



5th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES
14 – 18 May 2012, La Rochelle, France

“Migratory waterbirds and people - sharing wetlands”

NEW ARABIC VERSION OF THE AGREEMENT TEXT

Introduction:

In the past, the Secretariat has received comments from Arabic speaking countries questioning the linguistic quality of the current official Arabic version of the Agreement text and its annexes¹. The AEW A Secretariat therefore decided to commission a new translation in the frame of the AEW A project on “Strengthening waterbird and wetland conservation capacities in North Africa (WetCap)” in 2009, which could replace the current version. The new translation is hoped to provide Arabic-speaking countries with an improved, high quality translation, thereby enhancing cooperation with and among the countries concerned.

The new translation is based on the current version of the Agreement text and Action Plan as adopted at the 4th session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP4) in 2008 in Madagascar. In October 2011 it was circulated among Arabic-speaking Parties and non-Parties to AEW A in order to provide countries an opportunity to give their comments on this new version prior to MOP5. No comments were received in the course of this consultation process. The 7th Meeting of the AEW A Standing Committee (26-27 November 2011, Bergen, Norway) approved the submission of the new translation to MOP5 for adoption.

Action requested from the Meeting of the Parties:

The Meeting of the Parties is requested to adopt the new translation as official Arabic version of the Agreement text, subject to the incorporation of the proposed amendments to the Annexes of the Agreement, also presented to the Meeting of the Parties for adoption.

¹ The current official Arabic version of the Agreement text and its annexes is available at http://www.unep-awea.org/documents/agreement_text/agree_main.htm