



SECOND SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT ON THE
CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS (AEWA)
GERMANY, 25-27 SEPTEMBER 2002

ESTABLISHMENT OF A STANDING COMMITTEE

Introduction

At the second Meeting of the Technical Committee a discussion arose on the role of the Technical Committee. In general the Committee felt that they might not be the right decision-making body for budget and administrative issues, due to the fact that none of the members is representing a Contracting Party. Even when most of the 9 regional representatives, have been elected from Contracting Parties, they are not representing their country but a specific geographical region. Besides this, some members felt that dealing with administrative and financial matters goes beyond their expertise. It was noted that no intersessional governance instrument for such issues has been created so far. Therefore the Technical Committee requested the Secretariat to develop a proposal for the establishment of a Standing Committee and to come back to this point at the third meeting of the Technical Committee in May 2002 in Tanzania.

During the TC 3 meeting the following proposal was discussed thoroughly and afterwards some amendments were approved.

Proposal

According to Article VI paragraph 9 e the Meeting of the Parties may ... *establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary to assist in the implementation of this Agreement, in particular for coordination with bodies established under other international treaties, conventions and agreements with overlapping geographic and taxonomic coverage.*

The idea of establishing a Standing Committee is not new. The Secretariat was orally informed by Dr Gerard C. Boere, who has been strongly involved in the development of the Agreement, that the establishment of a Standing Committee had been thoroughly discussed at the Negotiation Meeting (June 1995, The Hague). The outcome of this discussion was that no agreement could be reached to include an Article, similar to the one on the Technical Committee, on the establishment of a Standing Committee. The view of the meeting was that if such a subsidiary body would be necessary the Meeting of the Parties could make use of the provision given in Article VI paragraph 9 e.

A similar situation occurred at the CMS were at the first Meeting of the Conference of Parties (October 1985, Bonn) it was decided to establish a Standing Committee.

Making use of the above-mentioned provision of the Agreement, the Technical Committee recommends establishing a small Standing Committee for the time being consisting of 7 Contracting Parties. Five of these should represent the following regions:

- Europe
- Central Asia (incl. Russian Federation)
- Middle East and Northern Africa
- Western and Central Africa
- Eastern and Southern Africa

In addition to the five regional representatives the Committee should consist of a representative of the host country for the next session of the Meeting of the Parties and of a representative of the Depositary Government.

Other Contracting Parties, not being a member of the Standing Committee, may be represented at the meetings of the Standing Committee by an observer. Also a representative of the Technical Committee may attend the Standing Committee meetings as an observer.

The Chairman of the Standing Committee may invite any person or representative of any other country or organisation to participate at the meetings of the Committee as an observer.

The tasks of the Standing Committee in general would be to provide guidance to the Secretariat on policy, organisational and financial matters. The attached draft Resolutions describes in more details these tasks.

The Secretary of the Committee will be provided by the Secretariat.

Finally at the first meeting of the Standing Committee the Committee shall adopt its rules of procedure for its meetings.