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**3<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT ON THE  
CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS (AEWA)**  
23 – 27 October 2005, Dakar, Senegal

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OVERVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL REVIEWS NECESSARY FOR THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT TO BE SUBMITTED TO MOP4 IN  
2008

**Introduction**

In accordance with paragraph 7.4 of the AEWA Action Plan “*The Agreement Secretariat, in coordination with the Technical Committee and the Parties, shall prepare a series of international reviews necessary for the implementation of this Action Plan, including*

- a) *Reports on the status and trends of populations;*
- b) *Gaps in information from surveys;*
- c) *The networks of sites used by each population, including reviews of the protection status of each site as well as of the management measures taken in each case;*
- d) *Pertinent hunting and trade legislation in each country relating to species listed in Annex 2 to this Agreement;*
- e) *The stage of preparation and implementation of single species action plans;*
- f) *Re-establishment project; and*
- g) *The status of introduced non-native waterbird species and hybrid thereof”.*

The 5<sup>th</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup> meetings of the Technical Committee addressed the issue of the progress made regarding the above-mentioned reviews.

Furthermore, in accordance with paragraph 7.5 of the Action Plan, “*The Agreement Secretariat shall endeavour to ensure that the reviews mentioned in paragraph 7.4 are updated at intervals of not more than three years”.*

In addition to this, paragraph 7.6 requires that “*The Technical Committee shall assess the guidelines and reviews prepared under 7.3 and 7.4 and shall formulate draft recommendations and resolutions relating to their development, content and implementation for consideration at sessions of the Meeting of the Parties”.*

The Secretariat responded to the question from the Technical Committee as to the progress made regarding the international reviews to the effect that with the exception of a) *Reports on the status and trends of populations*, none of these reviews had been initiated so far. The main reason for this was a lack of resources.

However, it was expected that with the implementation of the African-Eurasian GEF project, reviews b) *Gaps in information from surveys* and c) *The network of sites used by each population, including reviews of the protection status of each site as well as of the management measures*

*taken in each case* (see above) could be tackled. This would mean that only reviews d) – g) above were still open.

Before specific questions can be included in the format for national reports there is a need to set a baseline. In order to do this a thorough review of the issues mentioned in the AEWa Action Plan under paragraph 7.4 d), e), f) and g) is needed. The Secretariat proposes that this work be contracted out. It is estimated that between EURO 15,000 and 20,000 would be needed per review. Therefore the Secretariat proposes to allocate a maximum total amount of EURO 80,000 for this task. So far no funds for this have been allocated in the draft Budget Proposal for 2006-2008 (doc: AEWa/ MOP3.28). Should the Meeting of the Parties agree that these reviews are of great importance, additional funds would have to be allocated in that Budget Proposal. It should be noted that the Budget available to fulfill all the tasks assigned to the Secretariat is very tight, particularly in the light of the loss of purchasing power during the last triennium, which has forced the Secretariat both to look for means of making savings and to increase its Budget for the period 2006-2008.

Should the Meeting of the Parties agree to the Secretariat's proposal to prepare all the reviews listed in the Action Plan under paragraph 7.4, the Secretariat expects that it would be feasible to contract this work out in 2007/2008, thus ensuring that the reviews are ready for submission to MOP4.

At the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee this issue was discussed and the Meeting agreed to submit this paper to MOP3 for further discussion.

#### **ACTION REQUESTED FROM THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

The Meeting of the Parties is requested to take note of the progress made regarding international reviews. Furthermore the Meeting of the Parties is requested to review the proposal made by the Secretariat and to decide if additional funds should be allocated in the draft Budget Proposal 2006-2008 to ensure that these reviews are available in time for submission to MOP4.