

23rd MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
26 - 27 June 2023, Virtual Meeting Format

REPORT OF THE UNEP/AEWA SECRETARIAT

INTRODUCTION

The present report covers the work of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat for the period from 1 October 2022 (after MOP8) to 22 June 2023.

The report is divided into five sections:

1. Organisation and staffing of the Secretariat;
2. General Management, which includes recruitment of Parties and cooperation with other organisations;
3. Communication, Information Management and Outreach;
4. Science, Implementation and Compliance;
5. Capacity-Building.

Activities reported in detail in other documents are only mentioned briefly here.

The day-to-day work of the Agreement Secretariat, which includes responding to incoming mail, maintaining the Secretariat's extensive network of contacts, internal meetings with the UNEP/CMS Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and/or UN Heads of Agencies etc., are not specifically mentioned in this report.

1. ORGANISATION AND STAFFING OF THE SECRETARIAT

1.1 Organisation of the Secretariat

The Secretariat is organised into four units which cover four broad areas of work (as described in Annex 1 – Organisational Structure and Annex II - Staff Composition of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat). The individual staff members and units work closely as a team, interacting with each other daily on cross-cutting issues. It should be noted that the AEWA Communication Unit is part of the joint Information Management, Communication and Awareness-raising Unit (IMCA), co-funded and co-managed by the Executive Secretaries of AEWA and CMS.

In 2019 UNEP approved the Secretariat's application for a Junior Professional Officer (JPO), in the framework of the UNEP JPO Programme, to support the work of the Technical Committee. Unfortunately, no Contracting Party offered a JPO to the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat. The Secretariat has renewed its application annually thereafter, but at the time of writing without success.

It is worth noting that the current extent of delivery of the Secretariat's mandate as currently reported, was only possible thanks to the extension of some part-time positions through voluntary contributions, the availability of some staff funded entirely through voluntary contributions.

1.2 Staffing situation

As at 31 May 2023, the Secretariat comprises eleven staff members: six Professional Staff members (P staff) and five General Staff members (G staff). The core budget as adopted at MOP8 in September 2022 currently covers 7.3 full-time equivalent positions (FTEs), while voluntary contributions and savings have allowed the addition of 3.5 full-

time equivalent positions meaning one third of the staff capacity is dependent on contributions and savings. The previously occupied P-3 position of Species Officer has been vacant since 11 March 2021 due to the lack of funding.

The currently occupied staff positions within the Secretariat are presented in the table below, indicating the current level of coverage under the core budget and by voluntary contributions and/or savings.

No.	Post Title	Covered by the core budget	Covered by voluntary contributions or other sources
1	Executive Secretary	100%	
2	Head of Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit	100%	
3	Information Officer	100%	
4	Executive Management Support Officer	100%	
5	Coordinator for the African Initiative	50%*	50%
6	Administrative Assistant	100%	
7	Programme Management Assistant (SICU)	80%	20%
8	Information Assistant	50%	50%
9	Programme Management Assistant (AI)	50%	30%
10	Coordinator for the European Goose Management Platform**		100%
11	Programme Management Assistant (EGMP)		100%

*80 % as of 2024; ** vacant as of 23 June 2023 due to resignation

Staff (partly) funded by the core budget

There have been no major changes to the team during the period covered by the report. The positions of the African Initiative Coordinator (P-2) and the African Initiative Programme Assistant (G-5) were partly funded (50 %) through the AEWA core budget 2019-2022. The Secretariat was able to maintain the P-2 position at 100 per cent and the G-5 position at 80 per cent in 2022 and beyond, thanks to voluntary contributions received from Germany, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and the European Commission. Thanks to a budget increase starting as of 1 January 2024 as decided through Resolution 8.12 the core budget will cover 80 % of the position of the African Initiative Coordinator and 50 % of the Species Officer position, but at a P-2 level. However, additional funding beyond 2023 is still required to be able to keep both AEWA African Initiative positions with the current post occupancy (100 %/ 80 %) and to recruit the Species Officer at the appropriate P-3 level and increase his/her post occupancy to full time.

Staff fully dependent on voluntary contributions (Fixed-term project posts)

Associate Programme Officer (P-2) and Programme Management Assistant (G-5) for the AEWA European Goose Management Platform

Currently, the AEWA European Goose Management Platform (EGMP) is managed at the Secretariat level by one full-time P-2 Coordinator and one full-time G-5 Programme Management Assistant. The two positions are financially secured until December 2023. It should be noted that the current Associate Programme Officer has resigned effective 23 June 2023 and the recruitment process has already been launched.

2. GENERAL MANAGEMENT

2.1. Recruitment of Parties

Since MOP8, AEWA counts 3 new Contracting Parties: Cameroon, effective 1 October 2022; Greece, effective 1 June 2023 and Saudi Arabia, effective 1 July 2023, thanks to continuous efforts by the AEWA Secretariat in collaboration with various partners. This brings the total number of Parties to 85, with 39 in Africa and 46 in Eurasia

(including the European Union). In addition, significant progress has been made in the accession process of a number of African and Eurasian Non-Party Range States.

The three priority areas for further recruitments of Parties are Central and Southern Africa, the Arabic peninsula and Central Asia.

2.2. Meetings of the AEWA Technical Committee

The 18th Meeting of the AEWA Technical Committee took place on 14 - 16 March 2023 as in-person meeting on the UN Campus, Bonn, Germany. The meeting was organised and hosted by the Secretariat with financial support of the UK, The Netherlands and Germany.

The Committee planned the implementation of its workplan for the triennium. The TC18 meeting report is currently under review. To consult the meeting and in-session documents please follow the link: <https://www.unep-awea.org/en/meeting/18th-meeting-awea-technical-committee>

2.3. Cooperation with UN Environment and Other Organisations

UN Environment and CMS Family

On programmatic synergies, some items such as the illegal killing of birds, lead poisoning or the energy sector are now led by CMS following COP decisions broadening the mandate on these issues under the Convention. The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat is, however, still involved in all relevant Task Forces. At activity level, the Secretariat also collaborated with the CMS Secretariat for the organisation of the AEWA Training of Trainers course on flyway conservation for Small Island Developing States of the Western Indian Ocean Island States/Island Groups, given the relevance of these islands for the conservation of other migratory marine species. This focused on incorporating conservation issues relating to Marine Turtles (IOSEA), Sharks and Dugongs, which proved useful given the integrated conservation approach in most of the islands.

Ramsar Convention

The cooperation with the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention has mainly focused on African topics.

The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, in cooperation with the Ramsar Secretariat, has organised an AEWA training-of-trainers workshop on flyway conservation for Small Island Developing States of the Indian Ocean, kindly hosted by the Government of Mauritius 6 - 10 February 2023 with funding secured under the 2020-2023 European Commission Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) Programme Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The AEWA Secretariat worked jointly with the Ramsar Secretariat for the Joint Ramsar Advisory Mission relating to Sebket Sejoumi.

The Secretariat also attended Ramsar COP14 in November 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Representatives of both the Technical Committee and the Secretariat have been admitted as observers to the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel.

The Ramsar Secretariat is also a partner of the RESSOURCE project (see below) and both Secretariats cooperate in the framework of this project.

Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

The Secretariat traditionally closely follows the work under the Bern Convention and attends the annual meetings of its Standing Committee. There is an ongoing cooperation with the Bern Convention on two Implementation Review Process (IRP) case files the latter of which is the construction of an airport at Vjosa-Narta Protected Landscape in Albania.

FAO and FFEM and the RESSOURCE Project

"RESSOURCE" is the acronym for the French equivalent of "Strengthening expertise in Sub-Saharan Africa on birds and their rational use for communities and their environment".

The Executive Secretary and the African Initiative Coordinator participated in the 5th virtual PSC meeting (February 2022) which focused on assessing the project outcomes, with the latter also focusing on priorities for a potential phase II of the project. The Secretariat further worked closely with the project partners on the development of the legal analysis tool under Component 5 of the project, as well as the development of a Massive Open Online Course on waterbird surveying, targeting Northern Africa and Sahelian Africa.

A new project is currently under finalization and scheduled to start in January 2024. Mauritania should be one of the new countries targeted by the new phase of the project together with Senegal and Chad, which were previously involved in the project. Unfortunately, the safety situation of some countries is not sufficient to allow field work.

European Union

The Secretariat attended meetings of the EU Expert Group on the Birds and Habitats Directives (NADEG) when invited and either a member of the Technical Committee or the Secretariat is regularly attending the meetings of the EU Expert Group on Reporting to the Nature Directives.

Discussions are underway for a cooperative action between the AEWA Rapid Assessment of Sustainability of Harvest (a Technical Committee task) and the European Commission's process on species listed on Annex 2 of the Birds Directive that are not in a secure status.

Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative/CAFF

Due to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the work has been suspended since 2022.

Central Asian Flyway

The CMS Resolution 12.11 rev. COP13 says:

https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cms_cop13_res.12.11_rev.cop13_e.pdf

Para 8. Welcomes the further efforts by the Government of India to continue the collaborative process, in close consultation with the CAF Range States and with the CMS and AEWA Secretariats, to develop under the CMS an institutional framework, with the Secretariat provided by the CMS Secretariat along with a coordinating office hosted by the Government of India, to support the implementation of increased conservation action for migratory birds and their habitats in the CAF, as well as to support this initiative with resources, in coordination with the existing CMS avian-related instruments;

Para 9. Further welcomes the commitment by the Government of India to provide resources for this process including the establishment of the institutional framework, and the provision of a coordinating liaison office in India, under the umbrella of the CMS Secretariat in Bonn.

In February 2022, the CMS Secretariat invited all Range States to participate in an online questionnaire to further explore interests, priorities and needs with regards to capacity-building and shape the planning of the CAF process and for the CAF Action Plan. Five Range States (Georgia, Iraq, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka) submitted their responses to the Secretariat.

In February 2023, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, in cooperation with the CMS Secretariat, announced the 4th Meeting of the CAF Range States, New Delhi May 2023. Eleven out of the 30 Range States participated in the meeting which has agreed on conservation priorities and measures to support Parties with the implementation of conservation action for migratory birds and their habitats in the region. The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat was not able to participate in this meeting but delivered a presentation, highlighting the advantages of a collaboration between the CAF Initiative and the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat.

2.4. The AEWA African Initiative

The status of staff under the AEWA African Initiative Unit (one Associate Programme Officer – P-2 and one Programme Assistant – G-5), and related funding for the positions is covered under Section 1.2 of this report.

2.4.1) Coordination of the AEWA African Initiative (AI):

The coordination of activities under the AEWA AI continued to be assured by a triple coordination mechanism established by Resolution 5.9 - i.e., the African Initiative Unit within the Secretariat, the [Technical Support Unit](#)

(TSU) sponsored by France and the [Sub-Regional Focal Point Coordinators \(SRFPCs\)](#). Activities conducted by the AEWA Secretariat are reported in the sub-sections below.

The TSU has been reshaped with a reduction of the support of the Office Français de la Biodiversité (OFB) which will reduce substantively the capacity of the TSU.

Based on the revised [Terms of Reference \(ToRs\) for the AEWA Sub-Regional Focal Point Coordinators \(SRFPCs\)](#) in Africa adopted through [Resolution 7.1](#), new [SRFPCs for Northern, Eastern, Southern and Western Africa](#) have been confirmed and have been in place since MOP7, while the SRFPC for the Central African Sub-region was nominated in April 2022. Following MOP8, all SRFPCs remained same except for the Northern African sub-region for which the National Focal Point for Morocco replaced the one for Tunisia for this role, in their capacity as Regional Representative of the AEWA Standing Committee, in accordance with the SRFPC ToRs.

2.4.2) Secretariat activities relating to the implementation of the African Initiative and PoAA

Implementation of International Single/Multi-Species Action Plans

Information on projects/activities conducted/supported by the Secretariat for some ISSAPs relevant for Africa is accounted below:

Slaty Egret: The 1st Meeting of the AEWA Slaty Egret International Working Group (IWG) is scheduled to take place on 13 - 15 September 2023 in Maun, Botswana, under the kind invitation of the Government of Botswana. The primary aim of the meeting is to establish international coordination and collaboration for the implementation of the International Single Species Action Plan (ISSAP) for the Slaty Egret which was adopted by the 5th Meeting of the Parties to AEWA in May 2012. The focus of this first meeting of the IWG will be to agree on critical conservation activities to be implemented as a matter of priority including discussions on options for funding such activities. The meeting is made possible thanks to generous financial and in-kind support from the Government of Botswana and the European Commission's Programme Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to improve international environmental governance under Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC).

White-winged Flufftail: Thanks to funding from the Government of the United Kingdom, further support was provided for the extension of the surface area for the proposed Protected Area delineation for the Upper Berga Wetland, for the purpose of the conservation of this key breeding area for the White-winged Flufftail. This included consultation processes conducted with key stakeholders from additional local communities and resulted in the approval for extension of the Protected Area surface area from 198 hectares to 544.31 hectares.

Madagascar Pond-heron: Thanks to a grant received from the United Kingdom for the period of 2022, activities were supported in Madagascar to advance the implementation [of the Madagascar Pond-heron ISSAP](#). This aimed at obtaining data on breeding of the species at the River Loza and Lake Tseny sites as well as on the status of threats and land use at these sites, while initiating the process for community-based protection and management for the River Loza site and its designation as a Ramsar site. Following a stakeholder consultation process, in September 2022 an updated management plan for the site was consolidated and submitted to the responsible authorities for approval while the Ramsar Information Sheet for its designation was also submitted for consideration and further processing.

Lesser Flamingo: in the framework of the EC Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) Programme Cooperation Agreement with UNEP, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the CMS Secretariat, has received confirmation for funding to support the conduct of a total survey of the Lesser Flamingo population in Africa, through a combined aerial and ground survey for the three populations of the species in Africa (Eastern, Southern and Western African populations), in line with priorities identified in the ISSAP. The activity is expected to deliver the first ever coordinated total population census for the species that will yield updated and precise data on the occurrence, location and numbers of Lesser Flamingos in the three African populations, as well as document for the first time, populations of the species in some of the lake sites and provide basic material and human resources to support survey and monitoring waterbirds in general. The activity will be conducted in collaboration with the Coordinating Organisation for the AEWA International Working Group (IWG) for the Lesser Flamingo (BirdLife South Africa), Wetlands International and the IUCN Lesser Flamingo Specialist Working Group, and other key partners as applicable. The full-fledged proposal is under development.

Grey Crowned Crane: Funding was further confirmed under the EC's NDICI PCA with UNEP to support implementation of priority actions under the Grey Crowned Crane ISSAP. The activity aims to assess the incidence/impact of poisoning of the birds and the interaction between cranes and people, as well as the relationship/link between these two variables and identification of cost-effective recommendations to address the issues. The activity will be implemented in close collaboration with the AEWA IWG coordinating organisation (the African Crane Conservation Programme), and other key partners as applicable.

2.4.3) Training / capacity enhancement:

Thanks to the generous financial and/or in-kind support provided by the Government of Mauritius and the European Commission through its GPGCPA with UNEP, a [Training of Trainers \(ToT\) course on flyway conservation](#) was jointly organised by the Secretariat and the Mauritius National Parks and Conservation Service (NPCS), in close collaboration with the UNEP/CMS and Ramsar Secretariats. It took place on 6 - 10 February 2022 in Mauritius and brought together some 40 technical experts from Small Island Developing States of the Western Indian Ocean including Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius (including Rodrigues Island) and Seychelles, as well as Mayotte and Réunion. In addition to imparting skills on various aspects of conservation from a flyway perspective, the training touched on issues relating to the conservation of other migratory marine species covered under CMS (Turtles, Sharks and Dugongs) and included an event to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day and World Wetland Day 2023.

2.4.4) Operation of the AEWA Small Grants Fund (SGF):

With no funding earmarked in the AEWA Core Budget towards SGF projects since 2016 and no voluntary contributions received to this end, no additional SGF project cycle have been operated by the Secretariat since the 2015 project cycle. However, as already reported above, seed grants earmarked for specific activities under the EC-GPGC funding and UK grants were provided to national implementing partners to support the implementation of the Madagascar Pond-heron and White-winged Flufftail ISSAPs. Furthermore, under the EC GPGC project, support in the form of seed grants is planned national activities to support the implementation of the Slaty Egret ISSAP and to organize national flyway conservation training courses in follow-up of the regional SIDS training-of-trainers course.

3. COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

Please read the [Report on the Joint IMCA Unit](#) for detailed information on communications, information management and outreach.

The IMCA Unit is currently in the process of upgrading several AEWA related websites to the latest version of the Drupal Content Management System. These include the official AEWA Website, the AEWA Technical Committee Workspace (TC Workspace), the European Goose Management Platform (EGMP) website, and a number of AEWA Single Species Action Plan websites.

CEPA Workplan Development

The AEWA Strategic Plan 2019 – 2027 has identified Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) as one of the key cross-cutting issues (P.6), recognizing that “*successful CEPA is a prerequisite for meeting the objectives of the AEWA Strategic Plan*”.

It also calls for the development of a dedicated AEWA CEPA Plan which identifies specific CEPA activities relevant to the implementation of the Targets and Actions of the Strategic Plan. The task of developing a first initial draft of such an AEWA CEPA Workplan has been included in the 2023 - 2025 Technical Committee Work Plan and has been assigned to Working Group 6 (Education and Information) of the Committee.

The new CEPA Plan will contain both a narrative part outlining the importance of CEPA in the implementation of AEWA and an operative part that identifies specific CEPA activities linked to the current AEWA Strategic Plan. The development of the plan will be led by the CEPA Expert in the AEWA Technical Committee, Chris Rostron and supported by both the Technical Committee and the Secretariat. A draft CEPA Workplan will be presented to the AEWA Standing Committee for review and endorsement prior to MOP9. Formal adoption of a CEPA Workplan by AEWA Parties is foreseen at AEWA MOP10 in 2028, where it will be presented alongside the new AEWA Strategic Plan.

4. SCIENCE, IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE

4.1. Facilitation of the Technical Committee

The Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit (SICU) is responsible, amongst other things, for the facilitation of the Technical Committee (TC). The Secretariat is routinely moderating the Technical Committee Workspace which is the online communication and work platform of the Committee. The facilitation of the TC work is one of the most human capacity demanding tasks of SICU.

The Secretariat convened, organised and hosted at the UN Campus in Bonn, Germany the 18th meeting of the Technical Committee. Two staff members of the Secretariat are involved in the delivery of several task on the Technical Committee Workplan 2023-2025.

4.2. Development and coordination of AEWA International Species Action and Management Plans and AEWA International Species Working Groups

An overview on the status of the establishment and coordination of AEWA International Species Expert and Working Groups has been provided to MOP8 in document AEWA/MOP 8.22. There have not been further updates since then.

A new International Single Species Action Plan for the Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*) was adopted by MOP8. The action-planning process was supported by the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry as well as the Regional Government of Åland. After MOP8, the plan was prepared by the Secretariat for publishing and printed and disseminated by the Finnish Government.

One meeting of AEWA International Species Working Groups was organised with the close involvement of the Secretariat.

AEWA Northern Bald Ibis (*Geronticus eremita*) International Working Group

The 3rd meeting of the International Working Group took place as a virtual event on 25-26 October 2022. With the support of the European Commission two conservation projects were funded in Morocco and Algeria.

In addition, funding was raised for projects to advance the implementation of species action plans.

Further meetings were organised, and implementation work has been coordinated for one other species action plan and three species management plans under the European Goose Management Platform (see next section).

4.3. AEWA European Goose Management Platform

The EGMP has 16 participating Range States, 15 national governments and the European Commission: Belarus, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, EU, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Ukraine and United Kingdom. Ireland was the latest country joining the EGM IWG, in June 2021. Spain is participating in the Greylag Goose implementation process through data provision. Poland has designated a national expert to participate in the Taiga Bean Goose Task Force. Spain, Lithuania, Poland and Russia officially remain non-participating Range States of the EGMP.

The coordination of the AEWA European Goose Management Platform (EGMP) continues to be facilitated by the EGMP Coordinator and Programme Management Assistant based at the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat in close collaboration with Aarhus University, functioning as the EGMP Data Centre. Under the coordination of the EGMP Data Centre, the International Modelling Consortium, consisting of an international partnership of scientific institutions, collaborates on the development of population models.

Currently, there are six Task Forces operating under the EGMP:

- Pink-footed Goose Task Force
- Taiga Bean Goose Task Force
- Agriculture Task Force
- Barnacle Goose Task Force for Russia/ Germany & the Netherlands Population
- Barnacle Goose Task Force for E. Greenland/Scotland & Ireland and Svalbard/SW Scotland Populations

- Greylag Goose Task Force for NW/SW European Population

A new task force was established for Flight Safety (civil aviation safety) at EGM IWG8 on 20-22 June 2023 (see below).

The Task Forces are aimed to support the EGM IWG in coordination and facilitation of the respective ISSAP and ISSMP implementation. The meetings of the EGMP Task Forces were held online (via GoToMeeting online platform) involving the Task Force Coordinators and members, together with the EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre.

The 8th annual meeting of the European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG8) took place in Bonn on 20 - 22 June 2023 and was organised and hosted by the Secretariat in the UN Campus. For more details, please look at the [EGMP website](#) as the EGMP runs its own website and social media channels. All documents, information sheets, meeting reports, resources and data can be accessed via the website.

Table: Overview of populations and Management Units (MUs) covered by the EGMP and relevant documents:

Overview of populations and Management Units (MUs) covered under the EGMP and relevant management documents						
Population	Management/Action Plan (ISSMP/ISSAP)			Adaptive Flyway Management Plan (AFMP)		
	Link	Adopted	Review	Link	Adopted	Review
Svalbard population of Pink-footed Goose	ISSMP	2012	2024	Not developed	-	-
Taiga Bean Goose consisting of 4 MUs; Western, Central, Eastern1 and Eastern2	ISSAP	2015	2025	Not developed	-	-
NW/SW European population of Greylag Goose consisting of 2 MUs; MU1 (migratory) and MU2 (sedentary)	ISSMP	2018	2028	AFMP	2020	2026
Russia/Germany and Netherlands population of Barnacle Goose consisting of 3 MUs; MU1 (Arctic), MU2 (Baltic) and MU3 (North Sea)	ISSMP	2018	2028	AFMP	2020	2026
E. Greenland/Scotland & Ireland population of Barnacle Goose	ISSMP	2018	2028	AFMP	2020	2026
Svalbard/SW Scotland population of Barnacle Goose	ISSMP	2018	2028	Not developed	-	-

The ISSMP has mandated the EGM IWG to develop Adaptive Flyway Management Programmes (AFMPs) for some populations and set the Favourable Reference Values (FRVs) in the AFMP for the breeding and non-breeding seasons. The FRVs represent the minimum levels of population size, range and habitat necessary to consider a population being in Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) More information on the definition of FRVs can be found on the EGMP website, for example for the case of the [Greylag Goose](#).

All ISSAPs, ISSMPs and corresponding AFMPs are currently in the implementation phase. The plans for the Pink-footed Goose and the Taiga Bean Goose will be evaluated in 2023-2024 and possibly revised for submission to MOP8 in 2025.

Funding towards the functioning the EGMP, including the staffing costs as well as the implementation of projects has been jointly provided by the EGMP Range States.

4.4. Implementation Review Process

The Secretariat also supports the Standing Committee in undertaking the Implementation Review Process. The report of the joint Bern Convention/AEWA/CMS on-the spot-appraisal mission to Albania regarding the airport

development at Vjosa-Narta Protected Landscape was finalised and published in May 2023. An oral report on the status of the open IRP case files will be delivered during a closed session at StC23.

4.5. Phase out of lead in hunting ammunition and fishing weights in the EU

In 2016, at the request of the European Commission, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) initiated a process of compiling a report and draft regulation, in order to implement the AEWA provisions to phase out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands. In 2020, until the final adoption of the regulation, the Secretariat was actively involved in the ECGHA process. The new regulation was adopted in December 2020 and entered into force in 2021 with a gratis period for implementation that has expired on 15 February 2023.

The European Commission (EC), in a letter dated 16 July 2019 to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has requested the agency to prepare a proposal addressing the risk to wildlife and humans from lead in all hunting ammunition (shot and bullets). Lead in fishing weights is also included in the request. The Secretariat, accompanied by the previous Technical Committee chair, has been involved as an invited expert in the work of the two ECHA Committees on Risk Assessment and Socio-economic Assessment, which have reviewed the dossier compiled by the ECHA Secretariat and have now finalised their opinions for presentation presented to the European Commission.

4.6. Flyway site network inventory

Following the establishment by the Technical Committee of framework for the review and reconfirmation of the AEWA flyway site network inventory, with the expert support of Wetlands International the Secretariat launched in 2020 a process and submitted to all Contracting Parties and Non-Party Range States customised requests and supporting material for national review and reconfirmation of the sites forming the flyway network. The Secretariat has been extending the deadline and is continuing to pursue submissions from Parties and Non-Party Range States, which are now asked to submit them by the deadline of 30 June 2023 as per Resolution 8.6. The Secretariat issued a reminder earlier in 2023 in advance of the deadline.

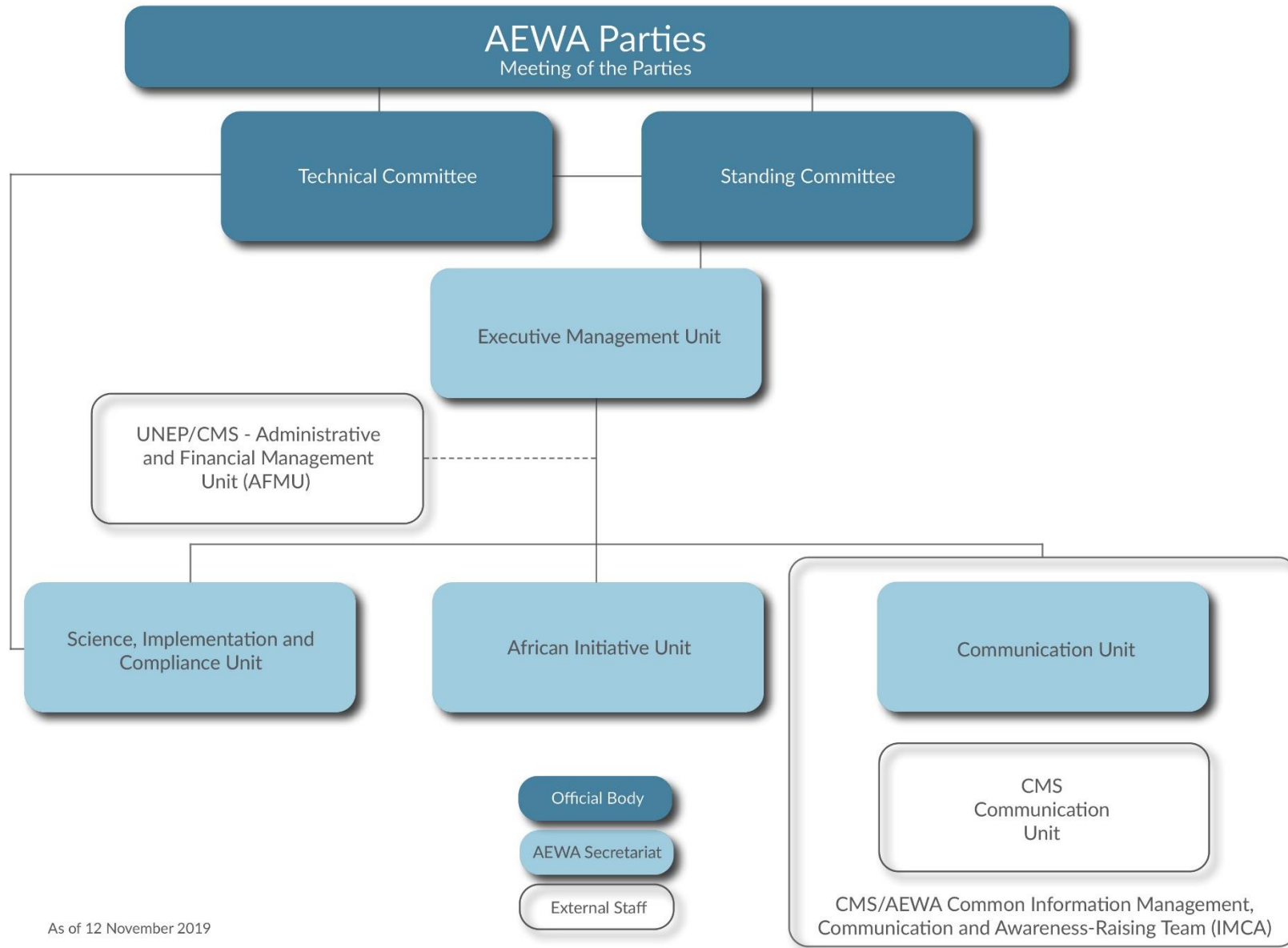
4.7. Waterbird Monitoring

The Secretariat remains involved in the Strategic Group of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership which guides the development of waterbird monitoring within the AEWA area. The partnership is coordinated by Wetlands International. A report on the waterbird monitoring development is available as document AEWA/MOP 8.26. The Secretariat is discussing with an Optic Company an in-kind and financial support to improve the waterbird monitoring in Africa.

5. CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity Building activities for the period mainly focused on the African region. The latest event organised by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, in cooperation with the Ramsar Secretariat, is a training-of-trainers workshop on flyway conservation for Small Island Developing States of the Indian Ocean, kindly hosted by the Government of Mauritius on 6 - 10 February 2023.

ANNEX I – Organisational Structure of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat

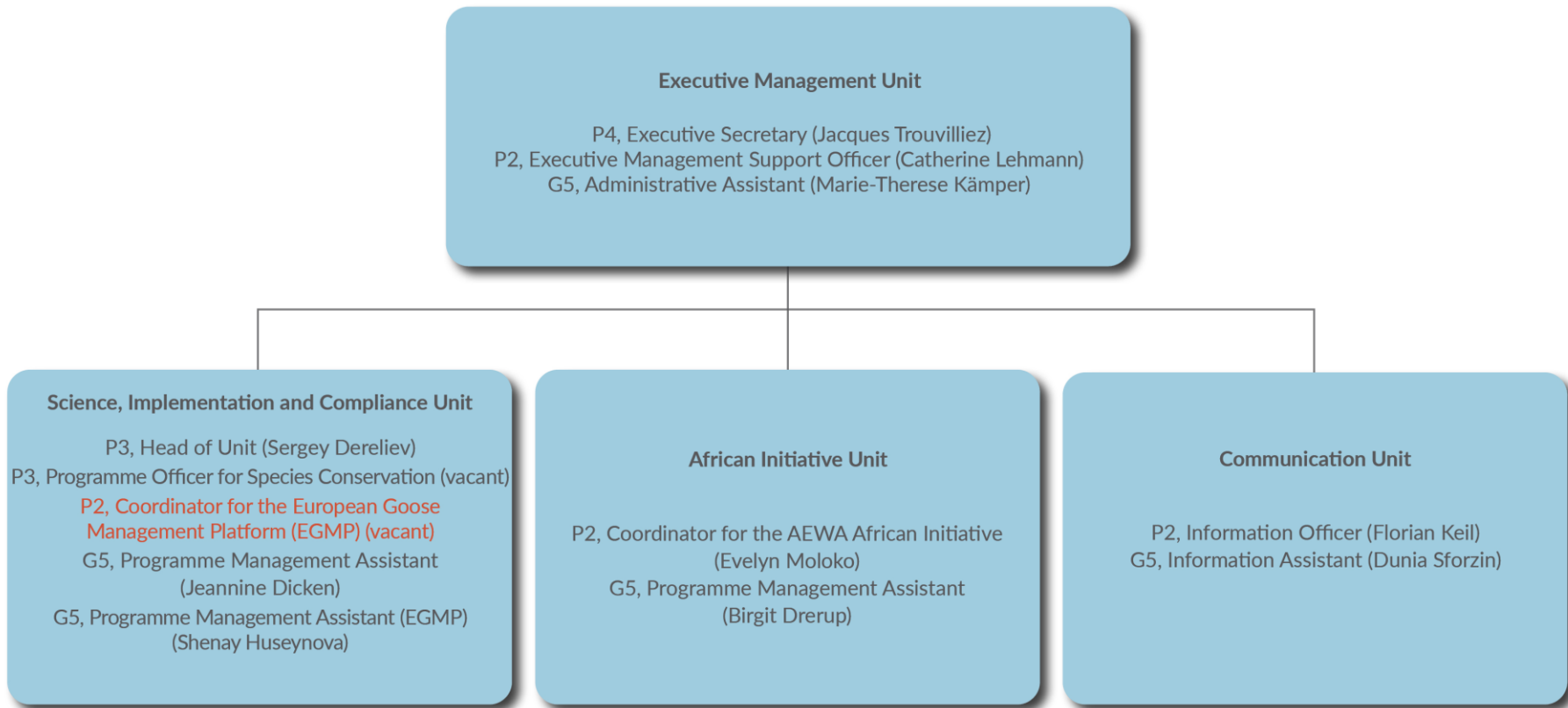


As of 12 November 2019

ANNEX II - Staff Composition of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat



UNEP/AEWA Secretariat: Staff Composition



P = Professional Staff Category
G = General Staff Category

As of 23 June 2023