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**3rd 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

**GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING PRIORITIES FOR AEWA
FINANCIAL SUPPORT**
(Prepared by the Technical Committee)

Background

At its 5th meeting the Technical Committee decided to develop guidelines to assist the Secretariat in determining priorities for funding of project proposals that are submitted from time to time. The following guidelines were discussed and agreed by the Technical Committee at its 6th meeting.

The purpose of the guidance, although this is not stated formally, is to provide, with the list of attributes, a simple means of scoring individual project proposals. Projects which score against several of the listed attributes will be given higher priority for funding than projects scoring against only a few of the listed attributes.

The Standing Committee reviewed the attached proposal at its 3rd meeting and approved its submission to MOP3 for formal adoption.

ACTION REQUESTED FROM THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

The Meeting of the Parties is requested to review these guidelines and amend them if necessary. The Meeting of the Parties is thereafter requested to adopt these guidelines.

AEWA funding guidelines

Guidelines

To be eligible for consideration for AEWA financial support, a project must be demonstrably essential to the implementation of the Agreement's Action Plan in one or more Range States. Note that given the migratory nature of waterbirds included in the scope of the Action Plan it is *not* a requirement that potential projects should necessarily be undertaken within existing Contracting Parties.

A project will be given higher priority for financial support (in whole or part) if it has one or more of the following attributes. Note that all attributes have equal weighting and are not presented in rank order. Projects with multiple attributes will be ranked more highly.

- Projects, which are international in geographical scale, involving two or more AEWA Range States.
- Projects, which are undertaken on a co-operative, international basis involving several countries and/or organisations. In this respect, projects involving combinations of developed countries, and those that are either developing and/or have economies in transition will be ranked more highly.
- Projects, which are submitted by an AEWA Contracting Party.
- Projects which are likely to lead to institutional or other capacity development (and/or development of expertise) in the countries in which undertaken.
- Projects, which demonstrate principles of sustainable development, and where appropriate poverty alleviation.
- Projects, which are directly relevant to one or more of AEWA's *Implementation Priorities*. (Projects supporting several *Implementation Priorities* shall accordingly be ranked more highly).
- Projects involving waterbird populations of highest conservation concern (Column A of Table 1 of AEWA's Action Plan).
- Projects, the funding of which by AEWA is likely to encourage the provision of other, additional sources of funding or other resources (*i.e.* AEWA funding will encourage the development of wider funding partnerships).
- Projects, which will lead, or be likely to lead, to the development of enduring programmes of activity of continuing utility (*i.e.* initial financial 'pump-priming' of longer-term projects).
- Projects, which are based on sound science and, where appropriate, taking account of traditional knowledge.
- Projects, which are clearly written, with explicit and achievable aims and objectives, a good project plan and timetable, with measurable indicators of achievement. Where a project depends on co-operation with a third party, any necessary collaborations should be demonstrable *before* submission of proposals.
- Projects, which, for whatever reason, may be difficult to fund through other national or international sources (*e.g.* Ramsar Small Grants Fund, national science foundations, or governmental sources).
- Projects of more 'strategic' importance likely to assist in the overall development of the objectives of the Agreement (*e.g.* development of novel methodologies of potential wide application, or demonstration projects).

Conditions

- It will be a requirement of any project financially supported by AEWA that it provides an annual progress report to the Technical Committee, submitted two months in advance of its next meeting. Ideally, this should be in a form that can also be more widely disseminated via the AEWA website.
- It will also be a condition of any AEWA funding that at the conclusion of the project, a summary of outcomes will be submitted for dissemination on the AEWA website. For science-based projects, this ideally should include a downloadable copy of the project's final report.
- Projects should have regard to the objectives of AEWA's Communications Strategy and aim to disseminate project outcomes to multiple audiences. Summaries of technical projects should highlight those key conclusions, which should be brought to the attention of decision makers (e.g. at the Meeting of Parties), and other AEWA stakeholders. Where appropriate, the output of technical reviews should be prepared in the form of draft AEWA Conservation Guidelines aimed at practical use by conservation managers and others.

Review

These Guidelines will be reviewed by the Technical Committee in conjunction with the Secretariat each triennium to assess their effectiveness in light of their practical application. Any amendments deemed necessary will be approved by the Standing Committee.