases; actually only eight[[1]](#footnote-1) countries from the currently 84 Parties have not yet made any payment since their accession.

For more details please see the Concept note for assessing why Parties have arrears and possible solutions (UNEP/AEWA/StC/23.11).

*Expenditures (year 2022)*

Annex 2 shows the final expenditure situation for 2022 after closure of 2022 accounts. The available budget for 2022 reflects the budget adopted by the Contracting Parties through Resolution Ex.3 on financial and administrative matters including two MOP-related budget lines that were redeployed from the 2021 budget due to the postponement of MOP8. The average exchange rate used from January to December 2022 was 0.951. However, the total expenditures exceeded the approved and redeployed budget by EUR 54,865 before Programme Support costs, because of actual salaries and entitlements incurred under Professional staff in 2022. Furthermore, the General Service staff category also experienced over-expenditures due to retroactive salary payments for the years 2016-2022 following the completion of a comprehensive salary survey undertaken in 2016 for the General Service Staff. The negative balance of 2022 has been compensated through the trust fund reserve.

*Expenditures (year 2023)*

Annex 3 provides an interim report of 2023 budget implementation as at 12 June 2023. Like in the previous years the increase in working hours for some staff members will cause over expenditures at the end of the year, should no additional voluntary contributions be provided to close these gaps. It should be noted that an amount of USD 10,706.88 is pending for reversal from the travel budget line (Official travel AEWA staff); expenses for the organisation of the 18th Meeting of the Technical Committee, which took place on 14 – 16 March 2023, were advanced from that budget line as the pledged voluntary contributions did not arrive in time. The expenditures have meanwhile partly been reversed, but the above-mentioned amount of US 10,706.88 is still to be deducted and charged to the other trust fund (AVL).

*Trust Fund operating reserve*

In accordance with Resolution 8.12 the operating reserve is the working capital that must be maintained at a level of at least 15 per cent of the estimated annual expenditure or 150,000 Euros, whichever is higher. The Trust Fund operating reserve as at 12 June 2023 amounts to USD 206,327. The Secretariat wishes to point out that the figure regularly undergoes corrective actions for which reason it can only represent a snapshot of the reporting date.

**3. Voluntary Contributions (AVL) - Overview of collections 1 January 2022 – 12 June 2023**

In addition to the annual contributions paid by Parties towards the AEWA core budget (AWL), the Secretariat also received voluntary contributions from different Governments and organisations that were earmarked for certain activities. These voluntary contributions are managed in the separate Trust Fund (AVL). Annexes 4 and 5 summarize the voluntary contributions to the AVL Trust fund in 2022 and 2023 respectively. The pledged voluntary contributions amounted to **EUR 210,476** in 2022 (Annex 4) and **EUR 116,936** in 2023 (Annex 5). Those voluntary contribution have made possible the virtual pre-MOP8, the in-person MOP8, the in-person TC18 and have contributed to the implementation of the Plan of Action for Africa. In addition, some contributions received in 2023 will be added to the core budget allocation for increasing the position of the Species Officer from 50% to full time. The Secretariat would like to sincerely thank all Governments and organisations that have provided contributions to AEWA.

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| **ANNEX 1: GENERAL TRUST FUND OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN - EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS (AWL)****Status of Contributions from Contracting Parties as at 12 June 2023 (Euros)** |



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**ANNEX 2**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE APPROVED AEWA BUDGET 2022**

**Report as at 12 June 2023**



\* EUR 696 from the Training of staff budget line (3201) and EUR 2,500 from the Umoja costs budget line (4303) were redeployed to the Postage and Miscellaneous budget line (5302) to compensate over-expenditures.

**ANNEX 3**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE APPROVED AEWA BUDGET 2023**

**Interim Report as at 12 June 2023**



 **ANNEX 4: GENERAL TRUST FUND FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS IN RESPECT OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS (AVL) AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022**



**ANNEX 5: GENERAL TRUST FUND FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS IN RESPECT OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS (AVL) AS AT 12 June 2023**



1. Including two relatively recent accessions: Turkmenistan and Cameroon. The Government of Greece (1 June 2023) has not received any invoice yet. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)