



15th MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
09–11 April 2019, Bonn, Germany

**DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ELABORATING PRIORITIES FOR THE
SYSTEMATIC DEVELOPMENT OF MONITORING OF WATERBIRD POPULATIONS AND
THE DRIVERS OF THEIR TRENDS**

1. Project title

Elaborating priorities for the systematic development of monitoring of waterbird population status and the drivers of their trends

2. Background

Target 1.4 of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 foresees that *“The quality of waterbird population status assessments, including information on drivers of population trends, is improved so that at least two-thirds of all AEWA populations are being assessed on the basis of the most complete and up-to-date monitoring information available”*.

The list of top priority tasks for the Technical Committee during the period of 2019-2021 includes point 5.2 Monitoring priorities. This aims to identify priority populations and regions to attain the target that at least two-thirds of all AEWA populations are assessed based on the most complete and up-to-date monitoring information available. Achieving this target would require a 65% increase in the number of populations whose status is assessed based on monitoring data.

Furthermore, the revised AEWA monitoring guidelines proposed that a recurring six-yearly schedule for international surveys of different groups of waterbirds is agreed in the AEWA Technical Committee in coordination with the Ramsar Convention and its regional initiatives, the European Commission as well as CAFF-AMBI, Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative), OSPAR, HELCOM and other relevant regional MEAs.

3. Duties of the contractor

The contractor shall carry out a review which covers all relevant issues, but in particular:

- i. Identify gaps in monitoring of populations listed in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan, including population size, trend and drivers of population change;
- ii. Describe the improvements required in the monitoring of each population;
- iii. Develop a methodology to prioritise populations and countries in consultation with the AEWA Technical Committee;
- iv. Produce a proposal for a recurring schedule of international surveys for different groups of species;

- v. Apply the agreed prioritisation method and report results;
- vi. Develop recommendations on geographic or thematic groupings to facilitate implementation.

4. Duration of the project (tentative dates)

A report on point (i) to be presented to the Technical Committee by March 2020.

A report on points (ii) - (iv) to be presented to the Technical Committee by September 2020.

A report on the monitoring priorities to be presented to the Technical Committee by January 2021.

Following the review of the drafts by the Technical Committee (TC), the contractor will be expected to incorporate the views of the TC and produce and submit improved versions as required. Final draft to be submitted to the Secretariat by April 2021.