

18th MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
14-16 March 2023, Bonn, Germany

REPORT OF THE UNEP/AEWA SECRETARIAT

INTRODUCTION

The present report covers the work of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat for the period from 15 February 2022 (after the TC17) to 31 January 2023.

Despite the various challenges, obstacles and restrictions resulting from the Covid-19 related impacts, the Secretariat managed to adapt to the new working conditions and was able to deliver its work in an efficient and effective manner as shown in this report.

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 AEWA Secretariat. The Secretariat has renewed its application annually thereafter but at the time of writing without success (2023 is still open for application).

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 and the support of interns.

1.2 Staffing situation

As at 31 January 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 is dependent on contributions and savings. The previously occupied P3 position of Single Species Action Plan 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

Staff 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, Luxemburg, 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 a newly recruited P2 Single Species Action Plan Officer. 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 permit the Single Species Action Plan Officer to work 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.

2. GENERAL MANAGEMENT

2.1. Recruitment of Parties

Since TC17, one new Contracting Party has acceded to AEWA: Cameroon, effective from 1 October 2022, thanks to continuous efforts by the AEWA Secretariat, in collaboration with various partners, over time. This brings the total number of Parties to 83, with 39 in Africa and 44 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. It is worth mentioning that the ratification of AEWA has recently been decided by the Hellenic Parliament; the Secretariat is now expecting the Government of Greece to deposit the official instrument with the Depository. The Secretariat has been regularly communicating with Saudi Arabia on the accession process, which has significantly advanced and will hopefully be concluded soon.

2.2. Meetings of the AEWA Standing Committee

The Secretariat facilitated the logistical and substantive organisation and the running of two meetings of the Standing Committee in 2022. The high number of meetings in 2021 and 2022 was due to the pandemic and the necessity to monitor closely the situation in order to have a secure MOP.

20th Meeting of the Standing Committee (StC20), 2 March 2022, virtual conference format

The StC20 meeting report is available at:

<https://www.unep-aewa.org/en/meeting/20th-meeting-aewa-standing-committee>

21st Meeting of the Standing Committee (StC21), 1 June 2022, virtual conference format

The StC21 meeting report is available at:

<https://www.unep-aewa.org/en/meeting/21st-meeting-aewa-standing-committee>

For more details for the triennium 2019-2022, please read the [Report from the Chair of the Standing Committee \(AEWA/MOP8.6\)](#).

2.3. Meetings of the AEWA Technical Committee

The 17th Meeting of the AEWA Technical Committee took place on 8 February 2022 also in a virtual format. The Committee planned for the finalisation of several ongoing tasks and the delivery of additional products to MOP8 which was postponed to September 2022 as well as the advancement of some other tasks that were carried over to the next triennium.

The TC17 meeting report is available at:

https://www.unep-aewa.org/sites/default/files/document/aewa_tc17_meeting_report.pdf

2.4. Meeting Of the Parties

MOP8 was originally planned to be organised in the framework of the international exhibition “One with Nature” in Budapest, 25 September – 14 October 2021, but had to be postponed by Parties through Resolution Ex.2 to 2022 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. While the Technical Committee prepared and/or reviewed most of the documents, the Standing Committee and the Government of Hungary worked hard to find a solution allowing MOP8 to be organised in an in-person format. The theme of the AEWA MOP8 was: “Strengthening Flyway Conservation in a Changing World” and 16 resolutions and new guidelines have been adopted while a total of 15 side events were followed by many participants.

Of particular interest for the Technical Committee is Resolution 8.11 which renews most of the regional representatives and two new thematic experts, respectively Mr Jesper Madsen on Game management and Mr Nils Bunnefeld on Rural Economics.

https://www.unep-aewa.org/sites/default/files/document/aewa_mop_res8_11_tc_institutional_arrangements_en.pdf

For more information, please follow this link: [MOP8 Newsroom \(unep-aewa.org\)](#)

2.4. 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. 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 GPGC project. The AEWA Secretariat worked jointly with the Ramsar Secretariat for the Joint Ramsar Advisory Mission relating to Sebket Sejoumi (see details in Document AEWA/MOP 8.20, IRP case No. 8). The Secretariat also attended Ramsar COP14 in November 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland.

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, which it also did in 2021 and 2022.

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 (see more information below under the section on IRP).

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 ecosystems at the core of this project are based on the Senegal River Valley, the Inner Niger Delta, Lake Chad and parts of the River Nile. These are areas upon which almost one billion people depend for agriculture, rearing of livestock, fishing and hunting, and which are equally of critical importance to millions of waterbirds.

The project aims to evaluate the sustainability of exploiting the resources represented by waterbirds thanks to its integrated approach which includes: (i) assessing the resources in terms of the numbers, distribution and socio-economic importance, especially for rural communities (ii) preserving habitats and (iii) proposing conservation measures at community level.

For further information, please see:

<http://www.unep-awea.org/en/news/conserving-waterbirds-africa%E2%80%99s-sahelo-saharan-region>

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.

European Union

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

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, scheduled to take place in Bharatpur, India, end of April 2023. This meeting is foreseen to be a major step forward in implementing the CMS COP Decision 13.46 by agreeing on conservation priorities and measures to support Parties with the implementation of conservation action for migratory birds and their habitats in the region, and further strengthening the implementation of CMS and its avian-related instruments. Concrete steps needed to produce an update of the CAF Action Plan for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats should be considered. The AEWA Secretariat will participate to this meeting.

2.5. The AEWA African Initiative

The status of staff under the AEWA African Initiative Unit (one Associate Programme Officer – P2 and one Programme Assistant – G5), and related funding for the positions is covered under Section 1.2 of this report.

2.5.1) Coordination of the AEWA African Initiative:

The coordination of activities under the AEWA AI continued to be assured by 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. Activities conducted by the TSU during the current reporting period have been related mainly to the RESSOURCE Project but also in Northern Africa.

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 NFP for Morocco replaced the NFP for Tunisia for this role, in their capacity as regional StC representative, in accordance with the SRFPC ToRs.

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

2.5.2a) Reporting on the implementation of the PoAA

As reported to MOP8, , due to limited human resources within the Secretariat, the development of PoAA indicators and subsequent assessment of the PoAA delivery over the last implementation cycle (2019-2020) could not be conducted, and was been postponed for delivery to MOP9, pending the availability of resources to outsource the process. The Secretariat had developed a brief concept on the approach and methodology to be used for assessing

and reporting on the delivery of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa (PoAA), which was already discussed by the AEWA TC in July 2021 and submitted to the AEWA StC for review and approval for use in March 2022, based on which the assessment will be conducted, pending the development of PoAA action-level indicators.

2.5.2b) 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:

White-winged flufftail: Thanks to funding from the Government of the UK, 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 the breeding area for the White-winged Flufftail. This included consultation processes conducted with key stakeholders from additional location communities and resulted in the approval for extension of the Protected Area surface area from 198 hectares to 544.31 hectares

Lesser Flamingo: International coordination of the Lesser Flamingo ISSAP was resumed with BirdLife South Africa as the Coordinating Institution, thanks to an MOU signed with the Secretariat in early 2022.

Madagascar Pond-heron: Thanks to a grant from the United Kingdom for the period of 2022, activities were supported in Madagascar to advance implementation [of the Madagascar Pond-heron ISSAP](#). This aimed at obtaining data on breeding of the species at 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 as well as initiating the process for 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.

2.5.3) Training / capacity enhancement:

Thanks for funding from the governments of Switzerland and Germany, the Secretariat organised a virtual **African preparatory meeting for the AEWA MOP8 in July 2022**. This brought together some 53 AEWA NFPs and/or their representatives, collaborators and partners from 30 AEWA African Contracting Parties, permitting them to discuss and deliberate on key issues to be addressed at MOP8, consolidate regional positions to be defended at MOP8, share experience and enhance knowledge and skills on various aspects of AEWA implementation and meeting preparations, including on negotiation skills for MEAs.

Thanks to the generous financial and/or in-kind support provided by the Government of Mauritius and the European Commission through its Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) Thematic Programme Strategic Cooperation Agreement (SCA) with the United Nations Environment Programme (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 from 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.

2.5.4) 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

3. COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

Please read the [Report on the implementation of the Communication Strategy \(AEWA/MOP8.17\)](#) and the [Report on the Joint CMS/AEWA Information Management, Communication and Awareness-raising \(IMCA\) unit \(AEWA/MOP8.18\)](#) for detailed information on communications, information management and outreach.

It should be noted that a new AEWA Technical Committee CEPA expert has been nominated by the TC chair in September 2022, Mr Chris Rostron, International Engagement Manager at the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT).

The IMCA Unit is currently in the process of upgrading a number of 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.

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) and after January 2021 it has organised one additional meeting of the Committee (17th meeting of the TC in February 2022) and supported the Committee with drafting and finalising further documents that were submitted to MOP8. In addition, the Secretariat fundraised for the implementation of several TC tasks which needed to be outsourced and the resulting products were submitted to MOP8 due to its postponement from October 2021 to September 2022 which allowed for some extra time. The Secretariat supported the leads of TC Working Groups in the intersessional period and has also been 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.

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.

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.

Two meetings of AEWA International Species Working Groups were organised since January 2021 with the close involvement of the Secretariat. In addition, funding was raised for projects to advance the implementation of species action plans.

AEWA Slaty Egret (*Egretta vinaceigula*) International Working Group

With the support of the European Commission the 1st meeting of the Working Group was planned to take place in Maun to be hosted by the Government of Botswana, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic it was now postponed to 2023. Seed funding for projects in Range States was also secured.

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.

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

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 6th Meeting of the European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG7) took place virtually on while the 7th meeting took place in Helsinki, Finland on 21-23 June 2022, at the kind invitation of the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland. The reports of the meetings are available on the [EGMP website](#).

The 8th Meeting of the EGM IWG (EGM IWG8) is scheduled to take place in June 2023, host to be confirmed, back-to-back with the meeting of the EGMP Task Forces.

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 ISSAP's, ISSMP's and its corresponding AFMP's are currently in the implementation phase.

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.

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 Secretariat took part in a joint on-the-spot assessment mission together with the Secretariats of the Bern Convention and the Convention on Migratory Species to Albania on 30 August – 1 September 2022 in relation to IRP case file No. 11 (Airport construction at Vjosa-Narta Protected Landscape). The mission report is being finalised for submission to the governing bodies of the three treaties.

4.6. 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 and was actively communicating on the lead issue in wetlands using in particular social media, as well as participating in a video produced by the WWT (<https://vimeo.com/472273518/84e1c9a357>) and published op-ed on our website (“It is Time to Let Go of Lead” <https://www.unep-aewa.org/en/news/it-time-let-go-lead>) and on the website of Open Access Government (<https://www.openaccessgovernment.org/lead-out-of-the-environment/89098/>). The new regulation was adopted in December 2020 and entered into force in 2021 with a gratis period for implementation that 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.

4.7. 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.

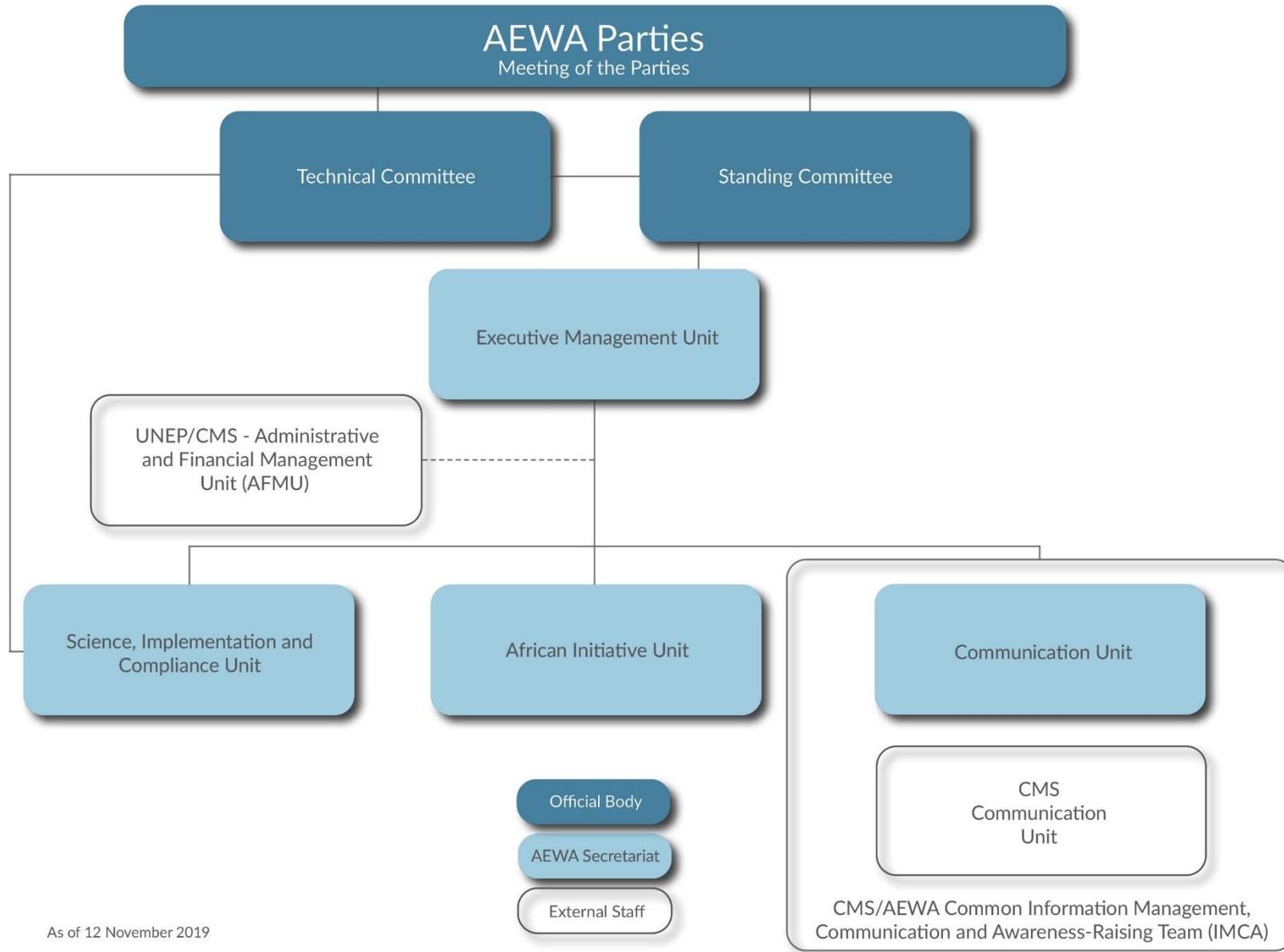
4.8. Waterbird Monitoring

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 also took part in the latest meeting of the Strategic Working Group of the Partnership in October 2022.

5. CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity Building activities for the period mainly focused on the African region. The latest event organised by the 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 6-10 February 2023.

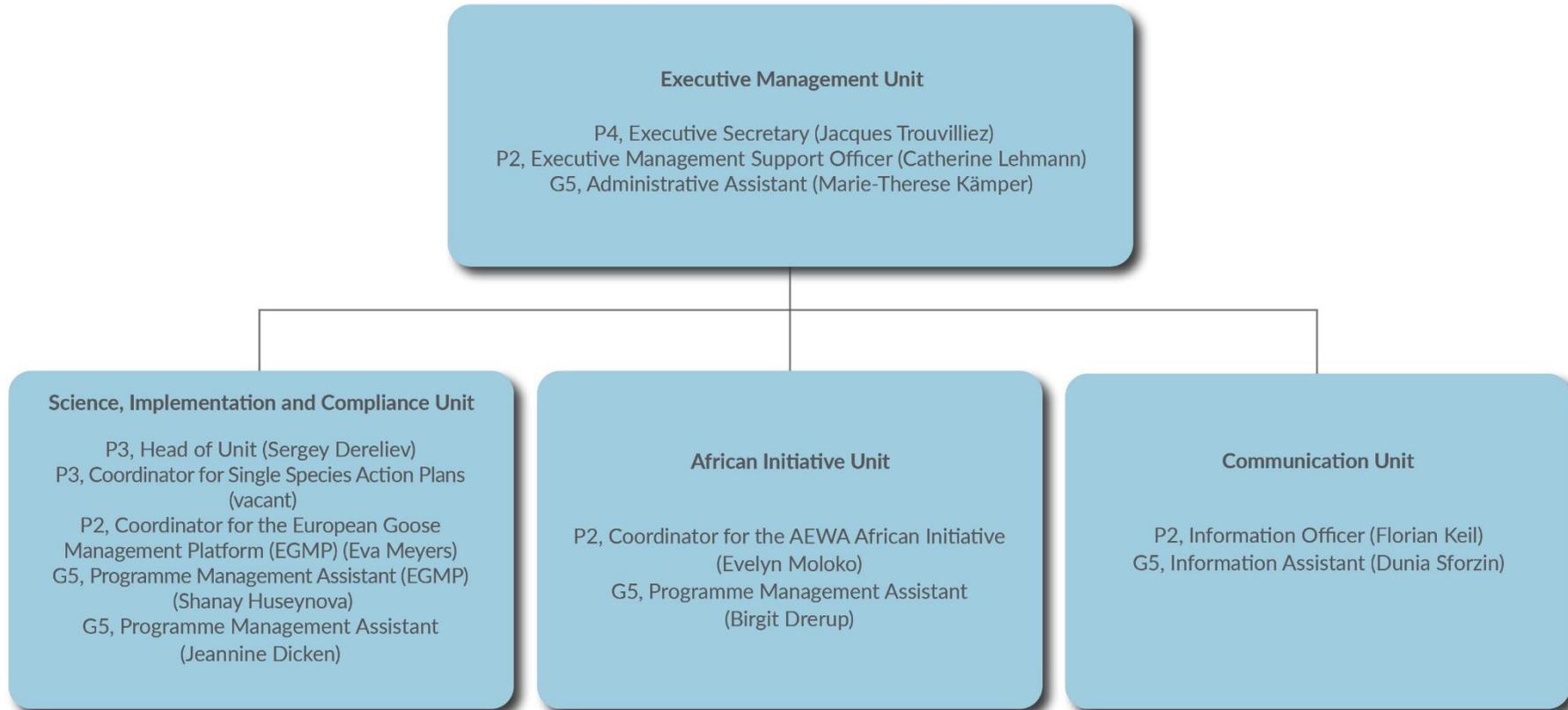
ANNEX I – Organisational Structure of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat



ANNEX II - Staff Composition of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat



UNEP/AEWA Secretariat: Staff Composition



P = Professional Staff Category
G = General Staff Category

As of 20 September 2022