

Report of the AEWA Technical Committee to the 3rd Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA (draft)

Distinguished delegates and observers,

My report will present the outcomes of the last three meetings of the TC as well as other activities of the TC since MOP2 in September 2002.

The 4th TC meeting took place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 12-13 May 2003, the 5th Meeting in North Berwick, Scotland, from 30 April to 02 May 2004 and the 6th one in Flic en Flac, Mauritius from 08 to 11 May 2005. At first place let me express our appreciation and gratitude to the respective Governments that hosted these three meetings and for the excellent logistical arrangements provided to the Committee.

All members except of 3 regional representatives, 1 expert and one NGO representative attended TC4. The 5th TC meeting was attended by all TC members with exception for the representative of IUCN.

The TC considered and decided on several important issues:

- 1) The TC decided to suggest and introduction of an amendment to the TC Rules of Procedure so in the future the Chairperson of the Standing Committee could attend the TC meetings as an observer. This proposal was approved by the Standing Committee.
- 2) Another decision with regard to the Rules of Procedure was to suggest to the StC to amend Rule 1 so the TC provides scientific and technical advice to the MOP *in coordination with the StC*. The proposed amendment of the Rules of Procedure was reviewed during the 2nd Meeting of the StC and Rule 1 was amended by adding a sentence with close meaning to the TC's proposal.
- 3) From the seven project proposals, submitted to the TC for consideration, three were approved for funding, i.e. (1) the preparation of a Single Species Action plan for the White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala*, (2) the preparation of a Single Species Action Plan for the Corncrake *Crex crex* and (3) the preparation of a multi-species Action plan for African coastal seabirds.

Obligations under the AEWA Action Plan

At TC 5 there was a discussion concerning the obligation to deliver to each MOP a set of seven international reviews (paragraph 7.4). It was decided to bring the issues to the attention of MOP3, because due to the lack of resources the secretariat cannot organize preparation of these seven reviews. So far only one review has been delivered – Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds in the Agreement Area to MOP2 in 2002.

Ongoing activities under IIP 2000-2004 and 2003-2007 and others

Legislation Guidelines

After some delay the final version of the AEWA Guidelines on National Legislation is expected to be submitted by the IUCN-Environmental Law Centre in due course to the Secretariat, which will finalize it.

Alien Species

A consultation process on the brochure “Avoidance of Introduction of Non-native Migratory Waterbirds Species” is ongoing. Comments have been received and the Secretariat will pass as soon as possible the final version to the TC.

Single Species Action Plans

The 7th draft of the SSAP for the **Dark-bellied Brent Goose** is under consultation procedure with the Range States. Still comments are being received from some countries. The Secretariat will make an effort to pass the plan for approval by the Standing Committee as soon as possible.

A new SSAPs to be prepared is under discussion – for the **Spoonbill**. Updates on the SSAPs for the **Marbled Teal**, the **Red-breasted Goose** were recently proposed as well. Update on the **Lesser White-fronted Goose** action plan is being prepared.

Flyway atlases

Flyway atlases on gulls, terns, herons, ibises, storks and *Rallidae* are planned. EU will be approached for funding.

Criteria and guidance on acceptance of project proposals

TC developed a paper providing guidance on determining priorities for AEWA financial support, submitted to MOP (agenda item X, paper MOP3/X).

National Reporting format

The National reporting format is under revision by a TC working group. It is desirable to establish an on-line reporting system, similarly to the IOSEA. Such an on-line system will be highly efficient and will ease submission of national reports to MOP. A draft resolution proposed to MOP (agenda item X, draft resolution 3.X)

Recruitment of new TC members in 2005

In the end of 2005 eight members of the TC should step down and be replaced by new experts. The change of the most of the TC members at once will lead to certain difficulties in the work of the TC. It was decided to convene a working group to look carefully at this problem and propose amendments to the TC *modus operandi* in order to avoid the possible difficulties.

TC intranet

The TC decided to establish an intranet on the AEWA web site to ease and facilitate the communication between members and working group. This should be operational in the new triennium.

Completed activities

Single Species Action Plans

The SSAPs for the three wader species – the **Sociable Lapwing**, the **Black-winged Pratincole** and the **Great Snipe** were officially launch on 29th November during the

24th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention in Strasbourg. These three SSAPs are a joint initiative of AEWA, the Bern Convention and BirdLife International.

Drafts of the SSAPs for the **Ferruginous Duck**, the **White-headed Duck**, the **Bald Ibis**, the **Light-bellied Brent Goose** and the **Corncrake** were consulted with the Range States, approved by TC and submitted for endorsement by MOP (agenda item X, paper MOP3/X).

Species conservation

Joint missions for surveying for the **Slender-billed Curlew** in Libya and Albania took place in January-February 2005. These missions were organized in conjunction with RAC/SPA (Barcelona Convention) and the governments of the two countries.

Conservation Guidelines

The updated AEWA Conservation Guidelines was published on the web site in April 2005.

Inclusion of new species to the Agreement

TC reviewed and submitted proposals for extension of the AEWA species list.

Long-term decline of populations

TC developed a paper providing guidance on interpretation of the term “long-term decline” of populations, submitted to MOP (agenda item X, paper MOP3/X).

Delimitation of boundaries of bio-geographical populations

TC developed a paper providing guidance on delimitation of boundaries of bio-geographical populations, submitted to MOP (agenda item X, paper MOP3/X).

Workshop on sustainable hunting in Western Africa

The AEWA workshop on sustainable hunting in Western Africa took place in late October in Senegal. This successful event was co-organized by ONCFS, Wetlands International, CIC, FNC, and OMPO. Financial support was received from the UK and Switzerland for which we are grateful.

Slender-billed Curlew project in Tunisia

The project “Survey of selected Tunisian wetlands, training for North-African ornithologists and awareness raising” was successfully completed and reported. The Secretariat ordered 3,000 additional copies of the poster on the conservation of the Slender-billed Curlew in Arabic to be distributed in the North-African countries.

Ringling in Africa project

The project “Coordination of waterbird ringling schemes particular in Africa” has been completed and is expected to be reported soon to the Secretariat. A ringling course with eight African ornithologists took place in Kenya in October.

Reporting on the Status and Trends of Populations in the Agreement Area

A proposal for a new format of this reporting, which is one of the seven international reviews required by the AEWA action plan, was developed by the TC and endorsed by StC2. The latest report on status and trends of populations (agenda item X, paper X) was developed using the new format.

Date and venue of the 7th meeting of the TC

The next meeting of the TC will take place in Ukraine, date to be confirmed.